

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin
COUNTY: Marathon
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE AUG 30 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Stewart, Hiram C., House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
521 Grant Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Wausau

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
7th

STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55** COUNTY: **Marathon** CODE: **073**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Helen Hering

STREET AND NUMBER:
521 Grant Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Wausau

STATE:
Wisconsin

CODE:
55

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Marathon County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
Forest St.

CITY OR TOWN:
Wausau

STATE:
Wisconsin

CODE:
55

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Plan, Vol. II: The Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

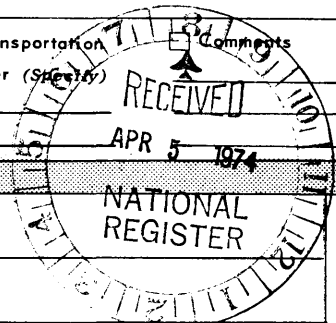
STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE:
Wisconsin 53706

CODE:
55

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Wisconsin

COUNTY: Marathon

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

AUG 30 1974

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

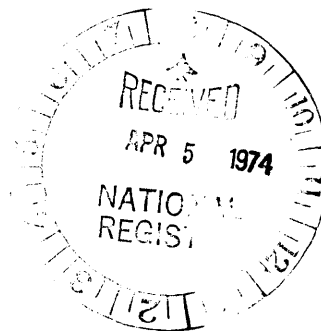
The Hiram C. Stewart House is a gray two-story stucco Prairie School design by George Washington Maher, Chicago, built in 1906. It is a rectangular block with a low hipped roof. The central chimney is a proportionally-broad mass. The stuccoed walls are slightly battered and have a wooden "string course" at the lower edge of the second-story windows. A prominent entrance porch on the right side of the main facade is the major visual accent.

The porch is a parapet supported by one pier and two columns at each corner. The piers are massive, plain blocks and the columns have lotus-like capitals actually based on the tulip motif. The massive parapet above is a giant bolection molding the top of which is stopped and enclosed by the "string course" referred to above.

At the center of the main (north) facade is a quasi-Palladian window the basic shape of which is carried throughout the house in interior wood trim. A tripartite design, the central portion is surmounted by a segmental arch and is flanked by two smaller casement windows framed under half-segmental arches. The dividing colonnettes are based on an abstracted tulip-capital motif.

Indeed, the entire house is designed around two thematic forms: the tulip and the tripartite arch form established in the central window. The house is, therefore, an excellent example of Maher's "motif rhythm theory" in which a basic plant or geometric form is chosen and a complete design evolved from these. In interior trim, leaded-glass designs, and light fixtures the tulip reappears continually. The tulip shape relates well to the Egyptian lotus, which would have been reasonable for Maher who revealed Egyptian influences in many of his designs.

Inside the house a stunning mosaic framing the living room fireplace was designed and executed by Ciannini and Hilgart, Chicago.



S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1906 [From date on blueprints.]**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Until recently, it was not thought that George W. Maher (1864-1926) had designed any houses for Wisconsin clients. It is now known this was untrue. In Wausau he designed four complete houses and one major interior remodeling from 1889 to about 1915. The Stewart house perhaps is the finest example of these houses in that it exemplifies to clearly the Maher "motif-rhythm theory," and is most true to the Prairie School design philosophy.

Maher was born in West Virginia and was moved by his family to Chicago following the 1871 fire. At the age of thirteen he began working for architects, and he apprenticed later in the office of Joseph Lyman Silsbee, Chicago. In Silsbee's office during Maher's tenure were Frank Lloyd Wright and George Grant Elmslie, perhaps the two most important figures in the Prairie School movement before Maher. In 1888, the year Wright left Silsbee, Maher also left to establish his own practice. While working within the Prairie School, Maher was unpredictable and both a contributor and maverick. His concern for "Originality in American Architecture" led him to expound on the subject in an article by that title in the Inland Architect of 1887. Later he wrote about his "motif rhythm theory," in which he advocated the selection of an indigenous plant and/or geometric shape as the unifying motif in architectural design. Some of Maher's designs have been rather ungainly and awkward. According to Rudd, his theories "may not be without merit. However, their employment as compositional criteria in Maher's work resulted at times in some rather distressing expressions ... wherein the application of the theory appears to force compositional decisions in opposition to the unity of expression."¹ Paralleling his indigenous concern was his sympathy for the Prairie School, which sought to create a uniquely American architecture.

The Stewart house was one of Maher's fairly successful designs evolved from the "motif-rhythm theory." It is the most representative of the Wausau houses as far as the application of this theory is concerned, though the other houses evidence similar tendencies. As the best design among the newly-discovered cluster of Maher houses in Wausau, it is a major Prairie School site in Wisconsin.

Hiram C. Stewart was an officer in the Barker and Stewart Lumber Company. In 1914 he sold the house to Louis Dessert, another lumberman, whose family owned it until 1964.

¹ Rudd, Prairie School Review, p. 7.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brooks, H. Allen. The Prairie School, Frank Lloyd Wright and His Midwest Contemporaries. Toronto, 1972.
 David, Arthur C. "The Architecture of Ideas." Architectural Record. Vol. 15, No. 4 (April, 1904).
 Maher, George W. "Originality in American Architecture." Inland Architect and News Record. (October, 1887.)
 . "Art Democracy." Western Architect. (1910.)
 Rudd, J. William, "George Maher, Architect of the Prairie School." Prairie School Review. Vol. 1, No. 1 (First Qtr., 1964.)

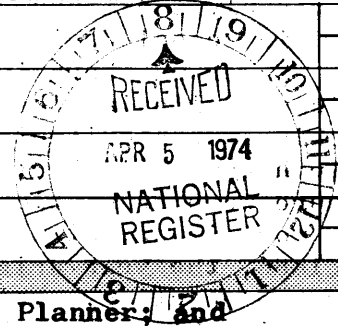
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than one**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Jeffrey M. Dean, State Preservation Planner, and Juanita Elias, Summer Survey Field Supervisor**

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **Feb. 26, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **816 State Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison** STATE: **Wisconsin 53706** CODE: **55**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name James Morton Smith
James Morton Smith

Title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date 4/1/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. R. Mortenson
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/30/74

ATTEST:

Charles H. Smith
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 8-29-74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS