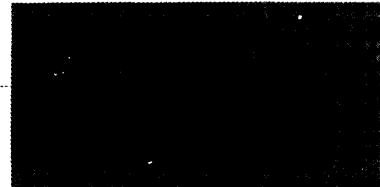


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



1983

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

1. Name

historic Shearer-Cristy House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 315 East Lake Street *N/A* not for publication

city, town Waupaca *N/A* vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Wisconsin code 55 county Waupaca code 135

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"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Gloria Bruck

street & number 315 East Lake Street

city, town Waupaca vicinity of state Wisconsin

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Waupaca County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Waupaca state Wisconsin 54981

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic
title Places has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date 1981 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

Wide horizontal bands of "fish-scale" shingles and wood panels define the two stories and attic of the former Caleb Shearer House in Waupaca. The large (52 x 32) frame rectangle is augmented by a full-height northeast "tower" (formed by the round edge of the corner), a large oriel at the northwest corner, gabled two-story bays on the east and west sides, and decorated porches at the north (front), southwest (rear), and west (side) doors. Windows are generally rectangular, enclosed by molded wood frames, and generally correspond on first and second stories. The gabled roof, now covered with asphalt shingles rather than the original patterned wood shingles, is intersected by the decorated gables over the east and west bays; cresting trims the central north-south ridge, and the original finial crowns the dome of the oriel. The foundation is composed of coursed stone. The fully-preserved interior, and the matching frame carriage barn to the south of the house, are also considered significant to the nomination.

No two gables on porches or bays are identically decorated, although most elements are repeated. Each gable (on the east, west, and front porch and overhead balcony) has a simple bargeboard, framing a decorated wood queen-post or arched brace. Valences, balustrades, and porch skirts are generally composed of pierced panels, supported by turned wood columns. The tall exterior brick chimney bisecting the west side bay rises through the peak of the gable; its surface is enriched with recessed or decorative brick panels. The elliptical, stained and beveled-glass transom over the front parlor window is framed by a pierced wood window-head with ball finial; the master bedroom window overhead has a rectangular beveled-glass transom. A Palladian window in the northeast tower, composed of framed glass panels, culminates in a small projecting gable with decorated king-post. A cut-work cul-de-lampe supports the oriel. Doors (double in front and single otherwise) are of paneled wood, with spool-trimmed wood-framed screens in season.

The interior plan is regular, with north-south halls on first and second floors. The front vestibule opens into the grand stairhall with its paneled wood wainscoting and elaborate wood valences. Original paneled wood doors, frames, and molding blocks are intact throughout; floors remain the original hardwood. The plans of the first-story parlor, sitting room, dining room, and alcove are of various geometric configurations, corresponding to beveled corners, bays, or tower outside. The sitting room inside the west-side bay has the grandest fireplace.

A similar fireplace, with classical overmantle and black iron stove, faces the front stair. The kitchen is as original (aside from the installation of a contemporary cabinet unit and floor covering), with wood "box-car" wainscoting and fluted oak door-frames. Four bedrooms, hall, maid's quarters, closets, and bath fill the second story. Wood in all but the master bedroom is painted; in addition to its closet, the master bedroom has a recessed cradle nook with wood valence, opening out to the balcony over the front door. The bath retains its boxed porcelain tub and other fixtures. The service stairs, along the south side of the main stairs, rise to the unfinished attic/ballroom above and kitchen below.

The carriage barn, reached from a drive to the west, is rectangular, with loft-level enveloped by a gabled hipped roof. Vehicle and loft doors on the west side are original. The property, at the corner of Lake and State streets, is located in a residential neighborhood of smaller nineteenth and twentieth century houses, several blocks to the south of the central business district of the small central-Wisconsin city.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 1891-92¹ **Builder/Architect** George Otis Garnsey²

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Among the few documented examples of pattern book design of the Queen Anne era in Wisconsin, and surely one of the most splendid and best-preserved (inside and out) of its period overall, the Shearer-Cristy House in Waupaca is of state level architectural significance. Recent cosmetic restoration of the house, including renewal of the original exterior paint scheme, has further enhanced the historical and educational value of the building.

