

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

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**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**

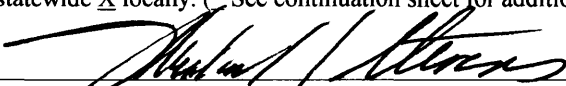
historic name Upham House Historic District  
other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number Generally bounded by West Third Street, South Walnut Avenue, N/A not for publication  
West Fourth Street, and South Chestnut Avenue  
city or town Marshfield N/A vicinity  
state Wisconsin code WI county Wood code 141 zip code 54449

**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

6/19/08  
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer - 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

Upham House Historic District

Wood

Wisconsin

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:)

*Edson H. Beall*

*7-30-08*

*per*

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> noncontributing
11	0 buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
11	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**

1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

RELIGION/religious facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Queen Anne

Bungalow/Craftsman

Late Gothic Revival

Colonial Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation STONE

walls WEATHERBOARD

BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other STONE

**Narrative Description**

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

Upham House Historic District  
Name of Property

Wood  
County and State

Wisconsin

## 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

1880-1936

### Significant Dates

N/A

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Vannedom, T. F.  
Honeywell, A. A.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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



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**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.)

<b>name/title</b>	Various, see separate listing	<b>date</b>	August 15, 2007
<b>organization</b>		<b>telephone</b>	
<b>street &amp; number</b>		<b>zip code</b>	54449
<b>city or town</b>	<b>state</b> Wisconsin		

**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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Upham House Historic District  
Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

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**Description**

The Upham House Historic District is primarily a residential district that is comprised of what were originally single-family homes. It is located one block to the west of the Marshfield's NRHP-listed Central Avenue Historic District, which is the principal historic commercial district in the city.<sup>1</sup> The core of the proposed district consists of a square city block that is bounded by W. Third and W. Fourth streets and S. Chestnut and S. Walnut avenues and which is closely associated with the historically important Upham family. In addition, the district includes the north side of the 200 block of W. Third Street, on which are located three houses that are similar in size and quality to those that are located on the Upham family's block, and also the fine Neo-Gothic Style First Presbyterian Church. Land within the district is flat and most of the houses within its boundaries share uniform setbacks from the district's tree-lined streets, which also display concrete sidewalks, curbs and gutters. In addition, most of the houses in the district have lots that have landscaped yards characterized by grassed lawns, ornamental shrubs, and mature shade trees. The principal residential exception is the Gov. William H. Upham house, which has all these features, but which also occupies a much larger parcel that is comprised of multiple lots.

The city block that forms the core of the Upham House Historic District contains two of the city of Marshfield's earliest and finest houses, the excellent Italianate style Gov. William H. Upham House, which was built in 1880 and is already listed in the NRHP, and the Italianate style Frank Upham House, built in 1882 for Gov. Upham's nephew. Both houses were designed and built by Marshfield architect/builder T. F. Vannedom. Also located on the same block is the two-story Stick Style-influenced Front Gable form house of M. H. Wheeler, which was built ca. 1880 next door to the house of Gov. Upham, who was Mrs. Wheeler's brother-in-law. Houses of similar size and quality but displaying newer styles were built on this block in the last decade of the nineteenth century and first half of the twentieth century on lots that were sold off from the original Upham family holdings and similar houses can also still be found on the lots located on the north side W. Third St. facing the Upham family's block.

All eleven of the houses in the district were built between 1880 and 1936, and the best of them are still highly intact and retain their original siding. Two of these are Italianate style houses, another four are examples of Queen Anne style designs, and there are also two good American Foursquare examples and an even better example of the Bungalow style. In addition to the houses, there is also a fine historic church in the district. This is the Neo-Gothic Revival style First Presbyterian Church at 208 S. Chestnut Ave., which was built in 1924-1925 to a design by Indianapolis, Indiana, architect

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<sup>1</sup> The 2000 population of the city of Marshfield was 18,800.

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Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

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A. A. Honeywell. It replaced the second of two earlier churches built previously on this site by the same congregation, the first of which was built largely with Upham Family donations.

The diversity of styles that is present in the district and their distribution is in large part a product of the historic development of the area. The largest and oldest houses in the district are almost all associated with Upham family. Beginning in 1880, the first of the district's two Italianate style houses appeared and these were followed almost immediately by its first Queen Anne style examples. After 1900, new houses in the district were examples of the so-called "Progressive Styles," and three American Foursquare and Bungalow houses were built in the district between 1904 and 1922 and most of these were built on the W. Fourth Street (south) end of the district, which was, with the exception of the Frank Upham house, historically dominated by outbuildings (non-extant) that were originally associated with the various Upham family houses that were located elsewhere on the block.

The houses in the district are notable within their local context for their designs and several also have associations with the locally prominent Upham family. They are also notable because they are now almost the sole surviving representatives of what was once one of Marshfield's finer residential neighborhoods. Other houses in the larger residential neighborhood that once encircled the district were also distinguished by their size and quality design, but almost all of these houses have now either been demolished or have been altered out of all recognition as the neighborhood has evolved from being primarily a single-family neighborhood to a much more socially and functionally diverse one. Consequently, the houses in the Upham House Historic District form a cohesive turn-of-the-century ensemble that sets them apart from the greatly altered neighborhood that surrounds them.

### **INVENTORY**

The following inventory lists every building in the district and, when available, includes the names of the original owners, the construction date, the address, and also the resource's contributing (C) or non-contributing (NC) status.<sup>2</sup> The abbreviations given below for architectural styles and vernacular building forms are the same abbreviations used by the Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Historic Preservation. These are as follows:

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<sup>2</sup> Construction dates given throughout this nomination reflect the fact that historic real estate tax assessment rolls for the city of Marshfield for the years before 1941 are only available for every fifth year, beginning with 1940. Construction dates for twentieth century buildings that were found on individual building records located in the City Assessor's office have proven to be quite accurate when checked against other sources, and these are included when found.

