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NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8/86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format (1331D)
(Approved 3/87)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 20 1988

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

1. Name of Property

historic name Kneeland-Walker House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 7406 Hillcrest Drive N/A not for publication

city, town Wauwatosa N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Milwaukee code 079 zip code 53213

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> Total

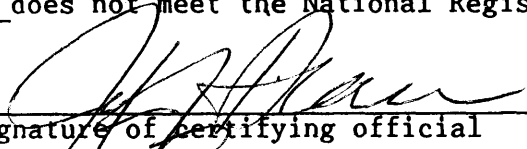
Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

No. of contributing resources
previously listed in the
National Register None

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

X 
Signature of certifying official

12/8/88
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.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

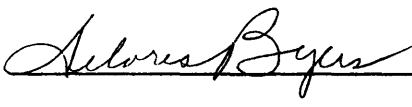
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

Entered in the
National Register

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet


Signature of the Keeper

1/19/89
Date

 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet

 determined not eligible for the National Register.

 removed from the National Register.

 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Recreation and Culture/Museum

7. Description	
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
Queen Anne	foundation <u>Limestone</u>
	walls <u>Brick</u>
	<u>Weatherboard</u>
	roof <u>Asphalt</u>
	other <u>Wood/Shingle</u>

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Kneeland-Walker house was built in 1889-1890 by Norman L. Kneeland, retired farmer. The house, carriage house and cider shed remain on 1.5 acres of land in the heart of the Village residential area in the City of Wauwatosa which now represents the largest residential parcel in the City. The parcel is L-shaped with the house, carriage house, and utility shed at the southeast corner. The grounds directly west of the house feature some larger trees and an abandoned tennis court to the northwest.

The house itself is a very fine example of a large, late Queen Anne residence which has retained most of its original integrity. Early photographs of the house show very few differences from its current appearance. The three-story house is built essentially as a rectangular plan with a porte cochere extension on the west side. The main block features a hipped roof with gable dormers. The southeast corner of the building has a rectangular tower base set diagonally against the main block of the house. The first two stories of this tower are rectangular while the third floor is octagonal with a convex roof. The east side has a two-story polygonal bay which culminates in an open porch on the third floor. It is three stories in height and uses classic Queen Anne forms and materials. The house rests upon a square-cut ashlar limestone foundation. The first floor is covered with brick, the second with weatherboard, or clapboard, and everything above the second floor is covered with coursed wooden shingles.

The first floor, which is sided in painted brick, features the original massive oak carved front and side entry doors including the original brass hardware. Large tripartite arched windows are found on the front facade, on the central panel of the side bay and on the main east elevation immediately north (toward the rear) of the bay. All first floor windows and doors have rusticated cut stone lintels. The large one-story front porch is covered by a flat roof supported by simple posts on cut stone piers. A slightly projecting polygonal bay window is to the immediate east of the front entry. Other windows are 1/1 double-hung sash.

The second floor is sided with clapboard set slightly back from the first floor through use of a slight flaring of the bottom few rows of the clapboarding which are narrower than the others used above them. There is an oriel on the west facade and extensions of the first floor bays on the south and east. All bays are sided with staggered wooden shingles. Other than that and the use of rectangular instead of rounded windows, the second floor follows the pattern of the first.

The third floor is sided in wooden shingles which feature some diamond pattern work in the gable ends. The north (rear) side features little of note and the west side is relatively simple although they do feature eave returns; however there are features of note on both the south (front) and east sides. The west third floor gable end projects slightly over the second floor facade and has a tripartite window at its center. The east gable end repeats this motif but the large center window is recessed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

Kneeland-Walker House
Wauwatosa, Milwaukee County, WI

To form a porch which is bounded by the parapet wall at the top of the polygonal bay on that side of the building. This porch is accessed through a window from a third floor bedroom. This porch also served as an emergency fire exit. The wooden box with its rope ladder remain intact outside the window. Finally, there is a pent roof above the window separating the gable peak from the rest of the gable end.

The third floor of the main facade features a large gambrel roofed dormer which dominates that part of the house. The gambrel projects slightly over the second floor by way of a slight flaring of the shingles at the bottom of the dormer. The center of the dormer features a band of three windows above which is the same gable peak treatment described for the east side of the building.

As stated earlier, the roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The main roof is a gable running from side to side. The two original chimneys are still on the house. These chimneys are constructed of red brick with fluted sides and a stone chimney cap. Both are quite tall rising above the highest portions of the roof structure.

A porte cochere extends from the west side of the house over the driveway leading to the carriage house. The structure conforms with the rest of the house featuring cut limestone piers supporting the wooden structure. An early twentieth century modification resulted in the construction of a screened sleeping porch on the roof of the porte cochere as an extension of the second floor. The screening was replaced by thermopane glass in the 1940 s.

