

INVENTORY FORM FOR NOMINATED PROPERTIES

Name of property: Alexander Mitchell House

Address: 900 West Wisconsin Avenue

City: Milwaukee

Owner: Wisconsin Club

Owner's address: 900 West Wisconsin Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53233

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

160 NRHP Certification (date)

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

170 Thematic or Multiple Resource Nomination Name (code)

180 NRHP List Name Alexander Mitchell House

190 Level of Significance

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

200 District Classification

- ☐ pivotal (P)
- ☐ contributing (C)
- ☐ non-contributing (NC)

210 Applicable Criteria

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

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)

220 Area of Significance (code)

Architecture Social/humanitarian

Significant individual

230 Period of Significance

c.1848-1934

340 Review Board Date

70 USGS Quad Map

SW/4 Milwaukee 7.5 min 1:24,000

80 UTM Coordinates (Format: 99-999999-999999)

16-424750-4765410

85 Listed Acreage 2.7 acres

60 Verbal Boundary Description Smith Addition (George) in

NW' quarter Sec 29-7-22, block 179, all of block
179 except east 25 feet.

Street

ARCHITECTURE

450 Date of Construction (source)

c.1848 (Buck - Milw. Under the Charter, p. 113)

460 Dates of Alterations/Additions (source)

1872, 1876 (MS 3/4/1872, 4/12/1876; 1905, 1937, 1942,
1965(A))

480 Builder (source) Morgan E. Smith-John Bentley (Buck p. 113)

490 and 500 Designer Type and Name (source)

X architect: E.T. Mix (1876) (MS 4/12/1876)

___ artist: _____

___ engineer: _____

___ interior designer: _____

X landscape architect: Pollard (4/17/1874)

___ other: (Mantlepieces) Gustav Haug (MS 6/9/1877)

510 Style or Form (code)

Second Empire

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

House Lodge

530 Building Materials (code) _____ (roof)

Slate _____ (foundation)

Brick _____ (trim)

540 Interior Visited X Yes ___ No

550 Structural System (code) _____

560 Plan Configuration (code) Rectangular with additions

Address

570 Number of Stories

3

580 Roof Shape (code)

Mansard

590 Additional Description _____

620 Condition

X excellent ___ good ___ fair ___ poor ___ ruins

650 Related Buildings (code)

ReGazebo

HISTORY

430 Common/Current Name Wisconsin Club

440 Historic Names (source) Alexander Mitchell Residence (B)

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

Alexander Mitchell (c. 1848-1887)(B) Mrs. Martha

Mitchell (1887-1895)(MS 1/22/1895, 2/3/1895) Deutscher
Club (1895-present)(B) (Named changed to Wisc. Club

670 Associated Event (source) during WWI

680 Commercial/Industrial Historic Uses (source)

STREET: West Wisconsin Avenue

NUMBER: 900

SHSW INTENSIVE SURVEY FORM

LOCATION

10 County Milwaukee
20 City or Village Milwaukee
30 Civil Town _____
35 Unincorporated Community _____
40 Location 900 West Wisconsin Avenue
50 Town-Range-Section _____
55 Quarter Sections _____
60 Verbal Boundary Description Smith's addition (George) in
NW quarter Sec 29-7-22, block 179, all of block
179 except east 25 feet.

PROGRAM REVIEW

250 Tax Case Number _____
260 Compliance Case Number _____
270 A or D Grant ☐ Yes ☐ No
275 Covenant/Easement Dates _____
320 Ownership
☒ private (P)
☐ local-public (L)
☐ state-public (S)
☐ federal-public (F)
☐ mixed, private-public (M)
330 Lead Agency (code) _____

SURVEY

90 Photo Codes MI 104-21, 22, 23, 24, & 25
100 Survey Map 391
110 Map Code 104-21
120 Reconnaissance Survey Date 1979
130 Reconnaissance Surveyor Wenger/Hunton/Jensen
140 Intensive Survey Name (code) Westside
150 Intensive Surveyor Wenger/Hatala
155 Intensive Survey FY 1983
235 Survey Evaluation
☒ eligible (E) ☐ not eligible (N)
237 Survey District Classification
☐ pivotal (P) ☐ non-contributing (NC)
☐ contributing (C)
240 Survey Level of Significance
☒ national (NA) ☐ local (LO)
☐ state (ST)
243 Survey Evaluation Criteria
☐ event (A) ☒ architectural/engineering (C)
☒ person (B) ☐ information potential (D)
245 Proposed District _____
280 NHL Date _____
290 HABS No. _____ 300 HAER No. _____
310 Local Landmark (code) _____
315 Associated Archeological Site(s) _____

DESCRIPTION

The Mitchell House occupies a full city block of landscaped grounds surrounded by a tall iron fence with carved limestone posts (1871). In addition to the mature trees and shrubs, there is a highly ornate, wooden, Victorian, scrollsaw-ornamented octagonal, pagoda-roofed, summer house (1871). This small structure with its limestone foundations, wealth of intricate sawn decoration, and frosted glass windows is probably one of the finest such buildings to survive intact in the United States. The northern portion of the lot behind the house is a paved parking area.

The Alexander Mitchell House itself is a rambling 2-1/2 story, brick, slate mansard-roofed mansion. The present structure is the result of a series of remodellings and enlargements made to an earlier house erected about 1848. Its present appearance is the result of a drastic remodelling of the old house carried out in 1876-77 and the addition of a huge club wing in 1905.

The house portion of the building is an asymmetrical, Second Empire style brick mansion with extensive exterior trim including elaborate window caps, cornices, bay windows, dormers, porches and roof trim. The bay windows on the Wisconsin Avenue facade were added in 1872. The most distinctive feature of the main elevation (south) is the five-story, mansard-roofed, entrance tower built in 1876. On the east elevation, a deep, Italianate, wooden porch extends across the full width of the first story. It has been enclosed, but the columns and cornice detailing survive intact. The north elevation (rear) is not architecturally articulated.

The club wing, constructed in 1905, is a brick, 76 foot long slate mansard-roofed structure adjoining the main house to the west. Although designed to blend with the old mansion, it is of simple design and lacks the rich detailing of the house. Symmetrically arranged, unornamented fenestration enlivens the south elevation, which is fronted by a plain modern porch with trellis style supports. The west and north elevations are utilitarian design and lack architectural articulation. Subsequent additions and changes to the 1905 wing include raising the roof for a new ballroom in 1937; a

(Continued)

ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mitchell House is architecturally significant as the finest remaining Second Empire style mansion in Milwaukee. The house, survives largely intact amidst its original setting on a full city block of landscaped grounds ornamented with an extraordinarily elaborate Victorian summer house that is probably one of the finest such structures of its period surviving in America. The house is a major work of master architect Edward Townsend Mix, a major nineteenth-century Wisconsin architect.

690 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES (SOURCES)

- A. Buck, James S. Pioneer History of Milwaukee. Vol. I: 1833-1841. Milwaukee: Milwaukee News Co., 1876
- B. _____. Milwaukee Under the Charter 1847-1853 Inclusive. Milwaukee: Symes, Swain and Co. 1884
- C. Leonard, David Blake. A Biography of Alexander Mitchell (1817-1887). Unpublished Masters Thesis, University of Wisconsin, 1951.
- D. Milwaukee. City Building Permits. 1905-1965.
- E. Milwaukee. City Directory, 1894.

700 STUDY UNITS (CODE)

Bibliography Cont.

- F. Milwaukee. County Deeds, 1848-1898.
- G. Milwaukee Sentinel, 1870-1895.
- H. Ogden, Marion G., Homes of Old Spring Street. Milwaukee: Hammersmith-Kortmeyer Co. [1944].
- I. _____. Homes of Old Spring Street. 2nd Edition. Milwaukee: Hammersmith-Kortmeyer Co., 1946.
- J. Smith, Alice E., "Banking without Banks: George Smith and the Wisconsin Marine and Fire Insurance Company," Wisconsin Magazine of History, Vol. 48 No. 4 (Summer, 1965), pp. 268-281.
- K. _____ The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography, Vol. I. New York: James T. White & Co., 1898, p. 362.
- L. Wilson, James Grant and Fiske, John, eds. Appletons' Cyclopaedia of American Biography, Vol. IV. New York: D. Appleton and Co., 1888, p. 342.
- M. Malone, Dumas, ed. Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. XIII, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1934, pp. 39, 40.
- O. Flowers, Frank. History of Milwaukee. Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1881, PP. 1499-1500.
- P. Whitney, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (deceased). Los Angeles: New Age Pub., 1956, pp. 423-24.