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Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

AF = American Foursquare  
BU = Bungalow  
CO = Colonial Revival  
FG = Front Gabled  
IT = Italianate  
NG = Neo-Gothic  
QU = Queen Anne

C	1925, 1961	208	S. Chestnut St.	First Presbyterian Church	NG
C	1936	306	S. Chestnut St.	Hugo Wegener House	CO
C	1880	206	W. Third St.	First Merrill H. Wheeler House	QU
C	1884-1887	211	W. Third St.	James B. Borden House	QU
C	1880	212	W. Third St.	Gov. William Upham House (NR)	IT
C	1904-1912	213	W. Third St.	Fred R. Pollard House	AF
C	1904-1912	215	W. Third St.	Frank Zetter House	FG
C	1882	201	W. Fourth St.	Frank R. Upham House	IT
C	1895-1900	207	W. Fourth St.	Second Merrill H. Wheeler House	QU
C	1904-1912	209	W. Fourth St.	J. H. Burns House	QU
C	1922	211	W. Fourth St.	William Trudeau House	BU
C	1908	215	W. Fourth St.	Charles J. Sparr House	AF

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

**Italianate Style**

Gov. William H. and Mary Upham House 212 W. Third St. 1880<sup>3</sup>

Marshfield builder/architect T. F. Vannedom designed the outstanding Italianate style William H. Upham. It is the oldest documented house in Marshfield and it is also the city's finest example of the Italianate style. The house occupies a large, well-landscaped multi-lot corner parcel that comprises the southeast corner that is formed by the intersection of W. Third St. and S. Walnut Ave.<sup>4</sup> The house

<sup>3</sup> Gov. William H. Upham House NRHP Nomination Form. The house was individually listed in the NRHP 12-12-76.

<sup>4</sup> The original parcel associated with this house comprised the entire northwest half of the block and its associated carriage barn and other buildings all faced onto W. Fourth St.



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itself has an irregular plan, a cut stone foundation, exterior walls that are clad in clapboards, and these walls are sheltered by the wide overhanging, bracketed, boxed eaves of the house's very shallow-pitched cross-hipped roof. The main facade faces northwest and it is three-bays-wide and the main entrance to the house is sheltered by a one-story, hip-roofed, two-sided veranda that spans more than the full width of the main façade and also encircles the house's northwest corner.

The William Upham house is an excellent and highly intact variant example of the Asymmetrical subtype of the Italianate style. As described in Virginia & Lee McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses*: "These are compound plan examples houses, usually L-shaped, without towers. Roofs are cross-hipped or cross-gabled. In a few examples, the addition of a second forward-facing wing makes a U-shaped plan. About 20 percent of Italianate houses are of this type."<sup>5</sup> The Upham house also has many of the other features that the McAlesters mention as being typically associated with the style, such as "low-pitched roof with widely overhanging eaves having decorative brackets beneath; tall, narrow windows, commonly arched or curved above; windows frequently with elaborate crowns, usually on inverted U shape."<sup>6</sup>

William H. Upham (1841-1924) was born in Westminister, Massachusetts, and later moved with his parents first to Niles, Michigan, in 1852 and then to Racine, Wisconsin in 1853. After a distinguished career in the Union Army during the Civil War, Upham returned to Wisconsin, where from 1869 to 1879 he was engaged in the lumber business in the northern part of the state.

In 1879 [Upham] settled in Marshfield, at a time when the city was just being platted. There he built a saw and shingle mill, a furniture factory, general store, machine shop, and flour mill, and also helped to organize the First National Bank of Marshfield and became its president. Although Upham suffered heavy losses in the Marshfield fire of 1887, he was a leader in rebuilding the city's industries. A Republican, he was elected governor of Wisconsin in 1894, defeating incumbent Democrat George W. Peck, and served one term (Jan. 1895-Jan. 1897). Upham was not a candidate for renomination in 1896, but returned to his business enterprises in Marshfield, where he resumed the presidency of the Water, Electric Light and Power Co. and the Upham Manufacturing Co. He continued to be a prominent Marshfield business leader until his death.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984, pp. 211, 216-219.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 211.

<sup>7</sup> *Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography*. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1960.

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After Upham's death in 1924, his house subsequently became a house museum owned and administered by the North Wood County Historical Society, and it is still used as such today and it is in excellent condition and is open to the public.

Frank R. and Genevieve Upham House

201 W. Fourth St.

1882

The highly intact, two-story Frank Upham house was also designed by Marshfield builder/architect T. F. Vannedom. It has a rectilinear plan main block, cut stone foundation walls, and exterior walls that are clad in clapboards and that are sheltered by the wide overhanging, bracketed, boxed eaves of the house's very shallow-pitched hip roof. The house's main facade faces southwest, it is three-bays-wide, and the main entrance to the house is sheltered by a one-story, flat-roofed, full-width screened front porch. An excellent historic photo of the house shows that the house originally had a smaller front entrance porch, the polygonal two-story bay on its southeast-facing side elevation was originally just one-story-tall, and the rear ell was also one-story-tall as well.<sup>8</sup> Sanborn-Perris maps show that the current front was built between 1898 and 1904, and the rear ell gained its second story between 1904 and 1912, both of which occurred after the house had been sold to the Presbyterian Church to house their minister.

The Frank Upham house is an excellent and highly intact variant example of the Simple Hipped Roof subtype of the Italianate style. As described in Virginia & Lee McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses*, examples of this subtype are "square or rectangular box-shaped houses with hipped roofs that are uninterrupted except in about half the surviving examples, by a central cupola. Façade openings are typically three-ranked, less commonly five-ranked, rarely two- or four-ranked. This is the most common subtype, making up about one-third of Italianate houses."<sup>9</sup> In this case, the typical Italianate style detailing consists of wide overhanging eaves that are supported by pairs of small, regularly spaced decorative wood brackets, and in addition, the fascia below these eaves is paneled as well.

Frank R. Upham (1859-1931) was born in Weyauwega, Wisconsin, attended school in Racine, and worked there as an assistant bookkeeper until moving first to Shawano, Wisconsin in 1879, and finally to Marshfield in 1881, where he entered the employ of the Upham Manufacturing Co., which was owned by his uncle, William H. Upham. Upham soon thereafter became the treasurer of the company and the manager of its furniture division, positions he retained until 1924, when the company was closed. He was first married to Genevieve Ramsdell in 1882, and in the same year their house was

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<sup>8</sup> Schnitzler, Donald H. (ed.). *The Marshfield Story: Vol. 1, Piecing Together Our Past; Vol. 2, Windows to Our Past*. Marshfield: Marshfield History Project: 1997 and 2000. Vol. 2, pp. 68-69 (photo).

