

4014



United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number	1000 Myrtle St				N/A	not for publication	
city or town	Reedsburg				N/A	vicinity	
state	Wisconsin	code	WI	county	Sauk	code	
						111	
						zip code	53959

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

4/16/2019
Date

State Historic Preservation Office - Wisconsin
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel

Sauk County, WI

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the

National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the

National Register.

See continuation sheet

removed from the National

Register.

other, (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

6/7/2019
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as
as apply)

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

building(s)

district

structure

site

object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources
in the count)

contributing

noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

0 total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property
listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources
previously listed in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY / mortuary

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY / mortuary

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/

Late Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone & Limestone

walls Sandstone

roof Ceramic Tile

other Copper

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Name of Property

Sauk County, WI
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1940

Significant Dates

1940

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hunt, Leigh, Architect

Friede Brothers, Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel

Sauk County, WI

Name of Property

County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	Dale Suemnicht, Sexton and Cemetery Manager	date	April, 2018
organization	Greenwood Cemetery Association	telephone	608.524.2753
street & number	1000 Myrtle St	zip code	53959
city or town	Reedsburg	state	WI

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

Introduction

The Freda Meyers Nishan Memorial Chapel is a non-denominational, one-and-a-half-story chapel located in Greenwood Cemetery in Reedsburg, WI. It sits in an east-west orientation with a wing on the south side. The main entrance faces west. The chapel is an excellent example of the Late Gothic Revival style and is unique as the only cemetery chapel in the community.

Site and Setting

The Greenwood Cemetery is located in the north part of the city in an area that was once characterized by farms. Now, Greenwood Cemetery is in a primarily residential area of single family homes toward the north central boundary of the city of Reedsburg. The cemetery was founded in 1854 when the Greenwood Cemetery Association was formed and five acres were bought from Rev. Solomon A. Dwinell. Myrtle Street was then opened in 1874 giving direct access to Main Street. The cemetery, now over 22 acres, includes the following features:

- Natural amphitheater – used every Memorial Day for services to honor deceased veterans.
- Late-nineteenth century wrought iron fence graces street-side of Greenwood Cemetery.
- Civil War Monument that at 27' tall is the highest in the cemetery. It was the second Soldier's Monument built in Wisconsin and at a cost of \$1,625 in 1892. Two 17' long replica Civil War cannons flanked its sides. They were later removed and melted down for a metal drive during WWII.

Myrtle Street bisects the cemetery in a north/south direction. On both sides of Myrtle Street interior cemetery roads branch off in an east/west direction, allowing vehicles to access interior sections of the cemetery along this grid. These interior cemetery roads are not named. The exception to the grid formation of roads is at the far east edge of the cemetery where curved roads create a picturesque setting; amongst these curved roads is where the chapel is located. Entering the cemetery from the south on Myrtle Street, one must turn right at the third cemetery road and follow it east until it begins to curve to the north. The chapel is located at this curve. The building is situated at the east end of a natural amphitheater within the cemetery. The immediate setting is characterized by broad expanses of mown lawn, interspersed with monuments that mark the location of graves. The cemetery is bordered to the south and east by densely planted and mature shade trees. The chapel is located on a curving

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

driveway approach, with a connecting driveway forming a semicircle around the back of the building and connecting again with the driveway at the front. Surrounding the chapel is mown lawn, low shrubs, and a few mature shade trees. There is a flagpole centered at the front of the building. This flagpole is a simple metal pole, is not from the historic period and does not contribute to the significance of this property, and is of insufficient scale to include in the count. While the Nishan Chapel is located within the Greenwood Cemetery, the cemetery itself is not being nominated.

Description

The main body of the chapel is rectangular, 31'x 60' with an additional 19'x 28' wing on its south side and deeply recessed from the front of the chapel. Exterior walls are quarry faced sandstone in a random ashlar pattern with restrained buttress details. Doorways incorporate gothic arches, with flat lintels over the windows. Above the front door of the chapel is the inscription 'The Freda Meyers Nishan Memorial Chapel'. The windows are of stained glass, each window having a single sash. Exterior doors are of oak and vertical tongue and groove construction with iron strap hinges. The roof has a broad front gable with a long ridge running the length of the main chapel as well as an intersecting gable over the extending wing. The exterior roof covering consists of flashed (fired) clay interlocking roof shingles. There is a bell tower at the southwest corner of the chapel that is adorned with a spire that is copper clad with solder-applied copper decoration.

Primary Façade (West)

The primary façade faces west and is organized into three bays, all under one sweeping front gable. The center bay has the main entrance, slightly recessed and accessed by ascending two broad stone steps. The stone foundation is not visible at grade. The wide gothic arched door opening is trimmed in stone and the double doors are of wood. The pair of oversize oak doors, constructed of vertical tongue and groove construction with three pairs of ornamented iron strap hinges has a large wood panel above, simulating a gothic arched transom but constructed of solid wood. The upper half of each door has a small rectangular leaded glass window. An original metal wall sconce is located to each side of the door. Above the door is a circular stained glass window, centered under the gable. The first and third bays each have a single window. These windows match, are relatively small, rectangular, one-over-one sash. The only deviation from this regular arrangement of the front façade is the tower that rises from the wall on the right side. This tower is incorporated into the front wall plane and then extends above the sloped roof, forming a stepped side and an open rectangular bell tower. The single bell is centered and the roof above it rises to a steep spire, finished in copper. A delicate, scrolled

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 3

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

cross terminates the spire.