Chicago architect George Otis Garnsey's prototype for the design of the Caleb Shearer residence appeared in the May 1885 supplement to The National Builder (photocopy attached), a Midwest architectural trade journal published in Chicago from 1885 through the turn of the century.³ Produced by Garnsey in collaboration with a Chicago publisher, and edited by him from 1885-1901, The National Builder monthly offered advice to the building trade, a forum for professional comment, advertised architectural services and supplies, and provided full plans and specifications for building designs. Garnsey, who made a specialty of theater design,⁴ was born (1840) in Rock Island, Illinois, and graduated from Columbia in 1864. During his long career Garnsey was said to have designed buildings "from Main to California,"⁵ beginning with his association with John C. Cochraine in the design of the Illinois State Capitol (1867), and including the Alhambra and Criterion theaters and the Grand Operahouse in Chicago, the Ogle County Courthouse⁶ and the exhibition building for John Brown's Fort at the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893.⁷ In 1881, Garnsey published the American Glossary of Architectural Terms, a standard reference in the architectural profession in the late nineteenth century, based in part on knowledge acquired in study and travel in Europe and the far East. In Wisconsin, Garnsey is known to have been associated with Cochraine in the design of Memorial Hall (1867) at Beloit College in the Near East Side Historic District (NRHP 1983).

At this writing, only two other documented pattern book houses of the Queen Anne period in Wisconsin are known to the SHPO: the George Winslow House of 1894-5 in Eau Claire (NRHP 1978), and the C. S. Craig Residence, ca. 1892, in Richland Center, both designed by architect George F. Barber, who operated a successful mail order architectural practice from his office in Knoxville, Tennessee.⁸ Given that the Shearer house is pristine as constructed inside and out, even in the select company of these three buildings, the house is superior. In its incorporation of hallmark period details ("cut-work" porches, tower, and windowheads; spooled and paneled trim; grand stairhall and fireplaces; and matching carriage barn) the building

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Beers, J.H. & Co., Commemorative Bibliographical Record of the Upper Wisconsin, Chicago, 1895.
 Goodspeed & Co., Industrial Chicago, 1891-1896, Vol. 1.
 The National Builder, May, 1885, Geo. Garnsey, ed., Chicago. (continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Waupaca, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

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 Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 11 and 12, Block 54, Hibbard's Addition to the City of Waupaca.

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

state code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane H. Filipowicz/Architectural Historian

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date March 1983

street & number 816 State Street telephone (608) 262-2732

city or town Madison state Wisconsin

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director, Historic Preservation Division date Nov. 17, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register date 12/22/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

Shearer-Cristy House, Waupaca, Waupaca County, Wisconsin.

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

8. Significance (continued)

ranks among the most distinguished Queen Anne houses generally in the state, including the Frank L. Chenoweth House (1887-8; NRHP 1976) in Monroe, the Havilah Babcock House (1883; NRHP 1974) in Neenah, the Singor House (1894) in Marinette, and the George P. Miller House (1887; determined eligible 1977) in Milwaukee. In the small central Wisconsin city of Waupaca, in the context of a few substantial late picturesque frame houses, and among the interesting and varied stock of late nineteenth century residences generally, the Shearer-Cristy House is the more conspicuously significant.

Garnsey's house is known locally as having been the residence of two Waupaca businessmen: Caleb Shearer, the original owner, and Joseph Cristy. Shearer, born in Waupaca in 1857, educated himself for a career in law, and practiced for two years in the office of E. L. Brown until the death of his father-in-law in 1882 left him the responsibility of the Eagle Planing Mill in Waupaca; in 1902, two local lumber-related enterprises with which he was associated (Hambleton & Shearer, Shearer & Jeffers) were incorporated into the Central Lumber Company.⁹ Within a few years of moving into his fine new house, Shearer apparently suffered financial reversal, for at the time that he and his family left the community around 1900, Shearer was reported to be working as a salesman for a sash and door company.¹⁰ The house lay vacant until purchased by Joseph Cristy in 1907. Cristy, a Vermont native, arrived in Waupaca in 1904, coming from a bookkeeping job in Chicago.¹¹ He assumed ownership of a dry goods store at Main and Union Streets in Waupaca, and later opened another store in New London. After his death in 1927, the house was occupied by his son.

