

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUN 26 1979  
DATE ENTERED AUG 27 1979

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 *Oviatt House*

HISTORIC

*Moses Hooper House*

AND/OR COMMON

*Oviatt House (preferred)*

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

*842 Algoma Boulevard*

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

*Oshkosh*

VICINITY OF

*6th*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

*Wisconsin*

CODE

*55*

COUNTY

*Winnebago*

CODE

*139*

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

\_\_DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

\_\_PRIVATE

\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_PARK

\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_BOTH

\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_OBJECT

\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_NO

\_\_MILITARY

\_\_OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

*Board of Regents, University of Wisconsin System*

STREET & NUMBER

*c/o Joseph S. Holt, Secretary, 1860 Van Hise Hall, WU*

CITY, TOWN

*Madison*

VICINITY OF

STATE

*Wisconsin 53706*

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. *Register of Deeds*

STREET & NUMBER

*Winnebago County Courthouse*

CITY, TOWN

*Oshkosh*

STATE

*Wisconsin 54901*

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

*Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places*

DATE

*1973*

\_\_FEDERAL STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

*State Historical Society of Wisconsin*

CITY, TOWN

*Madison*

STATE

*Wisconsin 53706*

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

EXTERIOR The Oviatt House is a 2½-story rock-faced coursed ashlar blue limestone structure. The main block of the building is rectagnular and has a steeply pitched hipped roof with broad eaves. The main (southwest) facade is dominated by a 2½-story gabled pavilion, which is balanced by a 3-story quadrilateral tower that projects from the south corner of the house. The tower is capped with a raked steeply pitched roof with an ornate weather vane. Both sides of the house have 2-story bays. A stone stoop leads to the main entrance. Windows and doorways have stilted segmental arches. A water-table surrounds the building at the level of the lintels levels, connecting all windows sills. Above the second level, the tower is ornamented with a number of belt courses. The ashlar that forms arches, water table, belt courses, and all corners of the building is dressed smooth along the edge, surrounding the rock facing and highlighting these details. The two chimneys of the building are of similar stonework and are crowned with a course of molded ashlar. Windows in the front pavilion and in the side-facing planes of the bays are paired at the first and second levels. Windows are one-over-one double-hung sash. In 1935 the porch was enclosed in a W.P.A. project. Other visible exterior alterations appear to be limited to aluminum combination storm windows and asphalt roofing.

INTERIOR At the main or porch entrance to the House, a small vestibule, affords access to a reception hall or foyer. The main door is flanked by stained glass sidelights and has a pane of ornate leaded beveled glass. The doors have heavy locks with doorknobs bearing a lion's face. Immediately to the left of the foyer is an elaborate carved oak staircase leading upward past a full-length mirror, with beveled glass, to the second floor. To the right in the reception hall are sliding doors opening into a small, but commodious office-study room. Accompanied by clothes pegs, a small wall mirror is built into wainscoting alongside the north wall of the foyer. The foyer and much of the first floor has parquet flooring. The parquet flooring of the reception room was stained black in 1974. The blackened flooring is now carpeted.

Entrance to the front living room may be had from either the reception area of the study-office room to its right. The main decorative features of the room include a fireplace with majolica tile work displaying raised flowers and petals with a hearth also of decorative majolica tile, and ornamental plasterwork on the ceiling and cornice. The front living room opens to an alcove within the tower at the south corner of the house. Featuring the same ornamental plasterwork as that of the living room proper, the alcove breaks the angularity of the front living room and nowadays affords a place for greenery. By double doorways on each side of the fireplace, access is afforded from the front living room to the rear living room of the house. The lintels arching the doorways are symmetrical and are of wood carved into flowing curves ending with a fan-like center piece.

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7. DESCRIPTION continued

The rear living room of the Oviatt House is a third larger in area than the front living room and has ornamentation of comparable quality. The fireplace, which shares the chimney of the front living room fireplace has decorative Minton tiles depicting scenes from Shakespeare plays. To the rear of the room are two supporting pillars of Ionic order. Breaking the straight wall line on the southeast side of the back living room are two sets of bay windows, the second set extending from the plane of the first set. The back living room opens, through sliding doors which are now inoperable, into the formal dining room.