Description Cont.

one-story addition to the rear in 1942, and two storage rooms and a toilet to the rear in 1946. (D)

The exterior of the house portion of the building has been little altered since 1876. The enclosure of the side (east) porch in 1965, the removal of the parapet balustrade from the entrance porch and the addition of a steel fire escape with related conversion of the third floor tower window to an emergency exit door on the front of the tower are the major changes. In addition, the entire structure has been painted white. Various small ornamental features including decorative balustrades, finials and crestings have been removed from the original house. (C).

Prior to the erection of the 1905 wing there were extensive greenhouses and a conservatory that extended from the west elevation of the house to 10th Street and then south along the west perimeter of the lot to Wisconsin Avenue. The conservatory was that portion directly west of the house and the greenhouse extended along 10th Street. Also in the southwest corner of the property was a pond and fountain. At the edge of this feature was a small, rectangular unidentified out building. To the rear of the property, at the northwest corner, was a one-story carpenter's shop. Other accounts also indicate that an ice house, carriage barn and windmill were also sited on the lot. All of these structures were razed many years ago.

Historical Background

Alexander Mitchell (1817-1887) emigrated to Milwaukee in 1839 from Scotland where he had studied law and banking. Mitchell came to Milwaukee at the request of fellow Scotsman, George Smith to manage his newly formed Wisconsin Marine and Fire Insurance Company. Because of a special provision in the company's charter, they were able to accept deposits and issue certificates of deposit as a regular bank would. This was interpreted by the territorial legislature as a violation of the anti-banking laws of the period, but Mitchell withstood these attacks and by 1852, the company had amassed over \$1.4 million in assets which were instrumental in promoting the economic development of the old Northwest Territory. In 1853 the state laws were changed to allow state-chartered banks and the company was reorganized as the Wisconsin Marine and Fire Insurance Company Bank (today's Marine National Bank) with Mitchell as president. In 1854 Mitchell purchased Smith's remaining interest in the company and became its primary owner. Mitchell was elected as the first president of the Wisconsin Bankers Association in 1858 and was credited with saving dozens of Wisconsin banks against default during the Civil War by assigning approximately a million dollars worth of Wisconsin War Bonds against depreciating southern state notes held by the Wisconsin banks. In 1861 Mitchell became one of the commissioners of the public debt of Milwaukee, a position he held for almost 25 years. He devised a scheme that readjusted the interest payments at a lower rate and saved the city from default. Mitchell's achievements as a banker of regional importance and power during the early years of Wisconsin statehood cannot be understated. Mitchell utilized much of his privately amassed wealth to invest in numerous industrial enterprises, including his role as one of the largest local investors in the Milwaukee Iron Co. (Bay View Rolling Mills). Mitchell's most notable achievement in business was his involvement with the regional railroads. He had been a director and stockholder in the state's earliest railroad ventures, including the Milwaukee and Mississippi and the La Crosse and Milwaukee railroads. In 1865 he purchased the nearly bankrupt Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company and reorganized it into a profitable venture by the following year. He gradually merged other railroads into his company, which grew from 270 miles of track in 1866 to over 5,000 miles in seven states by 1887. It was reported in several sources that

Historical Statement of Significance

The Alexander Mitchell Residence is historically significant both for its associations with Wisconsin financier and industrialist Alexander Mitchell and as the home of the Wisconsin Club. Alexander Mitchell was an important pioneer businessman and politician who was instrumental in establishing one of the state's first strong banking institutions, and for his role in creating the largest railroad system in the country under one ownership in the nineteenth century. He was also elected to two terms of the U.S. Congress and wielded significant power in state politics during his life. The Wisconsin Club has long been important as social center for Milwaukee's professional and business elite, especially in the late 19th and early 20th century German-American community in the city.

(contin.)

Historical Background Cont.

this railroad, the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad (renamed in 1874), was one of the largest corporations in the country. In addition, he had extensive real estate interests and was a major investor in a number of other business ventures. By 1870, when he was elected to Congress to represent Wisconsin's Fourth District, he was the wealthiest man in Wisconsin. Mitchell was responsible for hiring master architect Edward Townsend Mix to design some of the most impressive buildings in the city for him, including the magnificent Mackie and Mitchell Buildings (still extant, listed in the National Register 4/3/73) as well as the Milwaukee Road Depot (razed). (J,K,L,M).

Mitchell's association with the nominated property began in 1848 when he acquired part of the present site facing North Ninth Street. He immediately erected a brick house and was living there with his wife, Martha, by 1850. In 1859 the house was remodelled in the fashionable Italianate style. Over the years, Mitchell aggressively enlarged his property. He erected large green houses adjacent to his residence to accommodate his growing interest in horticulture. Eventually, the greenhouses and landscaping became something of a tourist attraction. By 1870 the complex encompassed over 15,000 square feet of glass and was over 500 feet in length.

By 1876, as Mitchell was approaching the zenith of his wealth, he had succeeded in acquiring the homes of most of his neighbors on the block and had the houses either razed or moved off the site. The grounds were consolidated with his own. In 1871, for example, he built the summer house and the existing elaborate fence around the property and moved the carriage entrance to its present Wisconsin Avenue location after acquiring the old S.C. West House. (G,H,I)

In 1874 he bought the former A.D Smith House and thus obtained possession of the entire frontage on Wisconsin Avenue between North Ninth and North 10th Streets. With the frontage secured, Mitchell extended his gardens and greenhouses and employed architect E.T. Mix to enlarge and remodel the existing house into an opulent mansion in the then fashionable Second Empire style. Work continued into 1877 before the interior decorating was complete. It was at this time that the tower, much of the trim and the mansard roofs were added and the entrance was moved to face Wisconsin Avenue. The former entrance on Ninth Street became a side porch.

Mitchell continued to improve his showplace estate and to take a lively interest in his increasingly elaborate greenhouses. An ice house (1880) (razed) and a substantial carriage house (1881) (razed) were erected as out-buildings. The interior of the mansion was consistently described as palatial in contemporary accounts. Imported Italian velvets and brocade covered the walls, which were hung with multitudes of Victorian oil paintings. Although most accounts described the interiors as dazzlingly rich & ornate, it was the extensive greenhouse and conservatory complex that adjoined the house to the west which provoked the most wonder in visitors.

(Continued)

Historical Background Cont. (2)

The Mitchell House was regarded as Milwaukee's finest residence throughout the 1870's and 1880's. As a result, many distinguished visitors were entertained there, including President Chester A. Arthur in 1882. The aging Mitchells, however, were spending an increasingly large part of the year at their southern home, Villa Alexandria, near Jacksonville, Florida. It was after wintering there that Mitchell died in New York City in April of 1887 at seventy years of age.

After Mitchell's death, Mrs. Mitchell inherited the Milwaukee house. Since she was living more-or-less year round at the Florida estate, she transferred ownership of the mansion to her son John L. Mitchell. It is unlikely that the younger Mitchell occupied the house, since he already had a large residence of his own. Eventually, after years of standing vacant, the Mitchell s rented the house to the Deutscher Club, now the Wisconsin Club.

The Deutscher Club had been established in July of 1891 to provide fellowship and companionship for the city's affluent German-American businessmen. The group first met in the Nunnemacher Grand Opera House building on East Wells Street, predecessor to the Pabst Theater. This building burned in January of 1895 making it necessary for them to find a new home. The desire to have an opulent, comfortable club house was very strong among the Deutscher Club's membership of wealthy German-American businessmen. Other groups, such as the Milwaukee Club and Phoenix Club, had already built substantial and expensive clubhouses to house their well-to-do memberships and the Deutscher Club felt the need to have similarly impressive quarters.

In 1895 the club was able to lease the Mitchell House for \$2,000 a year. For the Deutscher Club it was quite a coup. Not only was the house one of the finest in the city, but its owner had been one of Milwaukee's leading citizens and co-founder of the exclusive, Yankee-dominated Milwaukee Club, the Deutscher Club's chief rival. Rooms were available for rental to bachelormembers and possession of the finest clubhouse in the city added immeasurably to the club's prestige, resulting in increased membership.