New owners in the 1970s have hung period wallpapers and repainted the house in its original colors, restoring the house (with the exception of a new roof and modern stove) to full integrity.

¹Waupaca Republican, November 1891-March 1892.

²The National Builder, December, 1895 Supplement, as cited in Joseph W. Zack, The Pattern Book Revolution in America, copyright 1981, (catalog for the M.F.A. degree, Northern Illinois University, De Kalb, Illinois).

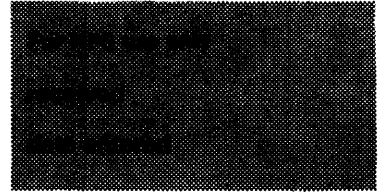
³Zack (unpaged).

⁴John W. Leonard, ed., The Book of Chicagoans..., Chicago, 1905, p. 226.

(Continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Shearer-Cristy House, Waupaca, Waupaca County, Wisconsin
Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

8. Significance (continued)

⁵Goodspeed, Industrial Chicago, Vol. 1, p. 603.

⁶Ibid.

⁷Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Vol. 18, No. 4, December, 1959, pp. 159-160.

⁸George F. Barber's The Cottage Souvenir, No. 2, with introduction by Michael A. Tomlan, American Life Foundation and Study Institute, Watkins Glen, N.Y., 1982, p. 25.

⁹Commemorative Bibliographic Record of the Upper Wisconsin, J. H. Beers & Co., Chicago, 1895, p. 426; John M. Ware, Standard History of Waupaca County, Wisconsin, Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1917, p. 253.

¹⁰Unpublished information gathered by Wendell R. Nelson, Amherst, Wisconsin, as reported in a letter of December 13, 1981 to the editor of the Appleton Post-Crescent. (Copy on file with Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin).

¹¹Ware, Vol. II, p. 462-63.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

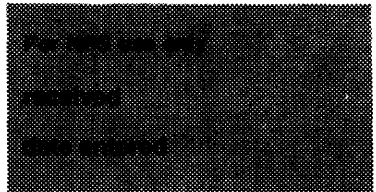
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Shearer-Cristy House, Waupaca, Waupaca County, Wisc.

Continuation sheet

Item number 9.

Page 1.



Major Bibliographical References (cont.)

Ware, John M., Standard History of Waupaca County, Wisconsin, Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, 1917.

Zack, Joseph W., The Pattern Book Revolution in America, copyright 1981, Northern Illinois University, De Kalb.

The National Builder.

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE BUILDING INTEREST.

VOL. I

CHICAGO, MAY, 1885.

No. 2.

The National Builder,

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
THE NATIONAL BUILDER COMPANY,
Nos. 156 and 161 DEARBORN STREET,
CHICAGO.

W. O. KENNEDY, MANAGER.

GEO. O. GARNER, EDITOR.

TERMS:

Yearly (payable in advance), \$3.00
Half Yearly (payable in advance), 1.50
Single Copies, .25
Post paid, on receipt of price, to any address.

Entered at the Chicago post office as second-class matter.

PROSPECTUS.

THE NATIONAL BUILDER is specially designed to meet the requirements of builders. It starts out not as a competitor with any other journal, but, on the contrary, to cover a territory not hitherto supplied; commencing, as it were, where the architectural journals leave off.

To the builder, therefore, we address ourselves, and especially to that class of builders whose aim is to provide their own plans. To them THE NATIONAL BUILDER comes as an educator, and also as a medium of communication between the manufacturer of the varied material that enters into building, and the consumer.

The principal and most valuable feature of THE NATIONAL BUILDER will be the production in every issue of a complete set of architect's plans, of a class suitable for the use of builders in localities where moderate-priced buildings are required.

These plans, as will be seen by the Supplement with this issue, will be perfect reproductions of the architect's drawings, conforming to a scale, and presented in

in making it not only first in its mission, but first in the character of its art, believing, as they do, that though at first the investment may be heavy, yet that the time will not be far distant when this journal will become a necessity to every builder in the country.

EXPLANATORY.

IN view of the fact that, through error, the first number of THE NATIONAL BUILDER was dated "March," our subscribers would naturally suppose that, as this number comes out in May, they have lost the benefit of the April issue. A short explanation is therefore necessary.

