

Record No. \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED

INVENTORY FORM FOR NOMINATED PROPERTIES

AUG 16 1988

Name of Property: Albert R. Baer House

Owner: Dorothy Vehring Estate Date: 4/22/86

Address: W166 N8990 Grand Avenue

Owner's address: W166 N8990 Grand Avenue

City: Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin 53051

County: Waukesha

NATIONAL REGISTER

Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin 53051

\*160 NRHP Certification

(a) \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_

(c) \_\_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_

165 NRHP Certification Date

(a) \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_

(c) \_\_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_

\*170 Thematic or Multiple Resource Nomination Name

Multiple Resources of Menomonee Falls

180 NRHP List Name Albert R. Baer House

\*200 Level of Significance Local

\*190 District Classification \_\_\_\_\_

\*210 Applicable Criteria Architecture / (C)

\*215 Criteria Considerations

\*220 Area of Significance

Architecture

230 Period of Significance Architecture: 1893

60 Verbal Boundary Description Lot 7, North 11 feet

of Lot 6: J. B. Nehs Second Addition, Part of SW 1/4, Section 3, Town 8 North, Range 20 East.

70 USGS Quad Map Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin

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

16-409310=4781330

85 Listed Acreage Less than one

340 Review Board Date \_\_\_\_\_

Nomination includes:

TWO Buildings. (Main House  
(Contributing) Carriage Hous

\*use code tables for response

INTENSIVE SURVEY FORM

Record No. \_\_\_\_\_ Property Name: Albert R. Baer House

LOCATION

\*10 County Waukesha  
 20 City or Village Menomonee Falls  
 30 Civil Town \_\_\_\_\_  
 35 Unincorp. Community \_\_\_\_\_  
 40 Location W166 H8990 Grand Avenue  
 Town-Range-Section (Format: 9999W-99)  
 50 \_\_\_\_\_  
 55 Quarter Sections (Format: NW-NW) \_\_\_\_\_  
 60 Verbal Boundary Description Lot 7, North 11  
60 feet of Lot 6: J. B. Nehs Second  
60 Addition, Part of SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 3,  
60 Town 8 North, Range 20 East.

PROGRAM REVIEW

250 Tax No. \_\_\_\_\_ Compliance No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*270 A or D Grant \_\_\_\_\_  
 275 Covenant/Easement Dates \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*320 Ownership Private  
 \*330 Lead Agency \_\_\_\_\_  
 335 Local Agency \_\_\_\_\_

SURVEY

90 Photo Codes WK 91-17; WK-A 4-2; Z:660  
WK 96-2,3,4,5,6,7,10,11,36A  
 100 Survey Map Engineer's Map of Menomonee Falls  
 110 Map Code 91-17  
 120 Reconnaissance Surveyor Leonard Garfield  
 130 Reconnaissance Survey Date 1979  
 140 Intensive Survey Name Menomonee Falls Intensive  
Survey  
 150 Intensive Surveyor Rausch/Kilsdonk(Johnson '84  
 152 Surveyor Affiliation Architectural Resources,  
 155 Intensive Survey FY 1985  
 \*235 Survey Eval. Eligible  
 \*237 Survey District Classification \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*240 Survey Level of Significance Local  
 \*243 Survey Evaluation Criteria Architecture  
 245 Proposed District \_\_\_\_\_  
 280 NHL Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 290 HABS No. \_\_\_\_\_ 300 HAER No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*305 Local Designation (date) \_\_\_\_\_  
 320 Local District \_\_\_\_\_  
 315 Associated Archeological Site(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 315 \_\_\_\_\_



Number

Street

\* use code tables for response

- Record No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address W166 N8990 Grand Avenue

ARCHITECTURE

450 Construction Date [source] 1893 A B

460 Date(s) of Alterations/Additions [source] \_\_\_\_\_

460 \_\_\_\_\_

480 Builder [source] unknown

\* 490 Designer Type (a) -

490 (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_

500 Designer Name [source] (a) unknown

500 (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_

\* 510 Style or Form Queen Anne

510 \_\_\_\_\_

\* 520 Building, Structure, Object or SiteType

520 Building - House

\* 530 Wall Material Clapboard Wood

\* 532 Trim Material Wood

\* 535 Foundation Material Cut Stone

\* 537 Roof Material Asph. Shingles

\* 540 Interior Visited Yes

\* 550 Structural System [source] \_\_\_\_\_

\* 560 Plan Configuration Irregular

\* 570 Number of Stories 1 1/2

\* 580 Roof Shape Combination hip and gable with dormers

590 Additional Description \_\_\_\_\_

590 (See last page)

590 \_\_\_\_\_

590 \_\_\_\_\_

\* 620 Condition Fair

\* 650 Related Buildings Albert R. Baer Carriage (WK9  
650 House (WK 91-13)  
650 Garden Shed (WK 96-10)