Mrs. Mitchell and her grandson, David Ferguson Mitchell sold the property to the Deutscher Club for \$165,000 in 1898. The club has maintained the propety with some modifications. The conservatory and greenhouses to the west of the main house were razed and replaced with a dining hall and bowling alleys in 1906. The Moorish smoking room, main staircase and woodwork on the ground floor of the mansion have remained intact, although the upper floor rooms have been considerably remodelled. The club, which was organized purely for social purposes as a businessmen's club, changed its name to the Wisconsin Club during World War I and continues today as an exclusive private club (C).

Edward Townsend Mix (b. 1831 - d. 1890) was born and educated at New Haven, CT. Mix moved to Milwaukee in 1856 to supervise the construction of a residence, and on its completion decided to remain in the City. A number of his early works were built in Chicago, planned in association with W.W. Boyington. While in Milwaukee during the 1880s he practiced jointly with W.A. Holbrook. Among the more important commissions were the Chamber of

(Continued)

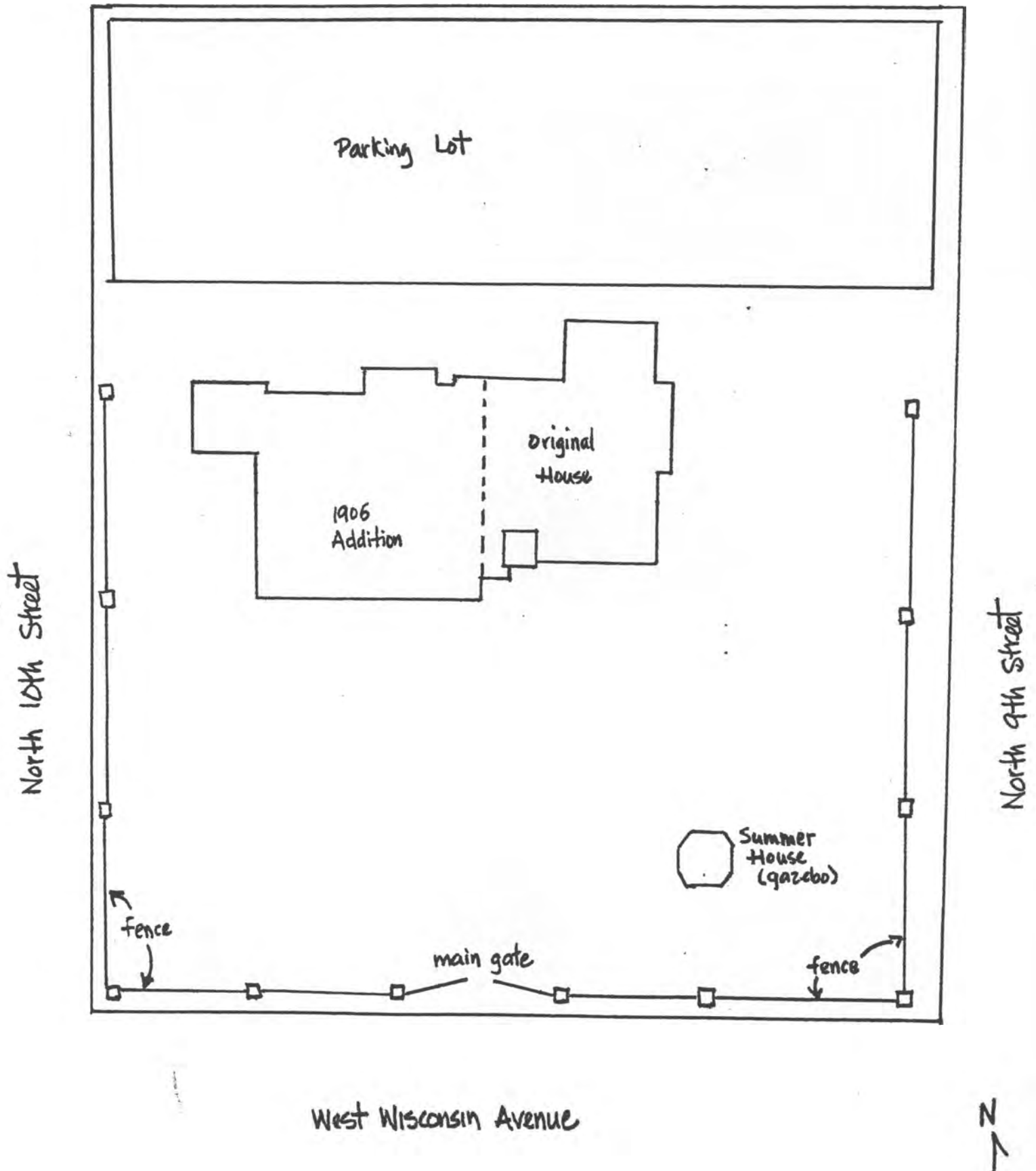
Historical Background Cont. (3)

Commerce Building (Mackie Building) and the Mitchell Building; All Saints Episcopal Cathedral; St. Paul's Episcopal Church; Immanuel Presbyterian Church (all listed in the National Register). He designed many important residences including the Robert P. Fitzgerald House, 1119 North Marshall Street (Historic American Buildings Survey) and the Judge Jason Downer House, 1201 North Prospect Avenue (Historic American Buildings Survey). The Mitchell House is one of two surviving second empire style houses designed by Mix in the state and largest extant residence he executed in Milwaukee. Shortly before his death in 1890, Mix moved to Minneapolis where he executed a number of large and important commissions. (O,P)

ALEXANDER MITCHELL HOUSE
(WISCONSIN CLUB)

-900 W. Wisconsin Ave.

West Wells Street



United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 6/27/85

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name West Side Area Multiple Resource Area
State Milwaukee County, WISCONSIN

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Concordia Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melvyn Byers 7/30/85

2. Highland Boulevard Historic
DistrictEntered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melvyn Byers 7/30/85

3. McKinley Boulevard Historic
DistrictEntered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melvyn Byers 7/30/85

4. Harley-Davidson Motorcycle
Factory Buildings

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Eligible - Beth Grosvenor 7/29/86

5. Harnischferger, Henry, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Eligible - Beth Grosvenor 1/14/86

6. Mitchell, Alexander, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Eligible - Beth Grosvenor 1/16/86

7. Sovereign Apartments

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Eligible - Beth Grosvenor 1/16/86

8. Eagles Club

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Beth Grosvenor 7/29/86

9. Kilbourn Avenue Row
House Historic DistrictEntered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melvyn Byers 7/25/86

10. Abresch, Charles, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melvyn Byers 1/16/86

86003852

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Substantive Review

Mitchell, Alexander, House (West Side Area MRA)
Milwaukee County
WISCONSIN

Working No. DEC 2 1985

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: 1/16/86

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 1-16-86

☐ RETURN

☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☒ owner objection
☐ appeal

Determined Eligible

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria Eligible - A, B, C

Reviewer G. J. J. J.

Discipline Historic

Date 1/16/86

see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____

Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☒ applicable criteria
☐ justification of areas checked
☐ relating significance to the resource
☐ context
☐ relationship of integrity to significance
☐ justification of exception
☐ other

A was justified in the text, but not checked in the inventory form

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

X 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☒ national ☐ state ☐ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____

date _____

Significance on the nat'l level has not been adequately justified w/i context. Local & state significance are justified.

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
☐ Photographs
☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



July 9, 2012

Carol Shull
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)
Washington DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

The Alexander Mitchell House (Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, NRIS #86003852) was determined eligible due to owner objection on January 16, 1986. The owner of the building, the Wisconsin Club, now wishes to lift the objection to the listing. A notarized certificate from the club Secretary and a resolution by the Board of Directors supporting the lifting of the objection are enclosed. Staff review indicates that the property continues to retain those qualities for which it was listed.