The facts are that the first number was really issued in April, but owing to the supplements having been printed in advance, and dated March, it became necessary to make the rest of the paper conform thereto. Subscribers, however, need have no anxiety on the subject—they will receive twelve monthly issues for their subscriptions, and in the future the publishers will aim not only to be prompt, but also to render unnecessary any explanations of this character.

THE NORTHWESTERN LUMBERMAN AND THE NATIONAL BUILDER.

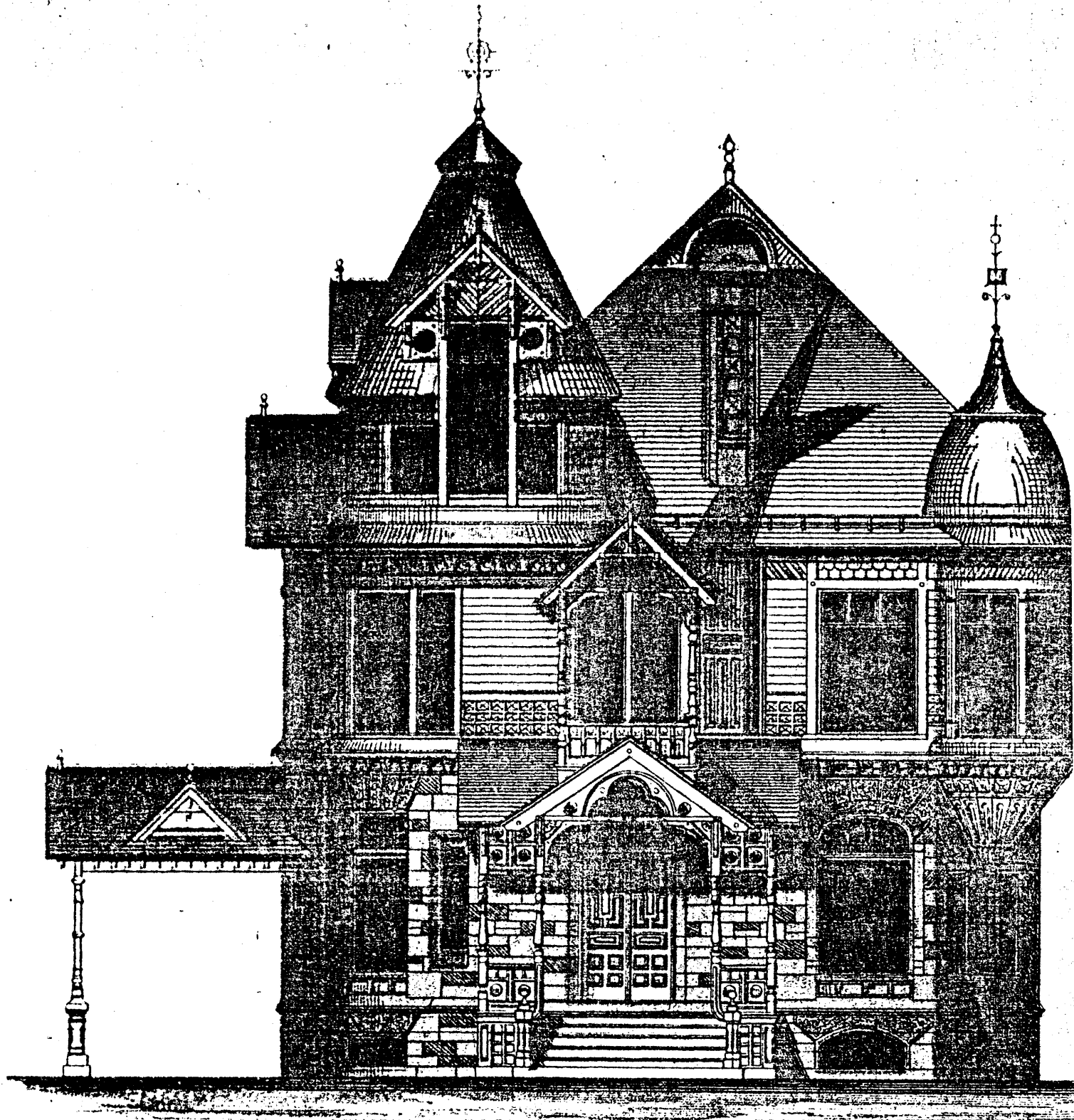
It will be seen by the advertisement of the *Northwestern Lumberman*, arrangements have been made with that journal for furnishing our subscribers in the future with that paper, in conjunction with THE NATIONAL BUILDER, at the rate of \$5.00 per annum. The *Northwestern Lumberman* stands to-day at the head and is recognized as the

