

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Irving-Church Historic District

other names/site number SHSW #92-0063-WN (543 Jackson Street)

2. Location

street & number See Inventory N/A not for publication

city or town Oshkosh N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Winnebago code 139 zip code 54901

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title

4/29/94
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer-WI
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau
Irving Church Historic District
Name of Property

Winnebago County, Wisconsin
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 — See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the
 National Register.
 — See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the
 National Register.
 — See continuation sheet.
 removed from the National
 Register.
 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action 3/7/94
Entered in the
National Register

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)
 private
 public-local
 public-state
 public-federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)
 building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include listed resources within the count)

		Contributing	Noncontributing	
		147	3	buildings
		0	0	sites
		0	0	structures
		0	0	objects
		147	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling
DOMESTIC: Multiple dwelling
RELIGION: Religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling
DOMESTIC: Multiple dwelling
RELIGION: Religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne
Greek Revival
Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls WOOD: Weatherboard
Stucco
roof ASPHALT
other Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Irving Church Historic District
Name of Property

Winnebago County, Wisconsin
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the
criteria qualifying the property for the
National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events
that have made a significant
contribution to the broad patterns of
our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives
of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive
characteristics of a type, period, or
method of construction or represents
the work of a master, or possesses
high artistic values, or represents a
significant and distinguishable entity
whose components lack individual
distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to
yield, information important in
prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or
used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or
structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age achieved
significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from
instructions)

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance

1858-1938

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is
marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Waters, William, architect
Bell, Adam & Cole, Edwin,
builders

Irving Church Historic District
Name of Property

Winnebago County, Wisconsin
County and State

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State Agency
 Federal Agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository:
WI Inventory of Historic Places

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 35 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1/6</u>	<u>3/7/5/9/7/5</u>	<u>4/8/7/5/5/7/0</u>	3	<u>1/6</u>	<u>3/7/6/5/0/0</u>	<u>4/8/7/5/1/9/0</u>
	Zone Easting		Northing		Zone Easting		Northing
2	<u>1/6</u>	<u>3/7/5/5/1/0</u>	<u>4/8/7/5/5/6/0</u>	4	<u>1/6</u>	<u>3/7/5/9/7/5</u>	<u>4/8/7/5/4/1/0</u>
	Zone Easting		Northing		Zone Easting		Northing

— see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth L. Miller, Consultant (608-233-5942) for
organization Oshkosh Volunteers for Preservation date 8-03-1992
street & number P.O. Box 2034 telephone 414-231-6950
city or town Oshkosh state WI zip code 54903-2034

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Irving Church Historic District
Name of Property

Winnebago County, Wisconsin
County and State

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Various (see list attached)

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town Oshkosh state WI zip code 54901

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

Irving Church Historic District
Oshkosh, Winnebago County, WI

DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Irving Church Historic District is located in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Roughly bounded by Franklin Street, West Irving Avenue, Elmwood Avenue and Church Avenue, the area has a high concentration of fine local examples of Queen Anne homes. The district consists primarily of large two-story residences built between about 1858 and 1938. Of the 151 resources in the district, 148 are contributing and 3 are non-contributing. Outbuildings were not counted due to their insufficient size and scale.

SETTING

The Irving Church Historic District is a residential neighborhood located adjacent to downtown Oshkosh. The buildings south of the district are mostly in commercial or public use. The need for increased parking to serve the Winnebago County Courthouse at 415 Franklin Street has brought about the demolition of several old houses on the southwest side of Church Avenue at the edge of the district. The County plans to demolish two more, 437 and 443 Church Avenue, for additional parking space. The campus of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh lies just west of the district. As a result of this, about half of the homes in the district have been converted to rental units for students. The remainder are owner-occupied. The houses east of the district are more closely spaced, less distinguished in character, and quickly give way to the downtown. The residential area north of the district was developed somewhat later and has a very different street pattern.

PRESENT APPEARANCE

The Irving Church Historic District consists of 11 partial or complete blocks in ten plats. All but three were platted before 1858. These three, lying between Wisconsin Street, Union, Elmwood and West Irving Avenues, were originally a park and an old

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cemetery. They were platted by 1862.¹

The district is primarily made up of large, two story single family residences, a number of which have been subdivided for student rentals. Two-thirds (94) of the buildings were built between 1880 and 1910. Historically, the neighborhood housed a mix of middle-income and well-to-do residents, many of whom were associated with the lumber industry or allied wood products businesses such as sash, door and blind manufacturing, furniture manufacturing, carpentry and construction.

The residences are generally wood frame on stone foundations, and vary in form and style. The Queen Anne style predominates. Of the 148 contributing buildings in the district 37 are Queen Anne. Another 11 combine Queen Anne and Colonial Revival elements. There are 42 frame vernacular residences, most of which show some Queen Anne influence in massing, proportion or detail. There are also fine local examples of Greek Revival, Italianate, Neo-Classical Revival, Craftsman, Bungalow, Prairie influenced and Period Revival homes. Twenty-three homes in the district predate 1880. Of these, 8 are Greek Revival and 12 are Italianate. Early twentieth century styles are represented in the district by 5 Craftsman, 13 Bungalows, 4 Prairie-influenced, 4 Neo-Classical Revival, 4 Dutch Colonial Revival, 1 Colonial Revival, 1 Tudor Revival and 1 Mediterranean Revival. There are two churches in the district. A few buildings were designed by regionally prominent architect William Waters. Most were constructed by local builders such as (Adam) Bell and (Edwin) Cole. The Irving Church Historic District retains a high degree of historic integrity in setting, materials, feeling, association and design, as evidenced by the fact that 98 percent of the structures in the district are contributing.

Queen Anne residences, built between 1880 and 1900, dominate the district. Many of these are large, two-story frame houses that have an asymmetrical composition and an irregular roofline.

¹Map of the City of Oshkosh, Winnebago County, (Pittsburgh: George Harrison, 1858); and G.A. Randall, Map of Winnebago County, (Chicago: G.A. Randall and J.A. Bogert), 1862.