Recessed from the front of the chapel is the side wall of the cross gabled wing. This wing has a center door and center hall; to each side is a toilet room and this wing also accesses a stair to the lower level. From the exterior, this side wall has three window bays, regularly spaced and each having a single window. These windows are tall and narrow and have stained glass.

Side Façade (North)

The long, north side of the building is composed of six structural bays divided by subtle buttresses. The stone foundation is not visible from grade or simply blends into the masonry ashlar wall construction. Moving from the front of the building toward the rear: the first bay has a single window, and the second through fifth bays are identical, each having three tall, narrow windows, separated by wide stone mullions and the windows terminating at the top of the wall, right under the roof. The only deviation is a single basement window opening centered in the second bay (the opening is short, slightly wide and has a single window), and a bulkhead door at grade at the fifth bay. The sixth and last bay is blank, except at the basement level where there is another single window matching that which was already described. The roof is broad and uninterrupted from front to rear.

Rear Façade (East)

The rear of the building is composed of a front gabled wall to the right (the rear of the chapel) and a side gable wall to the left (the rear wall of the side wing) as this is where the gables cross. The section to the right has three bays: a centered, circular window high on the wall and under the gable, and a single, tall, narrow window makes up the first and third bays. The third bay has a short basement window. The section to the left has two windows, roughly centered and divided by a wide stone mullion. The windows terminate at the roof eave. An interior ventilation chimney is visible from this vantage point and is tall, narrow and constructed of stone.

Side Façade (South)

The south side of the chapel is composed of the gable facing south of the rear wing, and the side wall of the chapel. The gabled wing is three bays wide having a center entrance and a single window to each side. The entrance is accessed by ascending stone steps; the door is slightly recessed within a gothic arched frame of stone. There is a single door, matching the door at the front of the building, including the wood transom panel, making this door appear quite narrow and tall. Above the door,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 4

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

high on the wall and just under the gable is a small, narrow window. The single windows match the others previously described: tall, narrow, and having stained glass; a basement level window is located below. The side wall of the chapel is composed of three structural bays separated by buttresses. Two structural bays have three windows each. As on the north side of the chapel, these windows are tall, narrow and separated by stone mullions; they each have stained glass sash. A basement window is centered under the windows of the middle bay. The last bay, closest to the front, is blank as it is the side of the corner tower.

Interior

Main Floor

The chapel is composed of an entry vestibule, flanked to each side by an ante room. (The balcony is above this space). One moves through another pair of doors into the chapel's auditorium, which is a single room, open to the ceiling structure. To the rear and turning to the right (south) is the wing having a secondary entrance, separate women's and men's toilet rooms and stairs to the basement.

At the interior, the floor structure is cast-in-place concrete with limestone and concrete columns and masonry piers. Interior doors are of pine with a vertical tongue and groove pattern. Their hardware includes bronze Corbin push paddle devices. Trim consists of cornice molding of flat pine with additionally applied decorative molding. Casings and sills are square pine. The ceiling is of 2½" x 6" pine decking. Wood clad king posts with vertical tension rods connect to a 6" x 12" wooden ridge beam. The exposed trusses are 4-ply laminated Douglas fir 2" x 8" with bolted plate connectors and steel saddle hangers.

The entrance of the chapel contains a vestibule. On the north and south sides of the vestibule are small rooms used for office space and storage. A small balcony is located in the rear of the chapel, above the vestibule. What is peculiar about this balcony is that there is no built-in ladder or stairs leading to it. Instead it requires a separate ladder for access over the balcony's guardrail. The vestibule leads to the 31' x 44' auditorium with bench seats. In lieu of an altar, there is an 8'-wide raised platform in the front of the chapel that serves as the presentation area, with a small closet on both the north and south ends of it. In front of the platform, an in-floor lift accesses the basement. If there was a delay of burial due to weather, the casket could be stored in the vault in the basement and could be lifted to the auditorium at the appropriate time. The building's wing contains two rooms on opposite sides of a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

center hallway that are used for preparation or gathering areas before a given ceremony. Each room contains an adjacent bathroom. Overall, the chapel contains 32 stained glass windows. Six rectangular stained glass pendant fixtures hang from the structural framing and line the auditorium, three on each side. Most or all windows, doors, seating, furnishings, light fixtures, and the sound system are original to the building and have not been altered.

Basement

Basement walls consist of limestone blocks that were quarried nearby. Four concrete-walled crypts are located in the basement where caskets were stored while awaiting burial in the spring. An existing concrete ramp with central steps provided a basement access point for the caskets, and a lift provided a means of raising them up into the chapel auditorium. The lift is a hand-operated hydraulic hoist that rose through a trap door in the floor, located in front of the platform. The lift and trap door are still present in the chapel but are no longer in service.

Alterations

The exterior of the chapel has not been altered, nor has the interior. There have been no additions or demolitions. The building retains original exterior materials including walls, roof, doors and windows. The interior retains original spaces, finishes, and features including hydraulic lift equipment in the basement.