<sup>9</sup> McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *Op. Cit.*, pp. 211, 216-219.

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Upham House Historic District  
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built. Mrs. Upham died in that same year, however, and Upham later remarried, finally selling this house to the Presbyterian Church in 1899. He continued living in Marshfield until his death in 1931.

**Queen Anne Style**

The Second Merrill M. Wheeler House

207 W. Fourth Street

1895-1900

This is one of the earliest of the district's Queen Anne style houses. The house is two stories in height and has an L-plan. The foundation walls were of cut stone, now coated with stucco, and the exterior walls of the first story were originally clad in narrow gauge clapboards and have since been resided in vinyl clapboard of the same gauge, the second story is clad in wood shingles, all windows are one-over-one-light double hung wood sash, the house is sheltered by a multi-gable roof, and the dominant feature of the main, south-facing facade, is a two-story polygonal bay that is centered on the facade and is capped with a pavilion style polygonal roof. In addition, the first story of the main facade is sheltered by a full-width front porch whose turned wooden balusters are modern reproductions of the originals. There is also an early hip-roofed two-car garage located at the rear of the lot and to the right of the house that still has at least one pair of its original side-hinged wooden doors.

The original owner of this house was Merrill H. Wheeler (1851-1924), who was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, and moved to Shawano, Wisconsin in the 1870s. Later in the 1870s, Wheeler moved to Marshfield and married a sister of Mary Kelly Upham, the wife of William H. Upham. In Marshfield, Wheeler served for many years as the manager of the Upham Manufacturing Company's store on S. Central Ave., then as the director of the Upham Grist Mill and Grain Elevator in Marshfield, before finally leaving the city in 1899 or 1900.<sup>10</sup> This house was built by Wheeler between 1895 and 1900 on a new lot that he created by subdividing his original lot, which spanned the entire width of this block. It is not known whether Wheeler built this new house for himself, for one of his several children, or as an investment.

**American Foursquare**

Charles J. and Jane Sparr House

215 W. Fourth St.

1908

The highly intact and well kept Sparr house occupies a corner lot, it has a rectilinear plan, and both its foundation and its exterior walls are clad in stucco. These walls are sheltered by a shallow-pitched hip

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<sup>10</sup> *Marshfield News*. December 8, 1924. Obituary of Merrill H. Wheeler.

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roof having overhanging boxed eaves and, as is typical of Foursquare designs, the entire first story of its main, southwest-facing façade is sheltered by a full-width enclosed front porch. In addition to the main block of the house there is also a two-story narrower ell attached to the rear of the house, which contains a side entrance in its first story and both first and second story screened porches. There is also a stucco-clad, gable-roofed garage located just behind the house; it was built at the same time and in the same style as the house.

Charles J. Sparr came to Marshfield from New Lisbon, Wisconsin and was William H. Upham's accountant. In 1908, Sparr built his house on W. Fourth St. on land purchased from Upham. One year later, Sparr bought William H. Upham's former Banner Mills flourmill plant in Marshfield, which he then renamed the Sparr Cereal Mills. Sparr's mill specialized in grinding corn for corn meal and grits for making beer. Sparr continued as the president of this business until 1922, when he traded businesses with H. C. Koenig, a grocery store operator in Marshfield.<sup>11</sup> Sparr's widow was still living in the house as late as 1949.

**Bungalow Style**

William and Clara Trudeau House      211 W. Fourth Street      1922

The highly intact Trudeau house is a fine and typical example of the side gable form of Bungalow style design. This one-and-one-half-story house has a rectilinear plan, fieldstone-clad foundation, walls that are clad in dark brown brick, and these walls are sheltered by a simple gable roof whose ridgeline runs east-west and whose wide overhanging open eaves are supported by the exposed ends of the roof joists and rafters. The front-facing slope of the roof also has a large stucco-clad, gable-roofed dormer centered on it and this dormer contains three four-over-one-light double hung windows. The grouped windows in the rest of the house also have four-over-one-light double sash as well and the entire first story of the southwest-facing main facade is sheltered by a full-width front porch, the roof of which is an extension of the main roof. (Photo #8)

William Trudeau was the proprietor of Trudeau's Café, a popular Marshfield eating establishment that was located two blocks east on S. Central Avenue.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Schnitzler, Donald H. (ed.). *Op. Cit.*, Vol. 1, pp. 299-300 (photo).

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. 2, p. 483.

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Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

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**Neo-Gothic Revival Style**

First Presbyterian Church

208 S. Chestnut Ave. 1925/1961

The First Presbyterian Church occupies a multi-lot corner parcel that comprises the northwest corner formed by the intersection of W. Third St. and S. Chestnut Ave. This congregation is one of the oldest in Marshfield and its first Gothic Revival style clapboard-clad church was built on this site in 1878. When this church was destroyed by fire in 1885, a larger, new, clapboard and wood shingle-clad Queen Anne style church was built on the same site, and when it too was destroyed by fire in 1924, the present church was built in its place at a cost of \$77,000. The principal part of this fine Neo-Gothic Style church was begun in 1924 and was completed early in 1925 to a design by the Indianapolis, Indiana architect A. A. Honeywell.<sup>13</sup> This church has a cruciform plan, poured concrete foundation walls that enclose a full basement story, and exterior walls that are clad in reddish brown brick and which are richly ornamented with dressed stone. The nave of the church is 100-feet-long, the intersecting transept measures 100-feet-wide, and a three-story, square-plan bell tower is positioned in the southeast corner formed by the intersection of the two wings of the building. Buttresses divide the walls of the church into bays and all of its arched window openings still contain their original stained glass windows.<sup>14</sup>

A new, rectilinear-plan, brick-clad school wing of Contemporary design was attached to the northwest side of the auditorium portion of the church in 1961 and is considered to be a non-contributing addition to the 1924 building. The Presbyterian congregation subsequently built a new church for themselves at 200 S. Lincoln Ave. and their 1924 church is now used as a community cultural center called the Chestnut Avenue Center for the Arts, and the exterior of the original building is still in excellent, intact condition today. (Photo No. 6)

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<sup>13</sup> State of Wisconsin Division of Safety & Buildings. Building Plans Correspondence (e-files), 1914-1918. Wisconsin Historical Society Archives, Series 2284, Box 389.

