

# INVENTORY FORM FOR NOMINATED PROPERTIES

JUN 19 1985

Name of Property Commandant's Residence

Owner: Dept. of Veterans Affairs

Address: Wisconsin Veterans Home

Owner's Address: 77 N. Dickinson, Rm263

City: King, Wisconsin

County: Waupaca

Madison, WI

## 160 NRHP Certification Date (code)

- Listed in NRHP (LI)
- Determined eligible in DOE process (DD)
- Determined eligible in nomination process (DN)
- Additional documentation added to nomination (AI)
- Boundary increased (BI)
- Boundary decreased (BD)
- Delisted (DL)
- Property moved (PM)

## 215 Criteria Considerations

- religious property (A)
- moved property (B)
- birthplace or grave (C)
- cemetery (D)
- reconstructed property (E)
- commemorative property (F)
- less than 50 years old (G)

## 170 Thematic or Multiple Resource Nomination Name (code)

Historic Resources of the Wisconsin Veterans

180 NRHP List Name Commandant's Residence<sup>Home</sup>

## 220 Area of Significance (code)

architecture \_\_\_\_\_  
social history \_\_\_\_\_

## 230 Period of Significance (code)

c. 1890-1935

## 200 Level of Significance (code)

- national (NA)
- state (ST)
- local (LO)

60 Verbal Boundary Description Beginning at the intersection of the right of way lines of Marden Avenue and Wright Avenue, running west along an east-west line approximately  
\*below

## 190 District Classification (code)

- contributing (C)
- non-contributing (NC)

## 70 USGS Quad Map

King

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

16/328985/4911460

## 210 Applicable Criteria (code)

- event (A)
- person (B)
- architecture/engineering (C)
- information potential (D)

85 Listed Acreage less than one

340 Review Board Date April, 1985

\*10 feet from the south facade of the house, then intersection with a north-south line approximately 10 feet from the west facade of the house, along that line to the intersection of a line running between the house and the garage to the intersection with the right of way line along Wright Avenue, along this line to the point of beginning.

RECORD NUMBER: Commandant's Residence

ADDRESS: King, Wisconsin

**ARCHITECTURE**

450 Date of Construction (source) c. 1890 (C)

580 Roof Shape (code) hipped & gable

460 Date of Alterations/Additions (source) Unknown

590 Additional Description \_\_\_\_\_

480 Builder (source) \_\_\_\_\_

620 Condition (code)

   excellent  good    fair    poor    ruins

490 and 500 Designer Type and Name (source)

architect: William Waters (D)

650 Related Buildings (code)

Larger Cottages

   artist: \_\_\_\_\_

   engineer: \_\_\_\_\_

   interior designer: \_\_\_\_\_

   landscape architect: \_\_\_\_\_

   other: \_\_\_\_\_

**HISTORY**

510 Style or Form (code)

Queen Anne

Shingle

430 Common/Current Name Commandant's House

520 Building, Structure, Object or Site Type (code)

building

440 Historic Names (source) same (ABC)

530 Building Materials (code)

metal panels  
(roof)

rubble  
(foundation)

wood  
(trim)

