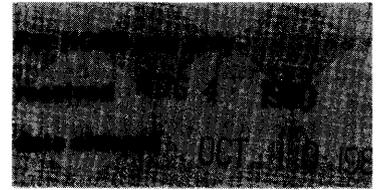


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



## 1. Name

historic Hall, Chauncey, Building

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 338-340 Main Street  not for publication

city, town Racine  vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Wisconsin code 55 county Racine code 101

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Rhoda-Gale Pollack and Ernest & Sara Light

street & number 3800 West Johnson Avenue

city, town Racine  vicinity of state Wisconsin 53405

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds, Racine County Courthouse

street & number 730 South Wisconsin

city, town Racine state Wisconsin 53403

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Racine Architectural Survey -  
Johnson, Johnson & Roy has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date April 1974  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Racine Landmarks Preservation Commission - City Hall

city, town Racine state Wisconsin 53401

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

---

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

338-40 Main Street is a three-story commercial building, 30 x 90 feet, with its long axis parallel to Fourth Street. Located in Racine's central business district, the Hall building is flanked by smaller two- and three-story brick commercial buildings, many of which have been altered. Its height dominates the intersection of Main and Fourth Streets. The structure has a limestone foundation and is faced on the street sides with a red-orange pressed brick with orange-tinted pointing. Trim is of limestone and brownstone.

The east elevation of the building contains four arcaded "columns" of windows with ornamented terra cotta panels in the spandrels between floors and under the arches. A chimney corbelled out from the wall surface bisects the facade and the apex of the Flemish gable. Its original tall, corbel-capped stack was decapitated.

The south elevation is 13 units wide; the central three units project slightly and contain arcaded window "columns" like those of the east elevation. Chimneys corbelled out from the wall flank these bays.

The current Fourth Street roofline is considerably different from its original appearance. A large, Flemish-gabled dormer topped by a corbelled chimney sat over the central bay. This was flanked by gabled dormers with corbelled stacks, and smaller dormers.

Panels of angled brick and terra cotta panels ornamented with stylized sunbursts, festoons, scrolls and rosettes accent the building's lines in a number of areas. A particularly interesting feature is the highly sculptural red-painted iron tie pins on the sides and front of the walls.

Originally the plate-glass corner storefront reached only two units down the Fourth Street elevation. In 1929 it was expanded along the Fourth Street line with a complimentary glazed terra cotta storefront by Frank Hoffman. The interior, formerly the Pokorney Drug Store, also dates from this alteration.

At some point, probably the late nineteenth century, the cast-iron and brick storefronts on the southwestern corner of the building were filled in with matching brick.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

**Specific dates** Aug. 18, 1883<sup>1</sup>      **Builder/Architect** James P. Cors, Masonry<sup>2</sup>  
Bowen & Smith, Carpentry<sup>3</sup>  
Ed. Townsend Mix, Architect<sup>4</sup>

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Chauncey Hall building at 338-340 Main Street was one of the finest commercial structures built in Racine in the 19th century. Designed by one of Wisconsin's most prominent architects, Edward Townsend Mix of Milwaukee, its Queen Anne character is unrivaled in richness and elegance by any of its contemporaries on Main Street.

Architecture: Banker Chauncey Hall financed the construction of the structure in 1883. Hall had owned the property since 1854, but the prime Main Street site was occupied by old frame buildings. A Daily Journal article of March 5, 1883 noted, "The new building to be erected on the corner of Main and Fourth Streets, by Mr. Chauncey Hall, will be one of the handsomest in the city. Architect Mix, of Milwaukee, was in the city Saturday, making surveys for the structure..."<sup>4</sup>

The building attracted a great deal of attention during construction because of its elaboration in the use of red brick. Another Journal article notes, "...at any time of day crowds can be seen watching the work, as it is something odd to see the laying of red brick, which is a much harder job than laying the common pressed brick."<sup>5</sup>

The building contained a basement shop, one large ground-level store on the corner, a restaurant or saloon facing Fourth Street, offices on the second floor, and a hall on the third floor.

Mix's design for the Hall building resembles his Milwaukee Club design in Milwaukee of the same year. The two share identical terra cotta panels. Edward Townsend Mix, who had apprenticed with Richard Upjohn for 7 years, had settled in Milwaukee in 1856, where he remained until 1889. Mix served as the State Architect from 1864-67, and designed buildings across the upper Midwest, including St. Luke's Church, just three blocks south of the Hall building.

In the Racine Architectural Survey, the surveyors of Johnson, Johnson & Roy, Inc. considered the Chauncey Hall building to be an "exceptional" example of its period with "rare" incidence in Racine. Historically, the building follows closely upon the work of British contemporaries like Richard Norman Shaw and Stevenson who shared in the design of the Queen Anne quarter of Chelsea in London.

1 "City Brevities," Racine Daily Journal Aug. 18, 1883, p. 2, states that "Work is progressing rapidly..."  
 2 "City Brevities," Racine Daily Journal April 23, 1883, p. 2  
 3 "City Brevities," Racine Daily Journal May 2, 1883, p. 2  
 4 "Handsome Structure," Racine Daily Journal, March 5, 1883, p.2  
 5 "Another Bank," Racine Daily Journal Aug. 25, 1883, p. 2



FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED	10

Chauncey Hall Building, Racine, Wis.

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (continued)

Historic Architecture of Downtown Racine - Nelson Peter Ross  
1975 Local  
Landmarks Preservation Commission - City Hall, Racine, WI 53403

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places  
1979 State  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin - 816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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001 10

Chauncey Hall Building, Racine, Wis.

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

Racine Daily Journal "City Brevities" on p. 2 - August 18, 1883-Apr. 23,  
1883-May, 1883.

Racine Daily Journal "Handsome Structure," March 5, 1883, p. 2.

Racine Daily Journal "Another Bank," August 25, 1883, p. 2.

Early 20th century photographs of 340 Main in the Iconographic Collection,  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin and the files of the Racine County  
Historical Museum.