

DEC 2 1985

JAN 16 1986

INVENTORY FORM FOR NOMINATED PROPERTIES

Name of property: Abraham H. Esbenshade House

Owner: Evelyn A. Lundahl

Address: 3119 West Wells Street

Owner's address: 3119 West Wells Street

City: Milwaukee

Milwaukee, WI 53208

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

160 NRHP Certification (date)

- Listed in NRHP (LI)
- Determined eligible in DOE process (DD)
- Determined eligible in nomination process (DN)
- Additional documentation added to nomination (AD)
- Boundary increased (BI)
- Boundary decreased (BD)
- Delisted (DL)

170 Thematic or Multiple Resource Nomination Name (code)

180 NRHP List Name Abraham H. Esbenshade House

190 Level of Significance

- national (NA)
- state (ST)
- local (LO)

200 District Classification

- pivotal (P)
- contributing (C)
- non-contributing (NC)

210 Applicable Criteria

- event (A)
- person (B)
- architecture/engineering (C)
- information potential (D)

215 Criteria Considerations

- religious property (A)
- moved property (B)
- birthplace or grave (C)
- cemetery (D)
- reconstructed property (E)
- commemorative property (F)
- less than 50 years old (G)

220 Area of Significance (code)

Architecture

230 Period of Significance

Date of Construction is 1899

340 Review Board Date

70 USGS Quad Map

SW/4 Milwaukee 7.5 min 1:24,000

80 UTM Coordinates (Format: 99-999999-9999999)

16-422320-4765500

85 Listed Acreage Less than one acre

60 Verbal Boundary Description Assessment subdivision No. 50 etc., in northeast quarter section 26-7-21, block 1, lot 3 & west 40' lot 2.

STREET: W. Wells Street

NUMBER: 3119

**SHSW INTENSIVE
SURVEY FORM**

LOCATION

10 County Milwaukee
20 City or Village Milwaukee
30 Civil Town _____
35 Unincorporated Community _____
40 Location 3119 West Wells Street

50 Town-Range-Section _____

55 Quarter Sections _____
60 Verbal Boundary Description Assessment subdivision No. 50,
etc., in northeast quarter section 25-7-21 block 1,
lot 3 and west 40 feet lot 2.

PROGRAM REVIEW

250 Tax Case Number _____
260 Compliance Case Number _____
270 A or D Grant Yes No
275 Covenant/Easement Dates _____
320 Ownership
 private (P)
 local-public (L)
 state-public (S)
 federal-public (F)
 mixed, private-public (M)
330 Lead Agency (code) _____

SURVEY

90 Photo Codes MI 127-5
100 Survey Map 388
110 Map Code 127-5
120 Reconnaissance Survey Date 1979
130 Reconnaissance Surveyor Wenger/Hunton/Jensen
140 Intensive Survey Name (code) Westside
150 Intensive Surveyor Wenger/Hatala
155 Intensive Survey FY 1983
235 Survey Evaluation
 eligible (E) not eligible (N)
237 Survey District Classification
 pivotal (P) non-contributing (NC)
 contributing (C)
240 Survey Level of Significance
 national (NA) local (LO)
 state (ST)
243 Survey Evaluation Criteria
 event (A) architectural/engineering (C)
 person (B) information potential (D)
245 Proposed District _____
280 NHL Date _____
290 HABS No. _____ 300 HAER No. _____
310 Local Landmark (code) _____
315 Associated Archeological Site(s) _____

ARCHITECTURE

450 Date of Construction (source) _____

1899(A)

460 Dates of Alterations/Additions (source) _____

480 Builder (source) _____

490 and 500 Designer Type and Name (source) _____

X architect: Crane & Barkhausen(A)

artist: _____

engineer: _____

interior designer: _____

landscape architect: _____

other: _____

510 Style or Form (code) _____

Queen Anne/German Ren. Revival

520 Building, Structure, Object or Site Type (code) _____

530 Building Materials (code) _____

Stone (foundation)

Terra Cotta/Brick (trim)