Integrity

The Freda Meyers Nishan Memorial Chapel retains exceptional integrity having been unchanged from its historic period.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

Summary

The Freda Meyers Nishan Memorial Chapel is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, locally significant as an excellent example of the Late Gothic Revival style. The chapel was designed by architect Leigh Hunt of Milwaukee, WI, and built by Friede Brothers of Reedsburg, WI, completed in 1940 at a cost of \$25,000. The walls of the chapel are of sandstone that was hand cut near Richland Center, WI. The limestone foundation walls were cut from a quarry located about 150' south of the existing chapel site. The Chapel can seat about 120 people. The chapel was a gift to the community from local philanthropist Freda Meyers Nishan and remains in use today.

Period of Significance

The Period of Significance is 1940, the year the construction of the chapel was completed.

Criteria Consideration A

Ordinarily, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes shall not be considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places unless they satisfy one of the "criteria considerations" as defined by the National Register program. Under criteria consideration A, a building may be eligible if it derives its primary significance from architectural distinction. The Freda Meyers Nishan Memorial Chapel, while not owned by a religious institution, is used as a non-denominational chapel as part of funerary rituals prior to burial; however, the chapel is significant for its architectural distinction as a fine local example of the Late Gothic Revival style. For this reason, the chapel is eligible for listing, satisfying the requirements of criteria consideration A.

Developmental History

The area where Reedsburg would develop is located along the Baraboo River in Sauk County, Wisconsin. Native Americans such as the Ho-Chunk forded the river here as it was also used for hunting and ceremonial celebrations. The Ho-Chunk were led by Chief Ahuchoga (Blue Wing) when the first white settlers arrived in 1845, the first being James W. Babb who set up a farm just west of the river. The city's namesake, David C. Reed, arrived in 1847; the first post office started in 1849

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

with the name 'Reeds Burgh'. A sawmill was built as well as Shanty Row, which consisted of five primitive log cabins located in what is today Reedsburg's Main Street.

Additional settlers arrived during this time such as Solomon A. Dwinnell, John W. Rork and A.P. Ellinwood, the latter who was responsible for developing much of the city's west side. Growth of the city stagnated until 1853 when three Mackey brothers arrived from New York and provided much needed capital to start new businesses. The village charter was adopted in 1868.

The railroad arrived in Reedsburg in 1872. Reedsburg continued to prosper and grow as a mercantile center. In December, 1873, U.S. soldiers led by Captain Hunt attempted to relocate Chief Ahuchoga, his family, and remaining area Ho-Chunk members to Nebraska. Once word of this reached Reedsburg, numerous citizens arrived at the train depot to block the Army's effort and succeeded in doing so. The event was later re-enacted as part of the documentary *Thunder in the Dells*.

Reedsburg's population reached 2,000 by 1876. Later that year the Reedsburg Woolen Mill was founded and would be one of Reedsburg's largest employers until it burned down in 1968. On April 29, 1887, citizens voted to adopt a city charter that later took effect on May 28, 1887. Population growth in Reedsburg in the 1880s, 1890s and at the turn of the twentieth century was slow but steady. The Young, Perry and Steward Addition was platted for residential development 1889-1892; the South Park Addition was platted in 1911, and during this time the Highland Park Addition was also divided for residential development. Residential expansion necessitated the construction of the necessary municipal and commercial support systems required of a small community: schools, churches, cemeteries, banks, a city hall, library, police and fire departments, parks, commercial buildings on Main Street, and small industry, are just a representative sample of the offerings and amenities that developed in Reedsburg. Industries that historically fueled Reedsburg included lumber, food processing, mills, machine shops, and granite works. The city experienced fairly robust population growth in the 1910s and 1920s with the population expanding to 2,267 people by 1930; the decade of the 1930s saw a slight population decline but another period of growth in the 1940s and 1950s; by 1960 the population was 4371. The last decades of the twentieth century saw single-digit growth until 2000 when a 34% increase brought the city's population to 7,800 people. As of 2010, the population was 9,200. The Reedsburg Woolen Mill was one of the area's largest employers through 1967. Unfortunately, the mill complex burned in 1968 and was not rebuilt. In 1949 another important manufacturer was the Hanksraft Company, having developed and expanded a series of baby safety

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

and toiletry products. The company was purchased by Gerber Products in 1970 and manufacturing shifted to making baby food. The Gerber Company sold Hanksraft Motors in 1996 and Hanksraft Motors continues to operate in Reedsburg. Today major employers include a professional audio and video equipment manufacturing company (Sound Devices, founded 1998), while Grede Foundries (established in approximately 1950) and nearby clothing retailer Lands' End are both major employers.

History of Cemeteries in Reedsburg

In 1854, the Greenwood Cemetery Association was formed and plans for a cemetery were underway, to be located on land purchased from Reverend S.A. Dwinnell. The cemetery has grown over time, beginning with five acres, with more land added over time. Maple trees were planted and more acreage acquired in 1869 and in 1889 the cemetery was newly platted. The cemetery is bordered to the south by Mary Avenue and bisected by Myrtle Street. Numerous interior driving paths create a regular rectilinear arrangement of burial plots, while at the eastern edge curvilinear roads lead to and around the chapel. This is one of the largest cemeteries in Reedsburg, at over 22 acres. Other cemeteries associated with churches include the cemetery of St. John's Lutheran Church, and St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Other small cemeteries in the Reedsburg vicinity include St. Patrick's Catholic Church cemetery, All Saints, Babb, Butterfield, Calvary, and Cole Cemeteries.

