

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Wisconsin</b>
COUNTY: <b>Eau Claire</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>JUL 18 1974</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Community House, First Congregational United Church of Christ**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Community House, First Congregational Church** *use this*

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**310 Broadway**

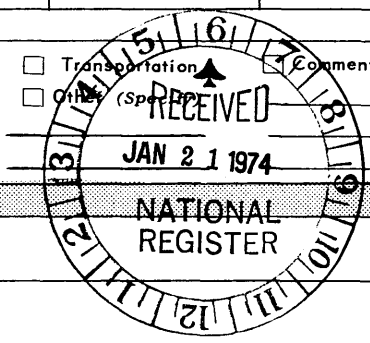
CITY OR TOWN:  
**Eau Claire**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**3rd Congressional District**

STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55** COUNTY: **Eau Claire** CODE: **035**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**First Congregational United Church of Christ**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**310 Broadway**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Eau Claire**

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

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**City of Eau Claire, Assessor's Office**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**203 South Farwell**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Eau Claire**

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

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Wisconsin Historic Preservation Plan, Vol. II: the Inventory**

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**

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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)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Community House of the First Congregational United Church of Christ is a one-story building with a broad gable roof. The walls are low and the eaves overhang broadly--the gable itself has a greater height than the walls. The exterior is of rock-faced rusticated stone, the material of the adjacent church, interrupted on the main facade by casement windows. Within the gable is a stained glass window surmounted with lancet windows. Other features of note on this building of simple forms are the slightly projecting corners, the two chimneys on the side nearer the church, and the extending roof beams with Sullivanesque ornament panels. A plaque on the building states that it is a memorial to Cornelia Pierce Ingram, 1914.\*

\*Cornelia Pierce Ingram left the money for the Community House in her will.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1914** (date on building)

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <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

The Community House, originally an addition to the First Congregational United Church of Christ,<sup>1</sup> was designed by Purcell and Elmslie in 1913-1914. The small building is architecturally significant not only because it is one of a limited number of the firm's work in the state, but also because it illustrates a specific type of design the firm worked with. Purcell and Elmslie worked out of Minneapolis and began working together in 1909. (Purcell and Feick had carried on the practice two years previously and Feick remained several years beyond Elmslie's entrance.) Elmslie had been chief draughtsman for and had been very close to Louis H. Sullivan for a number of years before entering the partnership. Purcell had worked in Sullivan's office during several months of 1903. The firm of Purcell and Elmslie and both its members were integrally related to Wright and Sullivan and were some of the foremost members of the Prairie School. The firm also did a Parsonage<sup>2</sup> and a project for a parish house for the church at about the same time.

According to Gebhard, Purcell and Elmslie experimented with the simple high pitch gable roof from 1913 to 1918.<sup>3</sup> Other Prairie School architects and many clients avoided such a roof because of its association with Gothic Revival. The Community House is an example of the successful use of the roof by the firm. There is indication that Elmslie did the elevation design and Purcell the plan.<sup>4</sup> The stained glass and lancet windows in the gable are balanced against the heavier stone and the casement windows of the wall. There are small panels of ornament on the stone and the extending beams which emphasize the shape. The building is a fine example of Purcell's and Elmslie's talents with small buildings of simple shapes. It is indeed a fine architectural monument for Eau Claire and Wisconsin.

1. The Community House was added to a Richardsonian Romanesque Church which had been built in 1887. The church burned down in 1918; however, a church of similar material and style was completed by 1921.
2. The Parsonage is a bungalow which incorporates three steeply-pitched gable roofs, the proportions of which play nicely against one another; it is a more quiet, less unique building than the Community House. The house has been extensively remodeled.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. H. Allen Brooks. The Prairie School (University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1972).
2. David Gebhard. W. G. Purcell and G. G. Elmslie and the Early Progressive Movement... (University of Minnesota Dissertation, 1957).

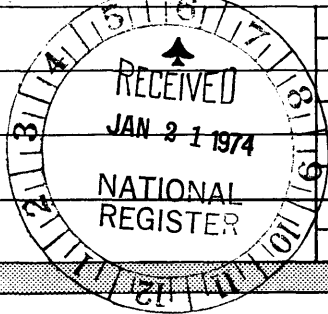
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	° ' "	° ' "		N. 44° 48' 19"	W. 91° 30' 23"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Ellen Threinen, 1973 Summer Architectural Survey Team

ORGANIZATION: State Historical Society of Wisconsin      DATE: August 2, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: Madison      STATE: Wisconsin      CODE: 55

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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--State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: January 11, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

AR Quastner  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/18/74

ATTEST:

Wm. H. ...  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7-17-74

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Wisconsin	
COUNTY Eau Claire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>JUL 18 1974</b>

(Number all entries)

COMMUNITY HOUSE

8. Statement of Significance continued

3. David Gebhard, W. G. Purcell and G. G. Elmslie and the Early Progressive Movement.... p. 162.

4. The Archives of the University of Minnesota Libraries, now under the direction of Allen K. Lathrop, has working drawings of the buildings and drawings for the stained glass windows. Mr. Lathrop kindly provided some much needed information.