540 Interior Visited — Yes No

550 Structural System (code) balloon frame

560 Plan Configuration (code) irregular

Address

3119 West Wells Street

570 Number of Stories _____

2-1/2

580 Roof Shape (code)

Irregular

590 Additional Description _____

620 Condition _____

— excellent — X good — fair — poor — ruins

650 Related Buildings (code) _____

HISTORY

430 Common/Current Name _____

440 Historic Names (source) Abraham H. Esbenschade House (A)

660 Associated Individual(s) (dates) (source) _____

Abraham H. Esbenschade (1899-1907)(B)

670 Associated Event (source) _____

680 Commercial/Industrial Historic Uses (source) _____

DESCRIPTION

The Abraham H. Esbenshade House, 3119 West Wells Street, is a 2-story, brick, hip-roofed late Queen Anne residence displaying Renaissance Revival features built in 1899. The essentially rectangular shape of the house is articulated with bay windows, round turrets, open porches and complex roof planes that are reminiscent of the American Queen Anne. On the main facade is a Flemish Renaissance gable edged in terra cotta that terminates with a finial. The corner round turret is topped with a squat, bell-cast, conical roof. These features appealed to the Teutonic taste and origins of both architect and client. Varied materials including brick, rock-faced limestone, terra cotta, dressed limestone and rough cast stucco add to the textural richness of the exterior which appears to be virtually intact. The dominant feature of the design is the low roof with its broad overhanging eaves that appears to be pressing the house to the ground and keeping its exuberant Queen Anne features in check.

The Esbenshade House is located in what was once a gracious neighborhood of upper class late 19th century houses. Lots in this part of the city were larger than average and the Esbenshade House, though large in scale, does not cover the entire lot as do houses in neighborhoods that are closer to the center of the city. The house is sited at the front one-third of the 50 x 150 foot lot, and has ample front and side yards. There is little or no landscaping.

ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Abraham H. Esbenshade House is locally significant as an example of late Queen Anne residential architecture that illustrates the transition to the more restrained domestic architecture of the early twentieth century. Built in 1899 for Esbenshade, it is one of the best preserved late Queen Anne residences in the city. Designed by the architecture firm of Charles D. Crane and Carl C. Barkhausen, it is representative of the best of the large-scale residential commissions the firm executed at the end of the nineteenth century. The incorporation of Renaissance Revival elements such as Flemish gables was typical of their work at this period for their largely German-American clientele.

In addition to residences, the firm also executed churches, commercial buildings & institutions. (Continued)

680 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES (SOURCES)

- (A) City Building Permits
- (B) City Directories
- (C) Watrous, Jerome A. Memoirs of Milwaukee County, Vol. II. Madison, Wisconsin: Western Historical Association, 1909. pp. 316-17.
- (D) Gregory, John G. ed. History of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Vol. IV Milwaukee: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1931 pp. 579-80.

700 STUDY UNITS (CODE)

350 Demolished

360 Date Demolished

_____ Yes _____ No _____

ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

In the context of late Queen Anne domestic architecture in Milwaukee, the Esbenshade House is one of the most unique. There simply is not anything else like it. The house represents the inventive experimentation that occurred as Victorian-era architects attempted to make the transition from the Queen Anne picturesque aesthetic to the historical revivalism of the early 20th Century. (See historical Background for more information on architects.)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

This house was built for Abraham H. Esbenshade (1849-1914) in 1899 to the designs of the Milwaukee architecture firm of Crane and Barkhausen. Esbenshade was secretary-treasurer of the F. Westphal Company, a file manufacturer, during the eight years he lived in this house. In 1907 he moved to a house on Wisconsin Avenue. Before he built this fine house, Esbenshade had lived on North 4th Street in the heart of the old "Germantown" neighborhood.(B) The firm of Crane and Barkhausen was active from 1888 until 1902 when the firm dissolved. Charles D. Crane practiced alone in Milwaukee until his death in 1928. Barkhausen practiced alone from 1912 until shortly before his death in 1934. The firm executed a large number of residential commissions as well as churches and commercial blocks.(C,D)

HISTORICAL STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

None