660 Associated Individual(s) (dates) (source)

540 Interior Visited  Yes    No

670 Associated Events and 675 Dates (source)

550 Structural System (code) balloon-frame

680 Commercial/Industrial Historic Uses and 685 Dates (source)

555 Source for Structural System (code) site visit

560 Plan Configuration (code) irregular

570 Number of Stories 2.5

DESCRIPTION

Constructed c. 1890, the Commandant's House is a 2½ story rambling Queen Anne house with some Shingle style details. It is set into a hillside, exposing the basement story to the rear and side. A domed turret projects from a corner of the upper story and one-half. Several dormers project from the hipped portion of the roof, which is covered with pressed metal panels. The dome of the turret is covered with asphalt shingles. An enclosed veranda which begins in the center of the front facade continues around the entire rear of the house. The front entrance into the veranda is a wood and glass double door decorated with shutters and light fixtures of recent date. Above this entrance is a steeply pitched pediment with a stick-work pattern. The entire second floor is shingled in a fish-scale pattern, while other areas of the house have simple clapboard siding. The large front gable features a stick-work pediment over a double window, and at the peak of the gable is a large pediment over a bank of five small-paned windows. This pediment has had siding applied in a semi-circular pattern. The form of the massive front gable suggests the Shingle style which the architect often used in his residential designs. The house trim also resembles that of the larger cottages which were constructed from a design by the same architect, William Waters. All openings appear to be original, and are mainly sash windows, occasionally decorated by borders of small rectangular panes. Turret windows are all small-paned, 15 over 15 lights. Photos and an architect's drawing show this house to have a high degree of integrity, with few changes other than the enclosed porch.

The interior features of this house are also mostly original, although some remodeling has occurred. Most woodwork is painted, but visible, and includes simple symmetrical mouldings with corner blocks around doors and windows. Some wooden floors are exposed, but most of the house is carpeted. The first floor has a central, painted staircase, decorated with lattice-looking panels instead of balusters. There is a large parlor and some smaller rooms on this floor in an irregular plan. The second floor has a number of small bedrooms with (see back)

ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING SIGNIFICANCE

The Commandant's House is significant because it is a good example of an eclectic Queen Anne house in Wisconsin, possessing a high degree of preservation and integrity; and, because it is associated with the noted Wisconsin architect, William Waters. The Commandant's House has many characteristics of the then popular Queen Anne style: the turret, veranda, and general rambling asymmetry. The large front gable, shingling, and small-paned windows also suggest the Shingle style, a residential style which Waters used on many of his turn-of-the-century house designs. Waters designed other buildings in the home complex, . The only other remaining Waters' designs are the larger cottages in the Veterans Cottages Historic District. Waters was a regionally prominent architect who gained larger fame as the designer of the Wisconsin building for the 1893 Chicago World's Columbian Exposition. Many of his turn-of-the-century buildings are listed on the National Register, and he can be considered a significant Wisconsin architect.

Because of the high quality of preservation and integrity in this house, and because it is a good example of an eclectic Queen Anne residence, designed by a significant Wisconsin architect, the building is a significant part of the Historic Resources of the Wisconsin Veterans Home.

690 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

- A Hosea W. Rood and E. B. Earle. History of the Wisconsin Veterans Home 1886-1926. Madison: Democrat Printing Co., 1926.
- B "Wisconsin Veterans Home at King," Wisconsin Blue Book, 1962, pp. 221-230.
- C Wisconsin Veterans Home Building Inventory, April, 1978. On file, Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.
- D Grand Army of the Republic Department Encampment of the State of Wisconsin Proceedings, 24th Encampment, 1890.

DESCRIPTION (continued)

sinks, as the house was used often to house overnight guests. The basement has had some remodeling, but the dining room still features the original, built-in cabinets, albeit painted. The house is an elegant one, befitting the head of a large institution.

The garage is of recent construction and is considered non-contributing to the property.

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### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Commandant's Residence was built c. 1890 and was part of the original group of turn-of-the-century buildings constructed after the Grand Army of the Republic established the Wisconsin Veterans Home in 1887. While most historic buildings of its size have been demolished, the Commandant's Residence has remained in use as a residence until the present time.

(ABC)

### HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

As the only remaining large frame structure left from the Veteran's Home historic period, this building is significantly historically. Standing close to the cottages and residences of the original home complex, the Commandant's Residence represents the commitment the administration had toward making the complex a real community, where staff and residents lived together and worked together. When the home was less an institution than it is today, the Commandant and his wife played an integral part in the day-to-day lives of the members of the community, and it was only appropriate that they would live close to the people they served. It also represents the tradition of the highest levels of administration living on the grounds, as a benefit of their position. Because of these reasons, the Commandant's Residence is a significant landmark on the grounds of the home.