History of the Chapel

Reedsburg resident Freda Meyers Nishan had noted the hardship imposed, especially on the elderly, of those people who stood out in inclement weather during a funeral service. It was her desire that a chapel be built for the people of Reedsburg, to be used for holding services, and as a receiving vault for those who died during the winter, when the frozen ground made burials difficult. Therefore, in 1938, she left a donation to the Greenwood Cemetery Association (who still maintains ownership today) for the construction of a chapel. The chapel could be used for any denomination and by any resident, be they from Reedsburg or not. It was also intended to be used for other memorials and similar gatherings. For example, the Chapel has hosted 11 weddings and 10 funerals since 2004 according to a current trustee. The cemetery association charges a \$200 fee for use of the Chapel.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

Freda Meyers Nishan

Freda Meyers Nishan was born April 28, 1878 as Freda Blank. At the age of 13, she was taken in by her aunt and uncle, Mary and David Rudd, who adopted her. David Rudd married Mary Meyers in 1884 in Reedsburg, where David was a businessman, investor and entrepreneur. Over the years David was engaged in numerous businesses including farming, timber harvesting and milling, banking, and investing. David invested in real estate, woolen mills, and continued to work as a banker throughout his career, amassing a large estate estimated at \$100,000, which eventually passed to his wife Mary upon his death in 1896. In 1924 when Freda was 46 years old, her aunt and adoptive mother passed away. Mary's estate was estimated to be worth \$620,000 and while Mary left a great deal of money to local causes in her will, Freda still inherited over a half a million dollars. In 1928, Freda at the age of 50, married Edward Nishan of New York. Freda made numerous financial gifts in the community both before her death, and bequeathed in her will upon her death, in 1939. She donated \$150,000 for a new community building and its maintenance, \$75,000 for goiter research, \$40,000 to the Reedsburg Municipal Hospital, \$2,000 to the Reedsburg Library, and set up a trust fund for Reedsburg High School graduates. During her life, Freda had donated a house, and a trust fund for its maintenance, to the Presbyterian Church; in her will she left the church another \$15,000 in trust as well as \$25,000 to construct the chapel in the Greenwood Cemetery.¹

Architectural Significance

The Freda Meyers Nishan Chapel is architecturally significant at the local level under Criterion C, as an excellent example of a Late Gothic Revival chapel. The Late Gothic Revival style is a part of the Period Revival movement of the early-twentieth century, and was popular primarily for churches and chapels. Late Gothic Revival buildings typically are of random ashlar or brick construction, with irregular massing, and steeply-pitched roofs. The gothic-arched opening is the hallmark of the style. Ornamentation and other details are derived from European Gothic ecclesiastical precedents, and can include tracery, pinnacles, battlements, buttresses, parapeted gables with finials, and square towers or keep-like entrances.² The Nishan Chapel incorporates many of these features, such as random ashlar

¹ Stager, Claudette. *Reedsburg Intensive Survey Report* (Madison: Wisconsin Historical Society, 1983) p174.

²Barbara L. Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), II:2-5 and II:2-30.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 5

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

construction, steeply-pitched roof, buttresses, a corner tower with a tall and narrow spire, and gothic-arched door openings.

The Late Gothic Revival style is a part of the Period Revival movement of the early-twentieth century, and was popular primarily for churches and chapels. In Wisconsin, Gothic architectural motifs have been utilized for churches for 150 years beginning with the popularity of the Gothic Revival style in the mid-nineteenth century. Stylistic elements include pointed-arch openings and steeply pitched roofs. As the style evolved into the twentieth century, it was referred to as “Late Gothic Revival,” or, as noted in Wisconsin’s *Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP)*, “Neo-Gothic Revival.” Differences between the eras include less emphasis on vertical height with twentieth-century Gothic-style churches compared to their nineteenth-century precedents. Indeed, the Neo-Gothic Revival style is one of the “Period Revival” styles – a term used to describe a wide range of past motifs and styles that architects utilized during the first four decades of the twentieth century. Period Revival buildings often are not historically accurate copies of antecedents of an architectural style; instead, they are an architect’s creative interpretation of a style liberally using its architectural features and characteristics. In Reedsburg, the Late Gothic Revival was not a particularly popular style based on the data available in the Architecture and History Inventory maintained by the State Historic Preservation Office. The style is only identified twice, one of which is the nominated property. The rarity of occurrence of the style also means the chapel stands out as unique in the community.

Comparative Analysis

Reedsburg has only two direct Late Gothic Revival stylistic comparables: the Church of God at 227 S. Park Street built in 1920, and St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church at 307 6th Street built in 1937. The Church of God, constructed of brick, has been altered and is missing its historic windows, doors, and has a few minor rear additions. The level of interior integrity is unknown. The St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church building is, in contrast, a very good and intact example of the style. Constructed of stone and retaining original gothic arched windows, original doors, an entrance tower, and a steeply pitched cross-gabled roof, it expresses characteristics of the style and while the interior integrity is unknown, it appears to have good integrity. The Nishan Chapel compares favorably in design quality compared to St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, and indeed is one of the finest examples of this style in the community.

