

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Wisconsin</b>
COUNTY: <b>Winnebago</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>AUG 7 1974</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Babcock, Havilah, House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**537 East Wisconsin Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Neenah**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**Wisconsin Sixth**

STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55** COUNTY: **Winnebago** CODE: **139**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

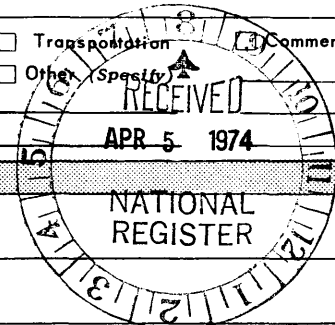
**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Mr. and Mrs. Henry Babcock Adams**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**537 East Wisconsin Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Neenah**

STATE:  
**Wisconsin** CODE: **55**



**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Winnebago County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Oshkosh**

STATE:  
**Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Wisconsin Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1973**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**State Historical Society of Wisconsin**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**816 State Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Madison**

STATE:  
**Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Wisconsin**

COUNTY: **Winnebago**

ENTRY NUMBER: **1974**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

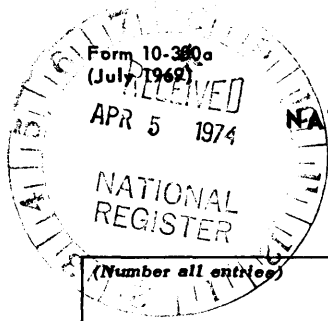
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Within the taxonomy of architecture, the Havilah Babcock house, completed in 1883, would have to be classified as basically Queen Anne, but its styling is highly eclectic, restrained, refined, and notably devoid of the excesses of baroque ornamentation so often associated with that style. It is a two-and-a-half story house with irregularity of massing, multiple and complex roof lines and, at the front left, a three-story round tower with a flared conical roof. Walls are light colored brick, variegated to some extent, with string courses of tooled white stone which continues to form lintels and sills in places, particularly at the top of the second story tower windows and at the bottom of the second story windows both in the tower and across the front of the house. Between the raking cornices the two front dormers are faced with imbricated shingles; and the verge boards of both have incised designs and circular perforations. Roof angles of the main house are of rather steep pitch, but the entry to the porch has a broad, low-pitched gable roof. Elements of the Stick Style are present, especially in the large veranda, and also numerous influences of Charles Eastlake. In the third story wall of the tower and the lower walls of the front dormer is some half-timbering, with timbers disposed horizontally, vertically, and at angles. Chimneys are paneled and otherwise ornamented in keeping with Queen Anne style.

In The Victorian Home in America, John Maass states that Charles L. Eastlake reversed the usual process of building a house and then furnishing it. Outside posts, brackets and incised ornaments were patterned after the designs of the Eastlake furniture inside. Such is the situation with the Havilah Babcock house, for much of the interior design, furnishings and decor are patterned strongly after Eastlake's sketches and descriptions in his Hints on Household Taste. This is not to say, however, that the house itself can be termed Eastlake Style as used in American classification of architecture. It is far from it.

Havilah Babcock, a wealthy man by the time he built his house, had been much impressed by the American made furniture termed "Eastlake" and patterned after some of Eastlake's descriptions, designs and sketches in his book when such furniture was exhibited at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876. When it came time to build his own house, Babcock faithfully followed many of Eastlake's precepts in the design of furniture, bookcases, mantelpieces, floors, wallpaper, wainscoting, and so on. In the sitting room, for example, the mantelpiece is cherry with the typical Eastlake shelves and spindle supports. At the top of the mantel unit is a panel of carved wood with stag heads, urns, and beading and leaf motifs. Within the mantelpiece there is a three-sectioned, beveled mirror. The tiles are a deep blue of Majolica ware. This room does not have a wainscoting, however. Its walls are covered from floor to ceiling with a painted textured canvas with stencilled random Empire Wreaths. There is a neo-classic bas-relief on the ceiling and a frieze in gold bead design on white background. The molding is decorated with stencilled dentilwork, real dentilwork, and beading. The tower has a fitted three-sectioned circular seat in grey diamond tufted upholstery. The walls are rose beige which set off the antebellum parlor set of sofa and three chairs done in garnet velvet (1865). While much of this room follows Eastlake dicta, it does contain some obvious departures from them.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Wisconsin	
COUNTY Winnebago	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER AUG 7	DATE 1974