<sup>14</sup> *Marshfield Daily News*. Friday, January 23, 1925, p. 1 (photo).

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**Significance**

The proposed Upham House Historic District is an architecturally significant residential district located in the city of Marshfield. It takes its name from the NRHP-listed Italianate style Gov. William H. Upham House, which is the district's oldest building and its finest. The district is roughly bounded by W. Third St. to the north, S. Chestnut Avenue to the west, W. Fourth St. to the south, and S. Walnut Ave. to the east, and its boundaries enclose one whole city block and portions of another. It was first identified by the Marshfield Intensive Architectural Survey that was undertaken in 2004-2005 as a potential historic district having local significance under National Register (NR) criterion C.<sup>15</sup> The district is located one block to the west of the Marshfield Central Avenue business district, a portion of which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Research was undertaken to assess the potential for nominating the district to the NRHP utilizing the NR significance area of Architecture, a theme that 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 Italianate, Queen Anne, American Foursquare, Bungalow, and Period Revival styles subsections of the Architectural Styles study unit of the CRMP.<sup>16</sup> The results of this research are detailed below and show that the Upham House Historic District is locally significant under NR Criterion C as an architecturally important collection of primarily residential buildings that together constitute a well-defined and visually distinct geographic and historic entity.

The Upham House Historic District is believed to be of architectural significance under NRHP Criterion C because it contains an architecturally significant collection of Italianate style, Queen Anne style, and early Progressive style residential buildings, and a fine architect-designed 1920s Neo-Gothic style church. The district's eleven houses were built between 1880 and 1936, and the earliest of them are among the oldest dated houses in the city and most are associated with members of the Upham family, whose members owned the entire block that is located at the core of the district and whose large factory and lumberyard complex (non-extant) was located a block away and was Marshfield's most important nineteenth century industry and largest employer. The Upham family houses were also among the few survivors of a catastrophic fire that destroyed the adjacent original Upham factory in 1887. Besides destroying the factory, this fire also destroyed practically all of Marshfield's commercial district, along with many of the homes that were then located on the blocks surrounding the Upham family's own houses. Fortunately, though, while the fire destroyed the Upham factory, the Upham

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<sup>15</sup> Heggland, Timothy F. *City of Marshfield Intensive Survey*. Marshfield: 2005. Copy on file at the Division of Historic Preservation, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI.

<sup>16</sup> Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Madison: Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Vol. 2, pp. 2-6, 2-15, 2-17, 2-25, 2-26 to 2-27.

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family's houses were spared and William Upham's immediate decision to rebuild his all-important Marshfield factory ensured that the rest of the city would also be rebuilt. Individually, the district's resources are fine representative examples of architectural styles that were important in Marshfield during the period of significance and several are among the finest examples found by the Marshfield Intensive Survey. Collectively, these buildings are also notable architecturally because they typify the stylistic and historic evolution of the district during much of the period of significance (1880-1936).<sup>17</sup>

**Historic Context**

A detailed history of the city of Marshfield and its built resources is embodied in the City of Marshfield Intensive Survey Report, printed in 2005. In addition, a vastly more detailed history of the city and its historic inhabitants was published in two volumes in 1997 and 2000.<sup>18</sup> Consequently, the historic context that follows deals primarily with the history of the district itself and with the immediate surrounding area.

Like so many other later nineteenth century Wisconsin communities, the city of Marshfield owes its existence to its proximity to transportation routes, which in this case was the Wisconsin Central Railroad. The land that is now Marshfield was originally part of the holdings of the railroad, which was headquartered in the city of Menasha in the Fox River Valley, and which had received an enormous grant of land from the federal government at the end of the Civil War in return for building a rail line across the state from the city of Portage northwest to the city of Ashland on the shore of Lake Superior and on to Superior. The decision to establish a depot in the vicinity of what is now Marshfield was based on the fact that Marshfield is located in almost the exact center of the state and was, in 1871, also located halfway between Stevens Point and the village of Colby, which was to be the north end of the first completed leg of this line. This central position favored the creation of a supply depot for the railroad at the Marshfield location and it was made still more attractive by the fact that land in this vicinity was flat and heavily forested, thereby lessening the cost of the construction of the line and also raising the possibility that the railroad could make a profit from both the sale and the shipping of this timber.

In order to establish this supply depot, the railroad contracted with Louis Rivers of Necedah to build and operate a hotel at the Marshfield location on free land provided by the Fox River Lumber Co. Rivers and his family arrived at the site in 1872 and had a small but serviceable log hotel in operation by the time the train tracks arrived later that year.

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<sup>17</sup> The period of significance is bounded by the known construction dates of the resources in the district.

<sup>18</sup> Schnitzler, Donald H. (ed.). *Op. Cit.*

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The first leg of track built in the proposed 250 mile route stretched from Menasha to Stevens Point in 1871. The following year saw another length from Stevens Point to Colby. The importance of this development was twofold. First, it provided traffic for the future Marshfield with the more populated and economically active portion of the state; from Steven Point south and east. The rail links brought migrants and markets within reach of the logging frontier that was Marshfield. If there were to be any reason for consistent activity in the wilderness, then there had to be a supply of labor and demand for the goods produced.

Second, the connections to Lake Superior proceeded slowly after the initial settlement of Marshfield and its transformation into a permanent manufacturing site. This lag coincided with the increasing demand for lumber (at both the local and national level) and provided the transportation route to reach into the north woods and then bring it back to Marshfield for processing. By the time this had happened, Marshfield was not only a regular stop on the Wisconsin Central's Chicago schedule, but had begun to attract the attention of other roads who took advantage of the city's central location and built through the town as well.<sup>19</sup>

Marshfield was one of the first important communities in the northern part of the state that owed its existence entirely to the coming of the railroad. Older communities such as Stevens Point owed their existence to their location on waterways that could be used to transport logs from the state's forests to the mills where they were processed. Marshfield had no such natural advantage, but the coming of the railroad made such a location unnecessary. Marshfield was also helped enormously by the arrival of William H. Upham in 1878. Even though Marshfield had been platted as a village in 1873, it was still a rough logging town when Upham arrived, but he soon changed all that.