Closely associated with the Late Gothic Revival style is the Gothic Revival style but from an earlier

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 6

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

era and generally displaying a larger scale and higher level of ornament and decorative detail. Reedsburg has two very good examples of the Gothic Revival style: the St. Peter's Lutheran Church, constructed in 1908, and the First United Presbyterian Church, constructed in 1906. Both of these churches illustrate the earlier iteration of the Gothic Revival style and do not in any way diminish the significance of the later, and stylistically differentiated, Nishan Chapel.

Leigh Hunt, Architect

The Freda Meyers Nishan Memorial Chapel was designed by architect Leigh Hunt. Mr. Hunt was born July 22, 1881 in Sioux City, Iowa, son of William Henry and Emma Grace (Lawyer). He later moved to Milwaukee where he joined with engineer George Marks to form a private firm in 1922. Eventually he would serve on several Milwaukee development-related boards and committees and become Secretary-Treasurer of the Wisconsin Architects Association. There is little information about the buildings he designed in Wisconsin. A search of the Architecture and History Inventory at the State Historic Preservation Office reveals only four known buildings designed by him, although there may be many others not yet identified. If any conclusion may be drawn from such a small sample of his work, it is that he preferred to work in Period Revival designs, as the Tudor Revival, Neo-Classical Revival, and Mediterranean Revival are represented in addition to the subject building which is Late Gothic Revival.

The contractor was Friede Brothers Construction, which is still in business today and now known as Friede & Associates. They are located in Reedsburg, WI, and led by President Roger Friede and Executive Vice President Scott Truehl.

Conclusion

The Freda Meyers Nishan Chapel is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture as an excellent local example of a Late Gothic Revival style chapel with excellent integrity. The building displays elements of the style including, random ashlar construction, steeply-pitched cross-gabled roof, buttresses, a corner tower with a tall and narrow spire, and gothic-arched door openings and original heavy wood doors with iron strap hinges. The chapel also retains over 20 original stained glass windows, original light fixtures on the interior, original interior wood finishes, and even original furniture. The interior has been unaltered and the utilitarian

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 7

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

spaces and equipment in the lower level remain intact. Reedsburg has only one direct stylistic comparable, the Church of God at 227 S. Park Street built in 1920. This church has been altered and is missing its historic windows, doors, and has a few minor rear additions. The level of interior integrity is unknown. Compared to this church, the Nishan Chapel has a higher level of integrity and distinction, and is architecturally distinguished for embodying the characteristics that define the Late Gothic Revival style. Although of relatively modest scale, the choice of masonry materials and construction method give the building a sense of permanence and importance. The Nishan Chapel is a fine, unaltered example of the Late Gothic Revival style applied to a small chapel.

Preservation Activities

The Greenwood Cemetery Association has been an exceptional steward of this beautiful stone chapel. The building has exceptional integrity having retained all of its original exterior features and materials including its original windows and doors. The interior has also been carefully maintained and original features and finishes are intact. The Greenwood Cemetery Association, in partnership with the city of Reedsburg has been proactive in maintaining and protecting this historic chapel for the benefit of the entire community.

Archaeological Potential

This area of the state was home to considerable Native American habitation and activities. An archeological investigation was beyond the scope of this nomination and no information about possible prehistoric remains was found during the course of this research; the extent of possible Native American resources extant within the boundaries of the property remain unassessed. The surrounding property is a cemetery and burial sites are protected under Wisconsin state law.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

___ Insert References

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 2

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

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___End of References

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

___ Insert Boundary Descriptions

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is located within the Greenwood Cemetery; the entire cemetery is not being nominated. The cemetery itself has an address of 1000 Myrtle Street on parcel #276-1480-00000. The chapel is located at the interior of the cemetery accessed by unnamed interior cemetery roads. The cemetery has a grid system of roads except, the chapel is located on a curved road, the only place in the cemetery with curved roads. The chapel is bounded by a road semi-circle which straightens out at the front of the building then continues as a half-circle around the rear of the building.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the Freda Meyers Nishan Memorial Chapel. The nominated property provides sufficient setting for the chapel, is defined by internal roads, and excludes extraneous surrounding land.



___ End of Boundary Descriptions

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section photos Page 1

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

 Insert Photo Descriptions

Name of Property: Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel

City: Reedsburg

County: Sauk

Photographers: Brian Duvalle and Jan Aslaksen

Date of Photographs: February 2016 and March 2017

Location of Original Digital Files: State Historic Preservation Office,

Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI

Description of Photographs and Numbers: 1-16

1 of 16: Nishan Chapel overall exterior

2 of 16: West facade

3 of 16: South facade

4 of 16: North facade

5 of 16: East facade

6 of 16: Bell tower

7 of 16: Main entrance

8 of 16: Interior- Auditorium w/Platform

9 of 16: Interior – Facing rear, Balcony

10 of 16: Auditorium stained glass windows

11 of 16: Stained glass above platform

12 of 16: Auditorium light fixture

13 of 16: Interior of south wing

14 of 16: Basement crypts

15 of 16: Ramp to basement for caskets

16 of 16: Elevator to lift caskets to Auditorium

 End of Photo Descriptions

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 1

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

___ Insert Figures

List of Figures

- Figure 1: First floor plan
- Figure 2: Undated postcard
- Figure 3: Chapel dedication
- Figure 4: West elevation
- Figure 5: South elevation
- Figure 6: North elevation
- Figure 7: East elevation
- Figure 8: Locator map