(Number all entries)

BABCOCK, HAVILAH, HOUSE

7. Probably the most "Eastlake" room in the house is the library. Here are found parquet floors of two-toned wood. The rugs are oriental. The wood is cherry with a wainscoting to three feet, with panels and an incised and carved molding at the top. A heavily carved leaf spray is used at each point where the molding meets the door frames. The main wall is covered with heavy tapestry of a paisley design in sienna, gold, and bronze hues. The frieze and ceiling are hand-painted panels of floral geometric designs in textured gold, terra cotta, and shades of blue with gold outlines. The ceiling is formed by canvases painted in Victorian abstract nature designs in beige, gold, and shades of blue, held in place by a sectional frame of matching cherry wood. The central light fixture is arranged to pull down over the library table. It is brass with a large milk glass central bowl surrounded by fluted, etched glass shades and mock candle gas jets. The fireplace, mantel, and bookshelves dominate the room. The mantel is formed by the same shelf and niche style, held up by spindles with beveled glass mirror sections behind them. Simulated columns and matching floral design to the library table flank each side of the fireplace. The tiles are majolica in deep gold tones, with the heads of Aristotle, Lord Byron, and Dante at the top. Bookcases are on either side of the fireplace extending to the corners of the room. The top shelves are held by matching spindleposts but the main shelves are in case fashion. One dust strip of leather tooled in gold remains. The furniture is "turn of the century" overstuffed lounge chairs and sofa. One wing back chair has mythical lions heads carved on the ends of upward and forward extensions of the wooden arms on each side. There are four pieces of statuary on the bookcases.

Babcock was the vigorous, energetic planner and his taste and personality are stamped indelibly throughout the house. He liked Eastlake's designs and ideas and personally planned for every detail in the house: each room finished in a different kind of wood; delicate carvings and styles for each room; decoration of each ceiling; a sculptured bas-relief wall covering in the dining room. He imported immigrant craftsmen to complete the interior under his supervision. The family lived in the unfinished house for months while that work went on. Then Babcock selected the furnishings and planned their arrangement.

Although the interior of the house has been devotedly preserved as Babcock furnished and arranged it, with almost no alteration except for some changes in the kitchen and installation of an elevator, there was one important alteration of the exterior at the turn of the century, when the current veranda was constructed, replacing the original. The original spindled veranda had decorative grillwork, flanked by concave and convex fans and incised flowers. This was much more typical of the exterior manifestations of the Eastlake interior decor and ornamentation than are found today. The veranda today retains only a few vestiges of the kind of incised ornamentation which is repetitious of that inside. Otherwise

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

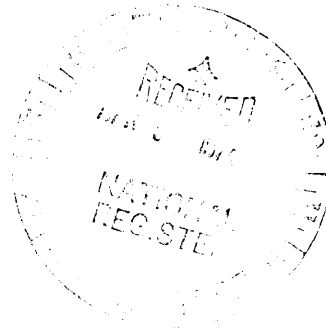
STATE Wisconsin	
COUNTY Winnebago	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
<del>1874</del>	AUG 7 1974

(Number all entries)

BABCOCK, HAVILAH, HOUSE

7. the current veranda is more closely inclined toward the Stick Style.

Even so, the original house exterior was much "cleaner" in general design than some of the more typical Queen Anne structures, reflecting some of the transitions in architecture taking place when it was built. The broad, low lines of today's veranda, with simple, square timbers used for vertical support, albeit intermixed with some arcading, make it harmonize with and nicely complement the rest of the house exterior. The house is in near-perfect condition and repair and looks much more recent than it is.