Borrowing money from family, William Upham and his brother Charles Upham organized the town as a central location for bringing in raw materials and processing them into usable products for the expanding urban markets to the south. In this transformation of Marshfield from wayside to factory site, the Uphams made sure to look after their employees by building a general store at the same time they built the first sawmill in 1878. In short order, Upham moved to expand and refine the processing of raw lumber by adding a planing mill in 1879, a furniture factory in 1882 and, most telling of all, a flour and feed mill in 1885.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Schnitzler, Donald H. (ed.). *Op. Cit.*, Vol. 1, p. 3.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 4.



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Having access to locally manufactured lumber caused buildings to be built all through the village and by 1881 it could boast of sixteen stores, two schools, a Catholic Church (the first St. John the Baptist church), a partially built Lutheran Church, and the River brother's new and larger hotel, located on the northwest corner of N. Central Ave. and N. Depot St.<sup>21</sup>

So far as is known, all of these buildings were built of wood and were of simple design, commercial buildings being primarily examples of the Boomtown style, which is characterized by a main facade crowned by a false front that was intended to give the illusion of a full upper story. Churches were simplified Gothic Revival style frame buildings with centered steeples on their main facades and rectilinear plan naves, one of the earliest being the original First Presbyterian Church, whose construction on the corner of S. Walnut and W. Third streets was largely funded by Mr. & Mrs. William H. Upham. In addition, schools such as the first Central Avenue School, built in 1881, were equally simple, with only a bell tower or cupola to distinguish them. There were exceptions, however. In 1880, William H. Upham had a very fine Italianate style house built for himself and his wife, Mary Kelly Upham, at 212 W. Third St. on a square block that he, his nephew, Frank R. Upham, and his brother-in-law, Merrill H. Wheeler, owned and that was adjacent to the Upham factory. Upham's house was designed by Marshfield's first builder/architect, T. F. Vannedom, and it was built in the then slightly old-fashioned Italianate style and was clad in clapboard over a wood frame. Two years later, in 1882, Vannedom designed another, smaller, but still impressive clapboard-clad Italianate style house on the opposite corner of the block at 201 W. Fourth St. for Upham's nephew, Frank R. Upham, and the two Upham houses are the first known architect-designed buildings in the city. Rounding out the block was the early Queen Anne style home of Merrill H. Wheeler at 206. W. Third St.<sup>22</sup> Wheeler's wife, Cora Kelly Wheeler, was the sister of Mrs. William H. Upham, and Wheeler was the manager of the Upham Company store on South Central Avenue, located one block to the east. Meanwhile the block located to the north and across W. Third St. from the Upham family's compound was empty save for a single, now non-extant house and the previously mentioned First Presbyterian Church, the 1878 original of which had burned down in 1885 and had been replaced by a new and much larger Queen Anne style church building.

During this period, Marshfield was also growing by leaps and bounds. In 1883, Marshfield was incorporated as a city, by 1884 the population stood at 2000, and by 1885 the population had reached 2500. The physical size of the city was also expanding as a consequence and new plats had added C, D

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<sup>21</sup> *History of Northern Wisconsin: An Account of its Settlement, Growth, Development and resources, an Extensive Sketch of its Counties, Cities, Towns, and Villages.* Chicago: Western Historical Society, 1881, p. 1209.

<sup>22</sup> A fourth house that was located on this block at 200 W. Third St. is either no longer extant or else has been so completely subsumed in the later additions that have been made to the funeral home that now occupies the site that it is now unrecognizable. It is not known if this house was ever directly associated with the Upham family.

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and E streets north of the railroad corridor, Sixth and Seventh streets to the south of it, Pine and Oak streets to the west of Central Avenue, and Vine and Ash streets to the east. By this time too, certain areas of the city had developed specific uses. North, and especially South Central Avenue had become the retail center of the city, with shops stretching from South Depot Street as far south as Fourth Street. Industry and related businesses were concentrated along the rail corridor on both North and South Railroad and Depot streets and the railroad depot was located here as well. All the land situated between W. Depot St., S. Chestnut Ave., and W. Third St. was given over to the various Upham Manufacturing Co. mills and lumberyards, and a similar situation existed on the land east of Maple St. and north of N. Railroad Street, which was largely given over to the factory and lumberyard of the Marshfield Stave Co. The blocks surrounding these areas were given over to residential construction, which at this time consisted almost entirely of small frame construction vernacular form buildings.

The growth that Upham's activities, in particular, generated and the changes they brought with them transformed the village. Growth was steady until June 27, 1887, when a spark from a passing train ignited a fire in the lumberyard associated with Upham's sawmill. Within a few hours, the fire had destroyed not only the entire Upham establishment but also the entire commercial district of the city that was located on both sides of South Central Avenue and numerous nearby houses. Fortunately, the fire spared both the Presbyterian Church and all the houses on the Upham family's block, all of which were within a half-block of the fire. Even more fortunate for the future of the city, though, was Upham's decision to rebuild his factories and mills the day after the fire. Had he not, had he lacked the will and the foresight to rebuild, Marshfield's subsequent story would have been very different.

The rebuilding happened with amazing speed. By October of 1887, the population of the city had grown to 2500, and by 1891, to 4000. Looking at the Sanborn-Perris fire insurance maps for Marshfield printed in October 1887 and November 1891, one can also see that much rebuilding had already been completed by late 1887, and by 1891, Central Avenue had been largely rebuilt. Another event that would have a great effect on the built environment of Marshfield occurred in November 1890, when a second railroad arrived in the city. This was the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, & Ohio Railroad, whose new tracks entered Marshfield from the southwest and crossed the 600 block of S. Central Ave. before ending at the depot grounds located on the east side of this block. With the coming of a second railroad, freight traffic through Marshfield increased even more and the new railroad also led to the creation of a second factory district located adjacent to the tracks in the first two blocks of W. Ninth Street. The arrival of the railroad also sped up the development of the area surrounding it, played an important role in the platting, and settling of the area south of Fourth Street, which was located immediately to the south of the Upham family's block.