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Irving Church Historic District
Oshkosh, Winnebago County, WI

Towers, turrets and bays are common. The exteriors are generally weatherboard but may include shingles or stucco and half-timbering above the first floor or in gable ends. The foundation are ashlar stone. Typically, a one story porch extends across, or wraps around, the front facade. The John R. Morgan House at 234 Church Avenue (photo 12) is an excellent example of a Queen Anne residence in the district. This two-story home has an irregular plan, gable and hip roofs, a triangular dormer, a polygonal tower, a patterned masonry chimney and a front porch with stickwork frieze and balustrade. Built for Morgan by Bell and Cole in 1884, it was listed on the National Register in 1983. Morgan was a founder of Morgan Brothers, one of the leading sash, door and blind manufacturing companies in Oshkosh. The Jones House at 519 Franklin Street (photo 11, c. 1880) and the Webster House at 619 Franklin Street (photo 10, c. 1885) both feature complex roofs, a one-story veranda and a tower rising above the roofline on the front facade. Three fine Queen Anne residences in the district were designed by William Waters. The Jesse Hull House at 627 Amherst Avenue, built about 1884, has an irregular plan with gable roofs, and shingles and Queen Anne windows in the gable ends. The wrap-around porch has a lattice balustrade. The Follett House at 621 Amherst Avenue, also built about 1884, has narrow clapboards on the first story, and shingles on the second story and in the gable ends. The Burgess House, at 647 Jackson Street, was built about 1889 and features a porch with lattice frieze and balustrade. The Young House at 650 Jackson Street, built about 1893, may have been designed by Ephraim E. Stevens. The corner polygonal turret with domical roof is thought to be a signature feature of his work. The house also has a shingled front facing gable, two-story polygonal bay and a one story wrap around porch.²

There are also excellent examples of Queen Anne style houses whose design was influenced by half-timbered examples of the Arts and Crafts style. Built between 1870 and 1890, these houses both have

²Sources for the dates of construction include maps, tax rolls, city directories, mortgages and warranty deeds, newspaper articles and building permits. These are listed in the bibliography.

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Irving Church Historic District
Oshkosh, Winnebago County, WI

a one-story porch across part of the front facade. The Bell-Semple House at 639 Wisconsin Street (photo 15), originally built for Adam Bell about 1868, was extensively remodeled in 1888 by Oshkosh architect Levi S. Hicks for lumberman Parlan Semple. The house has a cross-gable roof with stucco and applied half-timbering in the gable ends, narrow clapboards, exposed rafters, projecting beams and a wrap-around porch with stone piers. The Rounds House at 518 Franklin Street, built about 1890, has intersecting hip and gable roofs and shingles in the gable ends. The partially enclosed wrap around porch has stone piers, exposed rafters and a gabled entry. The presence of several 2/2 double hung sash windows, generally used in the 1870s, suggests that the Rounds House may have incorporated an earlier structure. The house was previously owned by John Morgan, Rounds' father-in-law.³

Other significant examples of Queen Anne residences in the district include the Watson-Nevitt House at 614 Amherst Avenue (c.1885), the Choate House at 428 Church Avenue (c. 1891), the Gulliford House at 448 Church Avenue (c.1893), the Wright House at 685 Franklin Street (c.1883), the Elizabeth Davis House at 434 Church Avenue (c.1888), the E.N. Conlee House at 691 Franklin Street (c.1891), the Thomas Morgan House at 606 Franklin Street (c.1883) and 612 Elmwood Avenue (c.1897).

Several homes in the district combine Queen Anne with Colonial Revival elements. All were built between 1899 and 1910. One of these is the Woehler House at 645 Amherst Avenue (photo 18), built about 1907. This house combines a rectangular plan and Colonial Revival front porch and entrance, with Queen Anne details and intersecting gable and jerkinhead roofs. The house at 521 Amherst Avenue (c.1905), and the Robinson House at 421 Amherst Avenue (c.1903), are nearly identical to the Woehler House. The Wilson House at 608 Jackson Street, designed by William Waters in 1907, is a striking example of this transitional style. This house combines

³Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985), pages 254-256; and Mrs. William D. Shepherd, "The Morgan Family: The House at 116 Church Street, the Company, the Family History," (Oshkosh: unpublished, no date).

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Queen Anne details, especially windows, with a Foursquare plan, dormer and symmetrical one-story full-width porch. Other fine examples of the Queen Anne/Colonial Revival transition are the William A. Campbell House at 617 West Irving Avenue (c.1902), the Clark House at 603 Jackson Street (c.1899) and an identical pair of two flat buildings at 455 and 459 Church Avenue built for August Pitz in 1908.

Eight Greek Revival residences were built in the Irving Church Historic District between about 1858 and 1875. These front-gabled and gabled ell buildings are generally rectangular in plan with a three bay front facade, returned eaves and an asymmetrically placed main entrance with sidelights. Nearly all the Greek Revival homes in the district are frame. The house at 543 Jackson Street (photo 20) is unusual both for its brick construction and its fine integrity. Built about 1858, this house retains its heavy wood sills and lintels, central chimney, and returned eaves. The house at 615 Amherst Avenue, built about 1865, is another good example of a front-gabled Greek Revival with returned eaves and an off-set front door with sidelights. There are also two fine examples of the pedimented front gable type of Greek Revival in the district. These are the Billings House at 514 Union Avenue, and the house next door at 518 Union Avenue (both in photo 8), built about 1858. Each has a pronounced cornice, corner pilasters, 6/6 double hung sash windows, and an off-center entrance.

There are 12 examples of the Italianate style in the district. Built between about 1855 and 1885, Italianate residences are generally two-story frame buildings with a rectangular plan and a wide-eaved flat or low-pitched hip roof. Brackets are typical. The windows are often tall and narrow, and may be round arched, paired or have hood moldings. The Rogers House at 632 Elmwood Avenue (photo 17), built about 1878, is a good late example of the Italianate style. It is a two-story frame house with a center gable, large paired brackets and shaped window surrounds. The Hale House at 651 Franklin Street, built about 1878, is one of the few brick residences in the district, and the only Italianate one. This two story gabled ell has segmental arched windows with stone sills on brick corbels, and a brick belt course. Other fine examples of Italianate homes in the district include the Ransom

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House at 640 Amherst Avenue (c.1885), the Kennedy House at 602 Elmwood Avenue (c.1879) and a rectangular hipped roof variant at 654 Franklin Street (c.1883).

There are three different types of Neo-Classical Revival residences in the district. All are frame and were built between 1900 and 1915. NeoClassical Revival is primarily based on the Greek architectural orders, using Ionic or Corinthian columns. The main facade is usually symmetrical and dominated by a portico that rises the full height of the building. The Radford House at 526 Union Avenue (photo 19) typifies the Neo-Classical Revival. Built for Stephen Radford about 1900, it has a two-story hip-roofed portico on tall Ionic columns, and a hip-roofed dormer. Radford was the founder of Radford Brothers and Company, another prominent sash, blind and door manufacturing company in Oshkosh. Two residences in the district borrow more directly from the Greek Revival. These are 415 West Irving Avenue and the Morgan-Stillman House at 322 Church Avenue. Built about 1914, the former has a one-story porch with square posts, narrow pilasters and a Queen Anne window. The Morgan-Stillman House is thought to incorporate the 1866 Richard Morgan House, and was extensively remodeled for William Stillman about 1913. The house features a monumental portico with massive square pillars, wide pilasters and a variety of window configurations. The Brauer House at 421 Union Avenue represents the third type of Neo-Classical Revival residence in the district. Built about 1905, it is a one-story frame building with a pedimented front gable. The main roof shelters the wraparound porch.

