

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 7 1985
date entered SEP 5 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Sheeley House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 236 West River Street N/A not for publication

city, town Chippewa Falls N/A vicinity of 7th Congressional District

state Wisconsin code 55 county Chippewa code 017

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name David H. Raihle

street & number 99 East Grand Avenue

city, town Chippewa Falls N/A vicinity of state Wisconsin 54729

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chippewa County Courthouse

street & number 711 North Bridge Street

city, town Chippewa Falls state Wisconsin 54729

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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 Sheeley House, located in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, is an Italianate style building dating from the nineteenth century. After its construction, the building functioned as a boardinghouse and saloon, serving primarily a working class clientele, and continues in operation to this day as a restaurant and "saloon".

The Sheeley House occupies the northeast corner at the intersection of River and Pine Streets. The building fronts on River Street which parallels the Chippewa River in an east/west direction. Historically, River Street has been a major commercial artery in the community and the site of a river-boat landing, ferry crossing, railroad depots and more recently, State Highway 29. During the nineteenth and early twentieth century, the area around the Sheeley House was a mix of commercial and residential properties. The Wisconsin Central passenger and freight depots were located southeast of the Sheeley House while residences were located to each side. To the east, residences were set back from the street, compared to the Sheeley saloon which opens onto the sidewalk. A stone retaining wall extended from the corner of the Sheeley House almost the entire length of the block. The majority of these buildings have been razed, the Sheeley House and a section of the stone wall remain as visual reminders of an earlier era.

The building consists of a three story cubical mass with a two story rectangular wing extending to the rear. This rectangular portion was originally a carriage shop dating from the 1860's.¹ When John B. Paul acquired the property in 1884 he removed a small house facing River Street and erected his three story boardinghouse.² The carriage shop was incorporated into the new structure by connecting doorways and facing the entire exterior with local red brick. According to Sanborn Perris maps, the building was to be veneered in 1886, consequently the exterior appearance dates from that year.³

The massing, symmetrical fenestration and detailing are typical of the Italianate style as it appeared in Chippewa Falls. Specific attributes such as segmentally arched window caps and decorative wood brackets contribute to the Italianate expression.

The combination of commercial and residential uses is reflected in the overall design. The first story saloon is treated as a storefront with a central door recessed between plate glass windows. The storefront kick panels and window mullions are frame and void of detail. Corner piers are faced with red brick to unify this ground level and the upper stories.

A frame balcony divides the saloon from the upper stories, creating a visual break between the storefront design and the more residential aspect of the upper levels. Opening on to the balcony is a door which is flanked by a pair of windows on each side. Each pair of windows shares a sill and a segmentally arched window cap. The same rhythm is repeated on the third

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floor with a single window in the central position. The composition of the facade culminates in a round window placed at the attic level. This window is in the gable end of a dormer which projects from the main hip roof. Pairs of decorative wood brackets appear at the wide eaves of the hip roof. The eaves break at the gable and delicate scrollwork bargeboards form an arched frame for the attic roundel.

The side elevations contain three windows on the second and third floors, however the rowlock window caps (similar to those on the facade) are employed only on the west elevation, second story. The only openings on the first floor are simple rectangular doors and a window into the saloon. The walls at this level are coursed sandstone blocks with heavily mortared joints.

Extending to the rear is the two story gable roofed wing and a one story shed roof addition. On Pine Street a one story frame porch fills the ell created by the intersection of the main building and the rectangular wing. Turned posts, simple brackets and a scallop pattern at the eaves enlivens the porch, which covered the main entrance to the dining room and boarders' rooms.

Originally the saloon occupied the ground level; the second level was the owner's living quarters, kitchen and public dining room. The third level was devoted to eleven small (7' x 11') sleeping rooms for boarders.

In 1981, the Sheeley House was acquired by David and Sharon Raihle for the purpose of restoration. Although severely weathered and neglected, the Sheeley House was structurally sound and worthy of preservation. Aided by period photographs and interviews with the Sheeley family, it was possible to establish the nineteenth century appearance.

