


1 City, Village or Town: Hudson		County: St. Croix	Surveyor: R. LaRowe	Date: 9/14/83	Orange Street 803	
Street Address: 803 Orange Street		USGS Quad and UTM Reference: Northline/Zone 15, easting: 519903; northing: 4980470		Acreage: less than one acre		
Current Name & Use: Robert Hobson Residence		Current Owner: Robert Hobson				
Film Roll No. SC 37 SC 2				Current Owner's Address: 803 Orange Street		
Negative No. 18				Legal Description: Lot #'s 9 and 10, Block G, Markham's Addition		
Facade Orient. S						

2	Original Name & Use: Herman L. Humphrey House	Source A, B	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source
	Dates of Construction/Alteration c. 1860/(alteration) 1884	Source C, D				
	Architect and/or Builder: Alex Gamble (1884 addition)	Source E				

3 Architectural Significance

Represents work of a master

Possesses high artistic values

Represents a type, period, or method of construction

Engineering

None

4 Historical Significance

Assoc. with lives of significant persons

Assoc. with significant historical events

Assoc. with development of a locality

Other: _____

None

Period of significance **1860-1902**

Architectural Description and Significance:

Description: The Herman L. Humphrey House is a two-story, brick Italianate residence supported by stone foundation. Erected circa 1860(C), the house is reputed to be the first brick dwelling in Hudson. It has a truncated roof features a boxed cornice adorned with large brackets along a wide friezeboard. Windows are double hung 1/1, 2/2, or 6/6 with entablature shelf lintels and stone lug sills. First story windows on the south facade have flush lintels as does the entrance, which is trimmed with side lights and a small rectangular transom.

Interior visited? Yes No

Historical Background and Significance:

Background: Herman Leon Humphrey was born in Candor, Tioga County, New York on March 14, 1830. After receiving a public education and spending a few years in the mercantile trade, Humphrey yearned for a professional life. He studied law under the Ithaca New York firm of Walbridge and Finch until his admittance to the bar association in 1854. "Wisely concluding that the new western country offered a better field for a useful practitioner...he...selected Hudson (Wisconsin)...and commenced the practice of law in January, 1855." (F)

- 5 Sources of Information (Reference to Above)
- A** Day, Genevive. Hudson in the Early Days, 2nd Ed. (Hudson: Hudson Star-Observer, 1963) p.41.
- B** Abstract No. 4544. St. Croix County Abstract Office, Hudson, WI.
- C** Hudson's Heritage, St. Croix County Historical Society, 1974.
- D** "Building Notes", Hudson Star-Times, May 30, 1884, p. 4.
- E** "Building Notes", Hudson Star-Times, August 8, 1884, p. 4.
- F** "Honorable Herman L. Humphrey Passed Away", Hudson Star-Times, June 13, 1902, p. 1.

6 Representation in Previous Surveys

HABS LDMK WIHP NRHP

other: _____

7 Condition

excellent good fair poor ruins

8 District: _____

pivotal contributing non-contributing

9 Opinion of National Register Eligibility

date: **9/14/83** initials: **RL**

eligible not eligible unknown

national state local

map name Hudson/North Hudson Intensive Survey Map

map code SC 37/18

Architectural Statement (cont'd):

In 1884, Judge Humphrey "improved" his home by adding a two-story bay on the west side and a one-and-one-half story wing on the north. Decorative leaded and stained glass transoms are located over three first story windows on the west side of the addition, which was constructed to house a library and back kitchen (D). An open porch was erected along the west side of the addition featuring fluted columns. The original south facade porch was partially removed, but is currently being restored following sympathetic design and scale principles documented in historic photographs of the nominated property. A later addition has been added to the east side of the 1884 wing. Geometric parquet flooring in the foyer and rear parlor, raised paneled doors with porcelain knobs, a winding staircase in the front entry, and a pressed metal Renaissance Revival fireplace mantel with red and black checkered tiles, are prominent interior features.

The Herman L. Humphrey House, at 803 Orange Street, was built in the Italinatate style around 1860. Constructed of brick, this structure is reputed to be the first building in Hudson to be built of the material; an oddity during the surging lumber milling industry. However, no documentation has been discovered to substantiate this statement. Furthermore, the bracketed cornice and classical detailing represent the Italinatate period, but alterations have reduced its original integrity. This is especially noted when compared to other existing Italinatates throughout Hudson, particularly the William Dwelley house at 1002 Fourth Street, which is being nominated as Hudson's finest Italinatate example.

Historical Statement (cont'd):

Recognition as a superior legal professional began early in Humphrey's career, demonstrated by his appointment to fill a vacancy in the St. Croix County District Attorney's office, a gubernatorial appointment during the 1860 vacancy of a St. Croix County Judge, and elected to the same position in 1861. Judge Humphrey never began his elective term, which was scheduled to commence in January, 1862, as he had been elected State Senator in Fall of 1861.

At the completion of his senatorial term in 1863, Humphrey returned to Hudson, but his political life was just taking root. His single term election as Mayor of Hudson in 1865 was successively followed by two terms as Judge of the 8th Judicial District (1867 to 1877) and three terms as a United States Congressman (1876 to 1883)(F).

In 1883, Congressman Humphrey settled into his private Hudson law practice "Wisely giving opportunity (to) others, aspiring to the honors of...office".(F) But in 1866, Humphrey was elected to the Wisconsin State Legislature, staying a single term and tiering the Judicial Committee.

In addition to his accumulation of legal and professional positions, Judge Herman L. Humphrey was a public spirited citizen of Hudson. He was among the incorporators of the Tomahand Lake St. Croix Railroad Company, which, in 1863, began building a railway line from Tomah to the western boundary of Wisconsin reaching Hudson in 1871. Furthermore, the Judge served his community as a member of the Board of Directors for Hudson's first hospital, the Oliver Wendell Holmes Sanitorium. Judge Humphrey died June 10, 1902.

Historical Significance:

Recognized as being one of Hudson's most notable lawyers, judges, statesman, and citizens, Judge Herman L. Humphrey gained considerable prominence in the community having located here in 1855. His respective positions as county and circuit judge, state senator, mayor, and United States Congressman, was enhanced by his dedication to community progress illustrated through his roles as an incorporator of the Tomah and Lake St. Croix Railroad Company and Director of the Oliver Wendell Holmes Hospital. The Humphrey House at 803 Orange Street, occupied by him throughout his pretigious career (1860-1902) stands as a significant representative of his life and contributions.