There are five Craftsman houses in the district. The Craftsman style, built between 1905 and 1930, was an outgrowth of the English Arts and Crafts movement. A rejection of the industrial age and machines, it promoted a return to hand-crafted building traditions and the use of natural materials. Craftsman homes can be identified by their simple massing, hipped or gabled roofs with wide eaves and projecting beams and rafters, small bays, and grouped casement or sash windows in a variety of configurations, most typically 3/1. Some Craftsman homes have stucco with applied half-timbering. The Prairie-influenced John Davis House at 418 Amherst Avenue (c.1914) is a two-story side-gabled structure with

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Oshkosh, Winnebago County, WI

a stucco finish and applied half-timbering. The broad gabled entry porch has projecting beams and knee braces, and battered piers that rise from ground level. The Wheeler House at 507 Jackson Street (c. 1912) is a gabled house with stucco and half-timbering in the gable ends, narrow clapboards, and a gabled entry porch with battered piers, projecting beams and exposed rafters. Another fine example of a frame and stucco Craftsman home is the Kratsch House at 626 Amherst Avenue (c.1909). This cross-gabled house has projecting beams, exposed rafters, boxy shed roofed bays and shed roofed dormers. A fourth notable example is the hip roofed, brick veneer home at 651 Jackson Street (c.1912). Exposed rafters, hip roofed dormer, and a long one story porch and porte cochere with brick piers mark this house as Craftsman-influenced.⁴

There are 13 Bungalows in the Irving Church Historic District. Built between about 1910 and 1925, these homes feature low-pitched gable or hip roofs, bay windows, exposed rafters, and brackets with knee braces. The house at 609 Jackson Street (photo 21) is an outstanding example of a Bungalow. Built about 1924, this house has exposed rafters, a wide gabled-roofed bay, projecting beams with knee braces and a segmental-arched hood over the main entrance. Charles Clark, who built the neighboring house at 603 Jackson Street about 1899, had this house built in anticipation of remarrying. He died before the house was finished.⁵ The house at 638 Elmwood Avenue (1923) has hip and gable roofs with wide eaves and exposed rafters. The exterior finish combines narrow clapboards and stucco. A gabled hood supported by projecting beams and knee braces shelters the main entrance. A very similar example is the Stein House at 634 Wisconsin Street (c.1909). Unfortunately its integrity has been compromised by a large rear addition. The Karnes House at 411 West Irving Avenue (c.1913) is interesting for its all stucco exterior finish and its cast stone closed rail porch. There are three notable brick veneer bungalows in the district. The Hielsberg and Neumann Houses, at 421 and 427 West Irving Avenue respectively, are nearly identical and were both

⁴McAlester, pages 452-54.

⁵Researched by owners Kim and Judy Sadler.

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probably built by Hielsberg, a contractor, in 1917. Both are front-gabled with stucco and applied half-timbering in the gable ends, a large triangular dormer and square bay on the east facade, projecting beams with knee braces, and a gabled entry porch. The brick Bungalow at 644 Wisconsin Street is still owned by Joseph Mierswa, for whom it was built about 1923. The Churchill House at 636 Jackson Street (c.1915), 502 Union (c.1911) and 409 Union Avenue (c.1911) are other good examples of Bungalows in the district.

There are 4 structures in the district that show the influence of the Prairie style. The Prairie style was developed in Chicago between 1900 and 1920 in large part as a rejection of NeoClassical and Beaux Arts design popularized by the Chicago World Columbian Exposition of 1893. Frank Lloyd Wright was the greatest practitioner of the Prairie style. This style was generally confined to residential architecture. Prairie style homes were usually two-story, frame with stucco or brick veneer, and a low pitched hip roof. Horizontal lines were emphasized through the use of belt courses or other details. The house at 412 Church Avenue (c.1913) comes closest to pure Prairie style. It is a two-story hip-roofed residence with a stucco finish. Belt courses and bands of windows give this house a horizontal orientation. The Thiessen House at 618 Jackson Street is also a two story frame building with a stucco finish. However, it shows an almost equal influence of the Colonial Revival, in its Doric portico with broken pediment.⁶

There are a few good local examples of Period Revival homes in the district. The Chicago World Columbian Exposition of 1893 inspired residential designs that were loosely based on Colonial American building traditions. Following World War I, residential architecture more accurately patterned after historical European and Colonial American precedents became especially popular. Dutch Colonial Revival houses were built both before and after World War I. Generally two-story frame residences with a symmetrical facade, the identifying feature of this style is the gambrel roof. Early examples often have a front-facing gambrel with a cross gambrel to

⁶Ibid., pages 438-40.

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the rear. Those built after World War I were usually side gambrel, with a long shed-roofed dormer. A good early example of this style in the district is the F.H. Hull House at 413 Amherst Avenue. Built in 1907, this two-story cross gambrel house has narrow clapboards, shingles and a lunette in the gambrel ends, and a one story Colonial Revival porch with Doric columns. Two fine later examples are the Maxwell House at 437 Church Avenue (1926) and the house at 426 Union Avenue (1924). The Maxwell House has a brick foundation, paired and tripled 6/1 double hung sash, a central door with sidelights and a pedimented portico with square posts. The other house is similar except that the porch posts are fluted. There is only one pure Colonial Revival house in the district. The two-story brick veneer gabled ell house at 451 Church Avenue was built in 1937. It features a central door with sidelights and transom, gabled wall dormers and a polygonal bay.

There is one example of Mediterranean Revival design in the district. Built primarily in the 1920s and 1930s, the inspiration for this style was drawn from Italy, Spain, Morocco and the Spanish colonies. The Foster House at 628 West Irving Avenue is an excellent example of the Italian Renaissance subtype of Mediterranean Revival. Italian Renaissance typically featured a low-pitched hip roof clad with ceramic tile, a broad overhang with boxed eaves and decorative brackets, a recessed entry, and a mixture of round-arched and rectangular openings. The Foster House, built about 1921, is a one-story brick veneer residence with a hipped tile roof, boxed eaves with small brackets, round-arched door recessed in a round-arched entry, and groups of 6/6 double hung sash and multipaned casements.