Because of the change in sentiment by the property owner, we request that the Owner Objection be removed and that the Alexander Mitchell House be officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

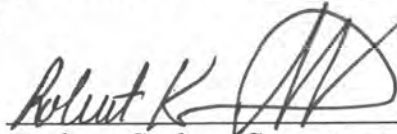
If you have any questions, please contact Daina Penkiunas of my staff at 608-264-6501 or daina.penkiunas@wisconsinhistory.org.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Stevens
State Historic Preservation Officer
Administrator, Division of Historic Preservation-Public History
608/264-6464
michael.stevens@wisconsinhistory.org

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

The undersigned, Robert Stelter, hereby certifies that he is the duly elected and acting Secretary of the Wisconsin Club, Inc., a Wisconsin nonstock corporation (the "Corporation"), and does further certify that attached hereto as Exhibit I is true, correct and complete copy of a resolution of the Board of Directors of the Corporation effective, as of 6/27/12 and that such resolution has not been amended, rescinded or revoked and is in full force and effect as of the date hereof.


Robert Stelter, Secretary

State of Wisconsin)
 : SS
Milwaukee County)

Subscribed and sworn before me by Robert Stelter on
June 27th, 2012.

(Seal)

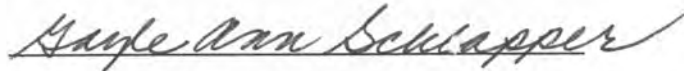

(Gayle Ann Schlapper)
Notary Public, State of Wisconsin
My commission:
7/19/2015

EXHIBIT "I"

Corporate Resolution Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Club, Inc.

Whereas the Mitchel Mansion and the adjacent Gazebo , both of which are currently owned by the Club's subsidiary, Wisconsin City Club Holdings LLC ("City Holdings") and located at 900 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203 (essentially all of Block 179, except for the east 25 feet) (the "Properties") had, in 1986, been determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, (Wisconsin Historical Society's Architecture/History Inventory numbers 41848 [Exhibit "A"] and 27251 respectively) and ,

Whereas neither of these Properties were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986 solely because of the objection of the owner, the Wisconsin Club, Inc. (the "Club") [Exhibit "B"] and,

Whereas the Club now believes that it is in the best interests of the Club and the community to have the Properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places,

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Club, as the sole member of City Holdings, hereby authorizes and approves the listing of the Properties on the National Register of Historic Places, and

That the Club sends a certified copy of this resolution to Dr. Michael Stevens, State Historic Preservation Officer, Wisconsin Historical Society, 816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706 requesting that the Properties be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and

That the President of the Club, on behalf of the Club and City Holdings, be and is hereby authorized to take any and all such other additional steps as may be necessary to complete this listing.

EXHIBIT A

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

Rejected by State Antiquity Committee 8/27/70 bcca

W.S. Club objects to being included in National Register

STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Milwaukee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: Wisconsin Club	
AND/OR HISTORIC: Alexander Mitchell House	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 900 West Wisconsin Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Milwaukee			
STATE Wisconsin	CODE 53233	COUNTY: Milwaukee	CODE 079

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Private Social Club

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	
OWNER'S NAME: Wisconsin Club	
STREET AND NUMBER: 900 West Wisconsin Avenue	
CITY OR TOWN: Milwaukee	STATE: Wisconsin
	CODE 48

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Milwaukee County Courthouse	
STREET AND NUMBER: 601 North 9th Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Milwaukee	STATE: Wisconsin
	CODE 48

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE OF SURVEY: None	
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:
	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Wisconsin	COUNTY: Milwaukee	FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER		
DATE		

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Besides the enormousness of the house, the outstanding external features are the distinct differences in architectural style of the main components. The original house is vaguely described by Buck, stating only that, "He [Mitchell]...had built and occupied in 1848 the plain brick house...which, with many alterations and additions, and with a very great enlargement of the grounds, continued to be his homestead as long as he lived [1887]."¹

The oldest part of the house and an early addition to it look nearly the same today as in 1877. The principal house is a tasteful, cleanly designed, two-story light brick building with a heavy mansard roof. The varied treatments of openings with gables, pediments, and lintels, and the use of bracketed cornices and decorative carvings on friezes, reflect some of the better aspects of Victorian eclecticism. This is undoubtedly attributable to noted Milwaukee architect Edward Townsend Mix, who, in an 1877 advertisement, lists the residence of Hon. Alexander Mitchell among his works to date (though Mix was only sixteen or seventeen when the house was built in 1848), and advertises the date of establishment of his architectural firm in Milwaukee as 1856. Evidently Mix designed some of the "many alterations and additions" mentioned by Buck.

The first major addition was a square, tower-like wing with three full stories surmounted by an ornate cupola with a high mansard roof which matches that of the house. Around the base of the cupola roof is a balustraded walk and on the deck of the roof is a lace-iron balustraded widow's walk. On each face of the cupola roof is a large, elliptical ornament. These two components, house and tower, remain as they appear in an 1877 illustration of the property.² At a later time a wide veranda, supported by fluted Ionic columns on pedestals, was added, extending across the entire width of the house at what was originally the front end, facing east. The tower addition, however, had a small vestibule with a doorway facing south, and eventually the south side became the front.

The most recent and least attractive addition is a great, two-story terminal wing with a variation of the mansard roof which at least maintains a degree of consistency in roof structure of the house as a whole. The south side of this wing is built out over a porte-cochere with round-arched openings at either end and along the side. A gable-roofed balustraded second story portico, semicircular in shape, provides direct access to the second floor entryway. There is a stairway from ground level to the portico. In general this entire addition is plain and unattractive and does nothing to enhance or even fit in with the earlier architecture; its effect is largely the opposite.

The property occupies an entire city block, has well-kept grounds surrounded by a stone wall with an iron rail on top, and is extensively covered with trees and shrubs so that the house is quite well obscured from ground-level view. In the south lawn still stands an excessively ornate pavilion which was on the grounds before 1877. (See appended photo.)

¹Buck, James S., *Pioneer History of Milwaukee...*, etc., p. 288.

²Harger, Charles B., *Milwaukee Illustrated*, p. 22.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1839-1887

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Alexander Mitchell, probably Wisconsin's most outstanding financier of the 19th century, came to Milwaukee from Scotland in 1839, at twenty-two, to become secretary of the Wisconsin Marine and Fire Insurance Company, which was founded by a Chicago capitalist and fellow Scotsman, George Smith. Although banking was not yet legal, the company was primarily a bank in its operations, issuing certificates of deposit which circulated widely and "were credited with helping to stabilize the currency needs of the Northwest."¹

From 1839 until Wisconsin passed a free banking law in 1853, Mitchell successfully avoided attempts by the legislature, rivals, and conspirators to force the company out of business. In 1853 he reorganized the company and chartered it as the Wisconsin Marine and Fire Insurance Company Bank, the state's first chartered bank. He acquired ownership of the bank from Smith in 1854; in 1858 he became the first president of the Wisconsin Bankers' Association.

During the Civil War, Mitchell was credited with saving many of Wisconsin's banks from failure through the simple suggestion that Wisconsin insurance companies be obliged to add Wisconsin bonds to their securities.² The plan was highly successful. "Competition brought them up to par and the bank foundation stood sure."³

Mitchell became increasingly prominent in capital investment enterprises, but is remembered primarily as a railroad builder and executive. After promoting and holding stock in many early Wisconsin railroad ventures, Mitchell in 1865 became president of the virtually bankrupt Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Co. Within a year he had the company on a paying basis, and between 1866 and Mitchell's death in 1887 the railroad's track mileage increased from 270 to more than 5,000; it was operating in seven states and had become one of the nation's major railroads. In 1874 it was renamed the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. Mitchell remained its president until he died.

Active in state and national politics, Mitchell, a Democrat, was elected to Congress in 1870 and again in 1872. He did not seek office again in 1874 and in 1877 declined the Democratic nomination for governor. He served in Milwaukee city government and civic affairs, always ready to make his financial expertise available to benefit local and state society.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Mitchell, Alexander," in Wisconsin Dictionary of Biography, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1960, 256-7.
 Buck, James S., "Alexander Mitchell," Pioneer History of Milwaukee...with a Topographical Description, Swain & Tate, Milwaukee, 1890, 285-94.
 Harger, Charles B. Milwaukee Illustrated, n.p., [1877], 22, 108.
 Derleth, August, The Milwaukee Road, Creative Age Press, New York, 1948, passim.
 Butler, James D., "Alexander Mitchell, The Financier," Wisconsin Historical Collections, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1888, 11: 435-50.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	0			0			N 43° 02' 22"	W 87° 55' 25"
NE	0			0				
SE	0			0				
SW	0			0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3.0

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Donald N. Anderson, Assistant Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

5/27/70

STREET AND NUMBER:

816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

CODE

48

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Wisconsin	
COUNTY Milwaukee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

WISCONSIN CLUB

8. "Through his wealth, railroad power, and political connections, Mitchell was for many years one of the most powerful figures in the Midwest."⁴

The Mitchell home, built in 1848 and remaining on its original site, is one of Milwaukee's most famous landmarks.

