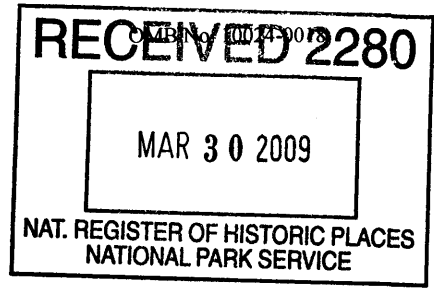


309



**United States Department of Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

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

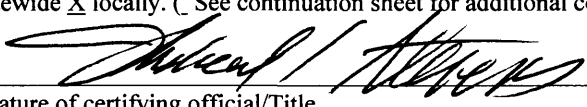
historic name Curtis, David W. and Jane, House
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number	213 East Sherman Avenue	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Fort Atkinson	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Jefferson	code 055
			zip code 53538

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 of certifying official/Title 3/26/09
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

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 commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Curtis, David W. and Jane, House

Jefferson

Wisconsin

Name of Property

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:)

Edson H. Beall

5.12.09

Jan

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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
 structure
 site
 object

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> noncontributing
2	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
2	0 total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources is previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation limestone

walls weatherboard

roof slate

other wood

Narrative Description

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

Curtis, David W. and Jane, House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County and State

Wisconsin

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.)

Property is:

- 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 or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1885-1900

Significant Dates

1885

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Koch, Henry C.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Curtis, David W. and Jane, House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County and State

Wisconsin

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)

Property Owner

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

name/title	Pat Landowski	date	June 22, 2008
organization		telephone	920-563-2333
street&number	213 East Sherman Avenue	zip code	53538
city or town	Fort Atkinson	state	WI

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Curtis, David W. and Jane, House
Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

Narrative Description

The David W. and Jane Curtis House, built in 1885, is a Queen Anne style, wood-framed dwelling. It retains most of its original decorative features and has a completely unaltered carriage house. The rectangular, two and one half story, wood-sided house is articulated with layered ornamental fish scaled peaks and sunburst gables. The windows on the house have an ornate crown and sill. A wrap-around porch on the main south facade with an extending entrance balcony and a projecting bay on the east side contribute to the architectural quality of the building. The current porch was added about 1900. The foundation of the building is made of limestone and the first and second stories are clad in cedar siding. The fish scaled shingles in the peaks are made of different shapes in horizontal layers. The roof is comprised of slate shingles under which original pine shingles lay. A brick chimney projects from the center of the roof.

Located one-quarter mile northeast of Fort Atkinson's central business district on East Sherman Avenue, which runs parallel to the Rock River, the Curtis House is situated on a 120-foot-wide by 240-foot-deep lot. The two and one half story Curtis House sits back thirty feet from the sidewalk on a grass lawn with trees and foundation plantings. The front elevation faces south onto East Sherman Avenue. A driveway entering from the east side of the property, bordered by Jefferson Street, runs past the rear entrance of the house then bends ninety degrees north, where it reaches the carriage house. Sited in the northwest corner of the lot, the carriage house is a two-story rectangular building, 30-feet-wide by 50-feet-deep. The west side of the main house also has a small lawn with trees and shrubs, some of which surround a small concrete patio. Running directly west from the northernmost portion of the patio is a small five-foot walk, which extends to a gazebo. Because of their scale, these features are not included in the resource count.

The neighborhood surrounding the Curtis House has been primarily residential. Bordering the north side of the Curtis House is an eclectic Queen Anne style house built in 1900. To the east is a two-story bungalow built in the 1930s. Directly south across East Sherman Avenue is a Prairie style house built for Belle Curtis who had married William S. Hammerson. To the west is a brick, two-story single-family home built in 1940.

The south facade includes a projecting, wrap-around porch and entrance deck to the southeast. The porch is ornamented with decorative elements including a rail and pillared perimeter with hand carved support braces spaced every four feet. Added approximately twenty years after the completion of the house, the porch was rebuilt in a more restrained style compared to the ornate spindle work as seen in an early photograph of the house. The original porch was much smaller, covering only about half of the front elevation. It consisted of carved porch supports, a balustrade of turned spindles and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

Curtis, David W. and Jane, House
Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

spindlework along the roof line. A decorative gable marked the entrance. The front entrance to the house consists of two intricately carved cedar doors with ornate angular glazed prism glass windows on the top portion. The inner entry doors also have an ornate copper wheel etched windows. The windows portray a picture of potted plants, which could have been influenced by the wife of D.W. Curtis who studied botany at one time. All the windows on the south side consist of a one-over-one sash design except for the thirty light sash attic window with foliated swag. At the level of the second floor, the cross gable bay contains two evenly spaced windows. To its east is a single double hung window, while to west may be seen the windows of that elevation's projecting bay. The gable end itself is ornamented with a variety of shingle work patterns; this layering of patterns is repeated on all of the gable ends.