The interior of the house retains all of its important spaces and most of its original woodwork and hardware as well as two intact sets of oak pocket doors. In 1947-48, the second (and longest) owner of the home, Emery Walker, updated all the mechanical and electrical systems including installing an elevator. Despite all this, most of the the historical interior features were retained. Noteworthy areas include first floor public rooms including the foyer, main hall, parlor, living room and dining room. The front doors are original and feature carefully preserved original hardware as does the rest of the house. Another major feature is the curved grand staircase leading to the second floor bedrooms suites. As with the first floor, most of the original woodwork features remain intact. Although the rooms and woodwork are intact, there are few other features such as chandeliers or fireplaces mantels. As an early example of central heating, the house boasts only one fireplace on the first floor.

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2

Kneeland-Walker House
Wauwatosa, Milwaukee County, WI

To the rear of the main house stands the two-story carriage house. This frame building features clapboard siding on the first floor and wooden shingles on the dormer and gable ends. The main gable roof and the dormers have asphalt shingle roofs and the entire composition is topped by a square cupola with hipped roof. The western end of the carriage house has been retained intact including the preservation of four horse stalls. The eastern end features two modern garage doors two, single-car stalls. A third modern stall is found in an addition to the original building which has been constructed to make it appear as though it were an original component.

Finally, to the rear of the carriage house, is a small wooden, clapboard-sided utility building with a shed roof, originally used as a cider shed during the Kneeland years when an orchard covered the property.

The grounds had, at one time, been dedicated to a formal garden. However, although much of that remains, the grounds are less spectacular than they once were by virtue of reduced gardening in the last few years of Mrs. Walker's tenure. The grounds also included a grass tennis court of which the metal frames of the backstops remain although all markings, nets and other features have long since been removed.

The house and property have been maintained through the years by the care of the two families who owned it. That same care will continue to be evident during the tenure of the third owner, the Wauwatosa Historical Society.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: nationally statewide x locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B x C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1889-90

Significant Dates

1889-90

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The 1889-90 Kneeland-Walker House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its significance in the area of architecture, under criteria C, as a fine example of the Queen Anne style. The house is one of the finest, if not the finest, example of the Queen Anne style of architecture in the City of Wauwatosa. It has been maintained in largely intact condition since its construction and its present owner, the Wauwatosa Historical Society, is dedicated to its permanent preservation. The prime characteristics of the Queen Anne style of architecture, as noted in the Cultural Resource Management Plan, are all found here including an irregularity of massing, and a variety of wall textures, roof structures and wall projections. Shingle and clapboard siding appear above the brick first floor. Finally, the Kneeland-Walker House is situated on 1.5 acres of land which includes formal gardens, and a noteworthy carriage house on the largest residential lot in the City. All this makes the Kneeland-Walker House an important local architectural resource.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Village of Wauwatosa was founded in 1835 as Hart's Mills, named after its founder and first businessman, Charles Hart. Hart built a grist mill and a saw mill in the heart of the commercial area now known as the "Village". His mills were on the west side of the Menomonee River on either side of the present Harwood Avenue. An inn was built on the east side of the River in 1844. It was around this small commercial core that the City of Wauwatosa grew.(1)

Wauwatosa Township was created out of Milwaukee Township in April 1842. To celebrate that occurrence, Hart's Mills became Wauwatosa. However, the Township extended from present-day 27th Street on the east to 124th Street on the west and from Hampton Avenue on the north to Greenfield Avenue on the south. Within this six square mile area, Wauwatosa was one small country crossroads among many. What boosted Wauwatosa into the position of a prosperous, permanent community was the convergence of several transportation arteries at the Wauwatosa village center.

 x See continuation sheet

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Kneeland-Walker House
Wauwatosa, Milwaukee County, WI

The first of these transportation arteries was the United States Road (now Harwood Avenue) which resulted in the first bridge across the Menomonee River in 1838. The presence of this road led to the development of other economic activity in the vicinity of the mills including construction of the previously mentioned inn. In 1849, the second major artery, the Watertown Plank Road, was extended out from Milwaukee along what is now State Street. The Plank Road intersected with the United States Road at Wauwatosa. Finally, the State's first railroad, the Milwaukee and Mississippi was built west from Milwaukee along the Menomonee River Valley and arrived at Wauwatosa in 1850.(2) Thus, by that year, the little cluster of commercial and residential buildings known as Wauwatosa had become a transportation center in western Milwaukee County. It was this role which enabled this small community to grow to become an independent community.

By 1889, when Norman Kneeland was ready to build a new home for himself and his family, the crossroads had developed into a sleepy country village, although incorporation did not come until 1892.

