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OMB No. 10024-0018

NPS Form 10-900 (January 1992) Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

United States Department of Interior National Park Service

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NA	I. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLA NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	CES

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 Randall Avenue Historic District other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number	Generally bounded by Ridgeway Boulevard and Oakdale Avenue and Glenwood Avenue	N/A	not for publication
city or town	De Pere	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsi	code WI county Brown code	009	zip code 54115

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this \underline{X} 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 \underline{X} meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _ nationally _ statewide \underline{X} locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

<u>3/17/07</u> Date

State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

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

State or Federal agency and bureau

Randall Avenue Historic D	istrict	Brown	Wisconsin	
Name of Property		County and Sta	ate	
4. National Park Servi	ce Certification	0	n	
I hereby certify that the property is: See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. Getermined not eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. S	Celar 	16. Beal	<u>4-24.0</u>	
Register. other, (explain:)				
	Signature of the	e Keeper	Date of Action	
5. Classification				
Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)		ces within Property viously listed resources	
X private	building(s)	contributing	noncontributing	
public-local public-State	X district structure	60	4 buildings sites	
public-Federal	site		structures	
F	object		objects	
		60	4 total	
Name of related multiple pr (Enter "N/A" if property not plating		Number of contrib is previously listed	uting resources in the National Register	
listing. N/A			0	
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions		Current Functions		
(Enter categories from instr		(Enter categories from instructions)		
DOMESTIC/single dwellin	I <u>g</u>	DOMESTIC/single dwell	ing	
7. Description		······		
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instru- Colonial Revival		Materials (Enter categories from ins Foundation Concrete	-	
Classical Revival		walls Weatherboard	d	
Tudor Revival		Brick,		
Modern Movement		roof Asphalt		

Stone

other

Narrative Description

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

Randall Avenue Historic District	Brown	Wisconsin
ame of Property	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.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Architecture	
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.		
<u>X</u> 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.	Period of Significance 1908-1955	
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates	
Criteria Considerations Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)		
Property is:	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)	
A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	N/A	
$\underline{\mathbf{X}}$ B removed from its original location.		
_ C a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation	
_D a cemetery.	N/A	
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.		
_ F a commemorative property.	Architect/Builder	
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Foeller, Schober & Berners Geniesse, Levi A. Riley, Frank	
Narrative Statement of Significance Explain the significance of the property on one or more continua	ation sheets.)	

Brown

Randall Avenue Historic District

Wisconsin

Brown

County and State

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _approximately 25 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

				3	16	416370	4923080	
1	16	416070	4923340		Zone	Easting	Northing	
	Zone	Easting	Northing					
				4	16	416210	4922895	
2	16	416180	4923280		Zone	Easting	Northing	
	Zone	Easting	Northing	X Se	ee Conti	nuation Sheet		

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepar	ed By				
name/title organization	Timothy F. Heggland/Consultant	for the City of	De Pere Hi	istoric Preservatior date	Commission May 31, 2006
street & number	6391 Hillsandwood Road			telephone	608-795-2650
city or town	Mazomanie	state	WI	zip code	53560

Wisconsin

Randall Avenue Historic District	Brown	Wisconsin
Name of Property	County and State	

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

MapsA 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 organization street & number city or town	Various, see separate listing.	state	Wisconsin	date telephone zip code				

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.

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Randall Avenue Historic District De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

Description:

The Randall Avenue Historic District is a well-defined portion of the much larger nineteenth and twentieth century residential area that is located north of George Street, west of Webster Avenue, and east of the Fox River in the city of De Pere. The district occupies an irregular area of platted land located along the northern boundary of the eastern part of De Pere and it is also located just to the east of the north end of the already listed North Broadway Street Historic District (NRHP 9-8-83).¹ The single family residences that occupy all the lots in the Randall Avenue Historic District are almost all fine, middle-sized examples of the Period Revival styles that date from the 1930s and 1940s, but there are also good examples from the 1920s as well as several good examples of 1920's Vernacular form designs. The district contains 64 buildings, 65% of which were built between 1937 and 1950, and together these 64 houses represent the most intact concentration of historic Period Revival style residences in the entire city of De Pere.

Of the sixty-four buildings within the district boundaries, just four are considered to be non-contributing and this is only because they were constructed or remodeled in the 1960s and 1970s and are thus too new to meet the NPS 50-year exclusion rule. Of the 60 contributing buildings, two (803 and 815 Oakdale Ave.) were built in 1908, thirteen were built in the 1920s, twenty-six were built in the 1930s, seventeen were built in the 1940s, and two were built in the 1950s. Most of the contributing buildings in the district are good, representative examples of several of the Period Revival Styles—Colonial Revival designs being by far the most common—and while these houses vary in size, plan, materials, and in the details of their construction, most are knowledgeable examples of their particular styles and a number are known to have been architect-designed.

Most of these houses date from the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s, a period during which the ownership of automobiles in the United States was becoming commonplace and when residents were finding that they could live further away from the downtown commercial districts of the day then ever before. The increased importance of the automobile in every day life is clearly expressed in the design of the houses that were built in the district after 1937, most of which have attached garages, unlike the detached garages that are associated with houses built in the first two decades of the century.

Styles and dates of construction set the houses in the Randall Avenue Historic District apart from the other historic residential neighborhoods that surround them. To the north of the district are the open

¹ The population of the City of De Pere in 2000 was 20,559 and the city is divided into eastern and western halves by the north-south flowing Fox River.

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fields associated with the extensive land holdings of St. Norbert Abbey and a number of more modern houses. To the west are larger and usually older houses that overlook the Fox River and which are part of the North Broadway Historic District. To the south are the much older and generally smaller houses that are part of the proposed N. Michigan St.-N. Superior St. Historic District, and to the east are neighborhoods of post-World War II suburban development that are generally different in scale and in design from the houses in the district. Integrity levels within the district are extremely high and no building constructed within the period of significance is considered to be non-contributing on the basis of a loss of integrity.

Today, houses in the Randall Avenue Historic District are still much sought after and the district is exceptionally well-preserved and has much the same appearance today that it would have had in the later part of its period of significance. Nearly all of the houses within it have been well maintained and exterior alterations have been minimal and have generally been limited to residing with more modern materials. Only three buildings were built in the district since the end of the period of significance (1955) and, while they are considered to be non-contributing, their designs render them compatible with their surroundings in terms of scale and materials.

INVENTORY

The following inventory lists every building in the district along with the names of the original owners, the construction date, the address, and also the resource's contributing (C) or non-contributing (NC) status. The abbreviations given below for architectural styles are the same abbreviations used by the Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Historic Preservation. These are as follows:

- CO = Colonial Revival
- CON = Contemporary
- DU = Dutch Colonial Revival
- ELL = Gable Ell
- FG = Front Gabled
- GN = Georgian Revival
- NE = Neo-Classical
- OSC = One-Story Cube
- SG = Side Gabled
- TU = Tudor Revival

C	826	Glenwood Ave.	Dr. Raymond M. Waldkirch House	1948	NE
С	801	Lawton Pl	Arthur B. McEachron House	1938	TU