HISTORY

430 Current Name Dorothy Vehring Estate House

435 Current Function House

440 Historic Names [source] Albert R. Baer House

440 \_\_\_\_\_

440 \_\_\_\_\_

660 Assoc. Individuals [source] (a) Albert R. Baer

660 (b) \_\_\_\_\_

665 Dates Assoc. [source] (a) 1893 -1931 (1)

665 (b) \_\_\_\_\_

670 Assoc. Events [source] (a) -

670 \_\_\_\_\_

670 (b) \_\_\_\_\_

670 \_\_\_\_\_

675 Dates of Events [source] (a) -

675 (b) \_\_\_\_\_

680 Historic Functions [source] (a) House

680 (b) \_\_\_\_\_

685 Dates of Functions [source] (a) 1893-present

685 (b) \_\_\_\_\_

\* 687 Cultural Affiliation -

688 Cultural Subgroup \_\_\_\_\_

\*use code tables for response

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Albert Baer house was built in 1893 by local businessman and official Albert Baer as a home for himself and his bride, Jennie (Greengo) Baer.[1] The house was built on property belonging to Baer's father-in-law, James C. Greengo, a long-time Town of Menomonee farmer, from whom he purchased the property in 1900. [2] Albert, born in 1861, was the eldest son of Isaac R. and Mary (Clausen) Baer, New York natives who had migrated to East Troy, Wisconsin, and relocated to Menomonee Falls after the Civil War.[3] In 1886, Isaac, who had been a farmer, and Albert, then 25 years old, opened a general merchandizing business in the "old store of [Peter] Keeler and [Morris A.] Schmoyer," which Isaac had purchased and remodeled.[4] Clerking in the store were Albert's younger brothers Carl and Clarence; by 1915 Isaac's wife Mary was running a millinery shop next door.[5]

The last business directory listing for "Isaac Baer & Son General Merchandise" appears in 1895. Isaac, then 64 years old (and without occupation in the 1900 census), probably retired; he died in 1904.[6] Albert, age 43, was at the peak of his political career as village president (1896-98), and may have taken time off from the business as well.[7] If such was the case, when he reappeared in the 1903 Wisconsin Gazetteer, it was in partnership with his wife's relatives: first, her brother Frank, and then, by 1909, with her mother, Anne (Baker) Greengo; Jennie herself had died in 1908. The business became known as the "Baer and Greengo General Store." [8]

In 1911 Albert married a former employee, Lydia Fye, daughter of John Fye, a village blacksmith and owner of the Fye business block.[9] In 1920 Baer purchased the Fye Block from his father-in-law and installed a business into it, the "Black Hawk Hosiery Mills." His association with the Greengos and with the mercantile business apparently ended in 1921, when the "Baer block" was destroyed by fire.[10] (Three years later an explosion destroyed two new businesses built on the same site, Held's Cafe and Caesar's Plumbing.) [11] Albert Baer died in 1931. [12]

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

**DESCRIPTION**

Located in a residential area developed in the late 19th and early 20th century, the Baer Cottage is characterized by gabled bays projecting on the west and south sides of the main hip-roofed section. The more decorative front gable is ornamented by saw-tooth trim, decorative shingles, and applied "rising-sun" designs in the area between the window and the rake board. Cut-out brackets with pendants decorate the chamfered corners of the front gable, and dentil trim borders the paneled area above a large central window composed of two-over-two lights and a stained glass over-light panel. Scalloped trim above the windows in the corner bays and window aprons of alternating vertical and chevron patterns further add to the surface pattern and texture of the front gable. A trio of windows grouped under one projecting cornice trimmed with a row of dentils is located in the front as well as on the south gable. A stained glass overlight panel, similar to the front window, characterized the south gable as well. The windows are covered by wooden exterior shutters. Two hip-roofed dormers, a gabled door hood on the south side, and a rear porch with a spindle frieze and turned posts are located to the rear of the house. A gabled wall dormer, with a pair of windows and a small enclosed porch, characterize the north side. A hip-roofed summer kitchen with a concrete foundation projects from the south side. The interior plan features two bedrooms downstairs and one bedroom and attic upstairs.

The Baer Cottage is sited on a small rectangular lot, along with a carriage house (WK 91-18) and a small garden shed.

**700 STUDY UNITS (CODE)****ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING SIGNIFICANCE**

The A. R. Baer Cottage is significant under Criterion C as a good example of a cottage constructed under the influence of the Queen Anne Revival era. Exhibiting the irregularity of form and the complexity of surface decoration characteristic of the style, the Baer Cottage is among the more elaborate interpretations of the style identified in the survey of Menomonee Falls (also see the Mace House, W166 N8941 Grand Avenue; and Mrs. Elizabeth Hoos House, W164 N9010 Water Street). This frame cottage was constructed in anticipation of the marriage of Jennie Greengo and Albert R. Baer in 1893 on property purchased from the bride's father, J. C. Greengo, A.B.D.I.

