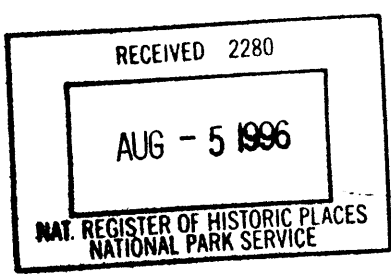


NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8/86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format (1331D)
(Approved 3/87)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name SMITH, HIRAM HOUSE

other names/site number Octagon House

. Location

street & number 336 Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Neenah N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Winnebago code 139 zip code 54956

3. Classification


Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	1
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		
		1	1
			Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.


Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

7/31/96
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

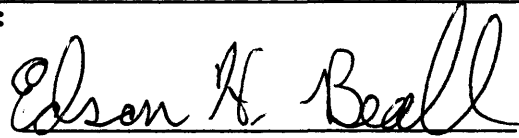
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet

 9.6.96

___ determined eligible for the National Register. ___ See continuation sheet

Entered in the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register.

___ removed from the National Register.

___ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

Octagon Mode

foundation Limestone
walls Brick
Aluminum
roof Asphalt
other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Hiram Smith House is situated on approximately one half acre of land that at one time overlooked the headwaters of Little Lake Butte des Morts. Located approximately one quarter mile southwest of the central business district, the Smith House stands on the south side of Main Street immediately east of the Fox River Valley Railroad trackage. The surrounding transitional neighborhood includes multiple family, commercial, railroad and industrial usages.

The building is a two-story Octagon residence built of masonry sometime between 1851 and 1854. The plan configuration is octagonal with a rear south wing. The roof is low pitched and hipped to a raised deck with a prominent rear gable. The foundations are coursed uncut stone, the walls are a local yellow brick with a stretcher bond, and the roofing materials are modern asphalt shingles. A verandah extends across the north three elevations of the octagon, and an entry porch is located at the northwest corner of the rear wing. A second porch was at one time located across the east elevation of the rear wing. A one-story polygonal bay replaced this porch about 1890. A single ridge chimney is located on the rear wing. A one-story addition across the east and southeast elevations of the octagon continues the polygonal line of the verandah, matching the masonry construction and materials of the house. A two-story frame addition on the south elevation of the rear wing has a shed roof and dates from 1890. A one-story frame addition on the east elevation of the two-story addition may be from a later date. Both are currently clad in aluminum siding.

The fenestration of the octagonal portion of the residence combines formal and functional elements into a unified design. A large opening is centered on both floors of each elevation with a heavy wood sill and lintel. These openings are then either fitted with sash or lowered panels, depending on the needs of the interior room arrangement. Louvered panels are located on the both floors of the northeast elevation, on the second floor of the northwest elevation, and on the first floor of the west elevation. These closures accommodate closets and a stairway. Historic double-hung, multi-paned sash is located in the second floor openings of the east and west elevations. Nonhistoric glass block treatments are located on the first floor of the north and

X See continuation sheet

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Section number 7 Page 1 Neenah, Winnebago County, Wisconsin

east elevations. A small casement window is located on the second floor of the north elevation. A single window with double-hung, multi-paned sash is located on the second floor of the southeast elevation. A small bathroom light of later construction is located on the south elevation of the polygonal addition.

The fenestration of the rear wing is entirely functional. Six windows are located on the west elevation: four on the first floor and two on the second. The first floor windows have nonhistoric glass block treatments, while the second floor windows have double-hung, multi-paned sash. Four other windows are located on the east elevation: two on the first floor and two on the second. The first floor windows have modern double-hung, single-paned replacement sash, while the second floor windows have historic double-hung, multi-paned sash. The one-story bay is also fitted with double-hung, single-paned replacement sash. An additional second floor window over the bay has been replaced by two multi-paned bathroom lights.

The functional fenestration of the rear clapboard addition includes two windows on each elevation: one first floor window on the west elevation; second floor corner windows on the west, south, and east elevations, and a mid-story window on the east elevation. The second floor windows wrap around the southeast and southwest corners. The fenestration of the one-story extension consists of one full-height glass block window on each elevation. The north and east windows wrap around the northeast corner.

The octagonal portion of the building has two entries. The main entry is located on the northwest elevation and includes a single paneled door with multi-paned sidelights and transom. The stairs to this entry are located on the north and south elevations of the verandah. A secondary entry is located in a former window on the southeast elevation and includes a single modern flush door with access to a concrete terrace across the east elevation of the rear wing. Entries to the rear wing are located on the west elevation entry porch, and between the bay and windows of the east elevation. Another entry is located on the one-story extension of the clapboard addition, opening onto the concrete terrace. These three entries each utilize a modern flush door.