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The continued prominence of the Upham family and the importance and success of their various enterprises was sufficient to prevent any changes from taking place on the block on which their houses were located until 1895-1900, when Merrill H. Wheeler built a new Queen Anne style house at 207 W. Fourth St. on the opposite (south) side of the parcel he owned.<sup>23</sup> But if this block remained essentially insulated from change because of its association with the city's most prominent family, the same was not true of the blocks surrounding it. While William H. Upham's decision to rebuild his factory on its original site just to the northwest of the block where his residence was located had been a major boon for the city of Marshfield, it also had implications for how the other blocks surrounding his residence would subsequently develop. The rapid growth that Marshfield was experiencing at this time brought many new workers to the city and the hundreds of smaller houses that these persons either built or rented soon created whole new neighborhoods located on both sides of N. Central Avenue and elsewhere in the city. The same growth also created a large and growing group of businessmen and professionals who needed housing. What this latter group was not interested in, though, was residential lots located adjacent to factories or immediately adjacent to the central business district located on S. Central Avenue. Consequently, the area around the Upham family's residences did not attract others of similar stature to the vicinity despite their prestige. Instead, new neighborhoods such as the Pleasant Hill Residential Historic District (NRHP) and the West Park Street Historic District (NRHP) were developed east and south of the S. Central Avenue business district that became the home of those associated with the city's earliest businesses and especially with industries associated with the harvesting and processing of timber.

As Marshfield grew, the economic base of the city changed as well. Until 1900, Marshfield's prosperity was based largely on its location near the places where timber was harvested and the city's manufacturing establishments were centered around this industry. As the forests began to recede, much of what had once been forest land was converted into farmland and agriculture began to play an ever-increasing role in the local economy. Granaries and feed mills began to be built along the railroad corridor, a brewery was established, and commercial establishments that catered to the needs of the farmer began to appear. So too did manufacturing establishments devoted to the processing of food products such as cheese and eggs, and all of these new establishments needed workers.

By 1898, the population of Marshfield had climbed to 5800 and this growth was accompanied by the need for still more housing and for new and larger public buildings and it began to have an effect on the Upham House Historic District as well. By the beginning of the first decade of the new century, Merrill H. Wheeler had left Marshfield and Frank Upham had sold his house on W. Fourth St. to the

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<sup>23</sup> Wheeler's original parcel ran from one side of the block to the other and in 1900 included the original house at 206 W. Third St. and the new house at 207 W. Fourth St.

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congregation of the First Presbyterian Church, who used it as a home of their minister. William H. and Mary Upham were therefore the sole remaining Upham family members left on their block by 1900, and although their personal and financial status remained undiminished, Upham apparently decided to take advantage of the growth that was happening all around him by converting the south end of his multi-lot parcel into building lots. All three of these lots fronted on W. Fourth St. and had once contained Upham's carriage barn and other service buildings associated with his and other family residences. The first of these new lots that was built upon was the corner lot at 215 W. Fourth St., on which C. J. Sparr built his stucco-clad American Foursquare style house in 1908. During the same period, a new, late Queen Anne style house was built at 209 W. Fourth St. for J. H. Burns, and a decade later, in 1922, William Trudeau, the proprietor of Trudeau's Café, built his fine Bungalow style residence on the third lot at 211 W. Fourth St.

Two years later, in 1924, William H. Upham died, and his fine house and its grounds became the property of the North Wood County Historical Society, who converted the house into a house museum that is still very much in operation today. Another event that affected the future district occurred in the same year, when the 1885 church that belonged to the First Presbyterian Congregation was badly damaged by fire. The congregation subsequently decided to build a new church on the same site, and this fine \$77,000.00 Neo-Gothic Revival style brick and stone church, the congregation's third, is still extant today, although it is now used as a community cultural center, the Chestnut Avenue Center for the Arts. Another even more momentous event for the neighborhood occurred in the following year when the Upham Manufacturing Co.'s plant was closed down pending the settlement of William Upham's estate. Finally, in 1928, the decision was made to dissolve the company and, as a result, the entire factory complex was demolished. By this time, however, the city that surrounded the Upham House Historic District had changed greatly and so had the area surrounding the district. The block to the east, for instance, which had once been entirely residential, had been replaced by the block-long Collegiate Gothic Revival style Purdy Junior High School, which was begun in 1920 and completed in 1927 and which is now individually listed in the NRHP. More changes would occur in the years that followed, including the demolition of all the houses on the south side of W. Fourth St. opposite the district for a bank and its parking lot. In addition, almost all of the houses that now comprise the district would transit from single-family into multi-family occupancy. Since that time, however, the process has begun to reverse itself, the district is now a mixture of the two, and several of the houses that had been somewhat altered over the years have recently been restored.

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**Architecture**

The Upham House Historic District was identified by the Marshfield Intensive Survey as one of the areas in Marshfield that is most worthy of listing in the NRHP. It is being nominated to the NRHP under Criterion C for its local architectural significance because it is a well-defined residential neighborhood whose buildings are good to outstanding representative examples of some of the successive architectural styles that were applied to residential buildings in Marshfield between the years 1880 and 1936. The architectural significance of the contributing resources in the district is based in part of 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 several buildings of individual architectural distinction. These buildings include the best residential examples of the Italianate style in Marshfield as well as good, representative examples of the Queen Anne, American Foursquare, and Bungalow styles and a very fine Neo-Gothic Revival style church.

The buildings within the Upham House Historic District consist of a single church and eleven single-family houses. Of the eleven residences, five were built before 1900, and four of these were built by members of the extremely important Upham family, the most important being the NRHP-listed Gov. William H. Upham house, which was built in 1880. The other six houses date from the twentieth century and all but one were built in the first quarter of that century, four being built between 1904 and 1912, another in 1922, and the last in 1936.

The district's earliest houses are both examples of the Italianate style and they are the city's finest houses built before 1887: the Gov. William H. Upham House and the Frank Upham House. Both of these houses were designed and built by Marshfield architect-contractor T. F. Vannedom and they are both in a highly intact and well-maintained state today. The Gov. William H. Upham house is now being used as the house museum of the North Wood County Historical Society. Both of these two-story-tall clapboard-clad houses also display the typical hallmarks of the style, such as wide eaves with brackets, low-pitched hipped or gabled roofs, verandas or loggias, bay windows, balustraded balconies, and tall windows with hood molds or pediments. The larger Gov. William Upham house was built in 1880 at 212 W. Third St. and it has a "T" plan, while the Frank Upham house, which was built in 1882 at 201 W. Fourth St. on the other side of the same block, has an almost square plan. Both houses have smaller ells attached to the rears of their main blocks, and both have boxy proportions.