**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	(1) <u>Interior design.</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	(2) <u>Association with historically important industrialist.</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Havilah Babcock (1837-1905) is a historically significant person in the areas of commerce and industry, particularly as one of the four young men who each put up \$7500 in 1872 to establish the firm of Kimberly, Clark and Company which became an early giant in the paper manufacturing industry and contributed much to the growth, development, and wealth of the Neenah-Menasha-Appleton area of Wisconsin's Fox River Valley. Earlier, Babcock had been active in flour milling, merchandising, and other enterprises in the area. In 1861, when an acute economic depression brought on the failure of Neenah's only bank, Babcock became one of the founders of the bank which still operates as the First National Bank of Neenah. He remained a director of the bank until his death. Because of his earlier experiences in milling and his acumen and successes in merchandising, Babcock was the co-partner of Kimberly and Clark who specialized in the milling and merchandising activities of the company. Havilah Babcock was vice-president; his wife's cousin, John A. Kimberly, president; Charles B. Clark, secretary; and Frank C. Shattuck, treasurer. Later in the remainder of the 19th century, Babcock as well as other members of Kimberly and Clark, established other paper mills and flour mills in the area.

The greater significance of the Babcock house, however, is its architecture and principally its uniqueness in being outstandingly Eastlake in the design and furnishings of its interior, due to the great interest of Havilah Babcock in Charles L. Eastlake's precepts as set forth in his Hints on Household Taste. Probably few houses can be found today which are comparable with the Babcock house in this respect--at least in this country. A handsome house showing both refinement and restraint in its design, it reveals on the outside numerous Eastlake effects complementing those on the inside.

William Waters (or Watters) was the architect, and Henry Babcock Adams, grandson of Havilah Babcock and owner of the property, has Waters' plans for the house. Waters designed other significant buildings in the area, some in Queen Anne style, some in Richardsonian Romanesque, and others in combinations of those and other styles--all reflecting the effects of a transitional period in architectural design.

Fortunate and most incredible is the fact that for 90 years the house has been occupied by Havilah Babcock's immediate family, who devotedly preserved it as he had furnished and arranged it. With the exceptions mentioned in the description, there have been virtually no interior alterations and only one exterior alteration of consequence--and that occurred back at the turn of the century. Thus the rare combination of Eastlake furniture,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Adams, Arva L., Personal information, both written and provided in interviews on Havilah Babcock and the Babcock house. 1973.  
 Eastlake, Charles Locke, Hints on Household Taste, Dover Edition, (New York, 1969), passim.  
 Maass, John, The Victorian Home in America, (New York, 1972), 141-144.  
National Cyclopaedia of American Biography, XL:108-109 (New York, 1955).  
 Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780, (Cambridge, Mass., 1969), 109-121, passim.

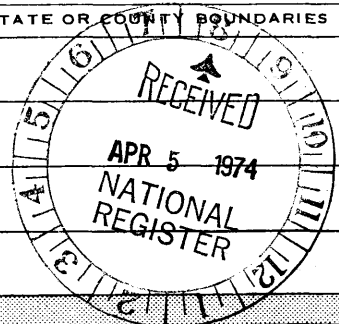
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		N 44 10 49	W 88 26 59	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2.0

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Donald N. Anderson, Asst. Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

ORGANIZATION: State Historical Society of Wisconsin DATE: February 20, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: Madison STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name James Morton Smith  
 James Morton Smith

Title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date 4/1/74

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

W. Montrose  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/2/74

ATTEST:  
W. Montrose  
 Keeper of the National Register

Date 4/1/74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE <b>Wisconsin</b>	
COUNTY <b>Winnebago</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
<b>AUG 7</b>	<b>1974</b>

(Number all entries)

BABCOCK, HAVILAH, HOUSE

8. decor and architecture is preserved as it was planned by one man many years ago and continues to be so preserved. One sees the house with the feeling that Havilah Babcock, whose bust in the library was sculptured by an artist daughter, might just have stepped out for a walk.