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Character defining decorative features are simple and limited to the octagon portion of the building. The raised roof deck is paneled and ornamented with three raised Gothic trefoils in each panel. At the roofline a curvilinear bracket with an acorn pendant is located at the juncture of each elevation. A wide friezeboard extends from the soffit to the second floor lintels. The friezeboard width is repeated on the verandah and functions as a stationary awning. The modern verandah supports and balusters imitate the extant pilasters at the juncture of each elevation. These pilasters include a molded crown, a stick-form trefoil shaft, and a chamfered pedestal. Building evidence indicates an octagonal cupola at one time occupied the roof deck.

The interior room arrangement follows a side hall plan. A double parlor and bedroom are located in the octagon, with a library and dining room in the rear wing, and a kitchen in the rear addition. Character defining interior elements include simple architrave molding, round ceiling medallions, an incised marble mantel in the library, and a Romanesque oak mantel in the dining room. The second floor followed the first floor room arrangement but was altered in the 1950s to accommodate two apartments.

A non-contributing modern four-car garage is located at the southwest corner of the property.

The Smith House is currently being restored by the Neenah Historical Society for use as a museum, archive, and headquarters.

Hiram Smith House
Name of Property

Winnebago County, Wisconsin
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ___ A X B X C ___ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions) Period of Significance Significant Dates

Industry 1870-1900 (1) N/A

Architecture 1851-1854 (2) _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Smith, Hiram

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Hiram Smith House is nominated to the National Register for its local significance under criteria B and C. The Smith House is nominated under criterion B its association with Hiram Smith, one of Neenah's pioneer manufacturers associated with the establishment of the paper industry in Wisconsin. The property is also nominated under criterion C for its local architectural significance. The Smith House embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Octagon period of design addressed in Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, and is reflective of a significant period of growth and achievement in the community.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Neenah began in 1835 as an industrial and agricultural mission for the Menominee Indians. Its early white settlement, attracted by the Fox River water power, followed several years later. Neenah's growth lagged behind other villages in the area until after the Civil War, at which time rail transportation and renewed economic vigor encouraged a boom in local industry. Neenah's role in Wisconsin's paper industry began during this period and included the formation of Kimberly-Clark Corporation in 1872.

X See continuation sheet

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Section number 8 Page 1 Neenah, Winnebago County, Wisconsin

The phenomenal success of Kimberly-Clark and later paper companies produced a social structure dominated by some of the most influential families in the Fox River Valley and the state. This social structure and the industry that sustained it reached a plateau around the turn of the century, when labor activism and community consciousness began to emerge. After World War I, industry turned to manufacturing consumer products, creating more jobs and greater wealth. This provided Neenah with a stable economic environment throughout the Great Depression.

INDUSTRY

According to Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Wisconsin's papermaking industry in 1860 was relatively insignificant. Beginning in 1848 with a small facility in Milwaukee, early paper mills were constructed in Beloit, Whitewater, Fond du Lac, Sparta, and Appleton. In 1865 a paper mill in Neenah began operations with a stock company of local businessmen led by Hiram and Edward Smith. Organized as the Neenah Paper Company, the other investors were Dr. Nathaniel Robinson, Nathan Cobb, John Jamison, and Moses Hooper. Hiram Smith served as managing director, and Nathaniel Robinson as superintendent. Pioneer Wisconsin papermaker Myron Haynes was hired to direct production. (3)

Struggling in its initial years, Hiram and Edward Smith leased the property in 1867. The following year Edward Smith sold his interest to D. C. Van Ostrand, who then acquired control of the Neenah Paper Company with Hiram Smith. With Haynes continuing as superintendent, the company was soon producing 465 tons of print paper, over sixteen tons of book paper, and nearly twenty-five tons of tea paper.

Reputedly one of the most successful and profitable of the early mills, the firm of Smith & Van Ostrand called widespread attention to the possibilities of paper manufacture in northeastern Wisconsin. By 1882 at least 20 paper companies were operating in the Fox River Valley, four of them in Neenah: the Neenah Paper Company (1865); Kimberly, Clark & Co. (1872); the Patten Paper Co. (1874); and the Winnebago Paper Co. (1874). Four more were organized in Menasha: the Menasha Paper Co. (1876); the George Whiting Paper Co. (1882); the Gilbert Paper Co. (1887); and the John Strange Paper Co. (1888). (4)

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Of these, Kimberly, Clark & Co. was the largest and most influential. In 1892 it employed over 700 laborers and produced more than 3.5 million dollars worth of paper products, making the Neenah-Menasha area the Midwest center for paper manufacturing. As part of its rapid expansion, Kimberly, Clark & Co. acquired Smith & Van Ostrand in 1874, demolishing the mill in 1885 to make way for a new facility. (5)

Smith and Van Ostrand were pioneer manufacturers whose partnership in business extended beyond their pivotal role in Wisconsin papermaking. D. C. Van Ostrand came to Neenah in 1850, first manufacturing chairs and then running a Durham boat on the Fox River. Hiram Smith came to Neenah in 1854, entering into the dry goods business with his brother Edward. The following year Van Ostrand purchased Edward's interest, beginning a partnership that included concurrent ownership of a stove works, hardware store, and a private banking and loan office. In 1885 they focused their energies on the organization of the Manufacturer's Bank, of which they were the principal shareholders. Smith was president of the bank until his death in 1900. (6)

Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin identifies the homes of paper mill owners as an associated resource type of elevated significance when primary resources are not longer extant. Of these associated homes, the Octagonal Hiram Smith House and the Italianate D. C. Van Ostrand House (413 Church Street) retain the greatest integrity of site and form. The Greek Revival Edward Smith House (303 Church Street) has been significantly altered, but still appears much as it did in 1915. The Italianate John Jamison House (314 W. Forest Avenue) and Gothic Revival Myron Haynes House (323 W. North Water Street) retain their basic form but have been significantly stripped of their character-defining features. The Neenah homes of Dr. Nathaniel Robinson, Nathan Cobb, and Moses Hooper have all been demolished.

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SMITH, HIRAM HOUSE

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In the small group of remaining resources, the Hiram Smith House takes on larger historical importance for its association with the founders of Neenah's nationally significant paper industry. The integrity of site and form reflect the beginning point of a remarkable period of local growth and achievement.

ARCHITECTURE

Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin notes that the use of the octagonal plan in residential building was popularized by the writings of Orson Fowler during the mid-nineteenth century. Briefly fashionable from 1845 to 1860, the greatest concentrations of surviving Octagons are found in New York, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin. Only a few thousand were ever built and only several hundred survive nationwide.

Approximately twenty octagons are extant in Wisconsin, most of them built during Orson Fowler's time by settlers immigrating from New York State. Three surviving examples are located in Winnebago County. The octagon in Wisconsin is commonly a residence from one to three stories in height. Building materials include brick, clapboard, and grout. Italianate decorative details deviated from Fowler's recommended simplicity.

Built sometime between 1851 and 1854 by Abraham Bowen, the house and lot was purchased by Edward Smith for \$4,000 in 1855.⁽⁷⁾ Fifteen years later, Smith sold the property to his brother Hiram. Two-stories in height and constructed of brick, the Hiram Smith House includes modest Italianate detailing in keeping with the form's simplicity and the Wisconsin subtype. The octagon mode of the Smith House has been modestly modified by historic alterations, but the character defining features and room arrangement remain distinctively intact.

The Smith House is one of three octagon houses recorded in Winnebago County. The other two are located at 557 Pleasant Street in Oshkosh, and on 2nd Street in the Town of Rushford. Representative of a rare architectural style, and associated with the establishment of Neenah's nationally prominent paper industry, the Smith House is a pivotal landmark in Neenah's rich and diversified architectural history.

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FOOTNOTES

1. The period of significance for industry covers the years Hiram Smith occupied the house.
2. The period of significance for architecture corresponds to the time period in which the house was constructed.
3. Glaab & Larson, p. 90.
4. Wyatt, Industry, p. 6-4.
5. Glaab & Larson, p. 112.
6. Lawson, 1147.
7. Abstract, located in Neenah Historical Society Archives.

Hiram Smith House
Name of Property

Winnebago County, Wisconsin
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): See continuation sheet
 preliminary determination of
 individual listing (36 CFR 67)
 has been requested
 previously listed in the National Primary location of additional data:
 Register State Historic Preservation
Office
 previously determined eligible by Other State agency
 the National Register Federal agency
 designated a National Historic Local government
 Landmark University
 recorded by Historic American Other
 Buildings Survey Specify repository:
 recorded by Historic American Neenah Landmarks Commission
 Engineering Record #

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UIM References

A 1/6 3/8/2/6/1/0 4/8/9/3/3/9/0 B / / / / / / / / / / / /
 Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / / / / D / / / / / / / / / / / /

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

East 73 feet of the west 149 feet lying north of the north line of Smith Street, Block 23, Palmers Map of Neenah.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundaries are based on the legally recorded boundary lines of the remaining lot historically associated with the nominated property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peter J. Adams
organization _____ date 4/1/1995
street & number 636 East Doty Avenue telephone 414/725-1945
city or town Neenah state Wisconsin zip code 54956

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Kathryn Greenwald
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Photographic Materials - Identification

SMITH, HIRAM HOUSE
Neenah, Winnebago County, Wisconsin
Photos by Peter Adams, September 1994
Negatives at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Photo #1 of 8: View from northeast.

Photo #2 of 8: View from southeast. .

Photo #3 of 8: View from south.

Photo #4 of 8: Interior, view of double parlor from the south.

Photos by Peter Adams, March 1995
Negatives at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Photo #5 of 8: View from the northwest.

Photo #6 of 8: View from southwest of noncontributing garage

Photo #7 of 8: Detail of rear wing east elevation with polygonal
addition

Photo #8 of 8: Detail of rear wing east elevation with polygonal bay