¹Wisconsin Dictionary of Biography, 256.

²Butler, Wisconsin Historical Collections, 11:445

³Ibid.

⁴Wisconsin Dictionary of Biography, 257

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

*1/10/1969 dropped. W.S. Club (Deutschen)
discontinued since Nat. Reg. recognition*

STATE	
Wisconsin	
COUNTY	
Milwaukee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Wisconsin Club			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Alexander Mitchell House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
900 West Wisconsin Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Milwaukee			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Wisconsin	48	Milwaukee	079
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7½' Quadrangle, Milwaukee, Wis.			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1958			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Wisconsin	
COUNTY Milwaukee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Wisconsin Club			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Alexander Mitchell House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 900 West Wisconsin Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Milwaukee			
STATE: Wisconsin	CODE 48	COUNTY: Milwaukee	CODE 079
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Milwaukee Commercial Photographers, Inc.			
DATE OF PHOTO: c. 1935			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Alexander Mitchell House, east elevation. Original house is that portion at eastern end with wide, Ionic colonnaded verandah. (Heavier foliage and other physical conditions preclude photography of more recent vintage that would give as good an overall view of the massive house.)			

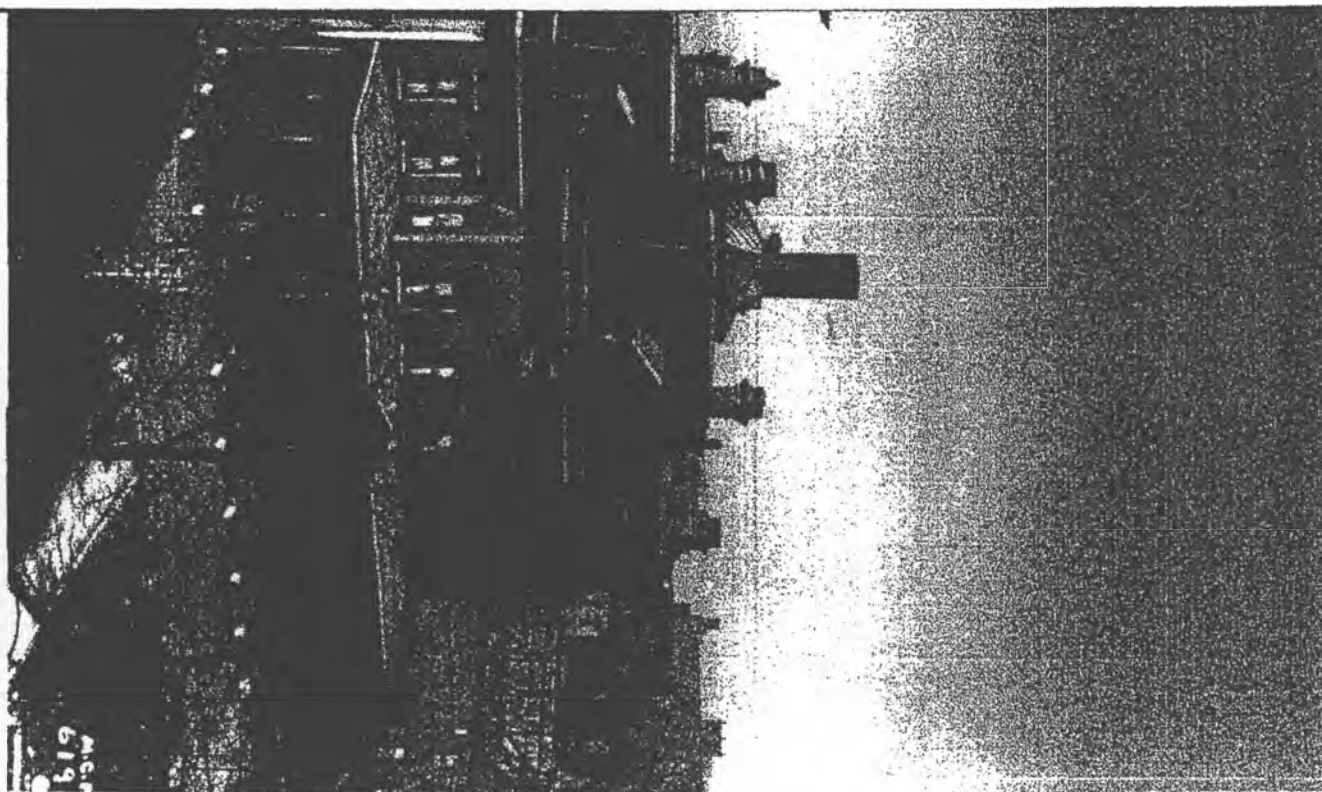


EXHIBIT B

Seal

1985.

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 27th day of June,

Roger S. Bessey

Roger S. Bessey

I, Roger S. Bessey, Secretary of the Wisconsin Club, do hereby certify that the above motion was made and passed by the Board of Directors of said Club at its regular meeting held at the Club on June 26, 1985.

Letter dated June 17, 1985 with attachments from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Historic Preservation Division, reviewed. After discussion, moved and seconded that the Club Secretary be authorized and directed to submit notarized objection to prevent listing of the "Alexander Mitchell House" in the National Register of Historic Places. Motion carried unanimously.

INVENTORY FORM FOR NOMINATED PROPERTIES

Name of property: Alexander Mitchell House
 Address: 900 West Wisconsin Avenue
 City: Milwaukee

Owner: Wisconsin Club
 Owner's address: 900 West Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53233

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- 160 NRHP Certification (date)
☐ Listed in NRHP (LI)
☐ Determined eligible in DOE process (DD)
☒ 5-16-85 Determined eligible in nomination process (DN)
☐ Additional documentation added to nomination (AD)
☐ Boundary increased (BI)
☐ Boundary decreased (BD)
☐ Delisted (DL)

170 Thematic or Multiple Resource Nomination Name (code)

180 NRHP List Name Alexander Mitchell House

190 Level of Significance

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

200 District Classification

- ☐ pivotal (P)
☐ contributing (C)
☐ non-contributing (NC)

210 Applicable Criteria

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

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)

220 Area of Significance (code)

Architecture Social/humanitarian
 Significant individual

230 Period of Significance

c. 1848-1934

340 Review Board Date

70 USGS Quad Map

SW/4 Milwaukee 7.5 min 1:24,000

80 UTM Coordinates (Format: 99-999999-999999)

16-449750-4765410

85 Listed Acreage 2.7 acres

60 Verbal Boundary Description Smith Addition (George) in

NE quarter Sec 29-7-22, block 179, all of block 179 except east 25 feet.

450 Date of Construction (source)

c.1848 (Buck - Milw. Under the Charter, p. 113)

460 Dates of Alterations/Additions (source)

1872, 1876 (MS 3/4/1872, 4/12/1876; 1905, 1937, 1942, 1965(A))

480 Builder (source) Morgan E. Smith-John Bentley (Buck p. 113)

490 and 500 Designer Type and Name (source)

X architect: E.T. Mix (1876)(MS 4/12/1876)

— artist: _____

— engineer: _____

— interior designer: _____

X landscape architect: Pollard (4/17/1874)

— other: (Mantlepieces) Gustav Haug (MS 6/9/1877)

510 Style or Form (code)

Second Empire

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

House Lodge

530 Building Materials (code) _____ (roof)

Slate _____ (foundation)

Brick _____ (trim)

540 Interior Visited X Yes — No

550 Structural System (code) _____

560 Plan Configuration (code) Rectangular with additions

3

Mansard

590 Additional Description _____

620 Condition

X excellent — good — fair — poor — ruins

650 Related Buildings (code)

Gazebo

HISTORY

430 Common/Current Name Wisconsin Club

440 Historic Names (source) Alexander Mitchell Residence (B)

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

Alexander Mitchell (c. 1848-1887)(B) Mrs. Martha

Mitchell (1887-1895)(MS 1/22/1895, 2/3/1895) Deutscher Club (1895-pres ent)(B) (Named changed to Wisc. Club during WWI)

670 Associated Event (source)

680 Commercial/Industrial Historic Uses (source)

STREET: West Wisconsin Avenue

NUMBER: 900

SHSW INTENSIVE SURVEY FORM

LOCATION

10 County Milwaukee

20 City or Village Milwaukee

30 Civil Town _____

35 Unincorporated Community _____

40 Location 900 West Wisconsin Avenue

50 Town-Range-Section _____

55 Quarter Sections _____

60 Verbal Boundary Description Smith's addition (George) in NW quarter Sec 29-7-22, block 179, all of block 179 except east 25 feet.

