

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 20 1975
DATE ENTERED JAN 2 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Hall, Chauncey, House
AND/OR COMMON
Knight House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1235 South Main Street
CITY, TOWN
Racine
STATE
Wisconsin 53403
VICINITY OF
1st
COUNTY
Racine
CODE
101

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mrs. Kathryn Swanstrom
STREET & NUMBER
9027 South Damen Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Chicago
STATE
Illinois 60620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Racine County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
720 Washington Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Racine
STATE
Wisconsin 53403

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic American Buildings Survey (Inventory Sheet)
DATE
1968
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Library of Congress
CITY, TOWN
Washington
STATE
District of Columbia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Chauncey Hall House is a two-storey, picturesque Gothic Revival residence. It occupies a rather large (about 110' x 145') picturesque site, and overlooks Lake Michigan. Trees and shrubs conceal the house, and lend it an air of mystery and surprise. It was built before 1854. Rexford Newcomb gives the date of 1842.¹

Originally the plan was cruciform in shape, but due to an addition of a wing on the northeast corner (date unknown) which houses the kitchen, pantry, dining room and bath, the shape of the plan is now typically Gothic Revival in layout. Asymmetry prevails, and this is more in line with the type of plans that were utilized by A. J. Downing.

Red brick is used throughout, including the foundation. It has a basement, which can be entered through a lean-to-like entrance from the back. Wood trim is used for the exterior, as for the pointed gables trimmed with decorative bargeboards and finials, and for the overhead area of the windows. The bargeboard detailing (trefoils and leaf-like cutouts) and craftsmanship as a whole are excellent. The porches (open and enclosed) as well as the windows vary in shape and size. And the windows retain their diamond-shaped panes. This combination of diamond and plain glass panes is utilized throughout. The west elevation (facing the street) is more abstractly composed, with an open rectangular porch which projects from the right side being locked into the central mass by a tall chimney (not original) which repeats the vertical thrust of the finials and peaks. The south elevation (seen in the photograph) is more symmetrical, and the porch on the right is now enclosed.

The color scheme is red and green. Green is used for the trim, which according to sources (Patton) follows the original color composition. The house's siting takes full advantage of the lot, which opens up to the east and provides a relatively open area to the south. Tall pines envelop the west elevation and reiterate the steeply pitched configuration of the roofline.

¹ Newcomb, Rexford, Architecture of the Old Northwest Territory, 149.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Association with locally significant historic per- sonages.
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES before 1854 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built before 1854, the Chauncey Hall House is one of Racine's oldest surviving dwellings, and the city's only extant pre-Civil War example of the Gothic Revival. The brick adaptation of Gothic forms exhibits considerable originality and charm. Its pointed forms and the irregular silhouette, coupled with the seemingly irregular massing of trees and shrubs illustrate the concept of the picturesque quite convincingly. The total design involves more than just the replication of medieval forms; it is an environment which reveals A. J. Downing's ideals of nature and landscaping.

Although the property was first owned by Eli Stevens, the house was built for Mr. Hall, a businessman later turned banker who was one of the early settlers of Racine (1845), and who enjoyed great prestige among the settlers of Racine and Southeastern Wisconsin. In 1858 he opened a bank in Bellevue, Iowa; in 1872 he was one of the founders of the First National Bank of Burlington, Wisconsin. The house later was acquired (date unknown) by Dr. Roswell Park, who was the first president of Racine College (established in 1852). In the 1880's it was purchased by Simon Whitely, and later (probably at the turn of the century) it came into the possession of the Knight family. Like Mr. Hall, A. G. Knight was also one of the early settlers of Racine, one who has been identified with the growth and development of both city and county.

This excellent example of Gothic Revival is still in the possession of the Knight heirs. The history of the Chauncey Hall House provides an insight to the refined taste of Racine's early settlers; the house has so much to offer to the study of both local history and architectural history that its significance should not be overlooked.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1.0

UTM REFERENCES

A | 16 | 435975 | 4729550 |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | | | |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D | | | | |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Biruta Erdmann, Preservation Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

DATE

16 June 1975

TELEPHONE

608/262-9504

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer

~~FEDERAL REGISTER~~ SIGNATURE

James Morton Smith

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

10/14/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Attest:

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

1/2/76

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/31/75

deff

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Hall, Chauncey, House

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Buildings and Sites

1971

State Historical Society of Wisconsin State
Madison Wisconsin 53706

Racine Architectural Survey, Urban Aesthetics Commission

1974

Racine Landmarks Commission Local
Racine Wisconsin 53403

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Hall, Chauncey, House

Downing, A. J., The Architecture of Country Houses, (New York, 1969)

Newcomb, Rexford, Architecture of the Old Northwest Territory, (Chicago, 1950)

Pagel, Mary Ellen, Pagans and Goths in 19th Century Racine: Architecture of the Classical and Gothic Revivals, (Racine, 1964) (Mimeograph)

Patton, Helen, "Lucas Bradley: Carpenter, Builder, Architect," Wisconsin Magazine of History, 58:107-125 (Winter, 1974-1975)

Portrait and Biographical Album of Racine and Kenosha Counties, Wisconsin, (Chicago, 1892), 337-339; 1009-1010.

Wisconsin, A Guide to the Badger State, (New York, 1941), 280