There is one Tudor Revival home in the district. The Tudor Revival, as the name implies, was based on sixteenth century English cottages and manor houses. Usually these designs have steeply pitched gables, stone or brick veneer and possibly, stucco with ornamental half-timbering. The Zielke House at 668 Franklin Street, built in 1938, is a good example of Tudor Revival. This one story gabled ell house is stone-veneered and has a front facing

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Irving Church Historic District
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gable and a recessed round-arched entry.⁷

There are two frame vernacular houses of note in the district. The Wadleigh House at 534 Jackson Street, built about 1888, is a two-story house with steeply pitched gable roofs and Queen Anne proportions. This house has a two-story polygonal bay and a gabled dormer. The house at 669 Franklin Street, built about 1890, is a two-story frame hipped cube with a hipped dormer and a Colonial Revival porch.

There are two churches in the district. Saint John's Universalist Church at 454 Church Avenue was built about 1889. A frame Queen Anne-influenced vernacular building, it has been altered with the addition of aluminum siding. Zion Congregational/Plymouth Congregational Church at 302 Church Avenue (photo 13) retains excellent integrity. Built in 1894, it is the sole example of Romanesque Revival in the district. The church is of brick construction set on a heavy rusticated stone ashlar foundation. It has square towers, large round-arched windows with brick hood moldings trimmed with stone, rusticated stone sills and lintels, and ornamental brickwork.

ALTERATIONS

Exterior alterations to individual structures consist primarily of replacement windows. There are a few examples of enclosed porches and aluminum or asbestos shingle siding. Many of the residences, originally built as large single family homes, have been subdivided into rental units for students at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. This change is generally not apparent on the exterior.

NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

There are three non-contributing resources in the Irving Church Historic District. All are located on the edge of the district. The Newman Center, owned by the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and built in 1966, and a duplex built in 1963, are both located on West

⁷Ibid., pages 349-406.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 3/87)

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Irving Avenue. The Executive House Apartments, at 507 Jackson Street, was also built in 1963. None of the buildings that predate 1940 have been so altered as to become non-contributing.

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Irving Church Historic District
Oshkosh, Winnebago County, WI

CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

<u>Address</u>	<u>Site name</u>	<u>Date built</u>
<u>Amherst Avenue</u>		
410	Cornelia Forbes House	C. 1890
413	F.H. Hull House	1907
415		C. 1892
418	John & Katherine Davis House	C. 1914
421	Clarence & Lillian Robinson House	C. 1903
425		C. 1891
426	Edgar Moerke House	C. 1913
502	William B. Johnston House	C. 1868
503	Evan Davis House	C. 1876
506		C. 1883
509	Frank X. Haben House	C. 1883
515	Henry Gerdes House	C. 1883
521		C. 1905
523		1903
527		1903
614	W. Watson-Charles Nevitt House	C. 1885
615		C. 1865
618	Edward & Lucy Parish House	C. 1880
621	Frank Follett House	1884
626	William & Ottilie Kratsch House	C. 1909
627	Jesse Hull House	1884
630	Benjamin Cornish House	C. 1882
633	William Englebright House	1884
639		C. 1893
640	Perry Ransom House	C. 1885
644		C. 1879
645	John & Mary Woehler House	C. 1907
<u>Church Avenue</u>		
234	John R. Morgan House	1884
302	Zion Congregational-Plymouth Congregational Church	1894
318	Plymouth Congregational Manse	C. 1909

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322	William & Grace Stillman House	C. 1913
412		C. 1913
422		C. 1893
428	Joseph Choate House	C. 1891
434	Elizabeth Davis House	C. 1888
437	Jennie Maxwell House	1926
440	Ella Jackman House	C. 1893
443	George Gilkey House	C. 1880
448	Samuel Gulliford House	C. 1893
451		1937
454	St. John's Universalist Church	C. 1889
455		1908
459		1908

Elmwood Avenue

602	James Kennedy House	C. 1879
608	Martin & Jeanette Mondl House	C. 1929
612		C. 1897
620	Charles Curtis House	C. 1885
632	George Rogers House	C. 1878
638	Arthur & Matilda Abraham House	1923

Franklin Street

515	Albert & Elizabeth Morgan House	C. 1888
518	M.E. Rounds House	C. 1890
519	Edward R. Jones House	C. 1880
605	Morris Jones House	C. 1900
606	Thomas R. & Lillian Morgan House	C. 1883
611		C. 1897
612		C. 1900
616		C. 1878
619	Webster House	C. 1885
622	John Kinsley House	C. 1883
625	Daniel McDonald House	C. 1923
628		C. 1919
631		C. 1895
637		C. 1883
638		C. 1884

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641	D.A. Lampard House	C. 1892
644		1907
647	Hattie Church House	C. 1890
650	W.L. Newton House	C. 1888
651	Amander Hale House	C. 1878
654		C. 1883
660	Frederick Green House	C. 1880
661		C. 1875
668	Leo & Esther Zielke House	1938
669		C. 1890
670		C. 1868
673	Louis Peters House	C. 1888
676		C. 1891
679		C. 1900
680		C. 1888
685	G.F. Wright House	C. 1883
686		C. 1890
690		C. 1890
691	E.N. Conlee House	C. 1891

West Irving Avenue

411	Frank & Myrtle Karnes House	C. 1913
415		C. 1914
421	William & Augusta Hielsberg House	C. 1917
427	Edward & Tillie Neumann House	C. 1917
505	John Grundy House	C. 1899
509		C. 1920
604	Harry & Eleanor Hutchinson House	C. 1919
610	Dr. William Searles House	C. 1890
614		C. 1909
617	William A. & Carrie Campbell House	C. 1902
620	Tillie Gores House	C. 1909
621	William Wakeman House	1897
628	Carlton & Marion Foster House	C. 1921
629	George Streeter House	C. 1875
633	Herman & Nina Duenkel House	1926

Jackson Street

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507	Dr. William Wheeler House	C. 1912
515	Sumner & Lucy Bartlett House	C. 1868
522	Otis Chase House	C. 1893
528	Luther Thompson House	C. 1888
531	Jonas M. Ball House	C. 1868
534	Joseph Wadleigh House	C. 1888
535	H.L. Conlee House	C. 1895
540	Alfred & Sophia Chapple House	C. 1875
543		C. 1858
602	Dr. Joseph & Mary Wilson House	C. 1892
603	Charles Clark House	C. 1899
608	Emmett & Kittie Wilson House	1907
609		C. 1924
612		C. 1866
617	Martin Searl House	C. 1890
618	Ralph & Nora Thiessen House	C. 1923
621	James McNair House	C. 1883
624	Fred Heintz House	C. 1917
630		C. 1904
635	John R. Forbes House	C. 1884
636	William & Dora Churchill House	C. 1915
639	Louis & Carrie Busch House	C. 1907
641	Albert Hinman House	C. 1890
642	Smith House	C. 1889
647	Fred Burgess House	C. 1889
650	Dr. W.C. Young House	C. 1893
651		C. 1912
654	Alonzo Bliss House	C. 1867