PROGRAM REVIEW

250 Tax Case Number _____

260 Compliance Case Number _____

270 A or D Grant — Yes — No

275 Covenant/Easement Dates _____

320 Ownership

X private (P)
— local-public (L)
— state-public (S)
— federal-public (F)
— mixed, private-public (M)

330 Lead Agency (code) _____

SURVEY

90 Photo Codes MI 104-21, 22, 23, 24, & 25

100 Survey Map 391

110 Map Code 104-21

120 Reconnaissance Survey Date 1979

130 Reconnaissance Surveyor Wenger/Hunton/Jensen

140 Intensive Survey Name (code) Westside

150 Intensive Surveyor Wenger/Hatala

155 Intensive Survey FY 1983

235 Survey Evaluation

X eligible (E) — not eligible (N)

237 Survey District Classification

— pivotal (P) — non-contributing (NC)
— contributing (C)

240 Survey Level of Significance

X national (NA) — local (LO)
— state (ST)

245 Survey Evaluation Criteria

X architectural/engineering (C)

DESCRIPTION

The Mitchell House occupies a full city block of landscaped grounds surrounded by a tall iron fence with carved limestone posts (1871). In addition to the mature trees and shrubs, there is a highly ornate, wooden, Victorian, scrollsaw-ornamented octagonal, pagoda-roofed, summer house (1871). This small structure with its limestone foundations, wealth of intricate sawn decoration, and frosted glass windows is probably one of the finest such buildings to survive intact in the United States. The northern portion of the lot behind the house is a paved parking area.

The Alexander Mitchell House itself is a rambling 2-1/2 story, brick, slate mansard-roofed mansion. The present structure is the result of a series of remodellings and enlargements made to an earlier house erected about 1848. Its present appearance is the result of a drastic remodelling of the old house carried out in 1876-77 and the addition of a huge club wing in 1905.

The house portion of the building is an asymmetrical, Second Empire style brick mansion with extensive exterior trim including elaborate window caps, cornices, bay windows, dormers, porches and roof trim. The bay windows on the Wisconsin Avenue facade were added in 1872. The most distinctive feature of the main elevation (south) is the five-story, mansard-roofed, entrance tower built in 1876. On the east elevation, a deep, Italianate, wooden porch extends across the full width of the first story. It has been enclosed, but the columns and cornice detailing survive intact. The north elevation (rear) is not architecturally articulated.

The club wing, constructed in 1905, is a brick, 76 foot long slate mansard-roofed structure adjoining the main house to the west. Although designed to blend with the old mansion, it is of simple design and lacks the rich detailing of the house. Symmetrically arranged, unornamented fenestration enlivens the south elevation, which is fronted by a plain modern porch with trellis style supports. The west and north elevations are utilitarian design and lack architectural articulation. Subsequent additions and changes to the 1905 wing include raising the roof for a new ballroom in 1937; a

(Continued)

ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mitchell House is architecturally significant as the finest remaining Second Empire style mansion in Milwaukee. The house, survives largely intact amidst its original setting on a full city block of landscaped grounds ornamented with an extraordinarily elaborate Victorian summer house that is probably one of the finest such structures of its period surviving in America. The house is a major work of master architect Edward Townsend Mix, a major nineteenth-century Wisconsin architect.

AND BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES (SOURCES)

- A. Buck, James S. Pioneer History of Milwaukee. Vol. I: 1833-1841. Milwaukee: Milwaukee News Co., 1876
- B. Milwaukee Under the Charter 1847-1853 Inclusive. Milwaukee: Symes, Swain and Co. 1884
- C. Leonard, David Blake. A Biography of Alexander Mitchell (1817-1887). Unpublished Masters Thesis, University of Wisconsin, 1951.
- D. Milwaukee. City Building Permits. 1905-1965.
- E. Milwaukee. City Directory, 1894.

TO STUDY UNIT (CHECK)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

380 Demolished

380 Date Demolished

____ Yes ____ No

Bibliography Cont.

- F. Milwaukee. County Deeds, 1848-1898.
- G. Milwaukee Sentinel, 1870-1895.
- H. Ogden, Marion G., Homes of Old Spring Street. Milwaukee: Hammersmith-Kortmeyer Co. [1944].
- I. _____, Homes of Old Spring Street. 2nd Edition. Milwaukee: Hammersmith-Kortmeyer Co., 1946.
- J. Smith, Alice E., "Banking without Banks: George Smith and the Wisconsin Marine and Fire Insurance Company," Wisconsin Magazine of History, Vol. 48 No. 4 (Summer, 1965), pp. 268-281.
- K. _____, The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography, Vol. I. New York: James T. White & Co., 1898, p. 362.
- L. Wilson, James Grant and Fiske, John, eds. Appletons' Cyclopaedia of American Biography, Vol. IV. New York: D. Appleton and Co., 1888, p. 342.
- M. Malone, Dumas, ed. Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. XIII, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1934, pp. 39, 40.
- O. Flowers, Frank. History of Milwaukee. Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1881, pp. 1499-1500.
- P. Whitney, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (deceased). Los Angeles: New Age Pub., 1956, pp. 423-24.

Description Cont.

one-story addition to the rear in 1942, and two storage rooms and a toilet to the rear in 1946. (D)

The exterior of the house portion of the building has been little altered since 1876. The enclosure of the side (east) porch in 1965, the removal of the parapet balustrade from the entrance porch and the addition of a steel fire escape with related conversion of the third floor tower window to an emergency exit door on the front of the tower are the major changes. In addition, the entire structure has been painted white. Various small ornamental features including decorative balustrades, finials and crestings have been removed from the original house. (C).

Prior to the erection of the 1905 wing there were extensive greenhouses and a conservatory that extended from the west elevation of the house to 10th Street and then south along the west perimeter of the lot to Wisconsin Avenue. The conservatory was that portion directly west of the house and the greenhouse extended along 10th Street. Also in the southwest corner of the property was a pond and fountain. At the edge of this feature was a small, rectangular unidentified out building. To the rear of the property, at the northwest corner, was a one-story carpenter's shop. Other accounts also indicate that an ice house, carriage barn and windmill were also sited on the lot. All of these structures were razed many years ago.

4r

Historical Background

Alexander Mitchell (1817-1887) emigrated to Milwaukee in 1839 from Scotland where he had studied law and banking. Mitchell came to Milwaukee at the request of fellow Scotsman, George Smith to manage his newly formed Wisconsin Marine and Fire Insurance Company. Because of a special provision in the company's charter, they were able to accept deposits and issue certificates of deposit as a regular bank would. This was interpreted by the territorial legislature as a violation of the anti-banking laws of the period, but Mitchell withstood these attacks and by 1852, the company had amassed over \$1.4 million in assets which were instrumental in promoting the economic development of the old Northwest Territory. In 1853 the state laws were changed to allow state-chartered banks and the company was reorganized as the Wisconsin Marine and Fire Insurance Company Bank (today's Marine National Bank) with Mitchell as president. In 1854 Mitchell purchased Smith's remaining interest in the company and became its primary owner. Mitchell was elected as the first president of the Wisconsin Bankers Association in 1859 and was credited with saving dozens of Wisconsin banks against default during the Civil War by assigning approximately a million dollars worth of Wisconsin War Bonds against depreciating southern state notes held by the Wisconsin banks. In 1861 Mitchell became one of the commissioners of the public debt of Milwaukee, a position he held for almost 25 years. He devised a scheme that readjusted the interest payments at a lower rate and saved the city from default. Mitchell's achievements as a banker of regional importance and power during the early years of Wisconsin statehood cannot be understated. Mitchell utilized much of his privately amassed wealth to invest in numerous industrial enterprises, including his role as one of the largest local investors in the Milwaukee Iron Co. (Bay View Rolling Mills). Mitchell's most notable achievement in business was his involvement with the regional railroads. He had been a director and stockholder in the state's earliest railroad ventures, including the Milwaukee and Mississippi and the La Crosse and Milwaukee railroads. In 1865 he purchased the nearly bankrupt Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company and

Historical Statement of Significance

The Alexander Mitchell Residence is historically significant both for its associations with Wisconsin financier and industrialist Alexander Mitchell and as the home of the Wisconsin Club. Alexander Mitchell was an important pioneer businessman and politician who was instrumental in establishing one of the state's first strong banking institutions, and for his role in creating the largest railroad system in the country under one ownership in the nineteenth century. He was also elected to two terms of the U.S. Congress and wielded significant power in state politics during his life. The Wisconsin Club has long been important as a social center for Milwaukee's professional and business elite, especially in the late 19th and early 20th century German-American community in the city.