The other nineteenth century houses in the district are examples of the Queen Anne style and have some elements that are typically associated with it, such as varied cladding materials, complicated asymmetrical

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facades, and full or partial-width front porches. Of the district's three examples, the one that is most typical of this style is the Second Merrill H. Wheeler house located at 207 W. Fourth St., which was built between 1895 and 1900 and has an irregular plan. The other two examples are both specimens of the Front Gable Roof subtypes of the Queen Anne style that have elements such as polygonal bay windows and gable end ornaments, these being the First Merrill H. Wheeler house built in 1880 at 206 W. Third St., and the J. H. Burns house, built at 209 W. Fourth St. between 1904 and 1912.<sup>24</sup>

And yet, even as the last of the district's Queen Anne style houses were being constructed, new houses that exhibited more progressive stylistic preferences were also making their appearance. During the same time period, for example, two two-story American Foursquare houses were being constructed in the district as well, these examples being: the rectilinear plan, stucco-clad C. J. Sparr house at 215 W. Fourth St., built in 1908; and the square plan Fred R. Pollard house at 213 W. Third St., which was built between 1904 and 1912.

Also making its appearance in the district at the beginning of the 1920s was a very fine example of another progressive style, the Bungalow style. This brick-clad, side-gabled example is the highly intact William Trudeau house at 211 W. Fourth St., which was built in 1922.

The other district building that was built in the 1920s is the Neo-Gothic Revival style First Presbyterian Church located at 208 S. Chestnut St. It was completed in 1925, replacing the previous church on this site, which was heavily damaged by fire the year before. Unlike Gothic Revival and High Victorian Gothic style examples, the best Neo-Gothic Revival style buildings are the result of considerable architectural scholarship. Like their English Perpendicular style and late French Gothic style progenitors, many Neo-Gothic Revival style designs have a pronounced vertical emphasis and use a much more subdued palette of exterior and interior colors than did the preceding Gothic Revival styles. This style was especially popular for religious and educational structures and the accurate use of historic models is especially visible in the beautifully wrought, highly carved stonework and excellent decorative metalwork, which is characteristic of many of these designs. Because of the costly materials and extensive handwork involved in the construction of many Neo-Gothic Revival style buildings, such designs were expensive and examples are usually found only in the larger cities in Wisconsin. Marshfield's brick-clad First Presbyterian Church was designed in 1924 by A. A. Honeywell, an architect who practiced in Indianapolis, Indiana, and it is an excellent example of the style. Its interior and exterior both make ample use of beautifully crafted stone as ornamentation.

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<sup>24</sup> The Front Gable Roof subtype of the Queen Anne style is more fully described in Virginia & Lee McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses*, pp. 263 & 275.

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The last building constructed in the district is a small Colonial Revival style residence at 306 S. Chestnut St. built in 1936 for Hugo Wegener.<sup>25</sup> While not particularly distinguished in terms of its design, the Wegener house was one of the first of a series of smaller houses that were featured in a weekly story that appeared in the *Marshfield News-Herald* under the title "Watch Marshfield Grow." This feature showcased new houses then being built in the city and it also served as a not so subtle announcement to the public that the hard times of the Great Depression were beginning to lighten up.

**Architects**

As is the case with most residential districts in Wisconsin that involve buildings constructed in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the identities of the designers of almost all of the buildings within the Upham House Historic District are unknown, as are those of their builders. Partly, this is due to the fact that the local newspapers in Marshfield seldom included such information even when noting that the construction of a residence was in progress. Neither did the City of Marshfield maintain public records before 1970 that would identify the architects of the city's buildings. Consequently, the designers of most of the city's residential structures remain unknown. True, most of the city's houses would have been designed by those who built them, using either published plans or designs based on their previous work, but it is still to be regretted that only three of the district's buildings are the work of an identified designer. Fortunately, these three are also the district's most architecturally significant resources as well.

T. F. Vannedom

The *Marshfield Times* of 1887 described T. F. Vannedom as being an architect, contractor, building supply merchant and manufacturer; the combination of skills and commercial activities pretty much sums up the attributes that a person without professional training and calling himself an architect in the late 1800s might be expected to have.<sup>26</sup> These were the days before professional standards had been codified and before the licensing of architects had become a matter of law, so the more ambitious a man was, the more ventures he might decide to undertake. Thus, a successful carpenter or mason might decide to become a contractor who employed other craftsmen, become a dealer in the materials he worked with, and become the designer of the buildings he was constructing. This worked well, so long as the designer was aware of his limitations and did not attempt to design and build buildings that were outside his scope of experience.

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<sup>25</sup> *Marshfield News-Herald*, October 31, 1936, p. 9 (photo).

<sup>26</sup> *Marshfield Times*, September 23, 1887.

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T. F. Vannedom appears to have been such a person and the buildings he is known to have designed suggest that he was both a sound businessman and also a competent designer. The earliest of these that have been identified are both still extant. These are the Gov. William H. Upham House located at 212 W. Third St. and built in 1880, and the Frank Upham House located at 201 W. Fourth St., built in 1882. Both of these houses are fine examples of Italianate style design, the larger and more elaborate William H. Upham house in particular being already listed in the NRHP. In addition to these buildings, Vannedom also designed and built the Budge & Smith Commercial Building (location unknown), the E. S. Renne residence (location unknown), and the Queen Anne style John P. Hume residence at 407 W. Park St., built in 1892 and a contributing resource in the NRHP-listed West Park Street Historic District.<sup>27</sup>

In addition to these residences, Vannedom was also the architect and builder of the first publicly financed school building in Marshfield, the Central Avenue School (non-extant) located at ca. 615 S. Central Avenue, and built in 1881, and he was also the contractor for the First Ward School at 213 N. Chestnut St. (non-extant), built in 1889.<sup>28</sup>

A. A. Honeywell

The only non-residential building in the district is the Neo-Gothic Revival style First Presbyterian Church located at 208 S. Chestnut St., built out of brick and stone in 1924-25 to a design supplied to the church by A. A. Honeywell, an architect then practicing in Indianapolis, Indiana.<sup>29</sup> Little information has been found about Honeywell, but in addition to his church in Marshfield, A. A. Honeywell is also known to have designed the Neo-Gothic Revival style Church of Christ in Rochester, Indiana, in 1926, and the Neo-Classical Revival style First Presbyterian Church in Joplin, Missouri, which was dedicated in 1924 and demolished in 1972. It is therefore possible that church design was a specialty of Honeywell's and this may account for his having received his Marshfield commission.