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C	802		Lawton Pl.	Arthur B. McEachron House	1938	SG
C	802		Lawton Pl.	Arthur B. McEachron House	1938	SG
C	803		Lawton Pl.	Arthur B. McEachron House	1925	SG
C	804		Lawton Pl.	Arthur B. McEachron House	1923	SG
$\frac{c}{c}$	805				1924	
			Lawton Pl.	Arthur B. McEachron House		CO
C	807		Lawton Pl.	Arthur B. McEachron House	1925	TU
C	820		Lawton Pl.	Arthur B. McEachron House	1938	TU
C	916		Lawton Pl.	Wisconsin Land &	1939	NE
				Improvement Co. House		
C	702	N.	Michigan St.	John Cornelisen House	1938	СО
C	702	N.	Michigan St.	Edward G. Reinhart House	1938	<u> </u>
$-\frac{c}{c}$	716	N.	<u>v</u>	A. B. McEachron House	1938	$\frac{co}{co}$
_ <u> </u>	/10	IN.	Michigan St.	A. B. McEachron House	1938	
C	730		Nicolet Ave.	Ernest Flegenheimer House	1955	CON
<u> </u>	755		Nicolet Ave.	Elmer Stone House	1949	GN
	155		Medici Ave.		1949	UN
C	803		Oakdale Ave.	Robert Schreiber House	1908	FG
C	807		Oakdale Ave.	Fred Meyer House	1938	CO
C	814		Oakdale Ave.	Francis M. Newall House	1945	СО
C	815		Oakdale Ave.	August Schreiber House	1908	FG
C	821		Oakdale Ave.	Don Anderson House	1938-39	СО
С	908		Oakdale Ave.	Neil Branson House	1930	TU
C	918		Oakdale Ave.	Sam Clark House	1930	СО
С	920		Oakdale Ave.	Streetcar Station/	1910	OSC
				Jack Wemple House		
С	924		Oakdale Ave.	Enos Ellegard House	1929	CO
C	933		Oakdale Ave.	George E. Bowman House	1928	CO
С	937		Oakdale Ave.	Leo J. Dillon House	1942	CO
C	940		Oakdale Ave.	Martha Saul House	1933	TU
C	947		Oakdale Ave.	Arthur J. Hutchinson House	1933	CO
C	950		Oakdale Ave.	Martha Saul House	1937	DU
NC	953		Oakdale Ave.	D. E. Brasted House	1948	CON
С	956		Oakdale Ave.	William J. Karn House	1937	CO
NC	435		Randall Ave.	Ralph Vandenbush House	1967	DU
С	436		Randall Ave.	Wisconsin Land &	1940	CO
				Improvement Co. House		
С	508		Randall Ave.	Frank J. Van Laanen House	1930	CO
C	514		Randall Ave.	Paul Van Laanen House	1930	CO

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C	515		Randall Ave.	Wesley H. Garner House	1937/1949	CO
C	605		Randall Ave.	R. K. Chapel House	1946	CO
С	612		Randall Ave.	Winfield A. Austin House	1938	CO
С	614		Randall Ave.	Fred & Josephine Lenfestey House	1938	СО
С	615		Randall Ave.	George P. Baker House	1945-46	СО
С	702		Randall Ave.	A. J. Kwitek House	1949	NE
NC	718		Randall Ave.	Jeff Nichols House	1956/1965	CON
С	429		Ridgeway Blvd.	William G. Klicka House	1938	CO
C	503		Ridgeway Blvd.	Miss Agnes Warske House	1938	<u> </u>
C	509		Ridgeway Blvd.	Robert Danen House	1942	<u> </u>
C	604		Ridgeway Blvd.		1940	<u> </u>
C	608			C. H. Nystrom House Frederick J. Harris House	1937	<u> </u>
			Ridgeway Blvd.			
C	616		Ridgeway Blvd.	John J. Mettner House	1940	<u>CO</u>
C	620		Ridgeway Blvd.	J. Robert Kaftan House	1938	<u>CO</u>
С	703		Ridgeway Blvd.	Robert Brobner House	1946	CO
С	713		Ridgeway Blvd.	Robert Phemcil House	1946	CO
С	723		Ridgeway Blvd.	Donald L. Cass House	1946	CO
С	727		Ridgeway Blvd.	Reuben M. Tetzlaff House	1941	CO
С	703	N.	Superior St.	J. B. Brockman House	1926	ELL
С	707	N.	Superior St.	J. B. Brockman House	1926	SG
С	715	N.	Superior St.	Dr. Harold C. Rood House	1942	СО
NC	803		Talbot Ave.	McNeil Construction Co. House	1977	СО
C	809		Talbot Ave.	Charles H. Foster House	1946	<u> </u>
C	817		Talbot Ave.	Robert P. Klanner House	1952	<u> </u>
C	818		Talbot Ave.	Wisconsin Land &	1940	CO
				Improvement Co. House		
С	902		Talbot Ave.	Outagamie County Bank House	1937	CO
С	906		Talbot Ave.	Carleton Mueller House	1948	CO
С	908		Talbot Ave.	Arthur Gnewuch House	1938	CO
C	915		Talbot Ave.	Wisconsin Land & Improvement Co. House	1939	СО

The following are brief descriptions of some representative examples of the district's resources, which are listed in rough chronological order by style.

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Randall Avenue Historic District De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

Colonial Revival Style

While the Randall Avenue Historic District possesses many buildings of architectural merit it is its 43 Colonial Revival style houses that form the core of its architectural identity. Examples of this style occur in every part of the district and they range in size from ones that are quite small to ones that are a good deal larger. Indeed, the district is so rich in examples of the Colonial Revival style that it is possible to trace practically the whole evolution of the style in De Pere by examining them. Not surprisingly, these houses come in many shapes and forms. Many are highly symmetrical in design but others are quite informal and rambling, it all depended on the particular historic precedent each was trying to emulate. Wall cladding also varies but most examples are clad entirely in wooden clapboards or steel that imitates wooden clapboards, although a few of the later examples are clad at least partially in brick or stone. Despite the variety of designs, however, the use of some elements such as double hung multi-light windows, main roofs that have very shallow boxed eaves and main entrance doors that typically have some classical allusions, is relatively consistent.

The following brief descriptions illustrate just a sampling of some of the district's finer examples of the Colonial Revival style.

A. Symmetrical Facade Variants

The oldest intact examples of the Colonial Revival Style in the district are all examples of the style's symmetrical facade variant and they were built in the late 1920s: the clapboard-clad George Bowman house at 933 Oakdale Ave., built in 1928, and the brick-clad Enos Ellegard house at 924 Oakdale Ave., built in 1929. These were followed in 1933 by the construction of the A. J. Hutchinson house at 947 Oakdale Ave. It is these three houses that established the stylistic precedent that the district was to follow in the future.

947 Oakdale Ave. Arthur J. & Wanda Hutchinson House 1933

The Hutchinson house occupies a large double lot and it consists of a two-story rectilinear plan sidegabled main block, the first story of which is clad in painted brick and the second story, in wide wood clapboards. The principal facade faces east onto Oakdale Ave. and it is symmetrical in design and three-bays-wide. Tall window openings whose lintels have keystones and which contain four-overtwelve-light double hung windows flank the centered main entrance, which has a transom light placed above it and which is sheltered by a deep, classically derived entrance porch that features a pediment supported by two Tuscan order columns. An unusual feature of the design is the second story of this

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facade, which positions two gable-roofed wall dormers above the two first story windows and a smaller, centered, arched-roof dormer on the main roof slope above the entrance door.

The designer and the builder of this house have not yet been identified. The owner, Arthur J. Hutchinson, had previously lived in another house at 944 Broadway, which was located directly behind (west of) his new house, and he was listed in the local city directories as an engineer.

818 Talbot Ave.

Wisconsin Land & Improvement Co. House 1940

...

. ...

. .. .

This house was built as a speculative venture by the Wisconsin Land & Improvement Co. to a design by Green Bay architect Levi A. Geniesse, one of four in the district that he designed for this company between 1939 and 1940.² It is especially interesting to compare this house with the Hutchinson house designed by an unknown designer seven years earlier because the two designs have much in common. The Talbot Ave. house also has a two-story-tall rectilinear plan, side-gabled main block and its westfacing main facade is also symmetrical in design and three-bays-wide. Similar too is the second story of the facade, which features three wall dormers that are placed above the centered entrance door below and the two flanking windows. Geniesse, however, has sided the first story of his house in wood shingles and its second story in narrow wood clapboards, his main entrance door, while also being surmounted by a narrow five-light transom, is here enframed by pilaster strips and surmounted by an entablature, and the two flanking first story windows are actually shallow three-sided bay windows. The design is also notable because there is an attached one-and-one-half-story gable-roofed garage wing attached to the south side of the main block. Prior to 1937, attached garages were uncommon, in both the district and elsewhere in De Pere, but by 1940 they had become a normal feature of newly built houses.

As noted above, this house was built as a speculative venture and was completed just a year before the country's entry into World War II. The first listed owners of the house after the war were William F. and Catherine Morris. Morris was a lawyer with an office located across the river in West De Pere.

605 Randall Ave.

R. K. Chapel House

1946

The R. K. Chapel house was built on a prominent corner lot just after the end of World War II to a design furnished by the distinguished Green Bay architectural firm of Foeller, Schober & Berners.³ At first glance their design for Chapel appears simple almost to a fault. The side-gabled, rectilinear plan

² City of De Pere Building Permit.

³ Ibid.