Historical Background Cont.

this railroad, the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad (renamed in 1874), was one of the largest corporations in the country. In addition, he had extensive real estate interests and was a major investor in a number of other business ventures. By 1870, when he was elected to Congress to represent Wisconsin's Fourth District, he was the wealthiest man in Wisconsin. Mitchell was responsible for hiring master architect Edward Townsend Mix to design some of the most impressive buildings in the city for him, including the magnificent Mackie and Mitchell Buildings (still extant, listed in the National Register 4/3/73) as well as the Milwaukee Road Depot (razed). (J,K,L,M).

Mitchell's association with the nominated property began in 1848 when he acquired part of the present site facing North Ninth Street. He immediately erected a brick house and was living there with his wife, Martha, by 1850. In 1859 the house was remodelled in the fashionable Italianate style. Over the years, Mitchell aggressively enlarged his property. He erected large green houses adjacent to his residence to accommodate his growing interest in horticulture. Eventually, the greenhouses and landscaping became something of a tourist attraction. By 1870 the complex encompassed over 15,000 square feet of glass and was over 500 feet in length.

By 1876, as Mitchell was approaching the zenith of his wealth, he had succeeded in acquiring the homes of most of his neighbors on the block and had the houses either razed or moved off the site. The grounds were consolidated with his own. In 1871, for example, he built the summer house and the existing elaborate fence around the property and moved the carriage entrance to its present Wisconsin Avenue location after acquiring the old S.C. West House. (G,H,I)

In 1874 he bought the former A.D. Smith House and thus obtained possession of the entire frontage on Wisconsin Avenue between North Ninth and North 10th Streets. With the frontage secured, Mitchell extended his gardens and greenhouses and employed architect E.T. Mix to enlarge and remodel the existing house into an opulent mansion in the then fashionable Second Empire style. Work continued into 1877 before the interior decorating was complete. It was at this time that the tower, much of the trim and the mansard roofs were added and the entrance was moved to face Wisconsin Avenue. The former entrance on Ninth Street became a side porch.

Mitchell continued to improve his showplace estate and to take a lively interest in his increasingly elaborate greenhouses. An ice house (1880) (razed) and a substantial carriage house (1881) (razed) were erected as out-buildings. The interior of the mansion was consistently described as palatial in contemporary accounts. Imported Italian velvets and brocade covered the walls, which were hung with multitudes of Victorian oil paintings. Although most accounts described the interiors as dazzlingly rich & ornate, it was the extensive greenhouse and conservatory complex that adjoined the house to the west which provoked the most wonder in visitors.

(Continued)

Historical Background Cont. (2)

The Mitchell House was regarded as Milwaukee's finest residence throughout the 1870's and 1880's. As a result, many distinguished visitors were entertained there, including President Chester A. Arthur in 1882. The aging Mitchells, however, were spending an increasingly large part of the year at their southern home, Villa Alexandria, near Jacksonville, Florida. It was after wintering there that Mitchell died in New York City in April of 1887 at seventy years of age.

After Mitchell's death, Mrs. Mitchell inherited the Milwaukee house. Since she was living more-or-less year round at the Florida estate, she transferred ownership of the mansion to her son John L. Mitchell. It is unlikely that the younger Mitchell occupied the house, since he already had a large residence of his own. Eventually, after years of standing vacant, the Mitchell's rented the house to the Deutscher Club, now the Wisconsin Club.

The Deutscher Club had been established in July of 1891 to provide fellowship and companionship for the city's affluent German-American businessmen. The group first met in the Nunnemacher Grand Opera House building on East Wells Street, predecessor to the Pabst Theater. This building burned in January of 1895 making it necessary for them to find a new home. The desire to have an opulent, comfortable club house was very strong among the Deutscher Club's membership of wealthy German-American businessmen. Other groups, such as the Milwaukee Club and Phoenix Club, had already built substantial and expensive clubhouses to house their well-to-do memberships and the Deutscher Club felt the need to have similarly impressive quarters.

In 1895 the club was able to lease the Mitchell House for \$2,000 a year. For the Deutscher Club it was quite a coup. Not only was the house one of the finest in the city, but its owner had been one of Milwaukee's leading citizens and co-founder of the exclusive, Yankee-dominated Milwaukee Club, the Deutscher Club's chief rival. Rooms were available for rental to bachelor members and possession of the finest clubhouse in the city added immeasurably to the club's prestige, resulting in increased membership.

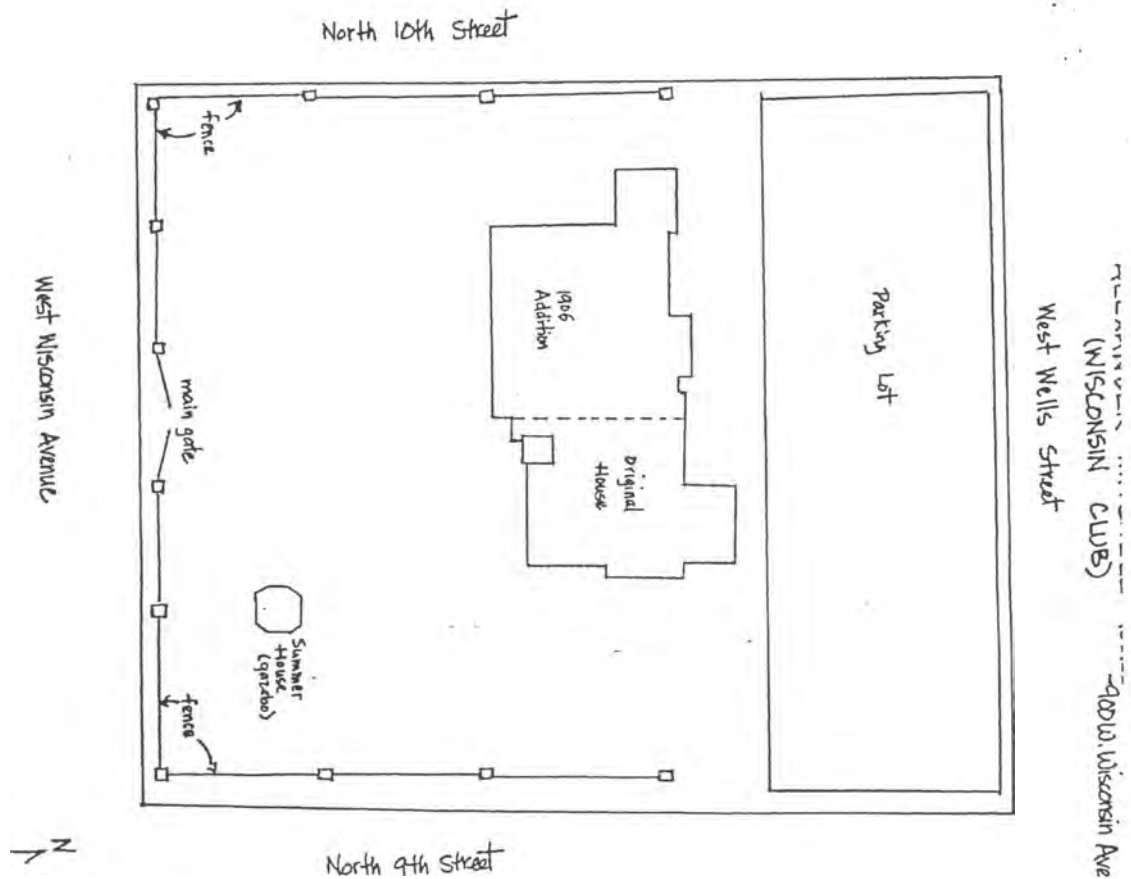
Mrs. Mitchell and her grandson, David Ferguson Mitchell sold the property to the Deutscher Club for \$165,000 in 1898. The club has maintained the property with some modifications. The conservatory and greenhouses to the west of the main house were razed and replaced with a dining hall and bowling alleys in 1906. The Moorish smoking room, main staircase and woodwork on the ground floor of the mansion have remained intact, although the upper floor rooms have been considerably remodelled. The club, which was organized purely for social purposes as a businessmen's club, changed its name to the Wisconsin Club during World War I and continues today as an exclusive private club (C).