The west elevation also has a multi-tiered fish scale gable with a pinnacle sunburst design. A large thirty-light fixed sash with a foliated swag decoration provides interesting contrast to the one-over-one sash windows and open siding of the first two stories. Corner framed support brackets display an incised design and hanging ornamental ball. On the southernmost portion of the west wall of the dwelling, masked by the wrap-around porch, sits a bay window with one large panel and a rectangular transom with an angular glazed prism sash window above. The middle ornamental window, which lights the living room, is also constructed of an elaborate angular glazed prism window design. The many sizes and variety of detailing of these windows demonstrate the eclecticism of Queen Anne design.

The north elevation is quite simple compared to the picturesque design of the rest of the Curtis House. Its dominant decorative feature is a large single paned fixed first floor window to the dining room with a transom that uses a repetition of single paned windows. This window was constructed at the same time the addition was erected. The 1960 addition projects from the main block of the house northwards. It is of one story and consists of banks of single pane windows that wrap around the addition. On the roof of the addition is a small sun porch with wood railing. A door opens onto the porch; a one-over-one double hung window balances the openings of the second floor. The gable end again has the decorative shingles and a square one-over-one window. The foundation for the addition was that of an earlier smokehouse.

The east elevation is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style and features a projecting three-sided bay window as its central element. Each window of the bay is a unique sixteen-over-one sash unit ornamented with dentil molding above. This one story bay also has a gabled hood supported by brackets with ornamented balls. Above the center window is a gable sunburst design in the pediment. To the right of the projecting bay is a large double hung window that lights the interior staircase. This leaded glass window belonged to the original Curtis family. Though this cannot be confirmed, the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 3

Curtis, David W. and Jane, House
Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

window has an emblem that may be attached to the family. This can be seen in a photograph of the original Curtis house. The only other window on the main cross gabled block is a small decorative square window set above and left of the projecting bay. It is unknown when this window was added, but it does not appear in an early photograph of the house. The gable end attic windows are different than those of the rest of the dwelling. Instead of a thirty light sash window, similar to all other peaks, this peak has three small one-over-one sash windows placed side-by-side and supported with ornamented foliated swags. Above the window head is another gabled sunburst, which mimics that of the bay below. The peak again is layered with a multi textural fish scale design which drops to a cross board supported by brackets, which have sunflowers carved into the wood. The rear block of this elevation features two windows per floor. They are placed two per floor, one above the other. All are double hung, one-over-one, with the windows of the second floor being slightly shorter in dimension. The rear addition obscures a portion of the of the east elevation at the back of the house.

The interior of the Curtis house had little alteration and has undergone a series or restoration projects throughout the last 30 years. The house has the original side hall plan with a main entry opening into a vestibule to the stairwell. The east end of the stair hall features the three sided bay window and the luminous colors of the original Curtis stained glass window. To the west is a doorway leading into what was most likely intended to be the living room. A large marble fireplace sits in the northeast corner of the living room and is at the center in relation to the house's structure. On the west side of the living room is a decorative, angular, glazed, rectangular prism glass window. The floors have been refinished, yet retain their original narrow tongue and grooved boards. A large opening between this room and the dining room to the north retains it original casing and pocket doors. The opening to the south of the living room most likely was an entry to the front parlor. Although no doors exist at this time, outlines in the plaster show what could have been the casing to another set of pocket doors. The room has two simple sash windows and a large bay window with a rectangular transom with angular glazed prism glass window above.

The kitchen is located to the east of the dining room, in which a small pantry opens through a small, cased serving window. The walls of the dining room retain their original decorative lincrusta design. The kitchen has undergone a little cosmetic change with addition of cupboards and appliances, but the room exists in its original shape and character. A family room and laundry room are located in the addition off the kitchen.