The dining room of the house is centered at the bay of the northwest side of the house. The wainscoting, ceiling crossbeams, and china closet of the room are of cherry, originally with a natural finish. There were also murals depicting scenes of the countryside. Presently, the room and its woodwork are painted white. Of the murals, a section remains on the west side of the room above a plate rail. The kitchen has been remodeled through the years. It opens into the dining room of the structure and to the outside grounds at the rear of the building.

The second floor of the Oviatt House contains three bedrooms, a playroom, family room, and two bathrooms. Decoration of the bedrooms on the south side of the house merits comment. The bedroom to the front not only possess the alcove formed by the corner tower, but originally offered the occupant the impression of sleeping in a tent whose open fly revealed the sky with stars made from glass fragments set in the ceiling. This decorative feature was altered by Mrs. C.W. Oviatt who had the bits of glass removed. The front (or tent) bedroom also contains a lavatory of chocolate colored marble with a wash basin beautified by a garland of grape vines complete with fruit, leaves and tendrils. In the second, or master bedroom, a tile fireplace enhances the element of relaxed comfort. The master bedroom is the only bedroom to open directly into one of the two bathrooms.

The attic of the house has two large main rooms. The front room, which Dr. Oviatt made into a recreation room, has a fireplace plus storage cases and cabinets, and has access to the corner tower room. The rear of the attic also serves as a storage place and contains a wood encased cistern which is original to the house.

The basement of the house contains five storage rooms, one utility room, a lavatory, and a recreation room which was finished in 1903 by Dr. Oviatt.

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7. DESCRIPTION continued

Dr. Oviatt found the basement recreation room too damp for comfort, however, and therefore he moved it to the attic. The basement recreation room contains a fireplace and an alcove formed by the corner tower. Fenestration of the basement follows that of the upper floors except that the windows are shorter.

A garage constructed of blue limestone ashlar from the walls of an old carriage house that stood sixty feet to the rear of the dwelling was erected at the northeast corner of the house in 1968. It is likely that the carriage house was built when the house was. Because the garage is of stonework similar to that of the house, it is considered to be minimally intrusive.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) prominent persons
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1882-1883

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Waters

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Oviatt House was the home of two Wisconsinites who achieved more than ordinary prominence in their professional careers. Moses Hooper, the original owner, was an attorney who won a wide reputation for his work in riparian and water power rights. Charles W. Oviatt was a physician who earned an outstanding reputation for his work in the healing arts. A possession of the University of Wisconsin system since 1913, the Oviatt House has had a significant part in the history of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Throughout the years since its construction, the House has also had an established place on the roster of finer homes at Oshkosh. Moreover, it is largely unaltered since its construction ninety-six years ago. The House is important as the work of William Waters, a notable Wisconsin architect who practiced at Oshkosh from 1867 to 1917.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE The Oviatt House is associated with the lives of two prominent professionals in the history of Oshkosh: Moses Hooper, who had the house built and occupied it from 1883 to 1900, and Charles Oviatt, who lived in the house from 1900 to 1912.

Born in York County, Maine, Moses Hooper attended Thornton Academy at Saco and Yarmouth Academy at Yarmouth in that state. Beginning in 1853, he attended Amherst College and later Bowdoin College. From 1856 to 1857, he studied law at Yale University.

In 1857, Hooper came to Wisconsin and in the same year gained admission to the Winnebago County Bar. After six years of running up debts in an unprofitable practice at Neenah, Wisconsin, he left that place for Oshkosh in 1863. At Oshkosh, he prospered: the manuscript census for 1870 reveals that he owned \$10,000 in real estate and \$4,000 in personal property, and besides, kept a servant.

After 1881, Hooper limited his work to cases in riparian and water rights. Winning success, he served clients in that field from the east to the west coasts. For a half-century, he was counsel for the Kimberley-Clark Corporation at Neenah and, as the Oshkosh Daily Northwestern stated on November 14, 1932, for "other large concerns obtaining hydroelectric power from the Fox River." When aged 93, Hooper drew widespread attention by appearing before the United States Supreme Court in a case involving power interests and owners of riparian rights along the Fox River from Lake Winnebago to Green Bay. (He had appeared before the nation's highest court from time to time since the early years of the century.)

