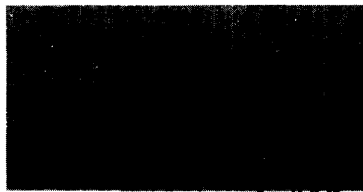


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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



1. Name

historic Steven House (preferred)

and/or common Steven-Brisiel House

2. Location

street & number 216 Hudson Avenue not for publication

city, town Eau Claire vicinity of congressional district Third

state Wisconsin 54701 code 055 county Eau Claire code 035

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Ken GaleWrick

street & number 216 Hudson Avenue

city, town Eau Claire vicinity of state Wisconsin 54701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Eau Claire County Courthouse

street & number 201 West Grand Avenue

city, town Eau Claire vicinity of state Wisconsin 54701

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison vicinity of state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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 former J. D. R. Steven Home sits prominently at the top of a sloped site in a residential section of Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Although the principle access to the house is from Hudson Avenue on the south, the building's "best side" faces east across a broad lawn. Short flights of stairs and a concrete walk trail inconspicuously across the site among tall trees and shrubs. A rail fence defines the edges of the property.

Utility rooms, a recreation room, and a concrete garage (not original) occupy the basement of the red brick and stucco house. Horizontality is established in the overall form with short, one-story brick arms extending out at all compass points from the two-story core. Wide eaves overhang the walls from the gabled roofs over the second story and north, south, and east arms, and over the small projecting bay on the east side. Asbestos shingles now replace the original red cedar shingles. Windows are grouped in Prairie School fashion; horizontal muntins divide narrow casements flanking large plates of glass or used in multiples. The red-painted wood cornices, end boards, and courses on the south facade match the red mortar binding bricks on the first story and basement. Short interior chimneys rise from the ends of the ridge of the second-story roof, the longer one marking the location of the central hearth. A simple concrete turned stair rises to the front entrance in the northeast angle of the plan between the living room and living porch. Secondary entrances from a walk along the west side of the house open to the kitchen and sewing room. Small extensions of the roofs over the one-story arms, supported by simple wood posts, constitute unobtrusive porches.

Living spaces occupy the one-story extensions of the plan, distributed around the free-standing fireplace facing the living room farthest east. Red Portuguese tiles, overhung by a high stained-birch mantel, cover the face and hearth of the fireplace. The cream walls and canvass-covered ceilings are accented by stained-oak ceiling boards and wall moldings defining the horizontal and vertical edges of the surfaces; upstairs, similar members are of stained poplar. Floors are of clear maple, oak, or pine throughout the house. A single flight of birch stairs, with screen of square birch balusters, rises west of the fireplace to the bedrooms and bath on the second floor.

Alterations have been limited to the concrete garage in the basement, and renewal of plumbing fixtures in the bathroom.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1909¹ **Builder/Architect** Purcell & Feick²

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Designed in the formative years of the partnership of William Gray Purcell (1880–1965) and George Feick, Jr. (1881–1945), the J. D. R. Steven Home figures significantly in the dissemination of the Prairie School Style. Associating shortly after Purcell's term of employment in the office of Louis Sullivan, together Purcell and Feick launched the reputation of one of the Midwest's leading twentieth-century firms. In the same year that the Steven House was designed, George Elmslie (1871–1952) joined the partnership which was to grow even larger than that of Frank Lloyd Wright.

The Steven House was cited by Prairie School scholar H. Allen Brooks for the "seminal importance" of the plan, which was to be used in later commissions.³ The cruciform arrangement of living spaces around a free-standing fireplace allowed an open flow of interior spaces without loss of the separation of functions. The simplicity of both exterior and interior design, based on the contrast of cream-colored surfaces with warmer red brick, birch, poplar, oak, and maple, makes the house a classic in residential design as well as in historical style.

Original owner J. D. R. Steven (1872–1951) was born in New Brunswick, Canada, and became an Eau Claire resident at the age of seventeen when he moved to the city with his mother and sister. After working for some years in a management position in the area's lumbering industry and organizing the Steven & Jarvis Lumbering Company in 1907, he eventually rose to presidency and principal ownership of the Eau Claire Book & Stationery Company. To his additional credit was membership in several fraternal and charitable organizations in the city. Following her husband's death, Mrs. J. D. R. Steven retained ownership of the house until 1977, when it passed into the hands of the present owners. The home was designated an Eau Claire City Landmark in 1976.

1. Original blueprints.
2. Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Purcell and Elmslie, catalog for the exhibition, 1953.
3. H. Allen Brooks, The Prairie School, 1972, p. 132.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Brooks, H. Allen; The Prairie School, W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., New York, 1972.
Eau Claire Leader Telegram, February 17, 1951.
 Ealker Art Center; Purcell & Elmslie, Minneapolis, Minn., 1953.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.43

Quadrangle name Eau Claire West, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	5	6	1	8	3	4	0	4	9	6	2	2	9	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing							

C

Zone				Easting				Northing							

D

Zone				Easting				Northing							

E

Zone				Easting				Northing							

F

Zone				Easting				Northing							

G

Zone				Easting				Northing							

H

Zone				Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The East 8 Feet of Lot 13, and all of Lots 14, 15, and 16, Block 7, City of Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Ohl

organization Eau Claire Landmarks Commission date February, 1980

street & number 2916 Nimitz Street telephone (715) 834-2109

city or town Eau Claire state Wisconsin 54701

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Rakenna Henry

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

date 10/29/80

For HCERS use only

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

for Delores Byers
 Acting Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 3/1/82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Steven House
Continuation sheet

Item number 11

Page 1

FORM PREPARED BY:

Diane H. Filipowicz, Architectural Historian
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
816 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

September, 1980
(608)262-2970