Upstairs, a central hall provides access to a pair of bedrooms on each end and a master bedroom in the center. A bathroom is located near the staircase. Each door has a transom above, which acts to provide increased natural light to the interior hall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Curtis, David W. and Jane, House
Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

Section 7 Page 4

The carriage house, built in the same year as the Curtis house, is a simple rectangular building. The two-story building has similar siding and designed peaks to that of the house. Each gable consists of the same layered fish scale textured siding, but lacks the ornamental gable sunbursts. Each gable, including a dormer on the west side, is also supported by brackets, but lacks the carved ornamentation and hanging ball that is seen on the main house.

The facade of the carriage house consists of two large pine paneled swing doors with twenty-eight light sash windows to each side. The north and west elevations consist of simple rectangular one-over-one sash windows evenly spaced with a small dormer window. The interior of the carriage house retains its original shape with its only change being the addition of a wood stove. The first floor consists of a large rectangular room with staircase and closet to the east. The second floor consists of two rooms. The south room has many irregular shaped closets while north room, with loft area, seems to have served as storage.

Other than the replacement of the wrap-around porch posts and an addition built on the northeast corner, the house is in nearly original condition. From an interview with the last occupant related to the Curtis family, Mary Gates, the addition was added sometime in 1960.¹ The back entrance was then relocated and a breakfast nook became the entryway. The original back entry, which was converted to a bathroom, does not retain its original doors.² The owner, Jim Gates, did the addition. However, no building permit could be found for this change. The front wrap-around porch was reconstructed sometime around 1900 according to Mrs. Gates. The new porch lacks the ornamentation of the original spindle work it had as seen in an original photograph. However, the "new" porch reflects changes in taste and the growing influence of the Colonial Revival on Queen Anne architecture. While an alteration to the original design, the turn of the century porch is considered a contributing element of the building and is included within the period of significance.

¹ Interview with Mrs. Gates, April 24, 1992.

² Interview with Mrs. Gates, April 24, 1992.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

Curtis, David W. and Jane, House
Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

Narrative Statement of Significance

The David and Jane Curtis House is being nominated to the National Register for its local significance in the area of architecture, criterion C. The Curtis House is one of Fort Atkinson's finest examples of a Queen Anne house. The Curtis House represents the work of noted Milwaukee architect H.C. Koch. The period of significance begins with the date of construction, 1885, and continues through the addition of the new front porch in 1900. While the porch is an alteration of the original design, it reflects an interest in modernizing the house with the application of a new large porch that reflected the growing influence of the Colonial Revival on the Queen Anne style.

Interest in the Queen Anne style was fostered in this country by the 1876 centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, at which the British government had erected two half-timbered buildings for its offices and staff quarters. The buildings drew a great deal of attention from the press. That, along with a growing interest in America's colonial past, inspired unprecedented creativity in design.

Despite the name Queen Anne, which became associated with the architecture of this era, the buildings were actually inspired by the late medieval rural vernacular architecture of Tudor England. English architect Richard Norman Shaw drew upon these sources to create a new design for the 1860s, and his work became popular in the United States by the 1870s. American architect Henry Hobson Richardson was influenced by Shaw's designs and utilized Shavian elements in his own work, incorporating American colonial features. Richardson's work was also well published.

In contrast to the formality of the "high" styles of the period, the Queen Anne style was thought of as domestic warmth and coziness balanced between usefulness and ornamentation. This new trend of domestic informality was reflected in the interior planning of the Queen Anne house. Irregularly shaped rooms were interconnected through wide doorways. The floor plan, with its free-flowing open spaces, contrasts the narrow stair halls and hallways. The Queen Anne style was a common and popular design for southeastern Wisconsin's growing industrial families. Thousands were built from the early 1880s through the early 20th century. It was a style favored by a wide spectrum of the population, from the wealthy to the working class. The style was characterized by an irregular asymmetrical plan and large frame accented with projecting bays, towers, turrets, porches, and balconies. It found its most prolific expression in wood, which now could be steam pressed and machine processed. Flower patterns and sunbursts were popular design motifs. The style also featured different textured surfaces that combined brick, stucco, wood, and stone. Rooflines were prominent and complex and used tall multiple-gabled peaks that combined with hip roofs. The very characteristic of the Queen Anne was use of massive gable on each elevation ornamented with distinct Queen Anne sash windows and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2

Curtis, David W. and Jane, House
Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

shingles or decorative panels. Windows appear in an almost infinite variety of shapes and sizes. Leaded and stained glass sash were utilized in the later 1880s to 1890s.