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main block is one-and-one-half-stories tall and this block has a symmetrical three-bay-wide main facade that faces south onto Randall Ave. The first story of this facade features two openings that each contain eight-over-eight-light windows; these windows flank a centered, deeply inset main entrance door, and two clapboard-clad gable-roofed dormers are placed on the slope of the main roof above the first story windows. In other words, the Chapel House is, in form, a typical Cape Cod design. What sets it apart are its proportions, the materials used, and the wings that are attached to the side elevations. The Chapel house is clad completely in brick, including such details as the simplified, slightly projecting main entrance door surround. A large, two-car, one-story garage wing is attached to the east-facing side elevation of the main block and it is surmounted by a small octagonal cupola, while a smaller gable-roofed wing is attached to the west-facing side elevation of the main block. Both wings are set well back from the front of the main block, thereby preserving the prominence of the house's core element, and the overall design conveys a calm dignity that belies the relatively small size of the house.

B. Asymmetrical Facade Variants

614 Randall Ave.	Frederick J. & Josephine Lenfestey House	1938
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The simple Cape Cod variant of the Colonial Revival style usually consists of a side-gabled, square or rectilinear plan, one or one-and-one-half-story main block. Most examples of this variant have symmetrically designed main facades such as the Chapel House just described, but many others do not. A good example is the Lenfestey house, which was built on a prominent corner lot in 1938 to a design that was probably furnished by an as yet unidentified architect. Like the Chapel house, the Lenfestey house also has a side-gabled, rectilinear plan main block that is one-and-one-half-stories tall and this block has a main facade that faces north onto Randall Ave. Here, however, the first story of the facade is five-bays-wide, the three left-hand bays being placed in a shallow, projecting, hip-roofed one-story-tall pavilion whose right-hand bay is the main entrance to the house. Placed on the main wall surface of the facade to the right of this pavilion are two more bays and they, like the two left-hand bays of the pavilion, all contain openings that themselves contain six-over-six-light double hung windows. This arrangement places the main entrance of the house in the center of the facade's first story and three gable-roofed dormers are arrayed symmetrically across the slope of the main roof above as well.

In addition to the main block, this house also features a large, two-car, one-story garage wing, which is attached to the east-facing side elevation of the main block, and both it and the main block are clad in painted wood shingles, which helps give a unified appearance to the whole.

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Frederick Lenfestey was a salesman with the F. Hurlbut Co., dealers in coal and building materials, when his new house was built and by 1941 he had become the superintendent of the company.

615 Randall Ave.

George F. & Georgianna Baken House 1945-46

The George Baken House is located directly across the street from the Lenfesty house, it also occupies a large, prominent corner lot, and it also features a side-gabled, rectilinear plan main block that is oneand-one-half-stories tall. In addition, the main south-facing facade of the Baken house features a projecting, hip-roofed, one-story pavilion as well, but here the resemblance ends. First of all, the Baken house is wider than the Lenfesty house and its main facade is divided into three large bays. The right-hand bay consists of the projecting pavilion and features a paired window opening that contains two six-over-six-light windows. The middle bay contains the main entrance to the house and it is flanked on the right by a smaller window opening that contains a six-over-six-light double hung window, and on the left, by two more of these windows. The left-hand bay contains a small shed-roofed bay window that features three casement windows that all have diamond lattice pattern wood muntins.⁴ Unifying this clapboard-clad facade is a broad fascia board that is itself ornamented with an additional scrollsawn wooden board consisting of a repeated scalloped motif, and both of these boards are continued around the entire perimeter of the house. In addition, there are two large gable-roofed clapboard-clad dormers placed on the slope of the main roof above the two left-hand bays of the main facade's first story.

Besides the house itself, a small one-car garage is attached at an angle to the west side of the house. This garage is also clad in clapboard, but since it does not appear on the Sanborn-Perris maps dating to 1953 it is assumed to be a later addition. George Baken was the superintendent of the Baken Construction Co. in Green Bay when his house was built and it is reasonable to assume that it was his company that constructed it. The identity of the designer of his individualistic and atypical Colonial revival style house, however, has not yet been found.

703 Ridgeway Blvd.	Robert Brebner House	1946
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The Brebner house also occupies a large and prominent corner lot and it is a fine, representative example of the asymmetrical facade variants of the Colonial Revival style that became more numerous in the district in the 1930s. The main facade of this L-plan house faces south onto Ridgeway Blvd. and part of its first story is clad in random ashlar stone while the rest is clad in clapboard. The dominant

⁴ It is not known if these windows are original to the house.

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feature of the main facade is an asymmetrically placed, gable-roofed, two-story ell whose first story is sheltered by the slightly overshot second story. This ell occupies the left-hand portion of the facade and it is attached to the side gabled two-story-tall main block behind that makes up the bulk of the house.

As originally designed, the main block of this house extended east for approximately the same width as the ell and a one-story, one-car garage ell was attached to the east side elevation of the block. Soon after the house was built, however, a second story was added to the original garage ell for additional living space and a second one-story one-car garage was attached to the east wall, adding still more to the overall length of the house without harming the overall appearance of the original building.

The designer of the Brebner house was the distinguished Green Bay architectural firm of Foeller, Schober & Berners and the same firm was also responsible for the subsequent garage addition.⁵

Dutch Colonial Revival Style

Only two examples of the gambrel-roofed Dutch Colonial Revival style were built in the district and, of these, the Martha Saul house is the finest and the most representative. Dutch Colonial Revival Style houses tend to be of two principal types, either their gambrel ends face to the front of their lot or to the sides. Front-facing gambrel-roofed examples tend to be older and smaller than side gable examples and are more frequently found on older, narrower, urban lots, while side gambrel examples tend to be larger and are more typically found in suburbs developed after the end of World War I. The Saul house is a classic example of the latter type and like the majority of such examples has a symmetrical facade. The house has a side-gabled, rectilinear plan main block that is clad in clapboards and is twostories tall and this block has a symmetrical three-bay-wide main facade that faces west onto Oakdale Ave. The first story of this facade features two window openings that each contain eight-over-eightlight windows, and these openings flank a centered main entrance door that is itself flanked by sidelights and which is sheltered by a deep, classically derived entrance porch that features a pediment supported by two Tuscan columns. Placed on the slope of the roof above is a nearly full-width shedroofed dormer that features two six-over-six-light double hung windows that flank two smaller fixed four-light windows. In addition, there is also a shed-roofed one-story sun porch ell attached to the south-facing side elevation of the house.

⁵ City of De Pere Building Permit. The current owners of the house possess the original blueprints of both the house and the addition.

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Tax records and city directories suggest that Martha Saul did not occupy this house but used it as an investment property instead.

Neo-Classical Revival Style

702 Randall Ave.	A. J. Kwitek House	1949
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Neo-Classical Revival style houses are distinguished by their typically two-story-tall pillared porticos and they are often among the largest and most formal houses in a community. The Randall Avenue Historic District contains three examples of this style including one designed by Green Bay architect Levi A. Geniesse in 1939 located at 916 Lawton Place and built as a speculative venture by the Wisconsin Land & improvement Co. The A. J. Kwitek house, however, is a more interesting example of the style. The Kwitek house occupies a large corner lot and it is turned 45° so as to face towards the corner, which allows it to have a semi-circular entrance driveway that can be accessed from both Randall and Talbot avenues. The house has a two-story-tall, rectilinear plan, side-gabled main block and this block is completely clad in stucco. The principal facade faces northwest towards the Randall Avenue-Talbot Avenue corner and it is symmetrical in design and three-bays-wide. Large, slightly bowed window openings that each contain a twenty-eight-light fixed picture window flank the centered main entrance, which has side-lights on either side and is sheltered by a semi-circular plan, flat-roofed entrance portico that features an entablature supported by two thin, two-story-tall lonic columns. The second story's left and right-hand bays each feature a pair of eight-over-eight-light windows and these are placed above the two first story picture windows, while a smaller pair of sixover-six-light windows is placed in the center bay above the entrance door. In addition, there is a flatroofed one-story sun porch ell attached to the northeast-facing side elevation of the house.

The delicacy of the elements that comprise the entrance portico and the house's stucco cladding both place this design within the Regency Revival style as well and it is the district's only example of this variant.