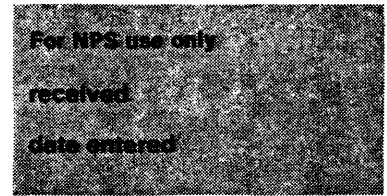
The integrity of the exterior was meticulously maintained. Where replacements were necessary, like material and identical design were utilized. The bargeboard detail and balcony had been removed, existing exterior trim and historic photographs served as patterns for replacement millwork. The building was re-roofed with cedar shingles which duplicate the original shingles in size and shape. The exposed sandstone foundation had been surfaced with a concrete coating. This was carefully removed and together with the brick, were tuckpointed only where structurally necessary.

The site and a section of stone retaining wall were restored using early photographs as references.

The saloon contained the original metal ceiling and tile floor, however solid oak wainscoting, trim, bar and back bar were reconstructed to duplicate

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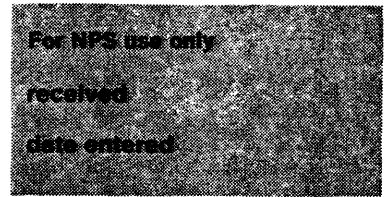
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the appearance circa 1912. The second floor of the building was restored for public dining with original Sheeley furnishings displayed in the dining-room. Major remodeling occurred in the modernization of the kitchen.

The 1982 restoration preserved the appearance and function of the building. On June 18, 1983, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin presented the Award of Merit for commitment and dedication to the preservation of the Sheeley House.

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FOOTNOTES

- 1 Abstract of Title, Chippewa County Abstract Office, Inc.
 Lithograph of Chippewa Falls, 1983, Northwestern Bank,
 200 North Bridge Street, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin 54729

- 2 Abstract of Title, Chippewa County Abstract Office, Inc.
 Assessment Rolls, City of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin (1854-1984)
 Lithograph of Chippewa Falls, 1885, Raihle Law Office, 99
 East Grand Avenue, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin 54729

- 3 Sanborn Perris Map of Chippewa Falls, 1886
 State Historical Society of Wisconsin - Archives

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
Period of Significance		1884 to 1935		
Specific dates	1884-1886 ¹	Builder/Architect	Unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Sheeley House is locally significant in Chippewa Falls as a representative example of the Italianate style and, historically for its association with the commercial development of the community.

ARCHITECTURE

The Sheeley House exhibits the massing, symmetrical fenestration and detailing typically employed in Italianate style structures in Chippewa Falls. Components of the design such as the hip roof with central gable, arched window caps, bracket and bargeboard details appear on a number of buildings in the community, however, unlike the Sheeley House these were strictly residential designs. The design of the Sheeley House juxtaposes a commercial storefront (saloon) with the residential design appropriate to its function as a boardinghouse. Although it does not display the profusion of ornament evident on some of the buildings in Chippewa Falls, it is a nicely detailed example of the style and retains a high degree of integrity.

COMMERCE

The Sheeley House remains as a significant example of a nineteenth century boardinghouse/saloon which played a role in the economy of the community and the social life of the working class clientele.

In the nineteenth century, the Chippewa River served as a vital artery in the development and commerce of northwestern Wisconsin. Early explorers, trappers, loggers and settlers were able to journey to the "falls" where they established the community known as Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. The river, which bisects the community, provided transportation and power for the lumber and logging industries that dominated the valley. By the 1880's, the city of Chippewa Falls included "the most extensive mill in the state".² The mill, according to local histories, employed four hundred persons year round. During this period, the city flourished and included more than eighty saloons and thirty boardinghouses. The boardinghouses were home to the single loggers, millhands and other workers of the era. For them the boardinghouse and saloon provided identity, companionship and a place to eat, sleep and socialize. The Sheeley House, located within three blocks of the lumberyards and railroad, was ideally situated for the workers of those industries. The simplicity and rates (rooms were rented by the day, week or season) were geared to the workers. Meals, prepared by the owner's wife, were served communally. Social life centered in the saloon where the inclusion of a safe and cashier station