The intricate elements were employed to a greater or lesser degree depending upon the wealth of the client and the taste of the architect. The more idiosyncratic the resulting house, the more it was thought to say about the individuality of the owner. By the late 1880s, corner towers and turrets were also incorporated as well as Romanesque details. Since the majority of the Queen Anne buildings were of wood frame construction, many have lost their decorative features such as cut shingles and spindle work and have been re-sided with modern materials. The Curtis House, however, remains one of the best-preserved Queen Anne houses in Fort Atkinson.

The current large front porch, constructed about 1900, reflects the transition from the very ornate Queen Anne to a more restrained expression with classical detailing. It reflects the growing popularity of the Free Classic subtype of the Queen Anne that gained popularity at the turn of the century. The remodeling of the home's exterior through the construction of a more up to date styled porch was not an uncommon occurrence. In this case, the new porch was of a much larger scale than the original, being both longer and wider, and expanded the home's outdoor living space.

The Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory includes 52 examples of Queen Anne style houses in the city of Fort Atkinson. Because the community experienced a boom in the late nineteenth century, the Queen Anne style is prevalent in Fort Atkinson. The 2002 intensive survey of the city identified five examples as potentially meeting individual registration requirements; in addition, three additional examples of the style are located within the National Register listed Merchants Avenue Historic District. The Curtis House is one of the five examples called out in the survey.

The Curtis House reflects the breadth of work of Milwaukee architect H.C. Koch. Henry C. Koch was born in Hanover, Germany in 1841. The following year he moved with his family to Milwaukee. After studying at the German-English Academy, he began his architectural studies in the offices of Milwaukee architect G. W. Mygatt. Koch founded his own firm in 1868.³ Before his solo career, Mr. Koch worked for L.A. Schmidtner. Schmidtner did not maintain a large corps of draftsman. Mr. Koch also served in the Civil War as a topographical engineer under Gen. Phil Sheridan. The firm of H.C. Koch included Henry P. Schnetzky, his brother in law, and Herman J. Esser at various times.⁴ His architectural reputation extended beyond his city and state. He had become favorably known

³ "The Big Three Pioneers." The Wisconsin Architect, March 1936, p. 5.

⁴ H.C. Koch, Wisconsin Architectural Archive, "Architect Biography Card." The Wisconsin Architect, 1936, p. 5

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3

Curtis, David W. and Jane, House
Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

throughout the country. In a contest for designs for New York school buildings, Mr. Koch won the third premium among one hundred and eighty four designs. In 1899, Esser left and in 1902 Koch's son joined the firm as a partner. His son, Armand D., studied architecture at the Ecole de Beaux Arts in Paris. In 1905, Henry changed the firm's name to H. C. Koch and Son. He died on May 19, 1910. Following the death of Mr. Koch, Armand D. Koch carried on the business.⁵

Among the larger and more prominent buildings designed by the Koch firm are Milwaukee's City Hall, the Pfister Hotel, the Wells Building, the Gesu Church, and Turner Hall, and with Madison architect Allan Conover, Science Hall at UW-Madison. Three of these buildings (Science Hall, Turner Hall and the Milwaukee City Hall) are National Historic Landmarks. The office of H.C. Koch is also known as being a training school for many prominent architects. George B. Ferry was the firm's main draftsman at one time. Ferry later teamed up with Alfred C. Clas and the two were responsible for designs of more prominent and outstanding buildings than any other Milwaukee architectural firm was at that time.⁶

In summary, the D. W. Curtis House ranks among the finest of the area's early Queen Anne houses, retaining virtually all of its exterior and interior features. The Curtis House also is an example of a residential design by noted architect, Henry C. Koch, displaying his use of eclectic design and various influences.

Property History

The original owner of 213 East Sherman Avenue, David W. Curtis, and five generations of Curtis descendents played an influential role in the history of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin.⁷ David W. Curtis was born in Chelsea, Vermont on November 14, 1833, being the second son of Azro Burton Curtis and Anna Whitney. A. B. Curtis moved from Vermont to Wisconsin October 8, 1845, with his son David, and settled in the town of Jefferson near Curtis' Mill. They continued to reside there until the death of A. B. Curtis on January 11, 1870. David helped maintain a good-sized farm while attending the district school three months during the winters. After finishing school, he apprenticed himself to learn the mason's trade; he then qualified himself to teach writing after two more winters of study. He was married on November 16, 1860, to Miss Jane Howard, of Hebron, Wisconsin. They had two children, Harry H., born September 11, 1866, and Belle, born August 27, 1870.⁸

⁵ Ibid. p.6

⁶ Ibid. p.6

⁷ Interview with Mrs. Gates, April 24, 1992.

