

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received OCT 30 1985

date entered EC 2 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Alvah A. Heald House

and/or common A. A. Heald House

2. Location

street & number 202 Sixth Avenue not for publication

city, town Osceola vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Polk code 095

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N.A.	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious (rental)
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dale L. and Margaret J. Morrill

street & number 15851 Afton Hills Drive

city, town Afton vicinity of state Minnesota 55001

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Polk County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Balsam Lake state Wisconsin

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Alvah A. Heald House occupies a prominent corner location on Cascade Street (State Highway 35) two blocks north of the community's commercial district. As one of only two nineteenth century brick residential structures in town and as an example of a relatively "prosperous" Italianate style design, the house is an architectural landmark in this community of 1,000 people.

The Heald House is a two-story brick structure covered by a low-pitched hipped roof broken by a central brick chimney. The house features a side hall entrance with transom and side lights protected by a balustraded entry portico; projecting eaves supported by decorative brackets; and a three-sided bay window on the west facade. All windows are two-over-two double-hung sash windows with stone sills and segmental brick window heads.

A 1½ story brick section covered by a truncated hipped roof is attached to the rear of the rectangular shaped structure.

Alterations include a garage door and service entrance cut into the west facade of the rear section, and an enclosed porch added to the southeast corner (not visible from the street). The structure possesses good design integrity.

The well maintained interior contains a marble fireplace, curving wood stairways with hand rails apparently of walnut, and coffin corner at the top of the stairway.

Among other original features, retained or replicated, is a wood shingled roof, recently completed. The wood frame window sash all appear to be original as well. The small front porch, while sympathetic in scale and materials may not be original to the design of the house.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ humanitarian
X 1800-1899	X commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
___ 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	X politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates 1879-80¹ Builder/Architect John Montgomery²

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Period of significance: 1879-1892

The Alvah A. Heald House is significant for its association with one of Osceola's leading businessmen and a respected government official. Built in 1879-80, the brick Italianate structure is also significant as a local architectural landmark associated with Osceola's once prominent position as a prosperous river community during the period prior to the arrival of the railroad (1887).

During the late 1870s and early 1880s, Osceola was the leading center of economic and political activity in Polk County. It was the county's largest community (population 311 in 1880), the seat of county government, and the commercial center for a rapidly developing agricultural hinterland. In 1880, 3,539 people, over 1/3 of Polk County's population, resided in the county's three southwestern townships (Osceola, Farmington, and Alden).³

A. A. Heald settled in Polk County in 1859, and moved to Osceola in 1875 to open a dry goods store. From his arrival until the first decade of the twentieth century, Heald was a prominent member of Osceola's business community. In addition to operating the dry goods store from 1875 to 1892, he engaged in a number of business ventures including a partnership in a lumber business, the operation of a roller skating rink, and ownership of a large warehouse on the levee.⁴

Heald was also a respected government official and an influential figure in the Polk County Republican Party. He served in several public capacities: County Treasurer (1866-70); Receiver of the U.S. Land Office in St. Croix Falls (1885-88); President of the Village of Osceola (1889-90); members of the County Board of Supervisors (1891-92); Clerk of the Circuit Court (1893-96); and Justice of the Peace (1897-1918). He also served as chairman of the Polk County Republican Central Committee for several years during the 1870s.

At the time of his death in October 1920, at the age of 93, the Osceola Sun declared that the county had lost "one of its strongest men in its history... (who) has taken part in almost every phase of the development of Polk County."⁵

Heald built the Italianate style house for \$3,500. When nearly completed, the Polk County Press informed its readers that the Heald House was a "palace" and "by far the finest and most costly home in town."⁶ Heald sold the house in 1892 (the same year he closed his dry goods business) and moved to a farm on the outskirts of town. Both the structures' Italianate design and brick construction are unique for Osceola, a community characterized by simple frame residential structures.

(The community's only other remaining 19th century, brick residence has been recently covered in stucco.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Polk County Press, 1875-1920.

Ericson, Timothy L., editor. Recollections of 1876: Polk County's First Written History. Published by the Polk County Historical Society, 1980.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Osceola Wis-Minn

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	5	2	3	2	7	0	5	0	1	8	7	2	5
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1 and 2, Block 7, Original Plat of the Village of Osceola

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark Haidet/ Research Historian

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date August 13, 1985

street & number 690 Cedar Street

telephone (612) 297-2849

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.


State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title DIRECTOR OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

date 08.22.1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register



date

12/2/85


Keeper of the National Register

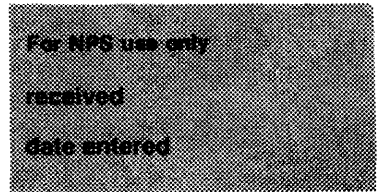
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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A.A. Heald House, Osceola, Polk County, WI
Continuation sheet Item number

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NOTES:

- ¹ Polk County Press, October 18, 1879; October 30, 1880.
- ² Polk County Press, February 7, 1880; October 30, 1880.
- ³ U.S. Census Records, 1890.
- ⁴ Polk County Press, February 18, 1882; February 17, 1883; December 20, 1884;
Osceola Sun, April 8, 1909.
- ⁵ Osceola Sun, October 7, 1920.
- ⁶ Polk County Press, October 30, 1880.

11. Form Prepared by

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