

INVENTORY FORM FOR NOMINATED PROPERTIES

Name of property: Edward M. Hackett House (Reedsburg MRA) Owner: Ruth Wirth
 Address: 612 East Main Street Owner's address: 612 East Main Street
 City: Reedsburg County: Sauk Reedsburg, Wisconsin

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)

Multiple Resources of Reedsburg

180 NRHP List Name Edward M. Hackett 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)
- architectue/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

230 Period of Significance

1878 (Date of construction) Source: A

340 Review Board Date 10/19/84

70 USGS Quad Map

Reedsburg West Quadrangle

80 UTM Coordinates (Format: 99-999999-9999999)

15-742230-4824070

85 Listed Acreage Less than one

60 Verbal Boundary Description City of Reedsburg,

Mott's First Addition, E 82.5' of Lots 6 and 11, Block 11.

Description

The Edward M. Hackett house is a two story, clapboard sided High Victorian Gothic residence with a tower. The building has an irregular plan that approximates a rectangular one. The rear section of the house is one story, with a one story screened in porch on the south side. Asphalt shingles cover the multi-gabled roof and a 2½ story tower with a pyramidal shaped roof. The tower, facing north, also has a dormer with a pyramidal roof, topped with finials, as is the gable roof. Bargeboards with a leaf-like pattern ornament the gables. Similarly patterned woodwork is on the triangular shaped heads that cover the paired second story windows in the gables. The windows themselves have arched heads, as do those on the bay windows and first floor of the house. One second story window has a flat head. The bay windows on the north and west sides have brackets and sawn woodwork with a quatrefoil pattern below the cornice.

The main entry is through a porch on the northeast section of the front facade. The porch has a mansard roof, bracketed columns and ornamental lattice work under the cornice. The double doors have an overlight above them. A later addition (post 1977) to the entry is a wooden enclosure built under the porch to keep out cold air. There are entries on the south and west sides also. A wood water table and concrete wash foundation delineate the basement section. A 1893 drawing of this house demonstrates that the house has had few exterior alterations. Iron cresting was on the roof ridges and the tower roof had a diamond, shingle and fishscale pattern that could have been slate or wood. Shutters were on all windows and the foundation was faced with brick (C). It is not clear from the drawing if the west side box bay window was there or was added later, although stylistically it is similar to the front bay window. Although now painted white, the house had a "judicious selection of colors" when painted by Sheasby Brothers of Madison in 1878 (E). The "Reedsburg Free Press" also noted that it "abounds in steeples" and would become a welcome addition to the "already fine residence neighborhood" (I).

Most of the interior woodwork is oak. The door and window moldings are wide and very thick with ogee curves. There is a parlor, dining area, kitchen and bedroom and bath on the first

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Architectural/Engineering Statement of Significance

The E. M. Hackett house is an outstanding local example of High Victorian Gothic design. It is the only house of this style in Reedsburg and has most of its integrity intact. Designed by Hackett as his own residence, it is characterized by its steeply pitched roofline, tower and ornamental woodwork. Its hilltop location lends it visual importance or prominence in the Main Street residential neighborhood where it is located. The excellence of design degree and high degree of integrity of this house gives it local architectural significance.

E. M. Hackett was a prominent local lumber company owner builder and architect whose style was imitated by other designers. This residence, one of his early designs, is the best known representation of his work and is significant for its association with a locally prominent architect.

690 Bibliographic References (Sources)

- A - "Reedsburg Free Press", April 4, 1878.
- B - "Reedsburg Free Press", February 7, 1878.
- C - 1893 map of Sauk County at State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison.
- D - "Reedsburg Free Press", December 21, 1882.
- E - "Reedsburg Free Press", June 6, 1878.
- F - Mrs. Ruth Wirth, owner, fall, 1983.
- G - "Reedsburg Free Press", May 25, 1882.
- H - "Reedsburg Free Press", June 11, 1874.
- I - "Reedsburg Free Press", September 6, 1877; November 29, 1877; February 7, 1878; April 18, 1878; April 25, 1878.
- J - "Reedsburg Free Press", April 15, 1886.
- K - "Reedsburg Free Press", September 8, 1882.

700 Study Units (code)

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Industry: Other Wood Products

350 Demolished

360 Date Demolished

yes no

Historical Background

Edward M. Hackett came to Reedsburg in 1874 and went into business with William Dierks, a local builder. They had a sash, door and blind factory (H). He laid the foundation for this house in the winter of 1877 and commenced building the next spring. At this time he was a partner in Hackett & Buckley, a building firm.