⁸ John Henry Ott, "D. W. Curtis." Jefferson County, Wisconsin and its People, 1917, Vol. I, p. 210.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4

Curtis, David W. and Jane, House
Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

In 1862, Mr. Curtis enlisted as a private soldier; soon after he was elected First Lieutenant and served with his company for the battles of Port Gibson, Champion Hill, and the Red River expedition. In May 1865 he was commissioned Captain in the Quartermaster's department. Later that year he formed a partnership with Oscar S. Cornish, for carrying on in lumber and produce. The business pushed with great energy. Three years later Mr. Curtis invented the famous Curtis rectangular churn and the firm began manufacturing these churns in a small building in downtown Fort Atkinson.⁹ The Curtis Rectangular churn was a cube supported from two opposite corners and without internal components of any description. Soon they began to manufacture the Rectangular Churn and Lever Butter-Worker, which were sent to all parts of the U.S.

At first the business consisted of selling Curtis churns to small butter workers direct to the farmers, but gradually new articles were introduced until the firm was making a full line of dairy and creamery supplies. In 1884 W. S. Greene entered the firm. Because Curtis advertised widely and courageously, the little factory grew to be a leading industry, well known in its hometown and surrounding country as the "churn factory." Advertised as the churn used in the best creameries, the Curtis revolving box churn was awarded many gold medals, including the highest award at the World's fair in Chicago in 1893.¹⁰

In 1878, Governor William E. Smith appointed D. W. Curtis as one of his aids with the rank of colonel. He also had an important role in the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association and production of fairs and exhibitions among the Agricultural Society.

According to the history of the deed of the Marston Prichard addition, Mr. Curtis purchased a lot of the original plat of Fort Atkinson in 1866.¹¹ Between 1884 and 1885, as seen in a documented photograph of the house, the finishing touches of the Curtis house were applied. The design for the house was created by the firm of H. C. Koch in which specifications were made to detail the arrangements.¹² David W. Curtis died in 1919 and the estate was then transferred to his wife Jane and son Harry.

As president of Creamery Package Manufacturing Company, Harry H. Curtis continued the family's good name and ability to stimulate the best efforts of those associated with him. He laid a most stable foundation for the development of the enterprise and played an active role in its successful control for

⁹ History of Creamery Package, Jefferson County Union, 1939,
<http://www.creamerybuilding.com/djcu010039.jsp>

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ H.C. Miller Co., Grant of N.W. Section 3, Township 5, Range 14, #263.

¹² Curtis House Specifications in owner's collection.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 5

Curtis, David W. and Jane, House
Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

many years.¹³ In 1898, the consolidated firm reached a total worth \$5,000,000. The Creamery Package building, built in 1910, housed the operations for the Curtis business. The building covered an entire block and employed twenty men. In 1920, a new building was erected to house the Creamery Package. There were about 150 stockholders in the Creamery Package Mfg. Company living in Fort Atkinson at that time. These people represented the backbone of the community.¹⁴

After the death of Harry in 1938 and his wife Mary in 1945, the dwelling was transferred to Lucile C. Curtis, daughter of Harry, who ran the family farm outside the town. After the death of Lucille C. Dexheimer (nee Curtis), the estate was transferred to her daughter, Mary D. Gates in 1966.¹⁵ The house remained in the family until 1971 where a court battle determining the rights to the house was reached and the house was sold to Jerry A. Landowski and wife Pat. Jerry and Pat Landowski raised their eight children, Linda, Laura, Elizabeth, Joseph, Margaret, Anthony, Amy, and John, in the Curtis house. Pat Landowski resides in the Curtis house to this date.