to meet the requirements of builders. It starts out, not as a competitor with any other journal, but, on the contrary, to cover a territory not hitherto supplied; commencing, as it were, where the architectural journals leave off. The most noticeable feature of the first number are colored elevations and plans, as they would be made by an architect, of a handsome house to cost \$8,000; and in addition is a sheet 24x36 inches filled with details of construction drawn to scale. These plans and drawings we submitted to a practical contractor, who carefully examined them, and said that with them he could go on and put up the house without further instructions. Full bills of material are given with estimates based on Chicago prices, so that the builder can estimate for himself what the structure will cost. The paper abounds with valuable and interesting articles, and contains the first installment of an American dictionary of architectural terms. The second number contains full drawings and specifications for a \$2,000 house, and so is designed, in the course of its career, to cover all classes of work for which the services of an architect are not specially needed.

The *Northwestern Lumberman* takes pleasure in commending this new journal to its readers, and also in announcing that it has made an arrangement with the publishers for a reduced club-price upon the two journals for new subscribers, as follows: The yearly subscription price of THE NATIONAL BUILDER is \$3, and of the *Lumberman* \$4; the two will be sent for one year to a new subscriber for \$5. A great many retail lumber dealers will receive this particular number of the *Lumberman* who are not now regular subscribers. They will find folded within its pages a blank order for subscription embodying the above proposition. We would suggest the advisability of uniting with some builder, and thus securing both papers at the reduced price. A wise man has said that "a penny saved is two pence earned;" if this be true, any retail dealer who profits by the *Lumberman's* suggestion, as above, may "earn" four dollars.

TO OUR PATRONS.

THE unprecedented demand for the



FRONT ELEVATION.

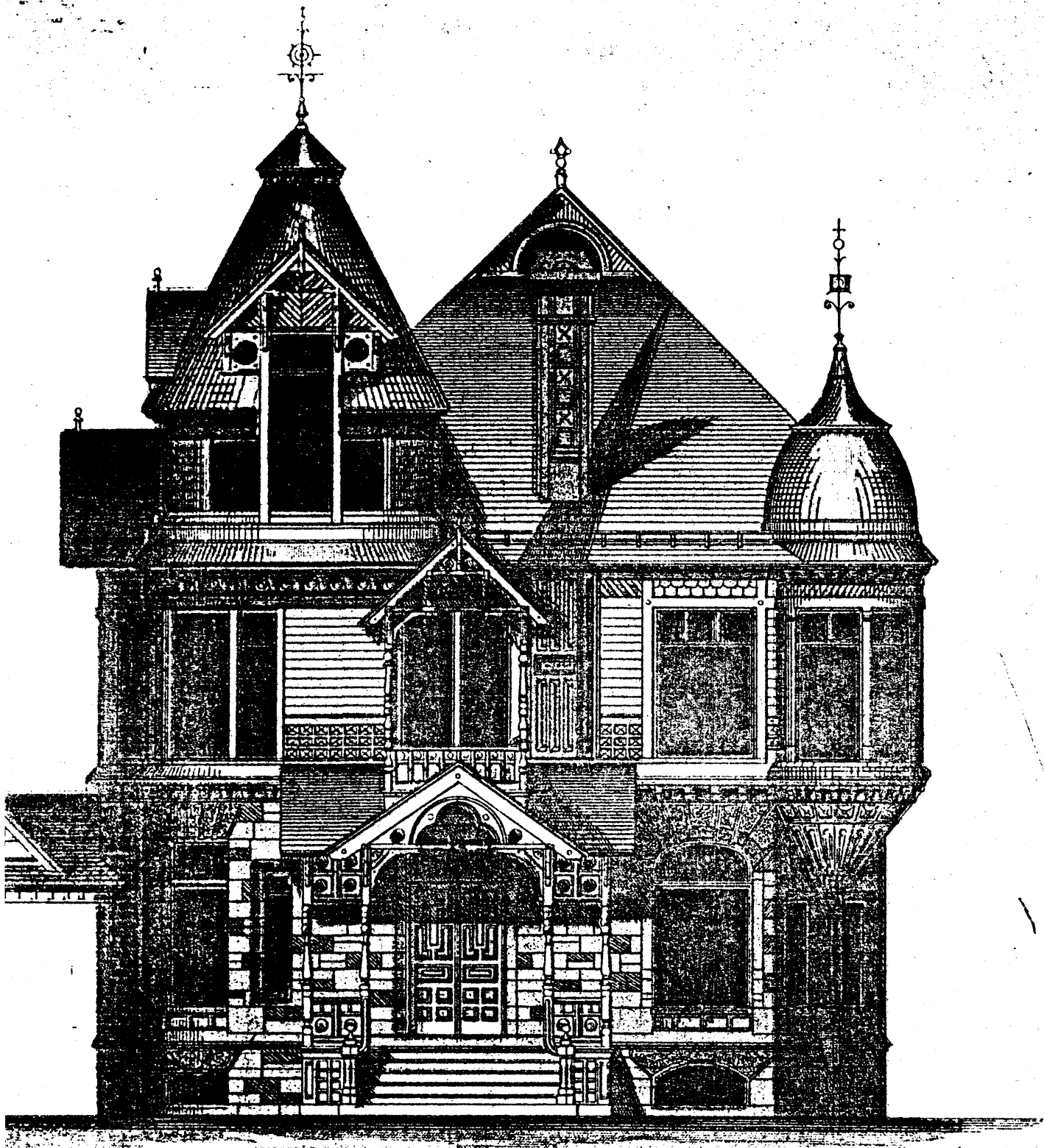
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Copyright by WM. D. KENNEDY & CO., 1895