Georgian Revival Style

755 Nicolet Ave.Elmer Stone House1949

The district's largest and most architecturally significant house was one of the last to be built during the period of significance. This is the Elmer Stone house, which occupies grounds that comprise

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nearly seven lots on the corner of Nicolet, Hickory, and Randall avenues. The Stone house consists of a large, two-story, rectilinear plan, red brick-clad main block whose principal facade faces south. This facade is five-bays-wide and its first story contains two window openings placed on either side of the centered main entrance. Each opening contains a twelve-over-twelve-light double hung window that is flanked by louvered wooden shutters and the inset semi-circular-arched entrance door has a paneled entrance door that is flanked by sidelights and surmounted by a shallow radius fanlight. Each of the five second story bays contains a single nine-over-six-light window and the end elevations of the block both bisected by tall, massive red brick chimneys.

In addition to the main block, a large one-story, flat-roofed sunporch whose three sides all feature tall arched window openings, spans the entire width of the west-facing side elevation of the main block, while a large gable-roofed, clapboard-clad three-car garage wing spans the width of the east-facing side elevation of the main block and is connected to it by a short, gable-roofed clapboard-clad hyphen.

The entire ensemble is masterfully proportioned and executed and is the work of Frank M. Riley, an architect who practiced in Madison, Wisconsin and who was considered to be that city's finest Period Revival style practitioner.⁶ Riley's client, Elmer Stone, was the president of the Stone Motor Co. in Green Bay, which was the area's principal Chrysler and Plymouth dealer.

⁶ City of De Pere Building Permit.

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Significance:

The Randall Avenue Historic District is an architecturally significant residential district located in the city of De Pere. The district is roughly bounded by Ridgeway Blvd. to the south, Oakdale Ave. to the west, and Glenwood Ave. to the north and east, and its boundaries enclose two whole blocks and portions of nine others. The district is located one-half block to the east of the North Broadway Street Historic District, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1983. It was first identified by the De Pere Intensive Architectural Survey that was undertaken in 2000-2001 as a potential historic district having local significance under National Register (NR) criterion C.⁴ Research was undertaken to assess the potential for nominating the district to the NRHP utilizing the NR significance area of Architecture, a theme which is also identified in the State of Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP). This research centered on evaluating the resources within the district utilizing the Neo-Classical Revival, Bungalow, and Period Revival styles subsections of the Architectural Styles study unit of the CRMP.⁸ The results of this research are detailed below and show that the Randall Avenue Historic District is locally significant under NR Criterion C as an architecturally and historically significant collection of residential buildings that together constitute a well-defined and visually distinct geographic and historic entity within the city of De Pere.

The Randall Avenue Historic District is comprised of 60 contributing resources and 4 non-contributing ones and it is of local architectural significance (Criterion C) because it contains the finest collection of Period Revival style residential buildings to be found within the corporate boundaries of the city of De Pere. The two earliest buildings in the district were built in 1908 and are Vernacular form buildings. The great majority, however, were built in the years between the World Wars and just after World War II and are examples of the Period Revival styles. The most notable and numerous examples are those of the Colonial Revival style. These Period Revival residences comprise almost all of the buildings built in the district and while they are mostly of medium size, many have very fine designs and several are the known work of the best architects who practiced in the greater Green Bay and De Pere area and elsewhere during these years.⁹ Collectively, the district's resources are also of considerable importance because their large numbers and their very high degree of integrity makes it possible to study in some depth the range of the

⁷ Heggland, Timothy F. *City of De Pere Intensive Survey*. De Pere: 2001. Copy on file at the Division of Historic Preservation, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI.

⁸ Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Madison: Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Vol. 2, pp. 2-18, 2-26 to 2-33.

⁹ The period of significance is bounded by the known construction dates of the contributing resources in the district.

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stylistic evolution that occurred as the Colonial Revival style was adapted to the changing needs of the middle class in the years between and just after the two World Wars.

Historic Context

A detailed history of the city of De Pere and its built resources is embodied in the City of De Pere Intensive Survey Report, printed in 2001. Consequently, the historic context that follows deals primarily with the history of the district itself and with that of the immediate surrounding area.

The city of De Pere has the distinction of being one of the oldest points of European-American settlement in Wisconsin. The first European to see it was, in all probability, Jean Nicolet in 1634, who claimed the surrounding territory for France. In time, Nicolet was followed by two Jesuit missionaries, Fathers Allouez and Andre, who established a mission at the first rapids of the Fox River in 1670. In 1671 the fathers erected a chapel and residence on the east shore of the river, which became their headquarters, and these were the first buildings that were constructed on the future site of today's city. In 1675 this chapel burned and several new, more substantial log structures, including a church, were built in its place. This mission, known as St. Francis Xavier Mission at Rapids des Peres, lasted for almost twelve years but was burned by the Indians in 1687 and the subsequent history of this place was then subsumed into the larger history of the French and English contests for supremacy in the region followed by the English and American ones.¹⁰

It was not until the creation of the Military road system in 1832 in what was soon to become the Territory of Wisconsin that interest in the possibilities of utilizing the rapids at De Pere began to stir interest. The construction of the first of these roads from Fort Howard on the Fox River at Green Bay to Fort Crawford on the Mississippi River at Prairie du Chien, established the first road across the territory and brought wagon and foot traffic up and down the river and past the future site of De Pere. But this opening up of the region was of only limited value to any economically significant movement of goods, and hopes fastened instead on improving the Fox River, which was navigable for much of its length but needed to be linked with the Wisconsin River in order to become a link between the Mississippi and the Great Lakes.

Thus, like most other early Wisconsin communities, the city of De Pere owes its existence to its proximity to water, which provided the state's first settlers with transportation routes, a reliable and easily accessible source of water for drinking, and the only readily available means of generating power

¹⁰ Maes, Matthew J. The History of Brown County and De Pere, Wisconsin. Brown County Democrat: April 3, 1914, p. 9 and April 10, 1914, p. 9.

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for industrial purposes before steam power became wide spread. De Pere is situated on both banks of the Fox River at a point located some five miles south of the mouth of the river, which empties into Green Bay and Lake Michigan. Because there were considerable rapids at this location, further navigation upstream was impossible in the days before a lock system and canals were developed. While work was commencing elsewhere on this Fox-Wisconsin rivers waterway, others were laying claim to the heavily forested land that surrounded the site of what was to become De Pere.

In 1835, the De Pere Hydraulic Co. was formed and one of its first acts was to purchase a 100 acre plat of land on the east bank of the river abutting the rapids. A portion of this land was then platted into lots, which was called the Plat of the town of De Pere, a contraction of the French "Des Peres." The following year the company started construction of a dam above the rapids that could be used to tap the water power potential of the river, and when the dam was completed in 1837, the future growth of the city seemed assured. This growth did not materialize immediately, however, because the company lacked the resources to harness the water power potential and the situation was exacerbated when the dam washed out in 1847. It was only when a new dam was built in the following year that real efforts were made to harness the resulting water power for industrial purposes and it is from this date that the real growth of the future city begins.

By 1850, the population of the village had grown to 500 and another event of enormous importance for inhabitants on both sides of the river took place in the same year. This was the construction of the first bridge across the river just below the dam. This was a toll bridge and lightly constructed but it was still the first bridge and provided a vital transportation link whose importance would continue to grow in the years to come. Another event that occurred in 1850 was of future importance to De Pere as well. This was the platting by Dr. Louis Carabin of a block and a half wide strip of land on the west side of the river that extended west from the river to what would become the Chicago & NorthWestern Railroad right-of-way and extended south from the center of what is now Main Avenue. This plat was recorded on October 2, 1850 as the Town of West De Pere and was the first plat on that side of the river. This was accompanied by the creation of two new plats on the east side of the river as well: Irwin's Addition and Fitzgerald's Addition.

It is reasonable to suppose that this platting activity was spurred on by the completion of the bridge and the previous completion of the new dam and more changes were to come. In 1852, Chicagoan Robert Ritchie and his brother-in-law, Andrew Reid, built a saw mill (non-extant) at the west end of the bridge and three years later Capt. Elias Sorenson started a shipyard (non-extant) on the west bank of the river north of the bridge. The following year, a saw mill and agricultural implement factory (non-extant) was started by W. O. Kingsley just south of the bridge on the east bank of the river. The really big news in

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1856, however, was the arrival of the first ship to make the voyage up the newly completed lock and canal system of the Fox/Wisconsin. This was the "Aquilla," which had begun its journey in Pittsburgh and journeyed down the Ohio, then up the Mississippi to the Wisconsin and on up to Portage, Wisconsin, and then up the Upper and Lower Fox to De Pere and Green Bay.¹¹

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The following year, Mrs. A. B. Williams reported that De Pere had improved since she had left in 1850. "The population all told was about 400. Wilcox & Wager had a flouring mill. There were two saw mills, one owned by Ritchie and Reid and the other by Frank Thompson; four stores kept by Dominicus Jordan, C. R. Merrill, Mr. Kelsley and Mr. Wager, respectively."¹² In 1857, De Pere (on the east bank) was incorporated as a village.