J.A. Landowski was employed with the local utility, Wisconsin Electric, for over 25 years. He reached the position of district manager, which he remained until his retirement in 1990. In 1994, Jerry Landowski and his son Joe started 5 Alarm Fire and Safety Equipment, LLC., headquartered in Fort Atkinson in the former Thomas Industries building. They purchased the former WOS Safety Fire Division of Green Bay, Wisconsin. Under their leadership, privately held 5 Alarm experienced significant growth for many years. The Curtis House then served as the board room for many of 5 Alarm's corporate family meetings. 5 Alarm became the premiere fire equipment dealer and service shop throughout the Midwest, extending into Illinois, Indiana and Michigan.

In conclusion, the Curtis house is wonderful example of a large-scale Queen Anne house which retains most of its original exterior decorative features with a fully restored interior. Many of the features unique to the character of Queen Anne style can be seen throughout the Curtis house in nearly original condition. From the large marble fireplace to the electrifying prism glass windows, the Curtis house has a vibrancy of colors and character in every room of the house that tell a story about the Curtis family and the city in which they lived for many years.

¹³ John Henry Ott, "H. H. Curtis." Jefferson County, Wisconsin and its People, Vol. II, 1917, p. 60.

¹⁴ Hannah Swart, Koshkonong County Revisited, Vol. II, 1983.

¹⁵ Interview with Mrs. Gates, April 24, 1992.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Curtis, David W. and Jane, House
Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

"The Big Three Pioneers." The Wisconsin Architect. March 1936.

Cartwright, Carol Lohry. "Fort Atkinson Intensive Survey Report." Madison: Wisconsin Historical Society, 2002.

Gates, Mary D. Personal interview, April 24, 1992.

"History of Creamery Package." Jefferson County Union.
<http://www.creamerybuilding.com/djcu010039.jsp>.

Koch, H. C., biography card. Wisconsin Architectural Archive, Milwaukee.

Koch, H. C., and Company. "Specifications of a Frame Dwelling for D.W. Curtis Esq. Fort Atkinson, Wis." (no date)

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984.

Ott, John Henry. Jefferson County, Wisconsin and its People: A Record of Settlement, Organization, Progress and Achievement. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Pub. Co., 1917.

Swart, Hannah. Koshkonong Country Revisited: An Anthology. Muskego, WI: Marek Lithographics, 1981-1983.

Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin. Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 1986. Vol. 2 (Architecture).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

Curtis, David W. and Jane, House
Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lots 6 & 7 of Marston and Pritchard Addition, Block 9, Fort Atkinson facing STH 106. Total size approximately 120 ft x 240 ft.

Boundary Justification:

This is the historic parcel associated with the Curtis House and its carriage house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section photos Page 1

Curtis, David W. and Jane, House
Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

CURTIS, DAVID W. & JANE HOUSE
Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, WI.
Neg. at Wisconsin Historical Society
Photo by John Landowski, November 2006
View looking north.
#1 of 8

CURTIS, DAVID W. & JANE CARRIAGE HOUSE
Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, WI.
Neg. at Wisconsin Historical Society
Photo by John Landowski, November 2006
View looking northwest.
#5 of 8

CURTIS, DAVID W. & JANE HOUSE
Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, WI.
Neg. at Wisconsin Historical Society
Photo by John Landowski, November 2006
View looking northwest.
#2 of 8

CURTIS, DAVID W. & JANE HOUSE
Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, WI.
Neg. at Wisconsin Historical Society
Photo by John Landowski, November 2006
View looking west.
#6 of 8

