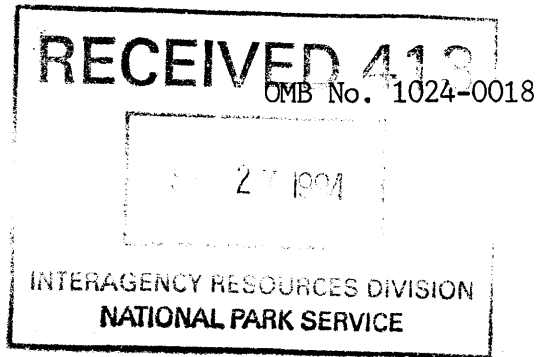


NPS Form 10-900
 (Rev. 8/86)
 Wisconsin Word Processor Format (1331D)
 (Approved 3/87)

United States Department of the Interior
 National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name RIOUX, ANGELINE CHAMPEAU HOUSE

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 2183 GLENDALE AVENUE N/A not for publication

city, town HOWARD N/A vicinity

state WISCONSIN code WI county BROWN code 009 zip code 54303

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
 N/A

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer - WI
State or Federal agency and bureau

9/21/94
Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet

Edson H. Beall

10.28.94

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Entered in the
National Register

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN

Materials

(enter categories from instructions)

foundation LIMESTONE

walls WEATHERBOARD

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Angeline Champeau Rioux House is located within the incorporated boundaries of the Village of Howard, approximately one half mile west of the intersection of Highway 41 and Velp Avenue. The building is situated on three acres of land immediately adjacent to operating and abandoned stone quarries. It faces Glendale Avenue, the approximate location of an old Indian trail connecting the Menominee villages at Green Bay and Suamico. The Rioux house is a Gabled-Ell vernacular residence of frame construction, reputedly incorporating a log cabin built on this site in 1827. The present appearance of the building dates from 1898, when the structure was extensively enlarged and remodeled by Angeline Champeau Rioux.

The house has an irregular plan configuration consisting of a one-and-a-half story front gable upright wing (the north wing) whose main facade faces north, and to whose west elevation is attached a less tall one-and-a-half story L-plan side gable longitudinal wing (the west and south wings). In addition there is a small one-story gable-roofed ell attached to the rear south-facing elevation of the south wing that consists of the kitchen of the house. The north wing and the kitchen wing both date from the 1898 remodeling. The west and south wings are believed to have been extant when Louis Rioux purchased the property in 1887, and the west wing is said to incorporate the 1827 log cabin. The foundations throughout are quarry cut limestone and the walls are all clad in clapboard. The multi-gabled roof is gently pitched and the roofing materials are asphalt shingles. A single gabled dormer is located on the north slope of the west wing, and another is located on the east slope of the south wing.

The fenestration is functional and consists of double-hung single-paned sash, arranged in single, double, and multiple window groupings. On the north wing there is one single window on the south facade and four on the east. On the west wing there is one single window on the north facade. On the south wing there is one single window on the west and south facades, and two on the east. On the kitchen wing there is one single window on the west and south facades. A double-window grouping is located on the second floor of the north and south facades of the north wing. A multi-window grouping is located on the first floor of the north facade of the north wing, and on the first floor of the west facade of the west wing.

Full width porches with turned posts, spindled grilles, and incised brackets are located on the north facades of the north and west wings. The porch roofs are hipped, and a pedimented gablet is located at the northwest corner of the north wing porch. Together these porches have the appearance of a continuous, full-width veranda. Entrance doors are sheltered by each porch, and rear doors are located southwest corners of the south elevations of the west and south wings.