Contributing to the architectural significance of the Baer property, the carriage house (WK 91-18, see attached ISF) exhibits a unique form and scale in Menomonee Falls and has retained exceptional integrity.

**690 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES****Architectural References**

- A. Hartford (Wisconsin) Press, 21 July 1893.
- B. Ibid., 6 October 1893.
- C. Menomonee Falls (Wisconsin) News, 17 July 1900.
- D. Waukesha (Wisconsin) Freeman, 19 October 1893.
- E. Tax Records, Village of Menomonee Falls, Town of Menomonee, Wisconsin, Area Research Library, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- F. Mrs. Robert Vehring interview with Joan Rausch, May 23, 1986, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.

**Historic References**

1. Waukesha Freeman, 26 October, 1893.

(Continued on next page)

690 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES - (Continued)Historical References

2. Portrait and Biographical Record, Village of Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin Tax Assessment Rolls, 1894, 259-60.
3. Ibid.; 1880 Federal Manuscript Census, Waukesha County, Wisconsin.
4. Waukesha Freeman, 15 April 1886; Birdseye View of Menomonee Falls (Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Norris, Wellge and Company, 1886).
5. Photographs and Memories, (Shop photograph), c. 1915, 18; Waukesha County (Wisconsin) Gazetteer, 1890-91.
6. Waukesha County Gazetteer, 1895-96, and 1900; Federal Manuscript and Census, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, Sunnyside Cemetery Records Index, Menomonee Falls Library, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.
7. Menomonee Falls News, 22 October 1931.
8. Wisconsin Gazetteer, 1903-04; Wright's Directory of Waukesha County (Wisconsin), 1909-10; Menomonee Falls News, 17 June 1908.
9. Menomonee Falls News, 24 February 1944; Mrs. Lillian Siewert interview with Joan Rausch, April 9, 1986.
10. Menomonee Falls News, 2 April 1920, 15 October 1920, and 28 September 1921.
11. Menomonee Falls News, 1 August 1946.
12. Menomonee Falls News, 22 October 1931.
13. Menomonee Falls News, 10 October 1919.
14. Menomonee Falls News, 22 October 1931.
15. Ibid.
16. Tax Assessment Rolls, Village of Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin; Mrs. Lillian Siewert interview with Joan Rausch, April 9, 1986.

INTENSIVE SURVEY FORM

Record No. \_\_\_\_\_ Property Name: Albert R. Baer Carriage House

LOCATION

\* 10 County Waukesha

20 City or Village Menomonee Falls

30 Civil Town \_\_\_\_\_

35 Unincorp. Community \_\_\_\_\_

40 Location W166 N8990 Grand Avenue

Town-Range-Section (Format: 9999W-99)

50 \_\_\_\_\_

55 Quarter Sections (Format: NW-NW) \_\_\_\_\_

60 Verbal Boundary Description Lot 7 and North

60 11 feet of Lot 6, Part SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 3,

60 Town 8 North, Range 20 East: J. B. Nehs

60 Second Addition.

PROGRAM REVIEW

250 Tax No. \_\_\_\_\_ Compliance No. \_\_\_\_\_

\* 270 A or D Grant \_\_\_\_\_

275 Covenant/Easement Dates \_\_\_\_\_

\* 320 Ownership Private

\* 330 Lead Agency \_\_\_\_\_

335 Local Agency \_\_\_\_\_

SURVEY

90 Photo Codes WK 91-18 ; WK96-8,9

100 Survey Map Engineer's Map of Menomonee Falls

110 Map Code 91-18

120 Reconnaissance Surveyor Leonard Garfield

130 Reconnaissance Survey Date 1979

\* 140 Intensive Survey Name Menomonee Falls Intensive  
Survey

150 Intensive Surveyor Rausch/Kilsdonk(Johnson '84)

152 Surveyor Affiliation Architectural Researches,

155 Intensive Survey FY 1985

\* 235 Survey Eval. Eligible

\* 237 Survey District Classification \_\_\_\_\_

\* 240 Survey Level of Significance Local

\* 243 Survey Evaluation Criteria Architecture/

245 Proposed District \_\_\_\_\_

280 NHL Date \_\_\_\_\_

290 HABS No. \_\_\_\_\_ 300 HAER No. \_\_\_\_\_

\* 305 Local Designation (date) \_\_\_\_\_

320 Local District \_\_\_\_\_

315 Associated Archeological Site(s) \_\_\_\_\_

315 \_\_\_\_\_



Number Street

\* use code tables for response

Record No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address W166 N8990 Grand Avenue