Kneeland was born in New York State in 1832. After his education at Albion Academy and Genessee College in New York and service in the Civil War, he moved to Wisconsin in 1865, purchasing a 100-acre farm owned by his father and uncle, James Kneeland. He farmed this property and became quite prosperous, eventually selling it to the Milwaukee Park Commission in 1889 as the site of the present-day Washington Park. Following that sale, Kneeland built the house on Hillcrest (then Center Street) on six lots in the Stickney and Stickney and vonBaumbach Subdivision.(3)

Although retired, Kneeland did not live a retiring life. He entered politics following the incorporation of the City of Wauwatosa in 1895. At the time of his death in December 1900, Kneeland was President of the Wauwatosa City Council.(4)

The property was inherited by Kneeland's widow, Carrie. Following the wishes of her husband, she deeded the westernmost of the three lots along Hillcrest Drive to their eldest daughter, Ella, for whom a house had been built in 1893. This represents the only division of the original Kneeland holding.(5)

The home remained in the Kneeland family until 1917, passing from Carrie Kneeland to her son David at her death in 1911. Following David Kneeland's death in 1917, the house was sold to Emery L. Walker who remained in the house until his death fifty years later.(6)

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Kneeland-Walker House
Wauwatosa, Milwaukee County, WI

Emery Walker was born in Weston, Oregon c.1879. After growing up in the west, he received a degree in mechanical engineering from Cornell University in 1902. Walker worked in a number of capacities in a number of places before coming to Wauwatosa in 1917. At that time, he had just joined the Kieckhefer Container Company, manufacturers of cardboard packing boxes. Walker is credited with holding a number of patents for cardboard box manufacturing machinery. By the time he retired, in 1957 at approximately 78 years of age, he had become a vice-president of the Company and a major shareholder. In that same year, the Weyerhaeuser Corporation purchased the Kieckhefer Company and Walker received a stock buy-out valued in the millions. Walker died in 1965.(7)

Walker's first wife died in 1945. His second wife survived him by exactly twenty years, dying in October 1985. The Wauwatosa Historical Society purchased the house in April 1987 following an eighteen month fundraising effort. The Historical Society intends to operate a Museum and Preservation Center using the house, coach house and grounds as a community asset.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Kneeland-Walker House is among the best examples of the Queen Anne style of architecture, as influenced by the Shingle Style, in the City of Wauwatosa. Its large scale, 1.5 acres of landscaped grounds, intact carriage house and meticulously maintained interior make this home absolutely unique in the area. The asymmetry of the house is shown by its corner entrance and corner rectangular tower which is topped by an octagonal third floor level and convex roof. Also of note is the condition of the interior. Original doors, moldings and main staircase have been painstakingly preserved by the Kneeland and Walker families as well as two, operating oak pocket doors on the first floor. Although the carriage house was converted for auto use early in this century and modernized and expanded for a third bay in the 1940 s, four original horse stalls as well as hay loft and delivery chute remain intact. The Kneeland-Walker House has been a local landmark for many years due to its imposing size and prominent siting on the corner of N. 74th Street and Hillcrest Drive. Its current owners, the Wauwatosa Historical Society, remain dedicated to preserving this landmark for future generations.

There are other good examples of Queen Anne architecture in the City, but this blending with elements of the Shingle Style, considered relatively rare in Wisconsin, is unique. The period of greatest popularity for this style in

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Wisconsin Word Processor Format
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Kneeland-Walker House
Wauwatosa, Milwaukee County, WI

Wisconsin is cited in the Cultural Resource Management Plan as 1880-1900. This period corresponds to the first period of suburban growth in the community when Milwaukee business people, taking advantage of good train service to the village, were moving out to the "country". Concentrations of other homes representing this style of architecture are found in the 1500 block of Church Street and the 7900 block of Warren Avenue. Both of these areas are several blocks west of the Kneeland-Walker location. None of these homes are of the scale and craftsmanship of the subject property. All this sets this house apart from the others in its style found locally and adds to the claim for architectural significance.

The period of significance selected corresponds the construction date of the house.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Edward P. Wilkomen, "Early Roads," Historic Wauwatosa, No. 30, September 1982, np.
2. Ibid.
3. Milwaukee Journal, December 26, 1900, Norman L. Kneeland Obituary; Kathleen Levy, "Kneeland Walker Research," Historic Wauwatosa, No. 51, April 1986; Wauwatosa City Tax Rolls, 1889 and 1890.
4. Ibid.
5. Abstract of Title, 7406 Hillcrest Drive.
6. Ibid.
7. Interview with Elizabeth Walker Peters, by Kathleen Levy, March 1986.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Abstract of Title, 7406 Hillcrest Drive.

Levy, Kathleen. "Kneeland-Walker Research," Historic Wauwatosa No. 51, April 1986. Milwaukee Journal, December 26, 1900, Kneeland Obituary. Peters, Elizabeth Walker, Interview with Kathleen Levy, March 1986. Wauwatosa City Tax Rolls, 1889 and 1890. Wilkomen, Edward P. "Early Roads," Historic Wauwatosa No. 30, September 1982.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

See continuation sheet

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

- Primary location of additional data:
- State historic preservation office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.5 acres

UTM References

A	1/6	4/1/8/2/3/0	4/7/6/7/2/4/0	B	/	/ / / / /	/ / / / / /
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	/	/ / / / /	/ / / / / /	D	/	/ / / / /	/ / / / / /

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 of Block 2, Jas. Stickney and Stickney and vonBaumbach Subdivision in the City of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes the remaining 1.5 acres parcel which includes the house, outbuildings and grounds. This represents the entire property currently attached to the house.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles W. Causier, Historian
organization Wauwatosa Historical Society date November 1987
street & number 8213 Aberdeen Court telephone (414) 359-2300
city or town Wauwatosa state Wis. zip code 53213