Union Avenue

409		C. 1911
413		C. 1884
414		C. 1883
421	Robert Brauer House	C. 1905
422	Sarah Klopp House	C. 1879
426		1924
427	Rev. C.E. Goldthorp House	C. 1888
502		C. 1911
508	William Watson House	C. 1890

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514	Billings House	C. 1903
518		C. 1903
526	Stephen & Mary Radford House	C. 1900
529		C. 1875

Wisconsin Street

432	Grandview Apartments	1927
611	Frank J. Barber House	C. 1908
615		C. 1883
619	Alice Tuttle House	C. 1900
634	Frank & Althea Stein House	C. 1909
639	Parlan Semple House	1888
644	Joseph & Aurelia Mierswa House	C. 1923
645	William J. & June Campbell House	C. 1936
650	Robert Campbell House	C. 1885

NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

West Irving Avenue

515-517		1963
717	Newman Center	1966

Jackson Street

506	Executive House Apartments	1963
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Irving Church Historic District
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SUMMARY

The Irving Church Historic District is locally significant under Criteria C and A. The district is architecturally significant primarily for its concentration of fine local examples of Queen Anne residences. There are also good local examples of Greek Revival, Italianate and Craftsman Bungalow homes. The district's integrity is excellent; 98 percent of all the buildings are contributing. In addition the district is significant in the area of social history for its association with men instrumental in the development of the lumber and wood products industries in Oshkosh.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Although the fur trade brought a handful of pioneers of European descent to Winnebago County as early as 1818, it was not until the Treaty of the Cedars was signed in 1836 that the area that is present day Oshkosh was truly opened up for settlement. With this treaty, the Menominee ceded to the United States government all the land north of Lake Butte des Morts and the Fox River between the Wolf River and Lake Winnebago. Settlers were quick to arrive and begin farming. Within 15 years all traces of the fur traders disappeared.⁸

The Irving Church Historic District is part of what were originally two farms, settled in 1838 by George Wright (1779-1841), and his son William W. Wright (1819-1903). The Wrights were among the first of European descent to homestead in Oshkosh, and like many of the pioneers, were from New York state. Soon after arriving, George Wright was appointed Justice of the Peace. William Wright later became the first treasurer of the Town of Oshkosh, the first to serve as Winnebago County Treasurer, and an alderman. Most of

⁸Dr. Charles D. Goff, "Oshkosh, the Real Beginning," Chapter XVII in James I. Metz, ed., Prairie, Pines and People: Winnebago County, A New Perspective, Oshkosh: Oshkosh Northwestern Company, 1976, pages 131-135.

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the Wrights' farmland was platted between 1848 and 1856.⁹

Oshkosh grew slowly during the late 1830s and early 1840s. In 1846, settlers began arriving in earnest to take advantage of Oshkosh's location on the navigable Fox River and near the pine forests to the north and west. In 1847, two steam lumber mills were established, and the industry that would spur Oshkosh's phenomenal growth was born. In early 1849, the population of the village reached 500. By 1850, Oshkosh had become the county seat, and its population had nearly tripled, standing at 1,392. In 1853, Oshkosh incorporated as a city.¹⁰

The city grew rapidly during the 1850s, but it was not until the arrival of the railroad in 1859, vastly improving the transportation network for delivering lumber products, that Oshkosh really began to expand. As a result of improved transportation and an increased need for lumber products brought about by the Civil War, Oshkosh boomed during the 1860s. In 1860, the city's population was 6,086. By 1870, the population had more than doubled, reaching 12,663. Despite a nationwide recession, Oshkosh continued to boom during the 1870s. In 1875, the population was 17,000.¹¹

By the end of the 1870s, the growth of the lumber industry in Oshkosh began to slow. As the importance of the lumber industry declined in Oshkosh, wood products industries began to appear. As Oshkosh's industrial base changed, the demographics of the

⁹Publius V. Lawson, History of Winnebago County, Wisconsin-- Its Cities, Towns, Resources, People, (Chicago: C.F. Cooper and Company, 1908), I:200-203; and James M. Thomas, compiler, Oshkosh City Directory and Business Advertiser for 1868 and 1869, (Oshkosh: Daily Northwestern Book and Job Printing House, 1868), pages 20-22.

¹⁰Ibid.; and Howard, Needles, Tammen and Bergendoff (HNTB), Final Report of the Intensive Historic Resource Survey for the City of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, (September, 1981), pages 4-6.

¹¹Ibid., pages 4-6 and 16.

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population changed as well. The early settlers were primarily Yankees. Following the Civil War, German and Irish immigrants arrived to work in the city's factories. Toward the end of the nineteenth century, many Poles, Scandinavians and ethnic Germans from the Volga River region of Russia settled in Oshkosh. The seventh ward, where the Irving Church Historic District is located, remained a predominantly Yankee enclave. From the late nineteenth century until the decline of the wood products industry in the late 1920s, Oshkosh was second only to Milwaukee in population in the state.¹²

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Irving Church Historic District is architecturally significant at the local level for its concentration of fine local examples of Queen Anne residences. The Queen Anne style dominated residential design in Oshkosh, as it did across America, from the 1880s until the turn of the century. It is characterized by complex and irregular plans and silhouettes. The Queen Anne style employed a variety of exterior finishes, multiple steeply pitched roofs, towers, turrets, bays and full facade or wrap around porches. Between the pure Queen Anne (37), the Queen Anne/Colonial Revival hybrids (11) and the frame vernacular homes showing Queen Anne influence (29), slightly more than half of the contributing structures in the district are Queen Anne. The Final Report of the Intensive Historic Resource Survey for the City of Oshkosh, Wisconsin (IRS) identifies the district as one of three potential historic districts in Oshkosh significant for its Queen Anne homes. The others are the potential Algoma Boulevard Historic District, and the potential Washington Avenue Historic District. The IRS characterizes the Irving Church Historic District as the largest of the three. It is the most densely developed and the lots are smaller. Most of the homes were designed by builders rather than architects. The Queen Anne residences are generally less elaborate than those in the other two districts, and there are more homes

¹²Ibid.; and Oshkosh Weekly Northwestern (OWN), January 8, 1880.