In 1861, a new bridge was built across the Fox by the village and the Town of Lawrence on the west side of the river, replacing the original one. The following year an event of even greater importance occurred when the tracks of the Chicago & NorthWestern Railroad reached West De Pere on their way up the west bank of the river to Fort Howard. The importance of this event cannot be overestimated because by this time railroads were rapidly eroding the importance and advantages of lake transportation and a position on one was imperative for a community that hoped to grow and prosper. Happening as it did in the middle of the Civil War, the effect of this last event was not felt immediately in De Pere and especially in West De Pere, but as soon as the war ended, property owners in West De Pere responded with a flurry of platting activity.

The period from the end of the Civil War in 1865 until the financial panic of 1873 was a boom period for the communities on both sides of the river. By 1870 the census of that year showed that the population of De Pere on the east side of the river had risen to 2800 and on the west side to 875. As a consequence, the west side community petitioned to be incorporated as the Village of West De Pere, which was approved in that same year.

In 1871, the village of De Pere received a railroad of its own when the tracks of the Milwaukee Northern Railroad (later the Milwaukee Road) reached the community on their way to Green Bay, and as had happened on the west side, property owners on the east side responded with a flurry of platting activity of their own. A Bird's Eye View of the two villages, published in 1871, shows that the settled part of the Village of De Pere on the east side of the river was bounded by the river to the west, Fulton St. to the north, Huron Street to the east, and Chicago Street to the south, while the settled portion of West De Pere was bounded by the river on the east and north, the C & NW RR tracks on the west, and

¹¹ Ibid, July 10, 1914, p. 10.

¹² Ibid, February 12, 1915, p. 7.

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Butler Street to the south. Both communities had public schools, there were six churches (Irish, French, and German Catholic, Methodist, Congregational, and Presbyterian), three hotels (California House, National House, and Village House), and three large industries (De Pere Iron Works, Fox River Iron Co., and First National Iron Co.).¹³

By 1875, De Pere had evolved into the principal trading center of the area around it and had two wellestablished business cores that were both surrounded by residential plats. The architectural styles found in De Pere in the mid-1870s were typical of other communities of the day. Older houses tended to be built in the Greek Revival style or were vernacular expressions of it and were mostly built of wood, as were the community's first commercial buildings. By the 1860s, however, houses exhibiting the then newly fashionable Italianate style began to appear in De Pere and older commercial buildings began to be replaced by larger brick examples whose designs were also influenced by the Italianate style.

In 1876, the following description of De Pere was to be found in an advertisement for land owned by the De Pere Co.

The waterpower is made by the first dam on the Fox River of the Green Bay & Mississippi Canal Company. Depere [sic] and West Depere [sic] lie on opposite sides of the river, and are connected by a commodious bridge of fifteen hundred feet in length. Their population numbers over four thousand people. There are eight churches, three public and one private school; four furnaces for smelting iron ore; one extensive railroad car manufactory and iron works; one machine shop; three flour mills; two large wooden ware factories; three shingle mills; four saw mills; two sash and door factories; one stave factory; one hub and spoke factory; five wagon ships; seven smitheries; a steam forge and various other manufactories. The Milwaukee and Northern Railroad runs on the river bank through Depere, [sic] and the Chicago and Northwestern Depot is at West Depere [sic]. The Goodrich line of steamers make regular trips between Depere [sic] and Chicago, and the Buffalo line takes freight from our wharves to Buffalo and intermediate ports.¹⁴

And yet, larger forces were then in operation that would have a substantial affect on future of the two villages. By 1880, the combined populations of the nearby twin cities of Green Bay and Fort Howard was 10,500, more than double the 3,824 of the two De Pere's, and this was a trend that would continue almost until the present day. This trend reflected many things, of course, but among them was the simple fact that the initial advantages that had led to the creation and subsequent growth of De Pere had slowly

¹³ Bird's Eye View of De Pere, Wisconsin, 1871. Madison: J. J. Stoner, publisher.

¹⁴ Maes. Op. Cit., March 5, 1915, p. 10.

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dwindled. By 1880, De Pere's water power advantage was gradually being offset by the construction of new coal-fired steam boilers and Green Bay also reaped the advantage of being the final destination point for all the transportation routes that passed through De Pere. In addition, Green Bay's position at the mouth of the Fox River gave it advantages as a port that could not be matched by a site further up stream. As a consequence, De Pere's population growth gradually began to level off.

Never the less, positive events that were of importance for the future of the two communities happened in the 1880s. In 1883, the two villages were incorporated as the city of De Pere (east side) and the city of Nicolet (west side). Nicolet subsequently changed its name back to West De Pere in 1887 and the two cities finally agreed to merge on August 7, 1889, and became known as the city of De Pere. Also in 1886, C. A. Lawton built the first portion of the foundry on the east side of the river at 233 N. Broadway that was subsequently to become one of De Pere's larger and more sustained industries and is now listed in the NRHP.

An especially momentous event occurred late in 1890 when it was announced that the Kimberly & Clark Company of Neenah, Wisconsin had purchased the water power at De Pere and was to build a huge new paper mill on the site.¹⁵ This new plant was to be located on the river in West De Pere and was to employ from 300 to 400 hands, and the announcement was truly a godsend for a community that was still reeling from the recent loss by fire of the E. E. Bolles Wooden Ware plan, which had put 225 men out of work. To manage the new plant, a new corporate entity called the Shattuck & Babcock Company was formed, and by March 12, 1892 the new five-story-tall, 1,000-foot-long, \$500,000 plant was a reality and instantly became the largest employer in the city.¹⁶ In addition, and partly in response to the new mill development, a new iron bridge was built across the river between 1891 and 1893 and the old one was then demolished.

The new mill gave the industrial base of De Pere a solidity and a depth that it had never had before and the effect that it had on the city was almost immediately apparent. Several new plats were created in 1893 including one on the east side called the De Pere Land Co. Addition, Subdivision A, which was platted for the company (E. Harrison and E. W. Arndt, officers) on August 22, 1892 and was bounded by N. Broadway on the west, the city limits to the north, Ridgeway Blvd. to the south, and Nicolet Ave. on the east. By 1895, the population of the city had increased by 668 to 4,293.

By 1900, De Pere's population had dropped slightly to 4,038 and the city was entering a more mature phase of its history. Changes in the lumber industry that had been of such importance to De Pere were

¹⁵ De Pere News. November 15, 1890, p. 1; December 27, 1890, p. 1.

¹⁶ Ibid, March 12, 1892, p. 1.

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dictating that certain kinds of manufacturing that had once been done in factories like those in De Pere could now be done more efficiently in plants located nearer to the forests themselves, forests that had largely been depleted in Brown County. In addition, other types of manufacturing that had once been done in the city were now being done by much larger firms with regional and even national markets. As a result, industry was slowly beginning to lose its importance in the economic life of the city.

One positive sign of the increasing maturity of De Pere was the City's 1904 decision to purchase the two privately owned water companies in the city for the combined sum of \$27,300 and to create a municipal water supply entity. Another positive development that occurred between 1900 and 1905 benefited the citizens of the city in general but had a less pleasant effect on the city's merchants. This was the granting of a streetcar franchise to the Knox Construction Co. on March 23, 1903, which resulted in two lines being constructed to the city, one of which ran through a loop on the east side and the other through the city on the west side.¹⁷ These lines connected De Pere with the city of Green Bay to north and the city of Kaukauna to the south and they gave the citizens of De Pere ready access to goods and services they had not had before and also made it possible for them to work in places that had hitherto been located too far away to be realistic options. This last fact was of enormous importance because it was one of the facts of life during the period before automobile ownership became common that most persons needed to live near their work place if some form of public transit was not available. Once streetcars became available, however, the possible range within which one could live and commute to work was greatly expanded, a factor that also tended to benefit the larger cities on the lines such as Green Bay, where more employment opportunities were available. The streetcar line also greatly expanded the number of places where one could shop too, a fact that tended to work to the disadvantage of local merchants in smaller communities such as De Pere.