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet. Item 9.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Chippewa Falls

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	6	2	6	7	0	0	4	9	7	6	5	2	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 1, Block 16, Original Plat of the City of Chippewa Falls, Chippewa County, Wisconsin. Nominated property is 66' x 124'

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

See Continuation Sheet. Item 11.

name/title David H. Raihle

organization date February 25, 1985

street & number 99 East Grand Avenue telephone 715-723-3256

city or town Chippewa Falls state Wisconsin

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 signature [Signature]

title DIRECTOR OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION date JULY 19, 1985

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

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

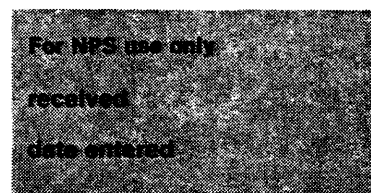
Entered in the National Register date 9/5/85

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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facilitated the cashing and spending of pay vouchers.

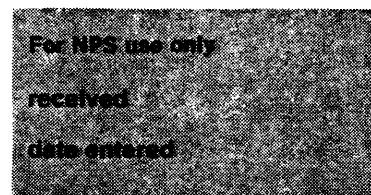
More opulent hotels, catering to travelers, were located in the same vicinity (the Cardinal House and Ottawa House remain to the east), however the Sheeley House best represents the utilitarian working class condition.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The history of the site development began before the Civil War when the first building on this property was erected.³ In 1868, Carl Hering purchased this property and moved his family into the small house located on River Street.⁴ Hering's carriage and blacksmith shop were located immediately north of the house facing Pine Street.⁵ John Battlias Paul purchased the Hering property in 1884.⁶ He removed the home and erected the three story boardinghouse. The carriage shop was connected to the new structure and the entire building was surfaced with local red brick. In 1905, James Sheeley, an Irish immigrant, purchased the property.⁷ James and Kate Sheeley, with the help of their three children, Anna, William and Howard, tended bar, prepared meals and maintained the rooms. After James' death in 1913, Kate continued to serve meals and provide rooms, but the saloon was placed under lease. Following Kate Sheeley's death in 1934, daughter, Anna, assumed operation of the Sheeley House. Frenchy LaCour ran the saloon for 28 years until his death in 1967. Rooms were rented into the 1970's.⁸ In 1981, due to infirmities of age, it was necessary that Anna leave her home of 76 years.

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FOOTNOTES

1 Abstract of Title, Chippewa County Abstract Office, Inc.
Sanborn Perris Map of Chippewa Falls, 1886, State
Historical Society of Wisconsin - Archives

2 Historical and Biographical Album of the Chippewa Valley,
Wisconsin. 1891-92. A. Warner Publisher, Chicago.

3 Abstract of Title.

4 Ibid.

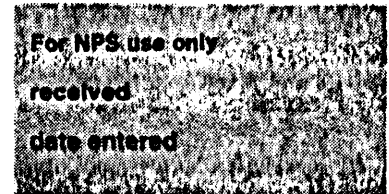
5 Lithograph of Chippewa Falls, 1873.

6 Abstract of Title

7 Ibid.

8 Interview with James Sheeley by David Raihle
November, 1981. Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Abstract of Title, Chippewa County Abstract Office, Inc.

Assessment Rolls. City of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

Chippewa Falls City Directories. 1889-90, 1893, 1910, 1920.
State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Lithographs of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. 1873, 1886.

Historical and Biographical Album of the Chippewa Valley, Wisconsin.
1891-92. A. Warner Publisher, Chicago.

Sanborn Perris Maps of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. 1886, 1895
State Historical Society of Wisconsin - Archives.

Sheeley Family - historic photographs and taped interviews with
David Raihle. Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

11. FORM PREPARED BY:

Editorial assistance:

Dorothy Steele, Consultant
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Date: February 25, 1985