X See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: nationally statewide X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B X C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

 ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

 1898 - 1939 (1)

Significant Dates

 N/A

Cultural Affiliation

 N/A

Significant Person

 N/A

Architect/Builder

 UNKNOWN

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Angeline Champeau Rioux House is nominated to the National Register for its local significance under criterion C. The Rioux house embodies the distinctive architectural characteristics of the Gabled-Ell vernacular form addressed in the Cultural Resource Management Plan. It is also reflective of a significant period of growth and achievement in the historic settlement at Duck Creek. The period of significance of the Rioux house covers its initial enlargement by Angeline Rioux to her death, during which the house achieved its present appearance.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Located two-and-a-half miles northwest of the Fox River, Duck Creek is one of three rivers that flow into Green Bay at its southern extremity. The Menominee are known to have camped in the area, attracted by the wild rice and waterfowl. In the nineteenth century navigable access to timber, clay deposits, and outcroppings of Trenton limestone attracted various groups of settlers, facilitating the development of a regional building products industry. This industry declined in the early twentieth century, after which the unincorporated settlement at Duck Creek merged into the village of Howard. The village is now part of the Green Bay metropolitan area.

In 1820 Rev. Jedidiah Morse visited Green Bay with the purpose of relocating the Oneida Indians there. During his travels he recorded a small band of Menominee encamped at Duck Creek, not far from the Indian trail connecting the Menominee villages at Green Bay and Suamico. The following year Isaac Lee surveyed the area and included Duck Creek on his maps. Sometime later a small group of mixed-blood French-Canadians had settled in and around the Indian encampment. These settlers were part Menominee, and included the Grignons, Brunettes, Vieaus, Rioux, and

 X See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Three acres

UTM References

A	<u>1/6</u>	<u>4/1/5/1/4/0</u>	<u>4/9/3/4/6/0/0</u>	B	<u>/</u>	<u>///</u>	<u>///</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>/</u>	<u>///</u>	<u>///</u>	D	<u>/</u>	<u>///</u>	<u>///</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of fractional Section 15, Town 24 North, Range 20 East, formerly in the Town, now in the Village of Howard, Brown County, Wisconsin, described at Vol. 58 of Deeds on p. 544, Brown County, Wisconsin Records.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This boundary encompasses the entire historic setting of the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Peter J. Adams</u>	date	<u>October 15, 1993</u>
organization	<u>Peter J. Adams & Associates</u>	telephone	<u>414/725-1945</u>
street & number	<u>636 East Doty Avenue</u>	state	<u>Wisconsin</u>
city or town	<u>Neenah</u>	zip code	<u>54956</u>

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The interior room arrangement is functional. The north wing main entrance door opens into a small vestibule and hall. This hall gives access to the north wing parlor and to the west wing sitting room. Access to a rear bedroom and staircase in the north wing is made through the sitting room. The south wing dining room and the kitchen wing are also accessed through the west wing sitting room. The second floor room arrangement largely follows the first floor, with a step between the successive wings. A second staircase descends from the bedroom over the dining room to an exterior doorway. Under this staircase is the access to the partial basement under the west and south wings. The only recent modification of the floor plan has been the temporary conversion of the vestibule into a lavatory.

The plaster walls of the principal rooms have picture rails close to the ceiling and are largely unadorned by historic papers or decorations. In the dining room the walls are wainscotted, and a china cabinet is built into the west wall. The walls in this room were at one time frescoed by Italian stone masons who were employed by Louis Rioux and who were housed in the bedroom over the dining room. The kitchen immediately off the dining room is similarly wainscotted.

While simple and stylistically undistinguished, each room contains a large number of historic furnishings evocative of middle class life at the turn of the century. There are numerous oak bedroom suites, oil cloth rugs, a parlor set, and an upright piano. Some bedrooms on the second floor still utilize oil lanterns for lighting. The house also contains numerous artifacts, photographs, and documents relating to the history of Duck Creek, the development of the local quarry industry, and the early French settlement of Northeastern Wisconsin. The provenance of the collection traces the family's descent from various Menominee chiefs and the earliest settlers of Green Bay, including Charles de Langlade, Joseph Roi, and Pierre Grignon.