Another result of the coming of mass transit to the greater De Pere area was a gradual increase in the size of the residential neighborhoods that bordered the commercial districts in De Pere on both sides of the river. By 1910, new residential development on the east side of the river was moving south, north, and eastward from the city's historic core as lots in the existing plats filled up. Most of the area that now comprises the Randall Avenue Historic District was platted for Ira M. Martin in 1913 as the Urbandale Park Addition, which was a resurvey of the earlier De Pere Land & Improvement Co. Subdivision A, which had been platted in 1893 but not actually constructed until some years later. In 1913, Urbandale Park was located at the north limit of the east side of De Pere and De Pere's streetcar line ran north on N. Broadway adjacent to the new suburb. That at least a speculative demand existed for the 99 lots in the subdivision was obvious because all of them were sold within two days of the

¹⁷ McDonald, Forrest. Let There be Light: The Electric Utility Industry in Wisconsin, 1881-1955. Madison: The American History Research Center, 1957, pp. 72-73 and 150-152.

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new plat being announced and even before the streets had been completely graded or landscaping begun. Even so, serious development did not take place in the district until after World War I.

The first two houses built in the district were actually built before the Urbandale Park Addition's plat was filed. These were the nearly identical Robert Schrieber and August Schreiber houses located at 803 and 815 Oakdale Ave., which were built side-by-side in 1908. Nothing more was built in what became the Urbandale Plat, however, until several years after the end of World War I. The first group of houses to be built was a speculative venture constructed by Arthur B. McEachron (1879-1970), a building contractor and lumberyard owner in De Pere who built five houses on both sides of the 800 block of Lawton Place between 1923 and 1925 and three more in 1938.¹⁸ The other four houses in the district that were built in the 1920s were constructed on an individual basis and were located on Oakdale Ave. and on N. Superior Street.

The effects of the Great Depression, however, effectively brought a halt to residential construction in De Pere and in other Fox River valley communities and only two houses were built in the district between 1931 and 1937; both were built in 1933 and are located at 940 and 947 Oakdale Ave. Mostly this lack of growth was due to the dire economic conditions that were prevalent nationwide during this period, but another factor that influenced potential home builders was the lack of municipal services in the district, which even as late as 1935 included such things as no sewer hookups or paved roads. These conditions began to change in 1934 when the City of De Pere began working on infrastructure improvement projects using money and labor provided by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA). The first project to affect the district was the laying of sewer pipe beginning in 1934. The following year, a local newspaper account had this to say:

Work on the Urbandale sewer project has been discontinued temporarily until additional pipe can be purchased. Up to date 3,500 feet of pipe has been laid and 1,000 feet additional are necessary to complete the job. Pipe purchased last year under the appropriation of the city council has been used and when further funds are available under the government's emergency relief act the contract will be finished.¹⁹

The following year, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) approved another district-related construction project and resulted in what is now Ridgeway Boulevard.

¹⁸ McEachron was a native of Chicago who came to De Pere at the age of 15 and subsequently operated a lumberyard in West De Pere. McEachron retired in 1930 but continued to build some houses on a speculative basis thereafter. *De Pere Journal*: July 23, 1970, p. 4 (Obituary of Arthur B. McEachron).

¹⁹ De Pere Journal-Democrat. June 27, 1935, p. 1.

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Plans for the improvement of Ridgeway from Broadway [east] to Allouez avenue call for its widening to 60 feet with a boulevard in the center and a 20-foot roadway on either side. The road will be surfaced with gravel and the sides will be curbed and guttered to within 1000 feet of the east end. New water mains were laid by the city to connect with the Urbandale system and storm sewers connecting with the Huron street and the Broadway sewers were put in without cost to the city under the contract as awarded. ... All streets entering on to Ridgeway boulevard are now barricaded and several weeks will be required for the completion of the work.²⁰

By 1937, the Urbandale Park Addition had evolved into a well serviced and highly attractive but still largely undeveloped plat and it is therefore not surprising that with infrastructure improvements in place and a slowly improving national economy, local and area real estate dealers began to turn their attention to it. Leading this effort was Green Bay real estate dealer Elmer Denessen, who in 1937 began to build houses on several lots in the plat as a speculative venture.

Urbandale Park subdivision of East De Pere has now become the scene of a building program, which is planning to establish it as one of the fine subdivisions in the Fox river valley. Located between Broadway and the new boulevard [Ridgeway Boulevard], this heavily wooded section, with its curving lanes and fine Colonial homes, offers an atmosphere of seclusion and country quiet, maintained by rigid restrictions.

The building program promoted through the Elmer Denessen company of Green Bay started with two homes this year, a Cape Cod and a Colonial. These were sold before completion, and two more Colonials will be finished in February.²¹

By the beginning of World War II, Broadway and Allouez Avenue had become poured concrete highways that serviced De Pere itself and they also connected it with the city of Green Bay to the north and other Fox River Valley communities to the south. Also by this time, the automobile had largely supplanted mass transit as the preferred means of commuting to work, and the Urbandale Park suburb was ideally positioned to serve those who worked both within and outside of De Pere. As a result, by 1942, houses occupied more than half of the lots in the plat, with the largest concentrations being located on Oakdale and Randall avenues and on Lawton Street. Construction activity in the district was interrupted only by the War and by 1950 almost all the lots in the suburb had been built upon and

²⁰ Ibid. July 9, 1936, pp. 1, 4.

²¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette. October 18, 1937, p. 19.

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Randall Avenue Historic District De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

the area that now comprises the Randall Avenue Historic District had become one of De Pere's most desirable neighborhoods.

Architecture

The Randall Avenue Historic District was identified by the De Pere Intensive Survey as one of the areas in De Pere that is worthy of being listed in the NRHP. It is being nominated to the NRHP under Criterion C for its local significance as a well-defined residential neighborhood whose buildings are very good to outstanding, largely intact, and representative examples of several of the most important architectural styles that were applied to residential buildings in De Pere between the years 1908 and 1955. The architectural significance of the contributing resources in the district is based in part on their ability to portray the architectural evolution of the larger neighborhood that surrounds the district, but their greatest significance is as representative examples of locally important architectural styles. In addition, the district contains numerous excellent buildings of individual architectural distinction. These buildings include some of the best examples of the Period Revival styles in De Pere, especially examples of the Colonial Revival, Georgian Revival, and Neo-Classical Revival styles. The significance of the district is further enhanced by its high degree of integrity and its well maintained status.

The buildings within the Randall Avenue Historic District consist of 64 single family houses. Of these 64 buildings, only two were built before 1920, these being the nearly identical Robert Schrieber and August Schreiber houses located at 803 and 815 Oakdale Ave.; both are Front Gable Vernacular Form houses that were built side-by-side in 1908. The rest of the district's houses date from the 1920s to the 1950s, thirteen having been built between 1921 and 1930, twenty-six between 1931 and 1940, seventeen between 1941 and 1950, three between 1951 and 1955, and two after 1955.²² Five of the houses built in the 1920s were constructed as speculative ventures by Arthur B. McEachron, who operated a lumberyard in West De Pere until his retirement in 1930. These houses are all located in the 800 block of Lawton Place and represent Craftsman Style and Bungalow Style-inspired Side Gable Vernacular Form designs.

By the end of the 1920s, though, houses having Period Revival Style designs began to appear in the district and it was these styles that would influence the design of almost all of the district's future buildings. The two earliest examples were the Colonial Revival style Enos Ellegard and George B.

²² One of the houses built in 1955 was later remodeled; therefore, it is non-contributing. In addition, a single building in the district has been moved onto its present site, thus Criteria Consideration "B" has been marked. This is the former streetcar station building at 920 Oakdale Ave., which was moved here from its original site in 1960 and was then converted into a small residence. The building is contributing because it was constructed within the period of significance.

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Bowman houses located at 924 and 933 Oakdale Ave., and built in 1929 and 1928, respectively. These were followed in 1930 by three more Colonial Revival style examples located at 918 Oakdale Ave., 508 Randall Ave. and 514 Randall Ave., and a single Tudor Revival style example located at 908 Oakdale Ave. The onset of the Great Depression, however, brought construction in the district to a halt and only two more houses were built there between 1930 and 1937. These are the Martha Saul and A. J. Hutchinson houses at 940 and 947 Oakdale Ave., which are located across the street from each other and were both built in 1933.