That the First Presbyterian Church was designed by an architect located outside the city was so common an occurrence in Marshfield prior to the end of World War II that it was considered to be worthy of note by the author of the 2005 Marshfield Intensive Survey.

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<sup>27</sup> Bernstein, Rebecca Sample. *City of Marshfield, Wisconsin Intensive Survey Report*. Marshfield: July 1991, p. 68.

<sup>28</sup> Schnitzler, Donald H. (ed.). *Op. Cit.* Vol. 1, pp. 134-135.

<sup>29</sup> State of Wisconsin Division of Safety & Buildings. Building Plans Correspondence (e-files), 1914-1918. Wisconsin Historical Society Archives, Series 2284, Box 389. See also: Schnitzler, Donald H. (ed.). *Op. Cit.* Vol. 1, p. 118 (photo).



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One of the singular characteristics of Marshfield's historic architecture is the extensive patronage of out-of-town architects for prestigious commissions. The commissions to design the community's larger residences, public buildings and religious structures were almost invariably awarded to architects from other Wisconsin communities such as Madison, Milwaukee, Oshkosh and Racine, and even to architects practicing in Winona and St. Paul in Minnesota. Very few of the still fewer men who practiced as architects in Marshfield prior to the later 1930s received major commissions in the city, a situation that did not begin to change until the later 1930s, when local architect G. A. Krasin was selected to design the WPA-funded Weinbrenner Shoe factory building and the WPA-funded Marshfield armory.<sup>30</sup>

The Upham House 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 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 notable as a group, but its two examples of the Italianate style are also the best and the most intact examples to be found in Marshfield, and the Neo-Gothic Revival style First Presbyterian Church is one of Marshfield's finest examples of this style as well.

**Criteria Consideration A**

The significance of the former First Presbyterian Church is for its architecture; therefore, it meets the requirements of the criteria consideration.

**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 with the exception of various original outbuildings that were associated with the district's oldest houses. Despite subsequent construction activity, some archeological remains from these outbuildings 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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<sup>30</sup> Heggland, Timothy F. *Op. Cit.*, p. 19.

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**Preservation Activity**

The presence of the highly intact, NRHP-listed Gov. William Upham House in the Upham House Historic District has helped to forestall large-scale efforts to redevelop the district. As a result, the remaining houses in the district are now once again beginning to attract new owners who take pride in their historic houses, and in some cases, are restoring them. In addition, the Marshfield Historic Preservation Commission has been very active in educating property owners in the historic districts in Marshfield as to the importance and value of historic preservation, including acting as the sponsor of this nomination.

**Acknowledgment**

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The boundary of the district begins at a point on the E curb line of S. Walnut Ave. that corresponds to the NW corner of the lot associated with 215 W. Third St., then turns 90° and continues SE along the rear lot lines of the lots associated with 215, 213, and 211 W. Third St. and 208 S. Chestnut Ave. to a point on the W curb line of S. Chestnut Ave. that corresponds to the NE corner of the lot associated with 208 S. Chestnut Ave. The line then turns 90° and runs SW along said W curb line to the SE corner of the lot associated with 208 S. Chestnut St., then turns 90° and continues NW along the S curb line of W. Third St. to a point on said curb line that is located directly across W. Third St. from the NW corner of the lot associated with 200 W. Third St. The line then turns 90° and continues SW across W. Third St. to the NW corner of the lot associated with 200 W. Third St., then continues SW along the rear lot line of said lot to the SW corner, then turns 90° and continues SE along the S side of said lot to a point on the W curb line of S. Chestnut Ave. that corresponds to the SE corner of the lot. The line then turns 90° and continues SW along said W curb line of S. Chestnut Ave. until reaching the SE corner of the lot associated with 201 W. Fourth St. The line then turns 90° and continues NW along the N curb line of W. Fourth St. until reaching the NW corner of the lot associated with 215 W. Fourth St. The line then turns 90° and continues NE along the E curb line of S. Walnut Ave. until reaching a point on said curb line that corresponds to the NW corner of the lot associated with 212 W. Third St. The line then continues NE across W. Third St. to the SW corner of the lot associated with 212 W. Third St., then continues NE along said curb line of S. Walnut Ave. to the NW corner of the lot associated with 215 W. Third St. and the POB. Said boundaries enclose approximately 6.0 acres.

**Boundary Justification:**

With the exception of the former First Presbyterian Church, the Upham House Historic District is composed entirely of single-family residences and its boundaries enclose all the land that has historically been associated with these resources. The building at 200 W. Third Street is excluded because of substantial alterations. The adjacent residential neighborhood to the northwest contains smaller and less intact buildings than those within the district, and the areas to the southwest, southeast, and northeast of the district are comprised of larger industrial, commercial, or public buildings that are different both in type and in scale from the buildings in the district.

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**Items a-d are the same for photos 1 - 8.**

Photo 1

- a) **Upham House Historic District**
- b) **Marshfield, Wood County, WI**
- c) **Timothy F. Heggland, November 26, 2006**
- d) **Wisconsin Historical Society**
- e) General View of 212 W. Third St., View looking S
- f) Photo 1 of 8

Photo 2

- e) 212 W. Third St., View looking S
- f) Photo 2 of 8

Photo 3

- e) 200 (odd) Block of W. Third St., View looking S
- f) Photo 3 of 8

Photo 4

- e) 211 W. Third St., View looking ENE
- f) Photo 4 of 8

Photo 5

- e) 206 W. Third St., View looking W
- f) Photo 5 of 8

Photo 6

- e) 208 S. Chestnut St., View looking N
- f) Photo 6 of 8

Photo 7

- e) 201 W. Fourth St., View looking N
- f) Photo 7 of 8

Photo 8

- e) 211 W. Fourth St., View looking N
- f) Photo 8 of 8

**FIGURE 1:**

**UPHAM HOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Marshfield, Wood Co., WI

**District Boundary Line**



Not to Scale