The only other building on the site is a non-contributing contemporary garage and studio directly behind the house. Until recently a barn stood near the southwest corner of the property, and for many years a log blacksmith shop stood near the northeast corner. Another log building stood elsewhere on the property and served as the quarry commissary. Menominee corn hills and wigwam mounds were also at one time visible along the southern boundary of the site. A few wild apple trees, reputedly remnants of a Menominee orchard, can also be identified on the property.

The architectural context of the Rioux house distinguishes the property still further. What remains of the settlement of Duck Creek are scattered, modest vernacular houses, most of which have been significantly altered by remodeling and contemporary siding. The Rioux house, with its remarkable integrity of site and form, in conjunction with historic furnishings and notable artifacts, recommends it as an important resource worthy of future study.

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Jourdains. Many were second and third generation fur traders, whose intermarried families were closely associated with the settlement of Green Bay. (2)

What attracted this group to the area is not recorded. Duck Creek formed the western edge of the Military Reserve. The establishment of Fort Howard in 1816 is thought to have opened up lumbering and farming opportunities in the surrounding area. (3) Joseph Roi, another early settler of Green Bay, located a fur trading post there sometime before his death in 1826. In 1827 John Arndt established a brick yard and saw mill at Duck Creek, building various log structures to house his employees. Treaty payments may also have served as an attraction. Many of these mixed-blood French-Canadian families had lost property in Green Bay through the foreclosure of mortgages held by the American Fur Trading Company. In 1836 they became eligible for a government treaty allotment, if they could establish Menominee descent.

By 1840 the Menominee had largely abandoned the encampment, and in their place were more than thirty families, nearly all mixed-blood French-Canadians. In the following decade the number of French-Canadians dropped to approximately 60% as the population of Duck Creek nearly doubled. The decline continued throughout the second half of the 19th century as the local population of Irish, German, and Belgian immigrants increased. Of these the Belgian community grew to comprise one third of the population by 1870, reinforcing the Low Country and Central European character of Duck Creek. French was commonly heard spoken, and the Catholic priests assigned to the local congregation were almost all of Belgium descent. (4)

The principal industry that emerged during the settlement era was the production and manufacture of building products such as lumber, shingles, brick, and stone. As early as 1834 the product of Arndt's sawmill exceeded local demand and was said to have provided the first shipments of lumber from the Green Bay area. (5) A second sawmill was constructed in 1836, followed by a shingle factory in 1846. By the 1860s there were a dozen lumber camps operating in the Duck Creek area. There were also two substantial brick manufactories and two sizeable stone quarries. These were opened in the Trenton limestone formations located on either side of the old Indian trail, which by that time had become known as the Suamico Military Road.

The first of these quarries was established by Lucas Rioux sometime before 1850. Rioux, a descendant of Charles de Langlade, Pierre Grignon, and Joseph Roi, came to Duck Creek in 1827 to construct housing for Arndt's labor force. A recipient of a treaty payment in 1849, Rioux acquired a forty-acre tract on the north side of the military road and began to quarry his five-acre outcropping of Trenton limestone. David Cormier opened a second quarry across the road in 1863. Shipments from these two quarries alone were sufficient to secure an extension of the Chicago &

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Northwestern Railroad in 1871. (6) A third quarry was begun in 1873 by Emmanuel Brunette, with two more in operation by the turn of the century.

Stone from these quarries was used in the construction of the city hall and post office buildings in Milwaukee, the Crystal Falls Courthouse in Michigan, the St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum at Green Bay, as well as for basements, piers and macadam in Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Green Bay and Neenah. (7) The Chicago & Northwestern Railroad went so far as to purchase the Cormier quarry in 1874, securing an exclusive supply of quality stone for its bridges. At one point, the Rioux quarry employed 127 laborers and several Italian stone cutters to produce custom bathtubs, fountains and other architectural features. By 1890 the number of stonecutters employed by these quarries was large enough to justify formation of a Duck Creek branch of the Journeymen Stonecutters' Association. (8)