Construction in the district did not resume until 1937, when improving economic conditions prompted area real estate dealers to begin promoting the district in earnest. A newspaper account of activity in the district written in that year makes it clear that it was the promoters themselves who were responsible for giving the district its predominantly Colonial Revival style appearance:

Urbandale Park subdivision of East De Pere has now become the scene of a building program, which is planning to establish it as one of the fine subdivisions in the Fox river valley. Located between Broadway and the new boulevard [Ridgeway Boulevard], this heavily wooded section, with its curving lanes and fine Colonial homes, offers an atmosphere of seclusion and country quiet, maintained by rigid restrictions.

The building program promoted through the Elmer Denessen company of Green Bay started with two homes this year, a Cape Cod and a Colonial. These were sold before completion, and two more Colonials will be finished in February. One home [612 Randall Ave.] is being exhibited at the present time as a model home, fully furnished and completely decorated.

All homes in this section are planned on a Colonial style, with an emphasis on large frontages, preserving as many of the beautiful trees as possible, heavy insulation, and air conditioning. Thus, the combination of true Colonial style, combined with all latest comforts and conveniences, is placed in this picturesque setting.²³

As the following statistic shows, the building program promoted by Denessen and others was successful right from the start. No fewer than twenty-eight houses, or 43% of the total number in the entire district, were built there between 1937 and 1942, when the country's entrance into World War II brought construction to a halt once again. Of the 28, one was an example of Colonial Revival style-influenced vernacular design, one was an example of the Neo-Classical Revival style, two were examples of the

²³ Green Bay Press-Gazette. October 18, 1937, p. 19.

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Tudor Revival style, two more were examples of the Dutch Colonial Revival style, and twenty-two were examples of the Colonial Revival style.

With the end of the War, construction in the district began once again and another thirteen houses were built there between 1945 and 1949. One of these was an early Contemporary Style Ranch house, another, the Elmer Stone House, is an outstanding example of the Georgian Revival Style, two more were examples of the Neo-Classical Revival style, and the other nine were all examples of the Colonial Revival style. By 1950, the district was essentially complete. Only five more houses have been built within the district boundaries in the 56 years since then and three of these were built between 1950 and 1955 and two of the three were also examples of the Colonial Revival style.

While the Randall Avenue Historic District contains fine examples of several of the Period Revival styles it is its 42 Colonial Revival examples, which account for 70% of all the district's buildings that have established its architectural identity. Indeed, this association is so strong that even the district's newest house, which was built at 803 Talbot Ave. in 1977, is a later example of the style.

Architects

Researching buildings constructed in Wisconsin's smaller cities seldom produces the identities of the designers and/or builders of these buildings and, unfortunately, this also proved to be true for most of the buildings within the Randall Avenue Historic District. Partly, this is due to the fact that the local newspapers in De Pere seldom included such information when noting that a residence was under construction. It is also due to the fact that many of these district's houses were probably designed by their builders, using either published plans or designs based on their previous work. The high quality of the designs of many of the district's buildings, however, suggests that they were the work of professional architects and it is to be regretted that so many remain to be identified. Fortunately, the City of De Pere began to issue building permits starting in 1938 and these permits have enabled the architects who designed nine of the district's houses to be identified.

The following is a summary of the information that is available about four of the designers of houses within the district.

Foeller, Schober & Berners

Foeller, Schober & Berners has been one of the most important architectural firms in Wisconsin since it was founded in Green Bay in 1895. The founding partner was Henry Foeller (1871-1938), who was

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born in then French province of Alsace in 1871, the eldest of 17 children. He came to Wisconsin in 1885 and lived with an uncle in Oshkosh who put him through high school and Oshkosh Teachers College. During this time, Foeller was apprenticed to Oshkosh architect William Waters (1843-1917), the most prominent architect in that city and one of the most prominent in the state. In 1895, Foeller came to Green Bay where he formed a short-lived partnership with James E. Clancy under the name Clancy & Foeller. Two years later, Foeller was practicing on his own and he continued to do so until 1907, when he took as a partner Max W. Schober (?-1965) who had begun his Green Bay career as a draughtsman in Foeller's office. The new firm, Foeller & Schober, soon became the most important one in Green Bay, a position it has maintained long after the death of the original partners.

A major reason for this success was the skill the firm showed in attracting new personnel who had the ability to design conservative versions of the latest architectural styles and fashions. This task was made easier because of the prominence of the firm, which made it the logical place for newly arriving architects and engineers in Green Bay to begin their careers. Among these persons was Edgar Berners, (1898-?), who was born in Port Washington and raised and educated in that community. Berners subsequently became an engineer and came to Green Bay in 1925, where he was promptly employed in the offices of Foeller & Schober. By 1929, Berners had been made a partner in the firm, which was renamed Foeller, Schober & Berners. Berners eventually became certified as an architect and was eventually honored by being named a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

Not surprisingly, given its relatively close proximity to De Pere, the firm of Foeller & Schober designed more buildings in De Pere than any other known firm between 1904 and the present, almost all of which are still extant. How many houses the firm designed in the Randall Avenue Historic District is not known for certain but at least two have been identified. These are both fine Colonial Revival style houses and both were built in 1946 just after the end of World War II, when building supplies were once again available. They are:

605 Randall Ave.	R. K. Chapel House	1946 ²⁴
703 Ridgeway Blvd.	Robert Brebner House	1946 ²⁵

In addition, the firm also extensively remodeled another district house. This was the Sam Clark House, located at 918 Oakdale Ave., which was originally built in 1930 and was remodeled by the firm in the

²⁴ City of De Pere Building Permit.

²⁵ Ibid. The original drawings for this house and the subsequent addition to the garage are in the possession of the current owners.

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Colonial Revival style for John C. Wemple in 1948.²⁶

Levi A. Geniesse

Levi A. Geniesse was the son of Green Bay carpenter Louis Geniesse and is first mentioned as an architect and engineer in the 1929 Green Bay City Directory. Geniesse appears to have practiced alone except for a short partnership with John Connell between 1937 and 1939, and his career continued until at least the early 1960s. While Geniesse's projects are probably scattered throughout the greater Green Bay area, most of his known work is in Green Bay itself. Four of his projects were single family Colonial Revival and Neo-Classical Revival style residences that he designed for the Wisconsin Land & Improvement Co. in the Randall Avenue Historic District just before the onset of World War II and these are listed below.²⁷

916 Lawton Pl.	Wisconsin Land & Improvement Co. House	1939
436 Randall Ave.	Wisconsin Land & Improvement Co. House	1940
818 Talbot Ave.	Wisconsin Land & Improvement Co. House	1940
915 Talbot Ave.	Wisconsin Land & Improvement Co. House	1939

Frank M. Riley

Frank Morris Riley (1875-1949) was one of the most important architects to practice in Madison, Wisconsin in the first half of the twentieth century. Riley was born in Madison on September 10, 1875. His father, Edward F. Riley (1847-1927) was secretary of the UW Board of Regents from 1888 to 1906 and was also well-known in business and real estate circles in Madison. Frank Riley first studied civil engineering at the UW beginning in 1894. In 1897, however, he left Madison for Boston, where he studied architecture at MIT. He studied there until 1900, then, from 1900 to 1908, Riley worked for three of Boston's best architectural firms, following which he worked in his own practice until 1911. From 1911 until 1913 he lived in London and from 1913 to 1914, he lived in Italy and Germany. While in Germany, he worked for a year for an architect in Munich. In 1914, he came back to the U.S. and to Madison, where he remained for the rest of his life.²⁸

Riley was fortunate in that his return to Madison coincided with the beginning of the period in which

²⁶ The original drawings for this project are kept in the offices of the firm, which is now known as Berners-Schober Assoc., Inc. of Green Bay.

²⁷ City of De Pere Building Permits and historic Real Estate Tax Assessment Rolls.

²⁸ Quaife, Milo (Ed.). Wisconsin; Its History and Its People. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publ. Co., 1924, Vol. 4, pp. 184-186.