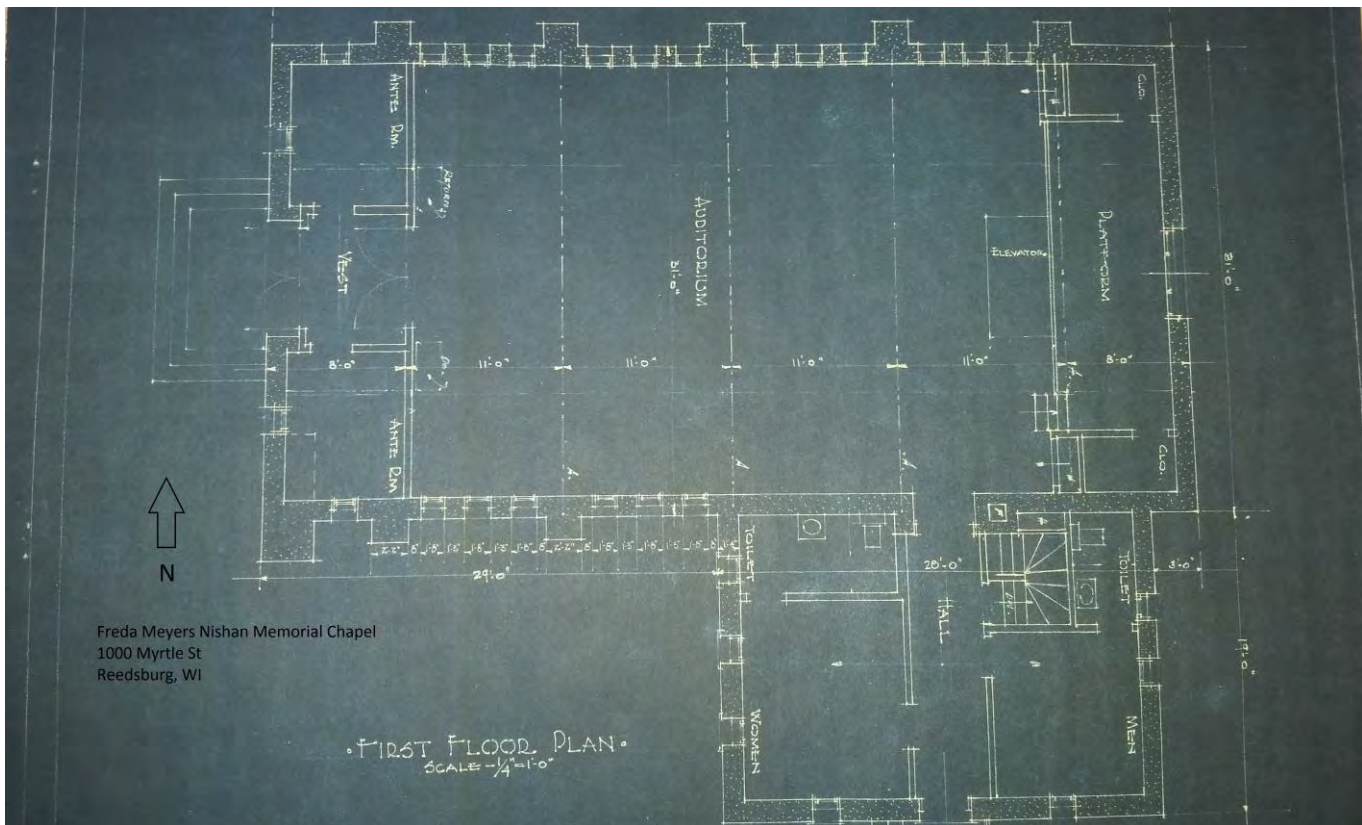
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 2