Louis Rioux took over the quarry after his father's death in 1876. Three years later he married Angeline Champeau, a second cousin whose mother was a Brunette. In 1887 Rioux bought the house directly across the street from his quarry. In addition to providing a residence, the property accomodated important ancillary activities to quarry operations. A barn for dray animals was constructed there, and two log structures were hauled onto the site to serve as a blacksmith shop and commissary. The house itself was even commandeered as lodging for the Italian stone cutters, who frescoed the dining room walls in their spare time. In 1896 Rioux died, after which Angeline sold the business.

About this time there were five hotels along Velp Avenue, as well as numerous saloons and stores, serving the needs of residents and employees of the sawmills, brickworks and stone quarries. Yet while these businesses increased in number, the industrial base that supported them was gradually collapsing. In the early twentieth century concrete was replacing brick and stone as a staple building material. Local sources of timber had also been largely exhausted. Eventually the saw mills closed, and most of the quarries were abandoned. Gradually the economy shifted from an industrial to an agrarian basis as logged over acreage was converted to agriculture. In 1959 the Town of Howard incorporated as a village, merging the overlapping settlements of Duck Creek, Cormier, and Velp into a single municipality just outside the municipal boundaries of Green Bay. (9)

ARCHITECTURE

According to family legend, the Rioux house incorporates one of the log cabins built by Lucas Rioux in 1827 for John Arndt. The cabin was reputedly remodeled into a clapboard residence sometime before 1887, when Louis Rioux purchased the property. Whatever its origins, the present appearance of the house was achieved by Angeline

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Champeau Rioux, who enlarged the house in 1898 and gave it the distinctive characteristics of the vernacular gabled ell form. Angeline Rioux occupied the house until her death in 1939. (10)

The Wisconsin Cultural Resource Management Plan identifies six vernacular forms of domestic architecture. Of these the gabled ell was one of the most common forms constructed during the second half of the nineteenth century. This form often evolved from front or side gable houses, and is more often found in a rural or small community environment. Typically, the form consists of a one-story side gable wing connected to a one-and-a-half story front gable wing. A sheltered porch at the junction of these wings often exhibits decorative features such as brackets, turned posts, and balustrades. With these exceptions, the gabled ell is usually devoid of any other ornamentation. This simplicity, however, belies the general sense of comfort and livability which undoubtedly contributed to its widespread popularity.

The Rioux house clearly possesses the distinctive architectural characteristics of the gabled ell form. In 1887 it consisted of the one-and-a-half story south wing, to which the more upright one-and-a-half story north wing was added in 1898. At the junction of these two wings is a porch with brackets, turned posts and balustrades. Atypically, the identical design extends across the north wing, creating the impression of a continuous full-width veranda. The isolated decorative features of these porches make them the most interesting and dynamic element of what is otherwise a simple vernacular design.

The architectural integrity of the house is enriched by the presence of historic furnishings and a notable collection of artifacts. Inside, the rooms are still largely furnished as Angeline Rioux had them at her death in 1939. There are numerous oak bedroom suites, parlor sets, an upright piano, and oil cloth rugs. Some bedrooms on the second floor still utilize oil lanterns for lighting. After her death the house and its contents were purchased by her grand-daughter, Jeanne, and her husband, Lester Rentmeester. Through their interest and stewardship the interior is still strongly evocative of middle class life at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Included with these furnishings are numerous artifacts, photographs, and documents relating to the history of Duck Creek, the development of the local quarry industry, and the early settlement of Northeastern Wisconsin by mixed-blood French-Canadians. The provenance of the collection traces the family's descent from various Menominee chiefs and the earliest settlers of Green Bay, including Charles de Langlade, Joseph Roi, and Pierre Grignon. Some of the most distinguished pieces of this collection are now on display at the Neville Public Museum and Heritage Hill State Park in

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Green Bay, and at the Charles Grignon Mansion in Kaukauna. Most notable among these is the uniform of Charles de Langlade.