In 1881 Hackett was a partner (with Keith & Kellogg) in the Building & Lumber Company. In 1882 the Building & Lumber Company (also called Reedsburg Building & Lumber Company) consisted of Hackett and a man named Henderson. An 1886 ad stated that he was an architect and member of Building & Lumber Company that also did interior wood finishes and had contracts for work in "no less than three states" (J). The company went through many name and ownership changes and no longer exists, although what is now Phillips Home Center absorbed a much later version of the company. Hackett's name as an architect and builder occurred frequently in the "Reedsburg Free Press" when new buildings were mentioned, but many of these structures are gone or their location cannot be determined. Sometimes Reedsburg Building & Lumber is noted as the builder, such as the City Hotel, an individually nominated property at 125 Main Street (SK9/4), but whether Hackett was the designer of the building being mentioned or just part of the building team is not known. In addition to his own house, he is known to have designed Charles Sheldon's house in 1880 at 339 South Pine Street (significantly altered) and the Free Press building, a pivotal building in the Main Street Commercial Historic District, in 1889 at 272 Main Street. He did the plans and elevations for the Mason's Hall/Hagenah Block in 1880 (now part of 201 Main Street and significantly altered). Hackett and Buckley were the carpenters and builders for N. W. Sallade's drugstore at 237 Main Street, although S. V. Shipman of Chicago was the architect. In 1892 Frank Howland of Building & Lumber Company had designed a house at 311 Third Street and the newspaper noted he "belongs to the Hackett class of architects, and throws a good many original ideas into his plans" (K). Another house on East Main Street, since gone or altered beyond recognition, had a tower added to it that was built to resemble the 1878 Hackett house (L).

Historical Statement of Significance

Additional Description con't:

floor. There were pocket doors between the parlor and dining area (now gone). Lattice-like woodwork (now stored in the barn) ornamented this opening. A beveled glass door leads to the parlor from the hallway. Many of the corners in the house are curved rather than angular. The dining area fireplace is made of mottled Kentucky marble and was added in 1882 (D). The kitchen has been modernized. On the east side of the first story is a walnut staircase with a sharp turn near the second story. Two of the bedrooms on this story have vaulted ceilings.

The house is situated on a hill on West Main Street. Steps lead up to the yard which is landscaped with evergreens. The property extends from Main Street to Vine Street and consists of two lots, each 82.5' x 132'. A number of large 19th century houses are still in this area but some have been torn down. The Hackett house stands out visually because of its hilltop location which is exaggerated by the pointed arches of its Gothic design.

South of the house is a barn or carriage house of 2½ stories. It was built in the early twentieth century and has a gable roof, 2/2 windows and sandstone and wood exterior building material and is included in the nominated property.

Bibliographic References (sources) con't:

- L - "Reedsburg Free Press", April 30, 1896.
- M - Tax receipts for Reedsburg in 1889-1890 at State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison.
- N - "Reedsburg Free Press", July 6, 1882.

Historical Background con't:

Hackett sold his residence to Joseph L. Green in 1882 for \$3,000 (G). Green was living in Rudd's Mills and was soon to buy Kellogg's flour mill in Reedsburg (in partnership with J. G. Heaton) and move here. He was born in Cairo,

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Continuation Sheet

612 East Main Street
Reedsburg, Wisconsin

Historical Background con't:

Greene County, New York and came to Racine, Wisconsin in 1843. In 1848 he was in Reedsburg working for David C. Reed (an in-law) in his saw mill. He became a local merchant c. 1853-1864 and then moved and took up hop farming. He next (c. 1870) moved to Rudd's Mills in northern Monroe County until he returned to Reedsburg. While here he helped incorporate the woolen mills and Reedsburg Bank. He built a business block at 275 Main Street in 1885 that was completed after his death that year. Mrs. Green remained the owner of the Main Street house until at least 1890 (M).

Dr. Carl Kordenat, often referred to in the newspaper as "our German druggist" or "German physician and surgeon", moved in next. He was from Wissech, Germany, came to the U.S. in 1874 and arrived in Reedsburg in 1882 to run his father's pharmacy. He began as a druggist and became a physician in 1887 after moving to Chicago in 1885 while attending the college of physicians and surgeons there. He died in 1904 and the home had several owners until 1940 when Ralph Wirth bought it. Wirth was a textile designer and manager of Appleton Woolen Mills. When the mills became locally owned in 1954, Wirth was elected president of the company. He died in 1964. (The mill closed in 1967 and burned in 1968.) Mrs. Ruth Wirth still resides at this house.

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EDWARD M. HACKETT HOUSE
612 EAST MAIN STREET
--- BOUNDARY OF NOMINATED
PROPERTY