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

Figure 1: First floor plan, not to scale



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 3

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

Figure 2: Undated postcard



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 4

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

Figure 3: Chapel dedication, 1940



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

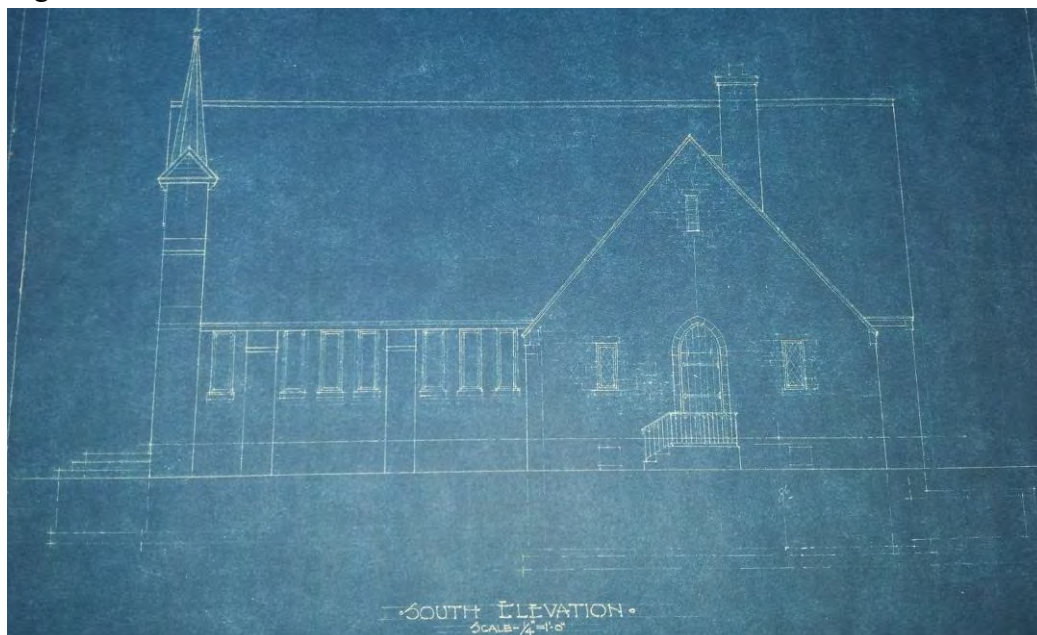
Section figures Page 5

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

Figure 4: West elevation



Figure 5: South elevation



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 6

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

Figure 6: North elevation

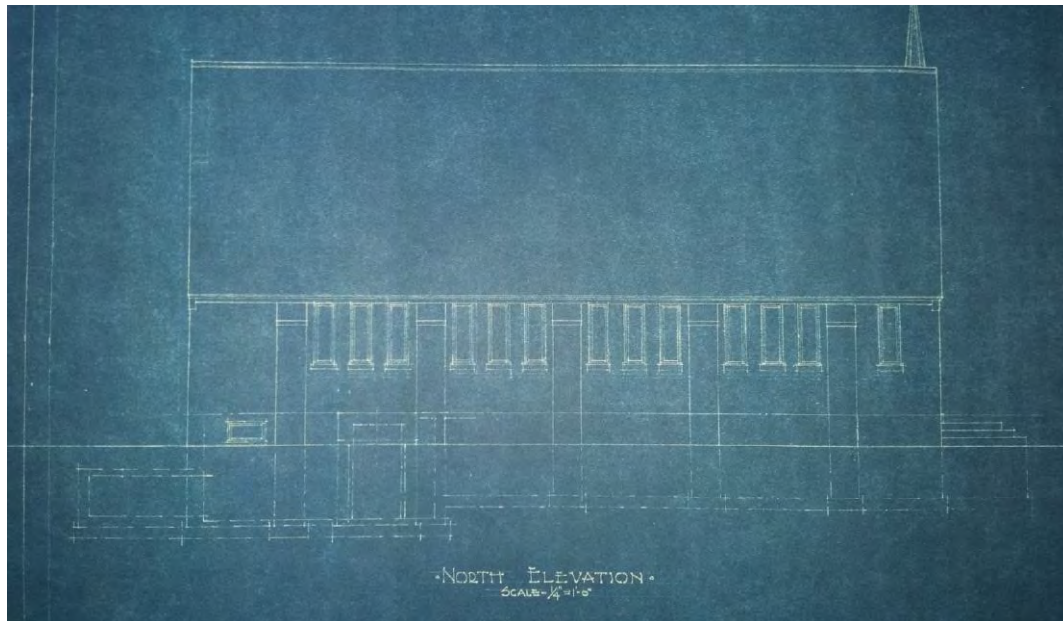
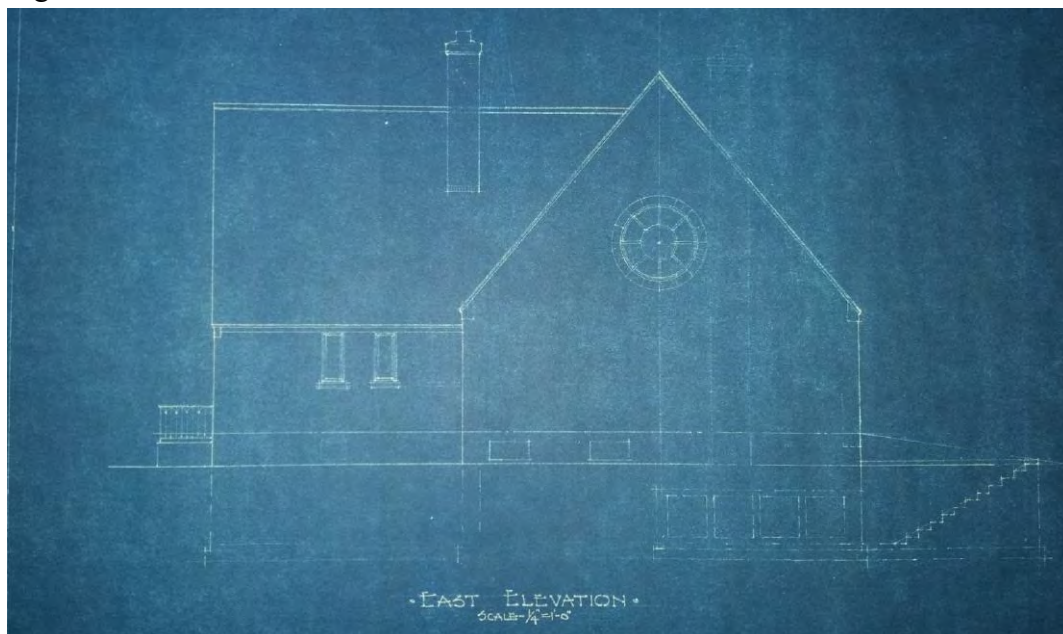