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the city's economic and social elite were starting to abandon the increasingly congested downtown neighborhoods that had been their traditional home for other areas, most of which were new suburbs then being developed on the outskirts of the city. In the years between 1914 and 1941, Riley designed many of the finest houses in such Madison suburbs as Nakoma, University Heights, and the Highlands and in the neighboring villages of Shorewood Hills and Maple Bluff. He also designed a number of outstanding fraternity and sorority houses on Langdon Street in Madison, as well as some of Madison's more important non-residential and institutional buildings.²⁹ In his later years he was also associated with Lewis A. Siberz, a former draftsman in his office, in the firm of Riley & Siberz.

Riley is best known today for his residential designs, most of which were expertly and knowledgeably done in either the Colonial Revival or Georgian Revival styles. Like many other of the best architects of his time, Riley was equally at home with all the major period revival styles and his mastery of the Tudor Revival, Mediterranean Revival, French Provincial, and Norman Revival styles resulted in some of Madison and Wisconsin's finest houses.

Riley designed a single house in De Pere and it was done at the very end of his career, but it is one of his best and is also the best of De Pere's Georgian Revival style houses. This is the large red brick-clad house on Nicolet Ave. that he designed in 1948 for Green Bay automobile dealer Elmer Stone.³⁰

755 Nicolet Ave. Elmer Stone House 1949

Still other houses in the district were designed by architects about whom nothing is now known. These include the Colonial Revival style Arthur Gnewuch House at 908 Talbot Ave., built in 1938 to a design furnished by Milwaukee architect William Holton, and the small but beautifully detailed Colonial Revival style house of Agnes Warske House at 503 Ridgeway Blvd., built in 1941 to a design furnished by architect Herbert Lenicheck.³¹ Because the high quality of the designs that these houses possess is shared by many others in the district, it is all but certain that many of these were architect-designed as well, but determining the identity of these architects will be the task of future researchers.

Conclusion:

The Randall Avenue Historic District is therefore being nominated to the NRHP because the buildings within it constitute a visually impressive, architecturally significant residential grouping that is also

²⁹ Wisconsin State Journal. February 8, 1965.

³⁰ City of De Pere Building Permit.

³¹ Ibid.

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representative of the historic patterns that shaped the larger neighborhood of which the district is a part. Not only are the buildings within the district impressive as a group, but several of the individual houses are among the best and the most intact examples of the Colonial Revival, Georgian Revival, and Neo-Classical Revival styles that are to be found in De Pere. The significance of the district is further enhanced by its highly intact and very well maintained state of preservation. The streetscapes in the district are unusually cohesive as a result and also because of the retention of historic street and landscaping features. In addition, there has been very little new construction in the district. Only one building has been constructed in the district since 1958, and it is a single-family residence of equal quality and was built on a portion of land that was originally associated with the older houses located adjacent to it.

Preservation Activity:

The Randall Avenue Historic District has been fortunate in that it has consistently been able to attract new owners who have taken pride in their historic houses, and, in many cases, restored them. In addition, the De Pere Historic Preservation Commission has been very active in educating property owners of historic resources in De Pere as to the importance and value of historic preservation, including acting as the sponsor of this nomination.

Archeological Potential

The extent of any archeological remains in the district is conjectural at this time. No earlier buildings are known to have been located within the district although it is known that the house located at 920 Oakdale Ave. was originally a streetcar station that was moved to this site in 1960. Neither the Sanborn-Perris maps of De Pere printed before 1914 nor the Bird's Eye Views of the city (1871 and 1893) show any buildings on lots in the district but neither do they cover this area, which was still located at the outskirts of the city during this period. Never-the-less, and despite subsequent construction activity, some archeological remains from as yet unknown earlier buildings may still be extant. No information about possible prehistoric remains in this area was found in the course of this research either. It is likely, however, that any remains of pre-European cultures located within the district would have been greatly disturbed by the building activity associated with the subsequent development of this area.

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Acknowledgment

This project has been funded with the assistance of a grant-in-aid from the Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended. Historic Preservation grants-in-aid are administered in Wisconsin in conjunction with the National Register of Historic Places program by the Division of Historic Preservation of the Wisconsin Historical Society. However, the contents and opinions contained in this nomination do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the National Park Service or the Wisconsin Historical Society.

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UTM-COORDINATES, CONT.

5	16	416080	4922850
	Zone	Easting	Northing
6	16	415990	4922880
	Zone	Easting	Northing
7	16	415940	4923050
	Zone	Easting	Northing

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The district boundary begins at a point on the SW corner of the lot associated with 702 N. Michigan St. The line then continues N along the E curbline of N. Michigan St. and continues across Ridgeway Blvd, to a point on the S curbline of said Blvd. The line then turns 90° and continues W along said curbline to the SW corner of the lot associated with 429 Ridgeway Blvd. The line then turns 90° and continues N to the S curbline of Randall Ave., then turns 90° and continues E a short distance, then turns 90° and crosses Randall Ave. to a point on the N curbline that corresponds to the SW corner of the lot associated with 435 Randall Ave. The line then turns continues N along the rear lot lines of 933, 937, 947 and 953 Oakdale Ave. to the NW corner of the lot associated with 953 Oakdale Ave. The line then turns 90° and continues E along the N lot lines of 953 and 956 Oakdale Ave. to the NE corner of the lot associated with 956 Oakdale Ave. The line then turns 90° and continues S along the rear lot lines of 956, 950, 940, 924, and 920 Oakdale Ave. to the SE corner of the lot associated with 920 Oakdale Ave., then turns 90° and continues E along the N lot lines of the lots associated with 515 Randall Ave., 916 Lawton Ave., 915 Talbot Ave., and 908 Talbot Ave. to the W curbline of Glenwood Ave. The line then continues E across Glenwood Ave. to the E curbline, then continues in an irregular fashion around the lots associated with 755 Nicolet Ave. to a point on the N curbline of Nicolet Ave. that is directly opposite the NE corner of the lot associated with 730 Nicolet Ave. The line then crosses Nicolet Ave. to said NE corner and continues E along said N curbline (which curves in a SE direction and becomes the curbline of Glenwood Ave.) to a point on said curbline of Glenwood Ave. that corresponds to the SE corner of the lot that is associated with 826 Glenwood Ave. The line then turns 90° and runs W along the S lot line of said 826 Glenwood Ave. to the SW corner of said lot, then turns 90° and continues S along the E lot line of the lot associated with 727 Ridgeway Blvd. to a point on the N curbline of Ridgeway Blvd. that corresponds to the SE corner of said lot. The line then turns

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, CONTINUED:

90° and continues W along the N curbline of Ridgeway Blvd. to a point that is directly opposite the NE corner of the lot associated with 620 Ridgeway Blvd. The line then turns 90° and crosses said Blvd. to said NE corner, then continues S along the W curbline of N. Superior St. to a point that corresponds to the SE corner of the lot associated with 703 N. Superior St. The line then turns 90° and continues W along the S lot lines of 703 N. Superior St. and 702 N. Michigan St. to the POB.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries of the district enclose all the land that is historically associated with the district's resources. Adjacent residential neighborhoods located to the west, south, and east contain buildings that are typically either earlier or later in date than those within the district, and many of the older residential buildings located to the south are included within the boundaries of the proposed N. Michigan St.-N. Superior St. Historic District.

The residential neighborhood to the west of the district is the already NRHP-listed North Broadway Street Historic District, which contains houses that are, for the most part, older and larger than those in the district.

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Items a-d are the same for photos 1 - 9.

Photo 1 a) Randall Avenue Historic District b) De Pere, Brown County, WI c) Timothy F. Heggland, March 29, 2006 d) Wisconsin Historical Society e) Randall Avenue, General View looking W f) Photo 1 of 9

Photo 2 e) 515 Randall Ave., View looking N f) Photo 2 of 9

Photo 3 e) 605 Randall Ave., View looking N f) Photo 3 of 9

Photo 4 e) 615 Randall Ave., View looking N f) Photo 4 of 9

Photo 5 e) 614 Randall Ave., View looking S f) Photo 5 of 9

Photo 6 e) 755 Nicolet Ave., View looking NW f) Photo 6 of 9

Photo 7 e) 826 Glenwood Ave., View looking SE f) Photo 7 of 9

Photo 8 e) 616 & 620 Ridgeway Blvd.., View looking N f) Photo 8 of 9 Photo 9 e) 703 Ridgeway Blvd., View looking NNE f) Photo 9 of 9