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which predate 1880.¹³

In contrast, the potential Algoma Boulevard Historic District, traditionally known as the "Gold Coast" of Oshkosh, contains more examples of high style, architect-designed Queen Anne and its Shingle and Stick style variants. This district consists of those homes, churches and institutions that face Algoma Boulevard in the three blocks between Vine and West Bent Avenue. The residents of this area were generally the managerial class in the lumber and wood products industries. The homes here are larger, as are the lots and setbacks.¹⁴

The potential Washington Avenue Historic District is very similar to the Algoma Boulevard district. This district is composed of large two-story Queen Anne and Prairie-influenced residences, many of which were architect designed. The Washington Avenue district is located east of downtown and runs along Washington between Bowen Street and Lake Winnebago.¹⁵

Although most of the homes in the Irving Church Historic District were designed by builders such as Bell and Cole, several were designed by architects. Four were the work of William Waters. These are the Follett House at 621 Amherst Avenue (1884), the Hull House at 627 Amherst Avenue (1884), the Burgess House at 647 Jackson Street (1889) and the Wilson House at 608 Jackson Street (1907, Queen Anne/Colonial Revival). The Wakeman House at 621 West Irving Avenue was built about 1897. It was designed by Ephraim E. Stevens, who became an architect by apprenticeship rather than by formal training. All are in the Queen Anne style, except as noted.

The document Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin (CRMP) lists William Waters as meeting National Register criterion C as a

¹³McAlester, pages 266-68; and HNTB, page 142.

¹⁴HNTB., pages 200-02.

¹⁵Ibid., pages 207-08.

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"master" architect.¹⁶ Waters (1843-1917) was born in New York state. He studied architecture at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, graduating in 1867. Waters promptly relocated to Oshkosh and opened his own architectural firm. He was a resident of Oshkosh for fifty years. Many newspaper articles and biographies of the time mention Waters' important influence on architecture throughout the Fox River region.¹⁷

Waters designed many residential, commercial and civic buildings in a variety of styles. Many of the commercial buildings along North Main Street, the traditional downtown business district in Oshkosh, were designed by Waters early in his career. From 1867 until at least 1895, and probably until 1916, Waters was the architect for the Oshkosh Board of Education.¹⁸ His residential designs are primarily Queen Anne, Shingle style, or Richardsonian Romanesque. Waters designed church buildings as well. He is probably best noted for designing the Wisconsin State Building at the Chicago World Columbian Exhibition in 1893. Waters also served as president of the Wisconsin Chapter of Architects. He executed his last commission, an addition to Oshkosh High School with Henry Auler, in 1916.¹⁹

Ephraim E. Stevens was an architect/builder. Born in 1851, he came to Oshkosh with his family in 1852. After high school, Stevens worked as a mason. In 1868, he became an apprentice to Green Bay architect D.M. Harteau. Harteau made Stevens a partner in 1876. The partnership dissolved when Stevens returned to Oshkosh in 1878. At first Stevens worked as a builder. He built Read School at 1120

¹⁶Wyatt, volume 2, Architecture, section 6, page 2.

¹⁷"Architect No More," Oshkosh Daily Northwestern (ODN), December 15, 1917, page 3.

¹⁸Commemorative Biographical Record of the Fox River Valley Counties of Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago, page 1172.

¹⁹Ibid.; "Architect No More"; and HNTB, pages 63 and 153.

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Algoma Boulevard (1879), designed by William Waters. The Oshkosh City Directory lists Stevens as a contractor and builder from 1879 until 1889. He is listed as an architect from 1891 until 1905, and unlisted thereafter. In 1897, Stevens designed the Wakeman House at 621 West Irving Avenue.²⁰

Builders Bell and Cole were very active in the Irving Church Historic District. Adam E. Bell (c.1830-1917) was born in Scotland and settled in Oshkosh in 1855. A carpenter by training, Bell soon acquired a planing mill and expanded into building materials manufacture. By 1876, Bell and partner Richard Rogers were producing building plans and specifications as well. Bell took a new partner, Edwin Cole, around 1879. Cole had come to Oshkosh in 1867 and established a furniture manufacturing company with his brother-in-law. After a fire destroyed that business in 1875, Cole went to work for Bell. They designed and built a number of homes in the district, including the John R. Morgan House at 234 Church Avenue (1884) and the Englebright House at 633 Amherst Avenue (1884). Cole lived at 637 Franklin Street for many years. By 1889, he had quit contracting and become superintendent of the Gould Manufacturing Company, a sash, door and blind factory. Bell probably built his house at 639 Wisconsin Street in 1868. Parlan Semple bought the house around 1888 and promptly remodeled it. Bell is listed as an architect in the 1891 city directory. He moved to Spokane, Washington in 1892.²¹

The Irving-Church district is a significant assemblage of historic residential design spanning a period of more than 70 years from the 1850s to the 1930s. The district illustrates the evolution of residential design from the Greek Revival to the Bungalow.

²⁰HNTB, pages 152-53; and ODN, April 10, 1897.

²¹HNTB, pages 149-50; ODN, March 10, 1939; and Holland's Oshkosh City Directory for the Years 1879-82, (Chicago: Holland Publishing Company, 1879).

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SOCIAL HISTORY SIGNIFICANCE

Several residences in the Irving Church Historic District are collectively significant under criterion A in the area of social history as the homes of men prominent in the development of the lumber and wood products industries in Oshkosh.

LUMBERING AND WOOD PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES

The history of the lumber and wood products industries in Oshkosh is the history of Oshkosh itself. The lumber industry was established in Oshkosh in 1847 with the opening of two steam mills. Lumbering quickly became the central preoccupation of Oshkosh. According to the CRMP, Oshkosh proved to be strategically located, being near the source of pine timber and having easy access to a network of waterways for shipping its products. By 1859, the first railroad arrived in Oshkosh. Four would soon serve the city. By 1860, there were 25 lumber dealers in Oshkosh, 11 sawmills and several sash, door and blind factories. By 1866, the number of sawmills had leapt to 30, and Oshkosh had established itself as the sawmilling center of its district.²²

The growth of the lumber industry in Oshkosh peaked in 1874 with 47 sawmills. After that, growth began to slow. The clearing of the forests closest to the City meant that raw materials were further and further away from the mills in Oshkosh. The sawmill industry followed. Wood products manufacturing quickly succeeded lumbering as Oshkosh's leading industry, and as a major facet of Wisconsin's statewide economy. The 1876 city directory estimated that if all 9 sash, door and blind factories in Oshkosh operated at full capacity, they could produce 300,000 doors, 650,000 windows and 150,000 pairs of blinds annually. By 1880, Winnebago County was the undisputed leader of wood products manufacturing in the state. Oshkosh, the "Sawdust City," led the county. During the 1880s,

²²Metz, page 297; Wyatt, volume 2, section 7-3 through 7-6; and HNTB, pages 5-6, and 17.

