

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0677493

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 20 1979
DATE ENTERED	MAY 8 1979

**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

Fugina House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

348 South Main Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Fountain City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF

3rd

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE

55

COUNTY

Buffalo

CODE

011

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Marvin L. Fugina

STREET & NUMBER

340 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Fountain City

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 54629

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Buffalo County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

407 - 2nd South

CITY, TOWN

Alma

STATE

Wisconsin 54610

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1978

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input 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

Poised above the Mississippi River, the Fugina House is built of dark Roman brick and creosoted, rough-sawn western cedar. The Fugina House, a two-story, cross-plan house, has a low hipped roof. Projecting from the front (west facade) is a one-story polygonal sun room with glazed and leaded windows on three sides. On the north side, a rectangular balcony is catilevered above a band of windows. The flower boxes which trim these windows, further accentuate the horizontality. On the south end there is a screened porch with the original copper screens. Thin wood banding adorns lighter stuccoed wall sections. The chimney, which resembles an oblong block, appears to pierce the roof. Ornamental pendants hang from the soffits. This Prairie School styled house has strong horizontal lines; a narrow stringcourse ties the Chicago-style living room window with the long, unbroken roof of the entrance porch. A retaining wall of Roman brick between the sidewalk and the lawn continues the horizontal line. The wall opens for shallow steps, leading one to the entrance which is tucked into an angle of the house.

Upon entering the house one may go into either the sun room or the living-room area. Extending the entire length of the house, the living-dining room is lined on three sides by windows, as is the sun room. Natural wood tones are used throughout the house. In nearly every room wood banding runs one-and-a-half feet below the ceiling emphasizing the human scale of the rooms. The wood has been carefully maintained. Other details in the Fugina House include recessed radiators covered by wood grates, geometric leaded glass windows, original built-in wood and glass pantry cabinets, two-way telephone nook, windows containing recessed screens, and a continual use of a rectangular motif, like the ornamental pendants on the exterior, the light fixtures and drawer handles. A huge fireplace of yellow-brown Roman brick highlights the living room area. The Roman brick of the fireplace, longer and narrower than regular brick, adds to the strong horizontal lines of the house.

At present the Fuginas are building a garage and an additional bathroom and kitchen cabinets. Since the blueprints included a design for the garage, the Fuginas are following the design as closely as possible.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Association with locally important personage
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1916

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Percy Dwight Bentley

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fugina House qualifies for the National Register for two reasons. First, it is a principal work by a major Wisconsin architect working in a progressive idiom. Second, Martin L. Fugina, original builder of the house, was a prominent member of both bench and bar and his community.

The architect of the house, Percy Dwight Bentley (1885-1968), was born in La Crosse, Wisconsin, another Mississippi River town. He was educated in Ohio and at the Armour Institute in Chicago, which was located near the office of Frank Lloyd Wright. Although Bentley never had professional contact with Louis Sullivan or Frank Lloyd Wright, his knowledge based on observation is apparent. Bentley returned to La Crosse to begin his career. "Although he was initially indebted to the inspiration of others, he soon exhibited his ability to assimilate and reinterpret them, adding his own inventive qualities, and imbuing them with a freshness and mastery of proportions which belied the youthfulness of the designer."¹ Bentley worked in a progressive fashion; Mrs. Martin Fugina recalls that the buildings were "rather unusual and with a certain appeal."² The house, built for Judge M. L. Fugina, was of an extremely innovative style. In defending his design Bentley writes, "your location together with the type of house I would like to place on it, offers possibilities for the most attractive and picturesque house... which will be a continual joy for yourself and a credit to me."³

The Fugina House exhibits the distinctive characteristics of the Prairie School style. True to type, it is a comfortable place to reside in, the interior space flows well and it was built with the human element in mind. Externally, the house is fused with its environment. The house appears to emerge from both a hill on the east and the trees that surround it. The house and its environs compliment each other, accentuating the natural beauty of both.

Martin L. Fugina, son of pioneer residents, played a vital role in the development of his community. Fugina commenced his practice of law in Fountain City in 1895. He served as Buffalo County District Attorney from 1900 until 1908 when Governor James O. Davidson appointed him county judge. Fugina retained this position until 1926. "During his more than fifty years of continuous practice as a lawyer,... Judge Fugina has been identified with much important legislation which has been carried through the state and federal courts of Wisconsin and Minnesota,..."⁴

Mrs. and Judge Fugina were outstanding members of their community. Mrs. Fugina was active in educational, civic affairs and public welfare. For nearly forty years Judge Fugina served as member and president of the board of education and was instrumental

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Brooks, H. Allen, "Percy Dwight Bentley at La Crosse," *Prairie School Review*, IX (Third quarter, 1972): pp. 15-17.
 Letters of Percy Dwight Bentley.
 St. Paul Pioneer Press, July 6, 1975.
 Special Staff of Writers, Wisconsin: Stability, Progress, Beauty. Chicago: Lewis Pub. Co., 1946. Vol. 5. pp. 747-750.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .11 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Fountain City, Wis. - Minn.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 602820 4886780

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 111 Block A of Pierce's Addition

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

Patricia A. Marks, Preservation Assistant

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

November 20, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

608/262-2970

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Richard Kenney

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE 3/9/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5-8-79

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 5-3-79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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in bringing about construction of modern grade and high school building. Furthermore, he was a key figure in promotion of the construction of the municipal auditorium and state trunk highway system in his county. During World War II he served on the draft board and was chairman of the Buffalo County Red Cross. Moreover, Judge Fugina was one of the organizers of the First State Bank of Fountain City.

The Fugina House is one of only two Prairie School houses in Buffalo County, both of which are in Fountain City. It is one of the finest houses in its community.

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- ¹H. Allen Brooks. "Percy Dwight Bentley at La Crosse" The Prairie School Review, Vol. IX, #3. 1972. p. 5.
 - ²Ibid.
 - ³Letters of Percy Dwight Bentley, Feb. 27, 1915.
 - ⁴Wisconsin: Stability, Progress, Beauty - special staff of writers, Lewis Pub. Co., Chicago, Il. 1946. Vol. 5. p. 749.