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.15

QUADRANGLE NAME Oshkosh, Wisconsin

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24:000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 375640 4875840

B               

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 17, Block 125, 5th Ward, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Edward Noyes, Professor of History

(continued)

ORGANIZATION

University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

DATE

February 21, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Algoma Boulevard

TELEPHONE

(414) 424-2460

CITY OR TOWN

Oshkosh

STATE

Wisconsin 54901

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Richard H. Hany*

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

5/14/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Arthur A. Shull*

DATE

8-27-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Emma Jane Soxe*

DATE

8-27-79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

*Regional Coordinator*

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8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

Although Hooper's reputation as an attorney and as an authority on water power was firmly established, he never held public office except for a short tenure as a fish inspector in Wisconsin. The Oshkosh Daily Northwestern remarked of Hooper on November 14, 1932, that no other lawyer had appeared so many times before the Wisconsin Supreme Court as had Hooper - that shortly before his death "he could proudly show more than 20 volumes of briefs of his own and of opponents of cases argued in the state supreme court."

Considered to be the Dean of the American Bar and the oldest practicing attorney in America at the time of his death, Moses Hooper, the builder of the stone mansion now called the Oviatt House, died at Oshkosh on November 12, 1932.

Born in Ohio, on April 7, 1853, Charles W. Oviatt attended the Tallmadge (Ohio) Academy, Oberlin College, and the Collegiate Institute at Fort Edward, New York. An inheritance from his father enabled Oviatt to begin medical studies at Jefferson College in Philadelphia, but it was not until 1887 that he graduated from the College of Physicians at Chicago. While studying at Chicago, Oviatt won the interest of Dr. Nicholas Senn considered to be an outstanding surgeon in the United States; the professional tie between Dr. Senn and Dr. Oviatt continued through the years.

Having begun practice at Oshkosh in 1885, Dr. Oviatt turned more and more to surgery which was to be his primary interest in professional life. In 1890, he established at Oshkosh a hospital dedicated to surgical practice and in so doing became a pioneer in bringing to the city hospital services in the genuine sense of the term. In 1893, Dr. Oviatt was elected to the faculty of the Rush Medical College at Chicago where he remained until 1895 as instructor of surgery. From 1896 to 1899, he held a similar position with the Milwaukee Medical College and School of Dentistry.

Rising steadily in his profession, Dr. Oviatt became a member of the Society of Clinical Surgery which, according to the Oshkosh Daily Northwestern of October 31, 1912, had for its membership "fifty of the eminent men in the country." Dr. Oviatt also held memberships in the American Surgical Society, the Western Surgical Society, the Southern Surgical Society, the Wisconsin Medical Society, and the Winnebago County Medical Society. He was president of the Western Surgical Society (1907) and of the Wisconsin Medical Society (1905). In addition, he won recognition as a writer and lecturer in his field. At the same time, he recognized the responsibilities

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8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

peculiar to the medical profession and to a teacher in that profession. In 1899, while speaking to the students of the Milwaukee Medical College and School of Dentistry, he reminded his listeners in effect that success would not come easily for, as he put it, "Goethe has said that genius is simply a synonym for work."

A stickler for proper sanitary procedures and safeguards in his operating room, Dr. Oviatt won recognition from a notable source when he insisted that certain sisters of the Roman Catholic Church wear sterilized gowns, masks, and caps instead of their woolen habits when they were assisting him—even though the rules did not say so. Finally, after some months following a stormy episode over his requirement, there arrived from Pope Leo XIII a letter granting his request for sterilized garb. With the letter and papal blessing was a gold medal which Dr. Oviatt wore on his watch chain until he died on October 30, 1912.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AND BUILDING HISTORY The Oviatt House is among the finest of the Victorian residences of the Fox River Valley. It is notable among the works of William Waters, an Oshkosh architect whose buildings proliferated in the region during the last decades of the nineteenth century and the first decades of the twentieth. Today, many of them are counted among the finest examples of Victorian architecture in Wisconsin.