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between 8 and 12 building materials finishing mills operated in Oshkosh. Most of these were sash, door and blind factories. There were also mills manufacturing furniture, cabinetwork, matches and caskets. The leading wood products manufacturers in Oshkosh were Paine Lumber Company, Morgan Brothers Company, and Radford Brothers and Company. These firms spurred the development of Oshkosh. The latter two are still in operation. Another firm that was prominent in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was Campbell Brothers and Cameron. In his book, Publius Lawson states that the efforts of the principles in these firms is what made Oshkosh a manufacturing center. Founders and presidents of three of these firms lived in the Irving Church Historic District.²³

The growth and prosperity of these firms from the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth century sparked the development of Oshkosh not only as the leading wood products manufacturing town in Wisconsin, but also as the second largest city in Wisconsin during that time. Disasters in the lumber and wood products industries also affected the development of Oshkosh. Fire was an occupational hazard in an industry which revolved around the processing and storage of flammable wood products at steam powered mills. The Great Fire of 1875 destroyed industrial and commercial buildings as well as homes on Main Street between Algoma Boulevard and Ceape Street. Although it was ignited by the steam boiler at another company, the fire began at Morgan Brothers mill.²⁴ As a result, Oshkosh adopted an ordinance requiring fireproof construction for commercial and industrial buildings, and the downtown was rebuilt in brick. Many of the buildings on North Main Street today were erected at that time. The Great Fire of 1875 reshaped Oshkosh's downtown.

John R. Morgan and his brother Richard were born in Wales. The family immigrated to New York in 1833. In 1855, John R. Morgan and his brother Richard moved to Oshkosh. Trained by their father in

²³Wyatt, volume 2, pages 7-1 through 7-5; Richard J. Harney, Oshkosh City Directory and Rebuilt Oshkosh Illustrated, (Oshkosh: Allen and Hicks, 1876), page 90; and Lawson, I:524.

²⁴HNTB, pages 4-5, 18 and 22.

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carpentry, they went to work in a planing mill. The Morgans soon bought one of their own, with two partners. The mill burned shortly thereafter. In 1857, the brothers built their first sash, door and blind factory under the name of Morgan, Watts and Jones. The company went through several partners and name changes until 1869, when it became Morgan and Brother. That year, the company employed 30 hands and did \$40,000 worth of business. Despite several fires, including the Great Fire, Morgan Brothers Company prospered. They established branches around the country and in 1889, acquired a sash, door and blind factory in Chicago. In 1889, management of the company was turned over to Thomas, Albert and John Earl Morgan. In 1866, the house at 322 Church Avenue (remodeled c.1913) was built for Richard Morgan (1829-1905). John R. (1831-1906) had the Queen Anne home at 234 Church Avenue built in 1884. Thomas (1856-1903) had the house at 606 Franklin Street built about 1883. Albert (1857-1899), son of Richard, had 515 Franklin Street built about 1888. Morgan Brothers Company continued to do well under the direction of the three cousins. The name was changed to Morgan Company in 1904. The company bought a millwork factory in Baltimore in 1910. In 1972, the various branches merged with C.E. Morgan Division of Combustion Engineering. Morgan products are known throughout the world. In 1983, the company had 513 employees in Oshkosh.²⁵

Stephen Radford (1832-1926) was born in England and came to Oshkosh as a young man. He went to work at the Danforth Harshaw sawmill, and eventually bought the mill. In 1871 he and his brother William established Radford Brothers. In 1879, they added a sash, door and blind factory to their operation. Like the Morgan Brothers Company, Radford Brothers was one of the major wood products companies in Oshkosh, and established branches around the country, notably in Chicago. Today the company still manufactures millwork. The house at 526 Union Avenue was either built for Stephen Radford around 1900, or remodeled from a c.1858 house that he had lived in

²⁵Edward Noyes, National Register nomination for the John R. Morgan House; Shepherd; Holland's Oshkosh City Directory 1869-72, (Chicago: Western Publishing Company, 1869), page 33; and ODN, January 11, 1899 and August 18, 1903.

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for nearly thirty years. He remained president of Radford Brothers and Company until 1909, and also served foras alderman of the Seventh Ward. He moved to California in 1923.²⁶

Robert Campbell (1830-1916), and his brother William A. Campbell, New Yorkers, were founders of Campbell Brothers and Cameron. In 1856, the brothers settled in Oshkosh. In 1858, their father William joined them. He purchased a shingle mill from Ripley and Mead in 1859. In 1867, Campbell produced over 7 million shingles. In 1872, the Campbells built a sawmill, and organized as William Campbell and Sons. By 1879, they were employing 50 to 60 men. When brother-in-law George H. Cameron joined the company circa 1880, it became Campbell Brothers and Cameron. They made flooring, shingles and lath, and had a box factory. The house at 650 Wisconsin Street was built for Robert Campbell about 1885. About 1902, the house at 617 West Irving Avenue was built for William A Campbell. William J. Campbell was the founder and president of W.J. Campbell Lumber Company, a daughter firm of Campbell Brothers and Cameron in operation by 1905. He served as president of both companies for many years. Both companies closed when William J. died, about 1956. William J. had the house at 645 Wisconsin Street built about 1936.²⁷

The wood products industry was a cornerstone in the growth and development of the city of Oshkosh. The Irving-Church district is significant to the social history of the city as the home of eight of these influential industrial families and represents the history and lifeways of these prominent citizens.

²⁶Clinton F. Karstaedt, editor, Oshkosh, One Hundred Years a City, 1853-1953, (Oshkosh: Oshkosh Centennial, Incorporated, 1953), page 244; HNTB, page 35; Lawson, page 526; and ODN, October 29, 1926.

²⁷ODN, January 17, 1916; and Thomas.

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PRESERVATION ACTIVITY

The Oshkosh Landmarks Commission was created with the adoption of the Oshkosh Historic Preservation Ordinance in 1981. The Commission's powers are restricted to the designation of local landmarks. Design review of proposed alterations to historic structures is not required. The Commission is currently reviewing a draft revised ordinance which would require that permits to alter any locally designated structures be reviewed by the Commission. The Oshkosh Volunteers for Preservation, a not-for profit group, was formed in 1992 to foster the preservation of structures, sites and districts which are part of the historical, architectural and archaeological heritage of Oshkosh.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

In 1991, the Cameron Oak, which stood at the southwest corner of the house at 639 Wisconsin Street, was destroyed by lightning. Some prehistoric and late historic debris was found around the base of the tree, suggesting that other remains may be present.