The architectural integrity of the house and its furnishings is further enriched by the integrity of the site. The barn and log structures that were part of the quarry operations are no longer extant, but a few wild apple trees still dot the land as it rolls gently down to Glendale Avenue. The site is a pocket of tranquility surrounded by dramatic change. Across the street to the north, the old Rioux quarry has been excavated hundreds of feet into the ground. To the south the four lanes of Velp Avenue carry a steady stream of traffic in and out of Green Bay. Six lanes of traffic on Highway 41 lie half a mile away.

The architectural context of the Rioux house distinguishes the property still further. The late nineteenth century hotels and taverns on Velp Avenue have all but disappeared, along with the sawmills and brickyards on Duck Creek. What remains of the settlement are scattered of modest vernacular houses, most of which have been significantly altered by remodeling and contemporary siding. Eight of these are gabled ells, located primarily on Velp, Riverview, and Lakeview avenues. None possess sufficient integrity of site or form to be eligible for listing to the National Register.

Only two texts are known to specifically address the history of Duck Creek and its mixed-blood French-Canadian community. Additional survey work is needed to associate and evaluate the Rioux house and other extant buildings with a similar contextual history. In the absence of such a survey, the Angeline Champeau Rioux House is nominated to the National Register for its local significance under criterion C. It is a representative example of the gabled ell vernacular form that evokes the general tenor of life at Duck Creek at the turn of the century. Its integrity of site and form, in conjunction with its historic furnishings and notable collection of artifacts, recommends it as an important resource worthy of future study.

ARCHEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The history of Duck Creek indicates that archeological sites may be located on or near the three acres surrounding the Rioux House. While there are no known or reported sites on file with the State Historic Preservation Officer, the area has not been surveyed and its archeological potential cannot be ruled out.

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ENDNOTES

- (1) Rentmeester. Memories of Old Duck Creek, p. 191.
- (2) French, p. 33.
- (3) Rudolph, p. 11.
- (4) Rentmeester. Memories of Old Duck Creek., p. 169.
- (5) Titus, p. 631.
- (6) Rentmeester. Memories of Old Duck Creek. p. 148
- (7) Buckley, p. 277.
- (8) Rentmeester. Memories of Old Duck Creek, p. 151.
- (9) Roloff, p. 11.
- (10) Rentmeester. Early Duck Creek History, p. 204.

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Major Bibliographical References

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French, Bella. The American Sketchbook. American Sketchbook Publishers, 1876. Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Rentmeester, Lester and Jeanne Rioux. Memories of Old Duck Creek. Printed privately, 1984. Howard, Wisconsin.

_____. Early Duck Creek History. Printed privately, 1989. Howard, Wisconsin.

Roloff, M. R. "The Village of Howard: A General History." Historical Collection, Howard branch of the Brown County Library.

Rudolph, Jack. Green Bay, a Pictorial History. Donning Company, 1983. Norfolk, Virginia.

Titus, William A. History of the Fox River Valley. S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1930. Chicago, Illinois.

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Section number Photos Page 1 Rioux, Angeline Champeau House
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Photographic Materials - Identification

Rioux, Angeline Champeau House; Howard, Brown County, WI.
Photos by Peter J. Adams, September 1992.
Negatives at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

- #1 of 9: View from the north.
- #2 of 9: View from the west.
- #3 of 9: View from the south.
- #4 of 9: View from the east.
- #5 of 9: Detail of porch.
- #6 of 9: View of garage and studio.
- #7 of 9: View of the grounds from the southeast.
- #8 of 9: Detail of dining room.
- #9 of 9: Detail of bedroom.

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Section number OWNER Page 1 Rioux, Angeline Champeau House
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Lester and Jeanne Rioux Rentmeester
2183 Glendale Avenue
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54303
414/434-1814