Edward Townsend Mix (b. 1831 - d. 1890) was born and educated at New Haven, CT. Mix moved to Milwaukee in 1856 to supervise the construction of a residence, and on its completion decided to remain in the City. A number of his early works were built in Chicago, planned in association with W.W. Boyington. While in Milwaukee during the 1880s he practiced jointly with W.A. Holbrook. Among the more important commissions were the Chamber of

(Continued)

Historical Background Cont. (3)

Commerce Building (Mackie Building) and the Mitchell Building; All Saints Episcopal Cathedral; St. Paul's Episcopal Church; Immanuel Presbyterian Church (all listed in the National Register). He designed many important residences including the Robert P. Fitzgerald House, 1119 North Marshall Street (Historic American Buildings Survey) and the Judge Jason Downer House, 1201 North Prospect Avenue (Historic American Buildings Survey). The Mitchell House is one of two surviving second empire style houses designed by Mix in the state and largest extant residence he executed in Milwaukee. Shortly before his death in 1890, Mix moved to Minneapolis where he executed a number of large and important commissions. (O,P)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Mitchell, Alexander, House
NAME:

MULTIPLE West Side Area MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Milwaukee

DATE RECEIVED: 7/13/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/10/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/27/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/29/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 86003852

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 8-29-12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept

REVIEWER Edson Beall

DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 8-28-12

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



ALEXANDER MITCHELL HOUSE

900 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Milwaukee
County, WI. Photo by Robin D. Wenger

November 1984. Neg. at WI Hist. Society.

View from northeast. Photo #1 of 3



ALEXANDER MITCHELL HOUSE

900 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Milwaukee
County, WI. Photo by Robin Wenger

November 1984. Neg. at WI Hist. Society.

View from northeast. Photo #2 of 3



ALEXANDER MITCHELL HOUSE

900 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Milwaukee
County, WI. Photo by Robin D. Wenger
November 1984. Neg. at WI Hist. Society.
View from northwest. Photo #3 of 3

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000955

RECEIVED 839

JUN 28 1985

HIST. PRES. DIV.

BORGELT, POWELL, PETERSON & FRAUEN
S. C.

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

FIFTEENTH FLOOR

735 NORTH WATER STREET

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53202

AREA CODE 414

276-3600

June 27, 1985

EDWARD H. BORGELT (1923-1971)
EDMUND W. POWELL
REUBEN W. PETERSON, JR.
KURT H. FRAUEN
ROGER S. BESSEY
CLAYTON R. HAHN
PHILLIP E. CRUMP
THOMAS N. KLUG
JOHN U. SCHMID, JR.
FRANK A. SCHERKENBACH
THOMAS L. SMALLWOOD
JOSEPH D. McDEVITT
GEORGE A. EVANS, JR.
ROBERT C. BURRELL
STEVEN W. CELBA
BRIAN D. BAIRD
ROBERT H. ZILSKE
MARK S. YOUNG
W. TED TORNEHL
JEFFREY S. FERTL
DEBORAH K. SCHEID
LAWRENCE M. SHINDELL
M. CHRISTINE COWLES
WILLIAM R. SACHSE, JR.
DAVID B. BARTEL
JAMES S. SMITH
JAMES F. BOYLE

WINSLOW & QUARLES	1881-1884
QUARLES & SPENCE	1884-1886
QUARLES, SPENCE & RICHARDS	1886-1887
QUARLES, SPENCE & DYER	1887-1888
QUARLES, SPENCE & QUARLES	1888-1891
QUARLES, SPENCE, HOYT & QUARLES	1891-1893
QUARLES, SPENCE & QUARLES	1893-1957
WICKHAM, BORGELT, SKOGSTAD & POWELL	1957-1970

Mr. Jeff Dean
State Historic Preservation Officer
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Historic Preservation Division
816 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Re: Alexander Mitchell House, 900 West Wisconsin
Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Dean:

Reference is made to your letter to the Wisconsin Club dated
June 17, 1985.

The Club through its Board of Directors is filing herewith its
objection to the listing of the Alexander Mitchell House in the
National Register of Historic Places.

Enclosed is the objection form as furnished which has been com-
pleted and notarized, and we assume that your office will handle
with the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board at its
meeting on July 19, 1985 to prevent such listing.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter and suggest that
any questions you have be directed to the writer.

Sincerely,

BORGELT, POWELL, PETERSON & FRAUEN, S.C.



Roger S. Bessey

RSB/msb
Enclosure

CERTIFIED MAIL
Return Receipt Requested

Sole-Ownership Property

PROPERTY: The Wisconsin Club, "Alexander Mitchell House"

ADDRESS: 900 West Wisconsin Avenue

CITY: Milwaukee COUNTY: Milwaukee

In accordance with Section 101 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and Title 36, Part 60.6, of the Code of Federal Regulations, I hereby certify that I am the sole owner of the property listed above and do hereby object to its listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In accordance with said law and regulations, I understand that my property will not be listed in the National Register, providing that I sign and have notarized this statement, and that I submit it to the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Officer prior to the meeting of the state Historic Preservation Review Board during which the nomination of my property will be considered.

WISCONSIN CLUB
SIGNED: Roger S. Bessey DATE: June 27, 1985
Roger S. Bessey, Secretary
PRINT OR TYPE NAME: Wisconsin Club: Roger S. Bessey, Secretary

MAILING ADDRESS: 900 West Wisconsin Avenue

CITY: Milwaukee STATE: WI ZIP: 53233

State of Wisconsin

County of Wisconsin

The above statement was subscribed and sworn before me this 27th
day of June, 1985.

Mildred S. Brubaker
Notary Public

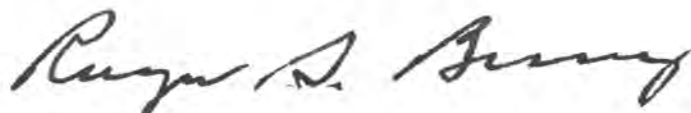
My commission expires: May 22, 1988

Seal

Letter dated June 17, 1985 with attachments from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Historic Preservation Division, reviewed. After discussion, moved and seconded that the Club Secretary be authorized and directed to submit notarized objection to prevent listing of the "Alexander Mitchell House" in the National Register of Historic Places. Motion carried unanimously.

I, Roger S. Bessey, Secretary of the Wisconsin Club, do hereby certify that the above motion was made and passed by the Board of Directors of said Club at its regular meeting held at the Club June 26, 1985.

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 27th day of June, 1985.



Roger S. Bessey

Yellow

DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE WISCONSIN

DATE DETERMINED JAN 16 1988

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Harnischferger, Henry, House (West Side Area MRA)	Milwaukee County
(Mitchell, Alexander, House (West Side Area MRA)	Milwaukee County
Sovereign Apartments (West Side Area MRA)	Milwaukee County

Also Notified

NPS REGIONAL OFFICE: Rocky Mountain	State Historic Preservation Officer
	Mr. Jeff Dean, Director
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	Historic Preservation Division
The Old Post Office Building	State Historic Society of Wisconsin
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW #809	816 State Street
Washington, DC 20004	Madison, Wisconsin 53706

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-9536.