



Record No. F

INVENTORY FORM FOR NOMINATED PROPERTIES

Name of Property: KELL, WILLIAM H. HOUSE

Owner: C & J Rang Date: 1/11/88

Address: 215 Green Avenue South

Owner's address: 215 Green Ave. S., New Richmond

City: New Richmond

County: St. Croix (Code #109)

\*160 NRHP Certification

(a) \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_

(c) \_\_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_

165 NRHP Certification Date

(a) \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_

(c) \_\_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_

\*170 Thematic or Multiple Resource Nomination Name

Historic Resources of New Richmond

180 NRHP List Name Kell, William H. House

\*200 Level of Significance Local

\*190 District Classification n/a/

\*210 Applicable Criteria C

\*215 Criteria Considerations —

\*220 Area of Significance

Architecture

230 Period of Significance c. 1875\*

\* Date of construction

60 Verbal Boundary Description \_\_\_\_\_

M & B Outlot 45, City of New Richmond

Section 2, T30N R18W

70 USGS Quad Map New Richmond South, WI

80 UTM Coordinates (Format: 99/999999/9999999)

15 / 536630 / 4996330

85 Listed Acreage less than one

340 Review Board Date \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Resources:

TWO Contributing Buildings

\*use code tables for response

DESCRIPTION

Clapboard and wood shingles are the exterior fabric on this two story Italianate residence. The footprint is of irregular shape which could be described as a variation of the two story upright and one and a half story wing to the south. The upright has a shallow ell on the north side. On the 1897 plat map of New Richmond, the footprint is cruciform with the wing and one story south gabled addition forming the long length of the cross. The shape of the house remains the same today except for a small shed roof rear addition behind the south wing. A one story shallow hipped roof porch stretches across the front (east) facade of the wing. This porch has been framed in around the door and under the screens with clapboard. Attached to the south side of the wing is a one story side gabled addition with a breezeway and one car garage. Another shed roof addition is on the rear (west) side of the wing. The roof is asphalt and gabled on the south wing and addition, but hipped on the upright and ell to the north. Foundation material is sandstone. Most windows are two-over-two double-hung with wooden storms.

The front facade faces east. The original main entry is at the northeast corner of the house in the shallow ell. This entry is protected by a flat roofed small porch supported by scroll sawn decorative wood trim at the top of the turned porch supports. It is no longer used as a main door. The upright is two full stories with an angled bay window at the first story supported by molded eaves and scroll sawn brackets. The second story windows above the bay are paired two-over-two with a continuous corniced header and plain wooden sill.

The north ell and east upright have a wide plain wooden frieze with scroll sawn wooden brackets under the eaves. The hipped roof is modestly overhung. Cornerboards are pilastered. The second story is sheathed in combinations of bands of fishscale shingles and clapboard which add visual texture to the principal facades on the east and north. The rear of the upright (west) has two pairs of windows on the first and second stories which match the second story windows on the front.

The house sits on the southwest corner of South Green Avenue and East Second Street facing east. To the south of the house is a frame clapboard one and a half story barn with a front facing gable.\* Plantings consist of a few tall bushes and younger trees in the yard. The house is in largely original, if not good, condition. Roof and porch lines are sagging and it needs paint and structural attention to the front porch.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The June, 1899 tornado passed just west of this property, saving the house from destruction. It is one of the oldest known houses in the Second Ward west of Knowles Avenue. From the Abstract of Title, the first owner appears to have been William H. Kell and wife. A second story attic closet has the words "Ball 1874" or "6/04" pencilled on a shelf board. No mention of Kell or Ball appears in the New Richmond newspapers, obituaries, or county histories at this time.

\*The barn was built at the same time as the main house or shortly thereafter, c. 1870-80.

WILLIAM KELL HOUSE

Record:         F        

Address: 215 East Second Street

The 1897 plat map of New Richmond shows the property owned by O. F. Brown. The Abstract shows that Brown and his wife owned this property between 1877 and 1897. Captain Oscar F. Brown was described as one of the leading businessmen in New Richmond in 1882 (The Baldwin Bulletin, 11/9/1882). He died in 1896 (Glenwood Tribune, 1/25/1897), and his wife sold the house to Michael J. Linehan in 1897 (Abstract). The Linehan family lived here until 1913 (Abstract). Linehan was a Canadian farmer who moved here after retiring from active farming around 1901 (Easton, History of the St. Croix Valley, vol. 2, 886, 887).

SIGNIFICANCE

This house does not appear to be significant historically, but architecturally it is the best example of an untouched Italianate style house in town. It dates from ca. 1875 (Abstract of Title). The Italianate style was the predominant popular style in New Richmond during the 1870s according to extant historical photographs. Most of these houses, however, were either destroyed in the 1899 tornado or completely altered in ensuing years with additions, window changes, metal siding and roof alterations. This house stands as the best example of the 1870s Italianate style in town today and has had the fewest alterations. It is not "high style," but is an excellent example of the Italianate from what was probably ready-made plans. Its massing and shape harks back to the Greek Revival upright and wing.