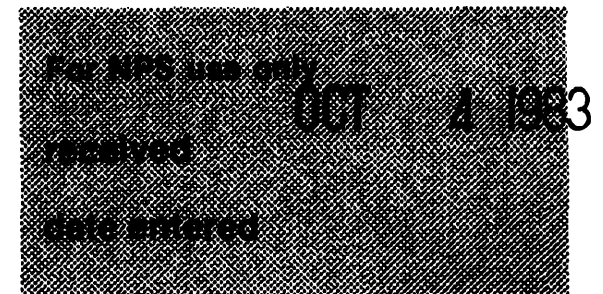


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet 85

Item number 7

Page 85

NAME: Scholze-Sayles House
LOCATION: 625 East Avenue
OWNER: Herbert & Elaine R. Rakatansky
625 East Avenue
Pawtucket, RI

CONDITION: Good; altered; original site

DESCRIPTION:

The picturesque, Modern Gothic Scholze-Sayles House occupies a large, shady lot on the northwesterly corner of East Avenue and Progress Street, a few blocks north of the Providence line. Directly across Progress Street sits a related dwelling (the Louis Kotzow House, 641 East Avenue, also included in this nomination) of virtually the same age and of strikingly similar design. Behind these two 1870s "Modern Gothic" cottages, a modest late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century residential neighborhood extends westward and southward, while, across East Avenue and northward, lies the fashionable early twentieth-century neighborhood of Oak Hill.

A one-and-a-half-story wooden dwelling, the Scholze-Sayles House is basically square in plan. Its steeply gabled roofs are repeatedly broken by cross gables and gabled wall dormers, resulting in a very active profile. Single-story bay windows sprout upon the projecting central pavilion on the southern side of the house and on the projecting end pavilion at the southern corner of the East Avenue facade. A three-bay, single-story porch extends northward from this end pavilion across the remainder of the East Avenue facade. In purely formal terms, the house is very close to a mirror image of the Kotzow House next door.

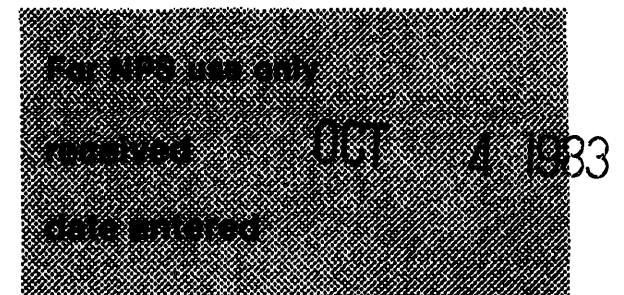
The building's clapboarded exterior walls are accented by a variety of typical late nineteenth-century decorative details: corner brackets under the wide eaves; an ornamental belt course at the second floor level; and projecting chamfered window frames which in the two bay windows, are developed into a "stick style" elaboration of the entire bay window feature.

The main doorway into the house is in the center of the East Avenue facade under the southernmost bay of the porch. An ornately paneled front door opens into an interior which was thoroughly remodeled (Albert Harkness, architect) in the Federal Revival taste in 1935. Presently, a central hallway leads back from the front doorway and the major downstairs rooms open off it. The main staircase, an open, two-run Federal Revival design, spills into this central hallway from an eastern cross-

(See Continuation Sheet #86)

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

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



Continuation sheet 86

Item number 7

Page 86

hall deep within the house. Pilastered Federal Revival mantels appear in the major downstairs rooms; a paneled wainscot and two shell-topped corner clapboards, which may be later than the 1935 remodeling, are featured in the dining room. The upstairs is divided into five chambers. The original layout and details of the building's interior may well have been similar to those which still exist in the related Louis Kotzow House next door. (See inventory sheet for that house.)

The only outbuilding presently standing on the lot is a 1½-story, two-bay, wooden garage facing Progress Street. The massive oaks which generously shade the well-maintained corner lot were undoubtedly planted in the nineteenth century and might even be contemporary with the house.

PERIOD: 1800-1899

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Social/Humanitarian

SPECIFIC DATE: 1874-75

ARCHITECT: Unknown; Albert Harkness, 1935 interior

SIGNIFICANCE:

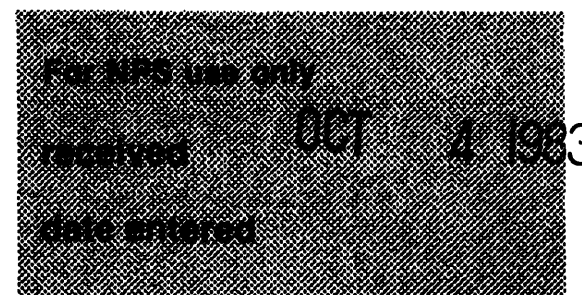
The Scholze-Sayles House is historically significant as one of a closely related pair of architecturally distinguished cottages erected for members of the German Cooperative Land Association of Providence in the mid-1870s. This house, and the neighboring Louis Kotzow House, flanked the East Avenue entrance into an 1873 subdivision which was apparently intended to be a strictly German residential enclave in southern Pawtucket. The Association was dissolved in 1878, and the Scholze and Kotzow Houses are the major surviving reminders of the organization's existence. The two houses are, in addition, architecturally significant as a closely related pair of handsomely detailed Modern Gothic cottages of the 1870s.

The German Cooperative Land Association of Providence was incorporated in May of 1873; its apparent purpose was the assistance of its members in the acquisition of house lots in the Providence area. To this end, the Association purchased 22½ acres of land off East Avenue in southern Pawtucket in July of 1873 and quickly subdivided the tract into house lots. (The names of several of the original streets in this subdivision--Progress, Unity, and Germania Streets--are a curious reminder of the Association's character.) House lots here were offered for sale to Association members only, and each purchaser's deed carried a restriction granting the Association the right of first refusal should a member ever choose to sell. Restricted by its constitution to a corporate life of just five years, the Association was disbanded in 1878, and its assets were distributed among its sixty members. At the time of dissolution, there were perhaps a dozen houses standing on the Association's plat.

(See Continuation Sheet #87)

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

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



Continuation sheet 87

Item number 7

Page 87

One of the first houses built on the German Cooperative Land Association of Providence plat was the Scholze-Sayles House, erected in 1874-75. Begun for Frederick O. Scholze, a Walcott Street resident who was in the furniture business in Providence, the house was only partially completed when Scholze died in the early summer of 1875. The house was finished under the direction of the widow Scholze's attorney and was then leased out to parties unknown. This arrangement may have been continued as late as 1886, when Scholze's widow fell behind on her mortgage, and the property was auctioned off. The successful bidder, Edward B. Thornton, appears to have been acting as a straw for the wealthy manufacturers, William F. and Frederick C. Sayles, to whom the property was resold (at no increase in price) within a month. Both of the Sayles brothers had already erected magnificent mansion-houses on spacious, landscaped grounds further north on East Avenue; the Scholze cottage seems now to have become an appendage to the manufacturers' landed estates.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nominated property is Pawtucket Assessor's Plat 64A, lot 654, which includes the Scholze-Sayles House and its immediate surroundings.

ACREAGE: less than one (23,500 square feet)

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

UTM: A 19 301620 4636830

(See Continuation Sheet #88)