GEO. O. BARNSEY, A

SHEARER-CRISTY HOUSE, Waupaca, Waupaca Co., WI

PRINTED BY THE J. H. JEFFERY PRINTING CO., CHICAGO



FRONT ELEVATION.

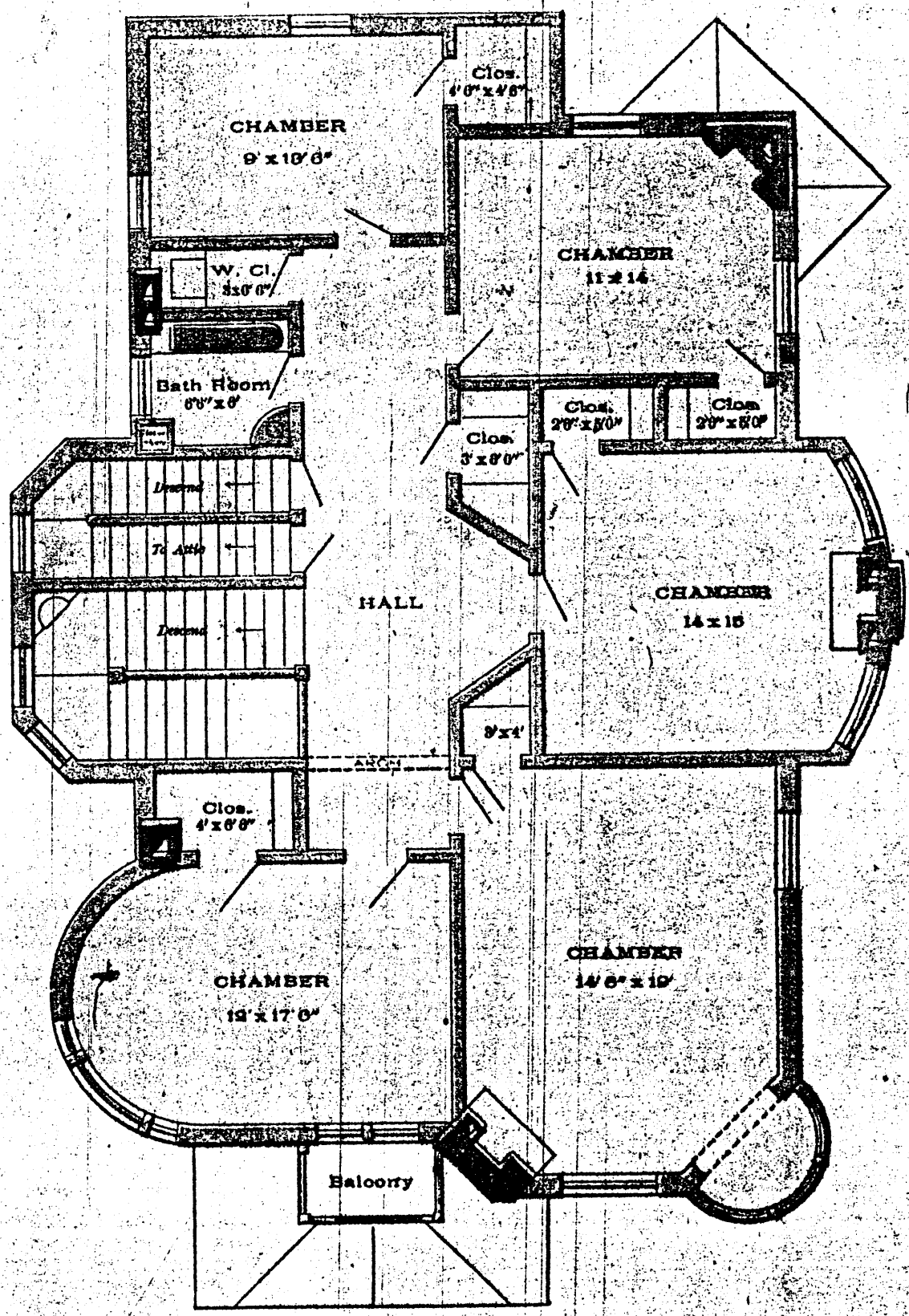