The Oviatt House was built starting in 1882 and ending in 1883 for Moses Hooper, a forty-five year old attorney. The location was immediately adjacent to the north side of the campus belonging to the then Wisconsin State Normal School at Oshkosh. It fronted on a street claimed by the Oshkosh Daily Northwestern to be "one of the finest avenues in the state." Announcing the beginning of construction of Hooper's intended residence, the Oshkosh Daily Northwestern stated on May 11, 1882:

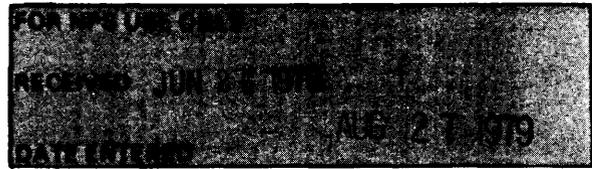
A valuable acquisition to the property of Algoma street will be the elegant blue limestone residence in process of erection for Moses Hooper. The plans and specification were prepared by (William) Waters. The very best material is being used in its construction and it will mark as one of the elegant and substantial private residences of the city. The cost is estimated as from \$12,000 to \$15,000.

The process of erecting the home extended through much of 1883. In April of that year, the Oshkosh Weekly Northwestern remarked that it was "slowly" nearing completion, a sure sign of which was Hooper's selling in mid-March

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8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

the home in which he was residing. Finally, on October 31, 1883, the Oshkosh Daily Northwestern announced that Hooper had moved into his new residence.

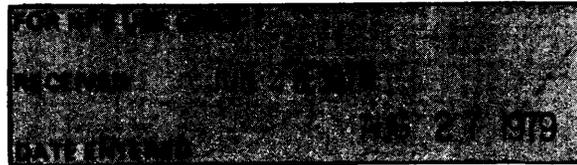
In a survey of public and private buildings completed at Oshkosh during 1883, the Northwestern reported that Hooper's new residence had cost \$20,000. No other houses built at Oshkosh during the year approached the Hooper residence in cost; the nearest was a home built at a figure of \$10,000. The cost of Hooper's residence was not far from that of the Grand Opera House at Oshkosh--also a Waters creation--constructed at the same time for \$33,000. Thus, the home which Hooper erected set a mark for elegant living in the city; for as the Northwestern noted, it had every modern improvement including hot water heat and running water furnished by a storage cistern in the third floor attic. Hooper's water system was indeed a facility in the forefront of "modern" living in Oshkosh for it was not until 1883 that a water works was chartered to operate in the city.

Born in Delaware County, New York, William Waters was the son of a well-to-do merchant, and a graduate of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Soon after completing his studies at Rensselaer Waters went to Oshkosh in 1867. There he remained until his death in 1917.

Considered by the Oshkosh Daily Northwestern (December 15, 1917) to have left many a monument to his genius in the form of both public buildings and stately residences, Waters drew up plans for churches, hotels, theaters, schools, and courthouses. At Oshkosh, he designed the Grand Opera House well-known for its remarkable acoustical qualities; the first building of the Oshkosh State Normal School; the Oshkosh Public Library; the Algoma Boulevard Methodist Church which is on the National Register of Historic Places; the home of suffragist Jessie Jack Hooper which has recently been listed in the Register; the Wisconsin Building at the Columbian Exposition; and, in cooperation with a colleague, a new high school building at Oshkosh. The list of buildings designed by Waters elsewhere in the region is impressive, including structures at Phillips, Wautoma, Waupaca, Ripon, Sheboygan Falls, Shawano, Appleton, Neenah and Marshfield, Wisconsin. At the San Francisco Exposition, he won international recognition for his plans of the Oshkosh Public Library. Today, Waters' works is steadily becoming the subject of increasing interest among Wisconsin architectural historians.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

Significant interior decoration in the house was executed by two Oshkosh painters, Frank Waldo and Gustav Behncke. Only one panel of their work in the house survives in situ, in the dining room. Other panels have been removed to the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh archives.

A native of Vermont, Frank Waldo came to Oshkosh by way of Kansas in 1864. At the time, Waldo was about thirty years of age. He was a sign painter by trade.

Waldo seems to have had the dream of becoming an artist in the true sense. At Oshkosh, he took lessons from a dentist's wife reputed to be the city's leading artist. In due time, Waldo improved so greatly in painting that the dentist's wife became his pupil. But Waldo made less money at artistic painting than he earned at sign painting. Nevertheless, the struggling artist-painter studied forms either of life or of nature, particularly in the Great West. His paintings of Indians on the plains sold well and marked his first real financial success as an artist. But Waldo still needed cash; and to get it, he turned to work in fresco. In this venture, he earned enough to permit him to returning to painting for the love of it. In 1885, Waldo left Oshkosh for Chicago where he found success. After a decade in Chicago, Waldo went to New York where he continued to enjoy prosperity. His painting was characterized by closeness to detail with nothing left unfinished.

During his years at Oshkosh, Waldo gained a reputation for his interior wall painting. On July 28, 1882, while Moses Hooper was constructing his residence on Algoma Boulevard the Oshkosh Daily Northwestern lauded Waldo's excellent work on interior wall decorations for commercial buildings as well as for private homes. It was Waldo who painted the interior decorations for the Grand Opera House at Oshkosh which was built concurrently with the home of Moses Hooper.

Born at Hamburg, Germany, Gustav Behncke came to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, during the 1870's. There he lived until his death at the age of eighty-four. A major part of Behncke's work was religious, for the interiors of churches. By the time of his death in 1937, Behncke was credited with having painted for no fewer than 175 churches in the state. In addition, Behncke painted the interior of many homes belonging to prominent families of Oshkosh. The Oshkosh Daily Northwestern of January 21, 1937, characterized his work as being "heavy" and replete with "flowers, birds, and scrolls." According to the newspaper, Behncke never made two decorations exactly alike.

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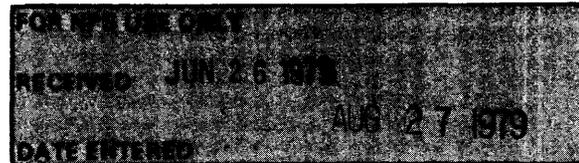
On September 20, 1900, Moses Hooper sold his home to Dr. Charles W. Oviatt and his wife, Petronella. The price paid by the Oviatts for the property was \$18,000. For a year prior to the sale of the House, Mrs. Alice Andrews, widow of Joseph Andrews, President of the Oshkosh Gas Light Company, occupied the home with her mother, son, and daughter plus three servants. When the Oviatts purchased the property, Mrs. Andrews and her family departed for Europe, and on October 11, 1900, the Northwestern reported that the physician with his wife and daughter Neita (now Mrs. Neita Friend of Hartland, Wisconsin) were living in the house. In January, 1903, the Northwestern reported too, that Dr. Oviatt had installed a billard room and had made other improvements "costing about \$228."

Exhausted and ill from pursuing an active and noteworthy career in medicine, Dr. Oviatt died in October, 1912. His heirs sold the house and grounds to the State Normal School Regents in 1913 with payments scheduled until 1915. It was agreed that the heirs were to live in the house rent free until June 1914. Purchase of the Oviatt property was another step in the expansion of the campus then taking place. Prior to the purchase, the state owned land on three sides of the tract on which the house stood.

The normal school first used the house as a women's dormitory--the first student dormitory on the campus. Although the dormitory represented a new kind of social center on the campus, it operated at a loss and in 1932 President Forrest R. Polk received authority to discontinue the venture. With closure of the dormitory, there followed talk of dismantling the building until President Polk offered to rent it as a residence for himself and his family. The Polks took up residence in the Oviatt House in 1934. After President Polk retired in 1959, the newly elected President Roger E. Guiles and his family took residence in the Oviatt House. Dr. Guiles' successor in office, Chancellor Robert Birnbaum, occupied the Oviatt House from 1974 to 1978.

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- Chamberlin, T.C. Geology of Wisconsin Survey of 1873-1879, Volume 1., Commissioners of Public Printing, Madison, 1883.
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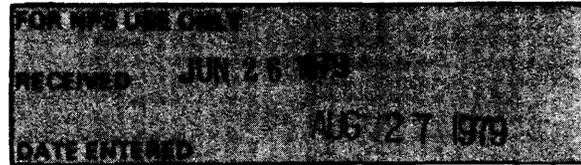
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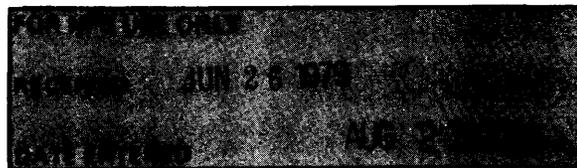
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