ARCHITECTURE

450 Construction Date [source] c. 1893

460 Date(s) of Alterations/Additions [source] \_\_\_\_\_

460 \_\_\_\_\_

480 Builder [source] \_\_\_\_\_

\* 490 Designer Type (a) \_\_\_\_\_

490 (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_

500 Designer Name [source] (a) \_\_\_\_\_

500 (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_

\* 510 Style or Form Vernacular

510 \_\_\_\_\_

\* 520 Building, Structure, Object or SiteType

520 Carriage House

\* 530 Wall Material Clapboard

\* 532 Trim Material Wood

\* 535 Foundation Material Stone

\* 537 Roof Material Shingles

\* 540 Interior Visited No

\* 550 Structural System [source] \_\_\_\_\_

\* 560 Plan Configuration Rectangular

\* 570 Number of Stories Two

\* 580 Roof Shape Jerkinhead with dormer

590 Additional Description Group of three windows with three-over-three lights at the rear. Double garage door has been added on the west side.

590 \_\_\_\_\_

590 \_\_\_\_\_

\* 620 Condition Good

\* 650 Related Buildings Albert R. Baer House (WK 91

650 Garden Shed (WK96-10)

650 \_\_\_\_\_

HISTORY

430 Current Name Dorothy Vehring Estate House

435 Current Function House

440 Historic Names [source] Albert R. Baer Carriage

440 House

440 \_\_\_\_\_

660 Assoc. Individuals [source] (a) Albert R. Baer

660 (b) \_\_\_\_\_

665 Dates Assoc. [source] (a) 1893 1

665 (b) \_\_\_\_\_

670 Assoc. Events [source] (a) \_\_\_\_\_

670 \_\_\_\_\_

670 (b) \_\_\_\_\_

670 \_\_\_\_\_

675 Dates of Events [source] (a) \_\_\_\_\_

675 (b) \_\_\_\_\_

680 Historic Functions [source] (a) House

680 (b) \_\_\_\_\_

685 Dates of Functions [source] (a) \_\_\_\_\_

685 (b) \_\_\_\_\_

\* 687 Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

688 Cultural Subgroup \_\_\_\_\_



SITE PLAN

Albert Baer House and Carriage House

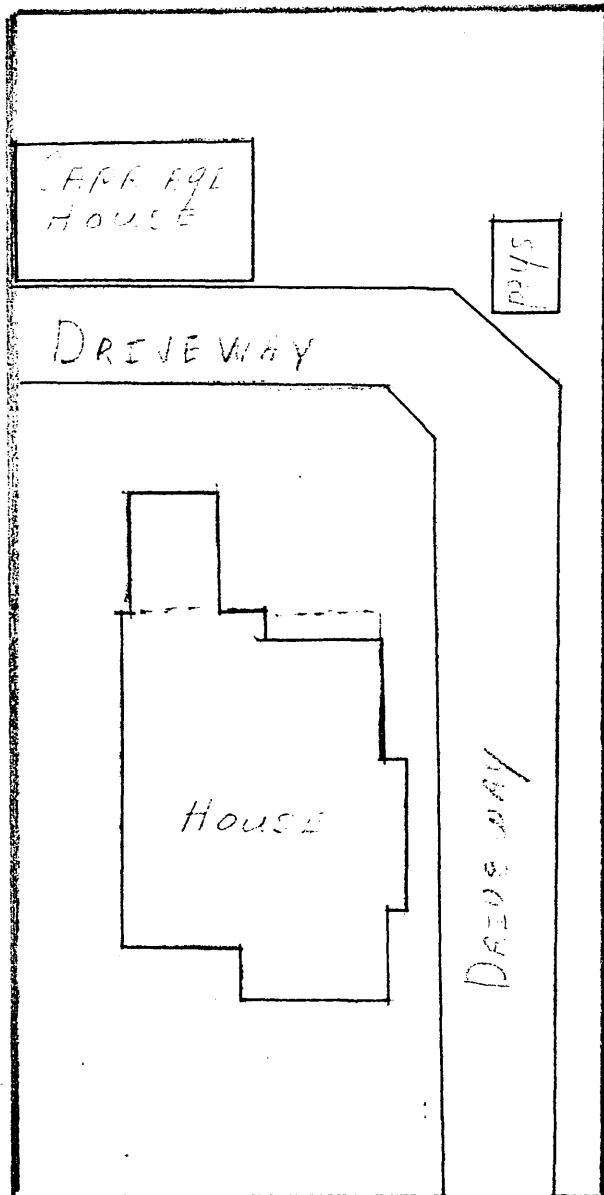
W166 N8990 Grand Avenue  
Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin

UTM: 16-409310-4781330

Contributing elements:

Main House

Carriage House



North  
←

GRAND AVENUE