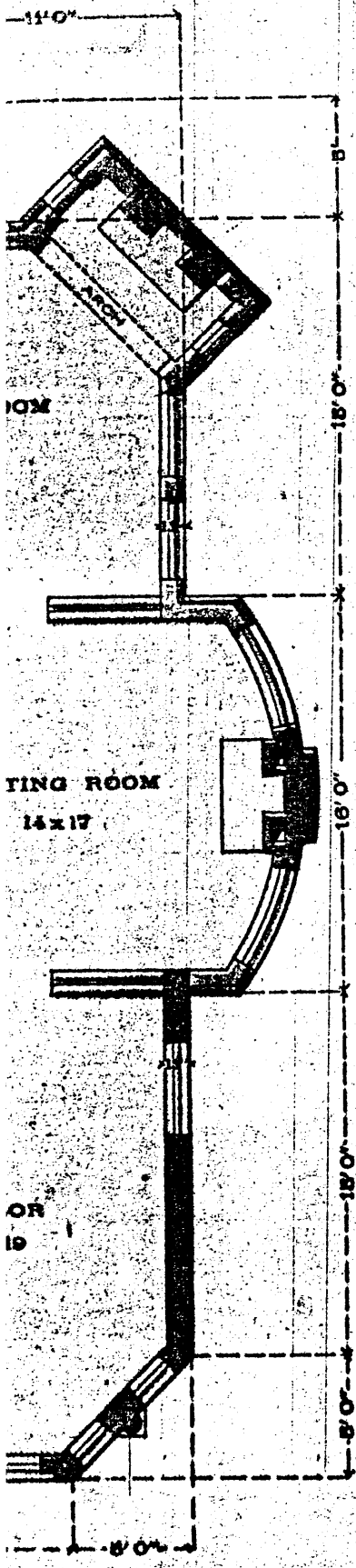
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SHEARER-CRISTY HOUSE, Waupaca, Waupaca Co., WI

GEO. O. GARNSEY, Architect, Chicago.