Figure 7: East elevation



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section figures Page 7

Nishan, Freda Meyers, Memorial Chapel
Reedsburg, Sauk County, WI

Figure 8: Locator map



Freda Meyers Nishan Memorial Chapel

1000 Myrtle St, Reedsburg, WI 53959

Latitude: 43.541985

Longitude: -89.999630

**Coordinates based on WGS 84 ; Google Maps*

200 feet

100 m



___End Figures













THE
FREDA MEYERS NISHAN
MEMORIAL CHAPEL



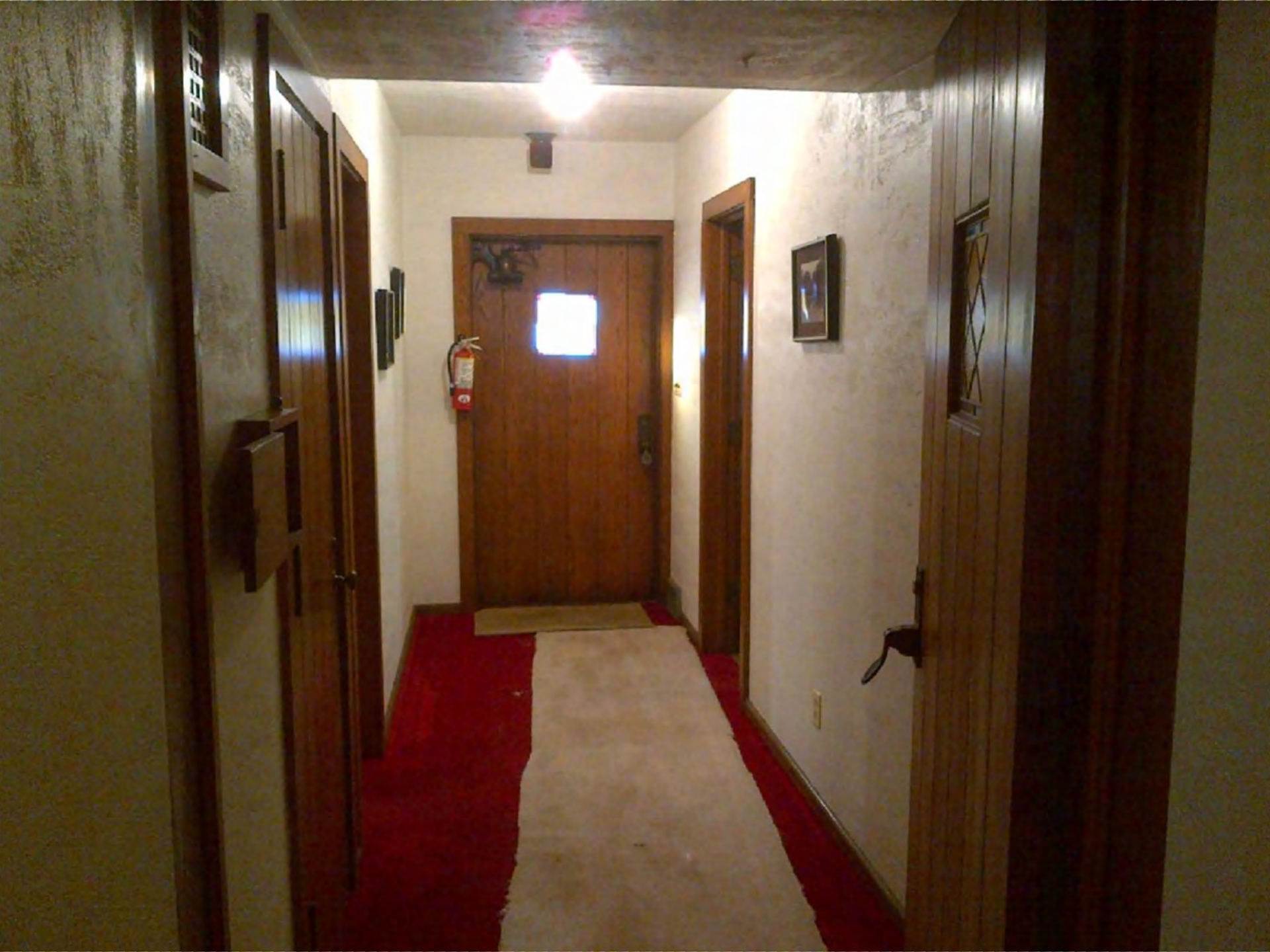


















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 4/24/2019 Date of Pending List: 5/9/2019 Date of 16th Day: 5/24/2019 Date of 45th Day: 6/10/2019 Date of Weekly List: 6/7/2019

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 6/7/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Control Unit Discipline _____

Telephone _____ Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



TO: Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Peggy Veregin
National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this Twenty-third day of April 2019, for the nomination of the Freda Meyers Nishan Memorial Chapel to the National Register of Historic Places:

- 1 Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
- 1 CD with NRHP Nomination form PDF
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- 16 Photograph(s)
- 1 CD with image files
- 1 Map(s)
- 7 Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)
- Piece(s) of correspondence
- Other:

COMMENTS:

- Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objection(s) do or do not constitute a majority of property owners
- Other: