

City: **Alma** County: **Buffalo**

Surveyor: **Barbara Anderson-Sannes** Date: **Summer of 1979**

Street Address: **911 Riverview Drive (A)**

legal description: **see attached acreage 1 1/100 acre**

Current Name/Use: **Edwin Grotjahn owner:**
Edwin Grotjahn
911 Riverview Drive
Alma, Wisconsin
54610

Special Features Not Visible In Photographs:
interior still original wainscoting simple woodwork

Original Name/Use: **Jacob Berni Residence**

| Source | Historical Data | | Uses | Sources |
|--------|-----------------|-------------|-------|---------|
| | Owner | Dates | | |
| | Jacob Berni | 1885 - 1901 | house | 1 |
| | Ulrich Wald | 1901 - 1903 | " | 2 |
| | Henry Truempler | 1903 - 1935 | " | " |
| | Anna Truempler | 1935 - 1938 | " | " |
| | Edwin Grotjahn | 1938 - | " | " |

Dates of Construction: **1885**

Architect/Builder: **Jacob Berni**

Architectural Significance:
 Represents Work of a Master
 Possesses High Artistic Values
 Represents a Type, Period, or Method of Construction
 Is a Visual Landmark
 Other:

Statement of Architectural Significance:

(over)

Historical Significance:
 Associated With the Lives of Significant Persons
 Associated With Significant Historic Events
 Associated With Important Cultural Pattern
 Other:

Statement of Historical Significance:

(over)

| No. | Sources of Information (Reference To Above) |
|-----|---|
| 1 | Buffalo County Journal 6/25/1885 |
| 2 | abstract |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |

Representation in Previous Surveys: HABS
 NRHP WRL Local Landmark
 Other: **"Wisc. Inventory Historic Places"**

Opinion of Eligibility for National Register:
 Eligible Not Eligible Unknown
 Initials: **BW** Date: **3-14-80**

Riverview Drive 911

911 Riverview Drive 1885¹ Jacob Berni House

Part of Lot 5, Albertson's Block, commencing at a point 3134/5 feet North 20 degrees west of the corner post north of G. Albertson's house, thence South 65 degrees West to center of the Alma Durand road and from the same point of beginning, 150 links or 99 feet North 25 degrees West to line between Lots 1 & 2 in Section 2 Township 21 North of Range 13 West thence along this line to the center of said road, the western boundary of this lot is the center of the Alma Durand road.

Jacob Berni was the son of Joseph Berni, one of the first three settlers of Twelve Mile Bluff as Alma was known in 1849 when Joseph arrived from Galena. Jacob grew up in Alma and when older began working for the Mississippi River Logging Company at Beef Slough. Part of his position there involved working as a dropper, the person who catches the stray logs floating down the river, brings them back to the slough to be put into a raft again. He continued working for the Mississippi River Logging Company for 27 years.² He built this house for his mother Margaretha and his family, he having married Emma, the daughter of Charles Furrer, the lime kiln operator in 1853. They resided in this house for 14 years. The house still retains its original appearance with the front porch and attached shed to the south covered with white clapboard and the rest of the house brick veneered. The four over four windows are segmentally arched and the roof is gabled with dormers.

¹ Buffalo County Journal June 25, 1885

² Ibid June 6, 1935

³ Ibid