CO. 1003

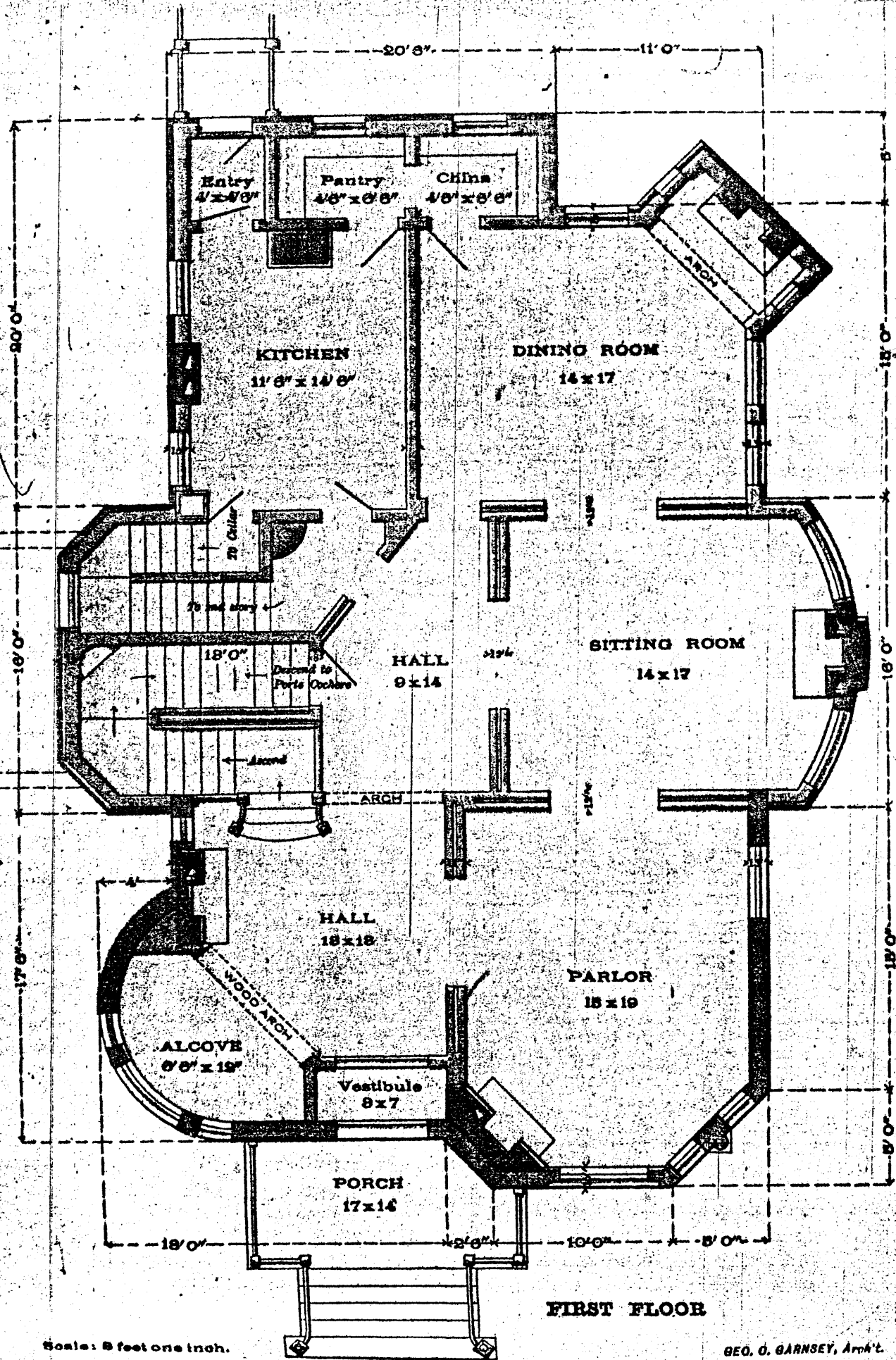
PRINTED BY THE CHICAGO ARCHITECTURAL FIRM, CHICAGO.



FLOOR Scale: 8 feet one inch. SECOND FLOOR GEO. G. GARNSEY, Archt.

GEO. G. GARNSEY, Archt.

SHEARER-CRISTY HOUSE, Waupaca, Waupaca Co., WI



FIRST FLOOR

Scale: 8 feet one inch.

GEO. O. BARNSEY, Arch't.

SHEARER-CRISTY HOUSE, Waupaca, Waupaca Co., WI