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Irving Church Historic District
Oshkosh, Winnebago County, WI

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Irving Church Historic District
Oshkosh, Winnebago County, WI

Verbal Boundary Description

The Irving Church Historic District includes the following parcels in the City of Oshkosh, Winnebago County, Wisconsin: L.L. Wright's Subdivision of the North 1/2 of Lot 84; L.L. Wright's Subdivision of the South 1/2 of Lot 84, except Lots 8 through 11 and 76; Wright's Subdivision of Lot 2, Block 53, Lots 4 through 7, 10 and 11; Block 53, Lots 57 through 61; G.F. Wright's Addition, Block 6, Lots 11 and 18 through 22; G.F. Wright's Subdivision of the South part of Block 46, except Lots 62 through 65 and Lincoln School; Leach's Map, Block 45, Lots 49 through 74; J.S. Smith's Subdivision of Lot 5, Block 45, Lots 38 through 48; W.W. Wright's Subdivision of part of Blocks 45 and F, Lots 1 through 8 and 13 through 15; and R. Parkinson's Subdivision of part of Block 45, Block A, Lots 1 through 11.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Irving Church Historic District encompass a cohesive residential neighborhood of large two story houses built between about 1858 and 1938. The boundaries were drawn to exclude areas not in residential use or of a different character or time period. The modern buildings of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh form the western boundary. Structures in commercial and public use lie south of the district. Residential areas north and east of the district are different in street pattern or time of development (north), or in building and lot size (east).

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Irving Church Historic District
Oshkosh, Winnebago County, WI

Photo 1 of 21
Irving Church Historic District
Oshkosh, Winnebago County, WI
Photo by Elizabeth L. Miller, July 1992
Negative on file at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View of west side of Franklin Street, 600 block, looking south.

The information for the following photographs is the same as the above, except as noted.

Photo 2 of 21
View of east side of Franklin Street, 500 block, looking north.

Photo 3 of 21
View of south side of Church Avenue, 400 block, looking west.

Photo 4 of 21
View of Wisconsin Street looking north from Amherst Avenue.

Photo 5 of 21
View of Amherst Avenue looking east from Wisconsin Street.

Photo 6 of 21
View of Elmwood Avenue looking north from Algoma Boulevard.

Photo 7 of 21
View of Amherst Avenue looking west from Wisconsin Street.

Photo 8 of 21
View of Union Avenue looking east from Church Avenue.

Photo 9 of 21
View of Jackson Street, 500 block, looking north.

Photo 10 of 21
View of 619 Franklin Street.

Photo 11 of 21
View of 519 Franklin Street.

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Photo 12 of 21
View of 234 Church Avenue.

Photo 13 of 21
View of 302 Church Avenue.

Photo 14 of 21
View of 506 Jackson Street.

Photo 15 of 21
View of 639 Wisconsin Street.

Photo 16 of 21
View of 628 West Irving Avenue.

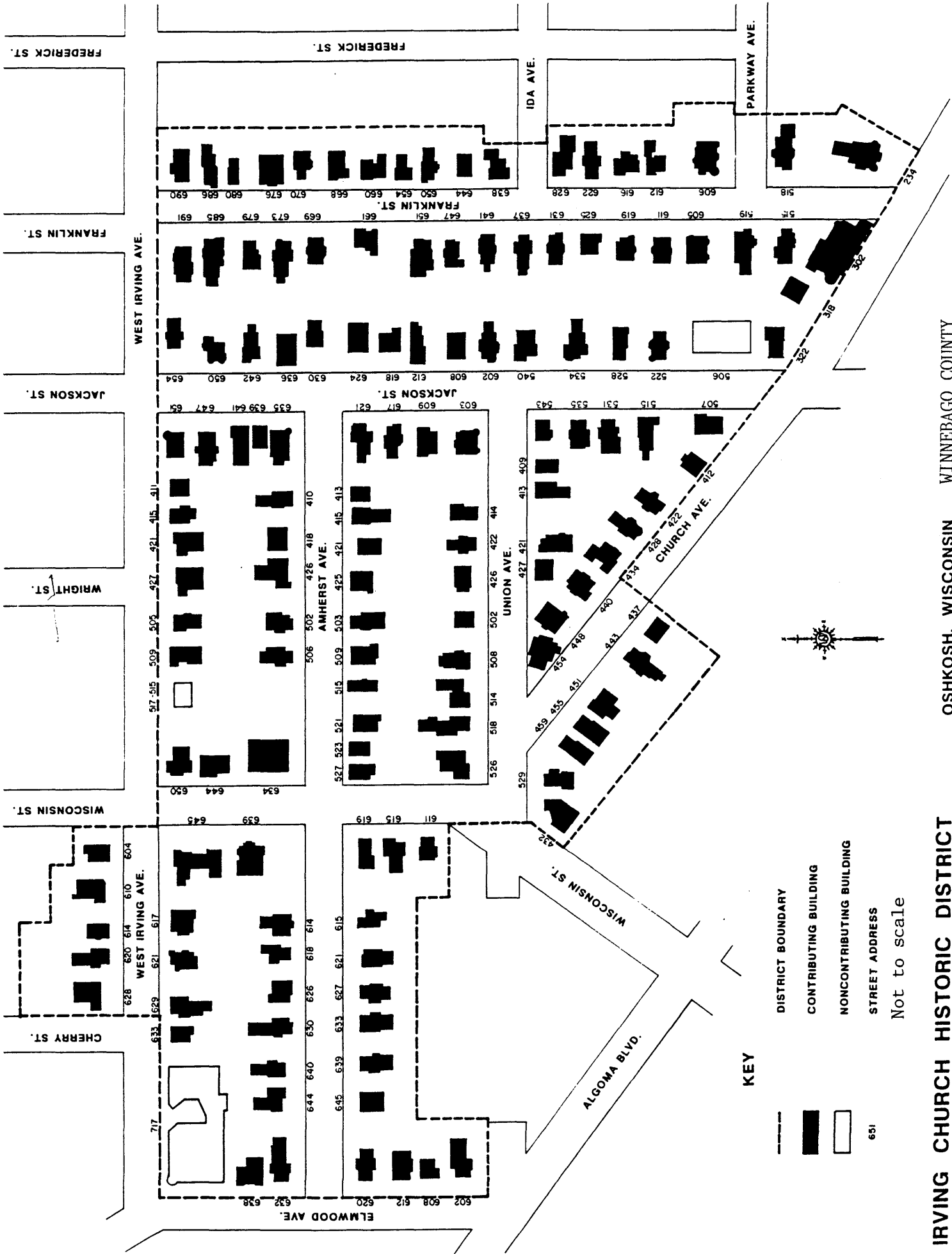
Photo 17 of 21
View of 632 Elmwood Avenue.

Photo 18 of 21
View of 645 Amherst Avenue.

Photo 19 of 21
View of 526 Union Avenue.

Photo 20 of 21
View of 543 Jackson Street.

Photo 21 of 21
View of 609 Jackson Street.



IRVING CHURCH HISTORIC DISTRICT

OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN WINNEBAGO COUNTY

Not to scale