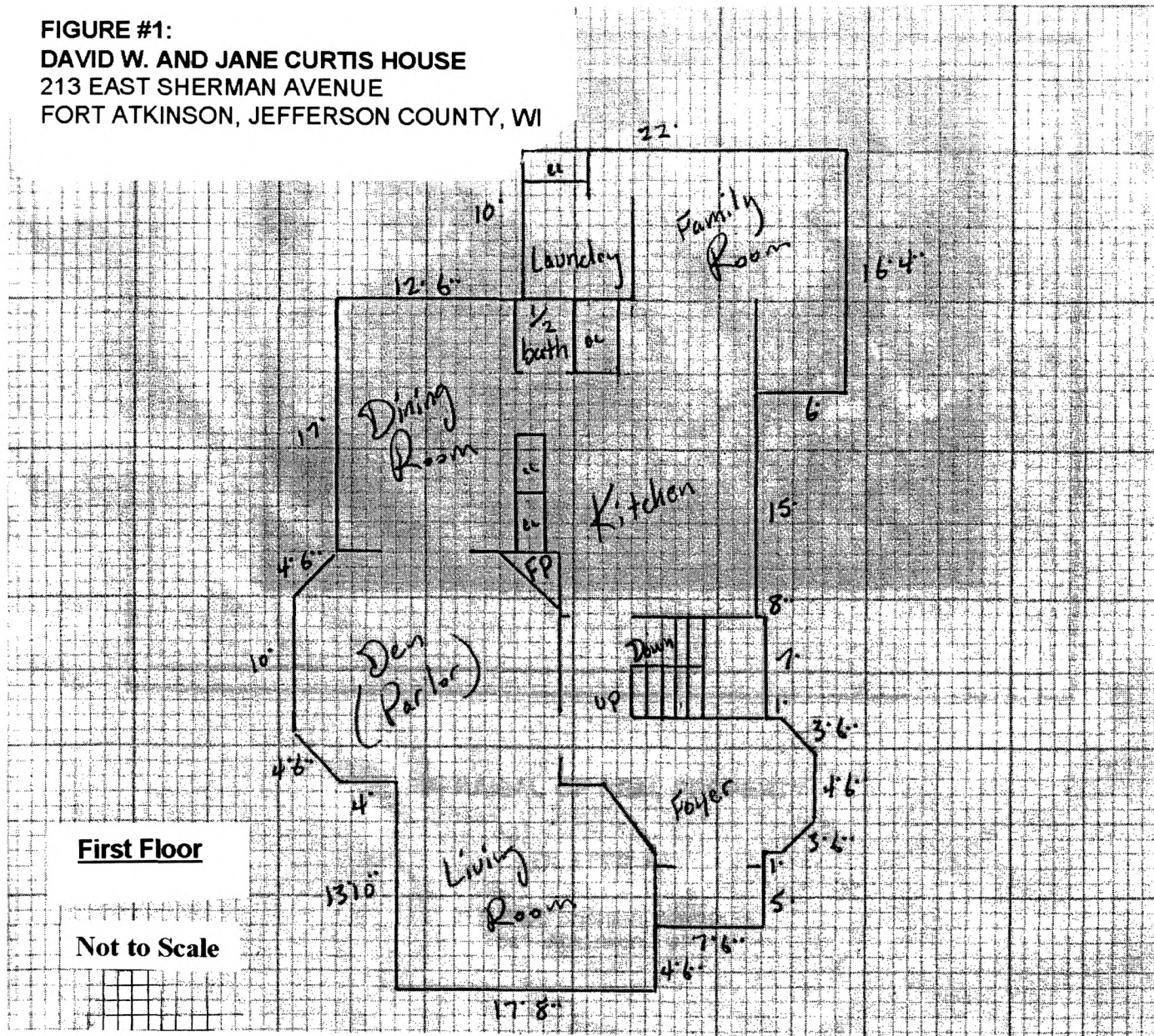
CURTIS, DAVID W. & JANE HOUSE
Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, WI.
Neg. at Wisconsin Historical Society
Photo by John Landowski, November 2006
View looking southwest.
#3 of 8

CURTIS, DAVID W. & JANE HOUSE
Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, WI.
Neg. at Wisconsin Historical Society
Photo by John Landowski, November 2006
View looking west.
#7 of 8

CURTIS, DAVID W. & JANE HOUSE
Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, WI.
Neg. at Wisconsin Historical Society
Photo by John Landowski, November 2006
View looking southeast.
#4 of 8

CURTIS, DAVID W. & JANE HOUSE
Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, WI.
Neg. at Wisconsin Historical Society
Photo by John Landowski, November 2006
View looking north.
#8 of 8

FIGURE #1:
DAVID W. AND JANE CURTIS HOUSE
213 EAST SHERMAN AVENUE
FORT ATKINSON, JEFFERSON COUNTY, WI





CURTIS HOUSE

Located on the corner of East Sherman Avenue and Jefferson Street, this attractive 1888 home with Queen Anne style details was built by David W. Curtis. He was a Civil War veteran and a founder of the Cornish, Curtis and Greene Co. which later became the Creamery Package Manufacturing Company. Five generations of Curtis descendants continued to live in the home until 1971.



FIGURE #2:
DAVID W. AND JANE CURTIS HOUSE
213 EAST SHERMAN AVENUE
FORT ATKINSON, JEFFERSON COUNTY, WI

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH (date: pre-1900)
IN THE COLLECTION OF THE OWNERS