

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0675911

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 25 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUN 6 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

HISTORIC

George Murray House

AND/OR COMMON

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Parish House

## LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2219 Washington Avenue

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Racine

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 53405

CODE

55

COUNTY

Racine

CODE

101

## 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 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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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:

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Reverend Wayne Len Grebe, Pastor, Our Savior's Lutheran Church

STREET & NUMBER

2219 Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Racine

STATE

Wisconsin 53405

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.    Racine County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

730 Wisconsin Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Racine

STATE

Wisconsin 53401

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1975

\_\_\_ 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

As originally constructed, the Murray Mansion was a two-story, hipped roofed, cubical, brick Italianate house with a long two-story wing attached to the rear. The principal elevation was the east one, distinguished by its projecting central bay topped by a gable with returns, and a broad porch running the full width of the building. An article in the Advocate of April 25, 1874, notes that "the piazza takes in the principle portion of the elaborate finish, running the full width of the building, and at the different angles and entrance stand Corinthian columns on ornamental pedestals two and a half feet high and the whole surmounted by cast iron capitals." On the south elevation was a large frame bay (still existing) which served as a conservatory. The north elevation contained a bay window which was part of the library. Over this bay was a balcony with a canopy.

The house is built of pressed cream Racine brick with a high basement and watertable of smooth-faced limestone. The windows are segmentally-arched with slightly projecting voussoirs and rock-faced brownstone keystones with dressed margins. A particularly fine feature of the brick masonry is the corbelled panels and pointed arch on the east elevation. A date stone incised with the date "1874" is centered in the arch.

When Our Savior's Church was constructed in the early 1950's the house porch was removed to enable an enclosed passageway less than ten feet in width to connect the two buildings. The north bay and its canopy were also taken off, and a new entrance constructed there with elements of the original porch.

Over time, the four chimneys have had their stacks shortened, the cresting has been removed from the peak of the house, and asphalt shingle has replaced the slate roof covering.

The elaborate cornice remains in very good and complete condition. Its deep eaves are supported by pairs of large brackets, interspersed with three modillions to each space. Between the pairs of brackets in the frieze are lozenges with diamond-shaped attic windows in them.

What was once a rear wing now flanks the building to the west. On its north elevation the wing has two levels, the upper receding from two projecting bays, between which is a porch enclosed on three sides. On the south side, the masonry wall rises perpendicularly, and the entire first level is faced with a veranda which has elaborate angular supports and a modillion cornice. The cornice of the wing is a more modest version of that of the main pavilion, lacking the frieze, and with smaller brackets. The stone keystones have also been eliminated from the wing windows.

The interior retains much of its original splendor. Alterations which have been made appear to be easily reversible. All doors are hand-grained with their original brass hardware.

A wide hall extends the length of the main block from the old entrance on the east to the stairway at the west end. A large and solid Italianate-style newel post ornaments the stair which curves back on itself at the top. The first floor of

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the main block contains four large rooms and a side hall leading from the main hall to the current entrance. The side hall features an enclosed vestibule and an Eastlake chandelier suspended from a plaster medallion. In the northeast corner of the house is a parlor which has suffered the most alteration. The south wall of this room has been removed and replaced by a panelled and glass reception desk. The ceiling has been dropped, and it is unknown whether the original ceiling remains above. The wide arch and sliding doors into the side hall remain but the expanse has been blocked by panelling and a small door. The original marble fireplace carved in delicate, linear Eastlake designs has been retained.

Also connected to the side hall by a large arch with sliding doors is the current office in the northwest corner. The interior of this room is original, with another Eastlake fireplace. In the southeast corner of the main block is the old dining room, the most elaborate room in the house. The fireplace in this room is white marble, Italianate in style. An elaborate and spiky Eastlake-style chandelier is suspended from a deeply-molded acanthus plaster medallion in the ceiling, which is further decorated by strapwork plaster moldings. The dining room opens onto the conservatory, a large and sunny polygonal frame bay. The kitchen in the southwest corner of the main block is now empty except for one bank of cupboards and shelves. Between the dining room and the kitchen are two small rooms, one of which was the pantry, lined with cupboards and shelves.

The upstairs arrangement of the main block consists of a long hall above the first floor hall with a large bedroom in each corner. Three foliate plaster bosses adorn the ceiling of the hall and an arch marks the east end which now has a small door leading to a fire escape. The originally open stairwell is now separated from the hall by a plaster wall. Each bedroom has a marble fireplace carved in delicate Eastlake designs. All rooms have dropped ceilings. Between the two southern bedrooms is a large, white-and-blue tiled bath added around the turn of the century. Between the two northern bedrooms are two small chambers that connect with the northeastern bedroom.

The rear wing consists of servants' quarters and utility rooms. The small one-story addition at the northwest corner of the main block contains one room with a decorative tin ceiling. Many of the other first floor rooms in the rear wing were completely altered in the early 1950's to serve as the parsonage. The brick addition at the northwest corner of the porch was probably added at this time.

The cellar has brick and stone walls with octagonal brick and herringbone-patterned floors.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1874

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Walter Blythe

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the finest residences to be built in the Racine area in the 19th century was the Italianate mansion at 2219 Washington Avenue. It was constructed in 1874 for George Murray and his wife, Mary. Murray came to Racine from Scotland in 1850, became a partner with Daniel Slauson in his lumber, lath and shingle business, and married his daughter in 1855. Mrs. Murray inherited the land on which the house was built from her father in 1865.

An article in the Racine Advocate for April 25, 1874, notes that work has been commenced on the "Slausondale residence" for George Murray. According to the article, Mr. Bradley, the contractor, had nearly everything in readiness and masonry contractor James Corse was working on the foundations. Also according to the article, plans for the structure had been prepared by a "Mr. Blythe of Cleveland one of the architects of the Orphan Asylum...." Walter Blythe was an active architect in Cleveland from 1867 until his death in the mid-1880's. The article anticipated that the building would be one of the handsomest in that part of the state, and the most expensive in the city, save one (unnamed), the cost being \$30,000. Both the Weekly Journal and the Advocate reported with high approbation the "Presbyterian Sociable" that served as a housewarming in March 1875, the Advocate noting that the building was a "No. 1 Granger Home" completely furnished in the Eastlake style and with illuminating gas produced on the premises.

In 1893 the Murray's daughter, Ada, married Hamilton Utley. Utley was born in 1841 in New York State, but two years later his family moved to Racine, where his father began operating the Racine Journal. In 1866 Utley entered the newspaper business. In the late 1870's Utley spent five years prospecting in the Black Hills but he returned in 1884, purchased the Racine Times, and established the Times Publishing Company. The Utleys lived at the mansion until Thomas M. Kearney purchased it in the early 1900's. Kearney was born in rural Racine County in 1856. He became a lawyer in 1884 and moved to Racine in 1893. Kearney was legal counsel for many of Racine's commercial and manufacturing interests. He was one of the organizers of the Nash Motor Company in Kenosha, president of the Montana Coal and Iron Company, and chairman of the board of the American Trades and Savings Bank. In 1916 he was the unsuccessful democratic candidate for U.S. Senator. Kearney platted lands to the south and west where Kearney Avenue was cut through. Our Savior's Lutheran Church bought the property for \$38,000 in 1949.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.03 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Racine- South, Wisconsin

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES  
A 16 433 995 47 29 125

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B                 
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 1 Blk. 9 Oakwood Grove Addition #2.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David R. Black, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Architectural Conservation Program

DATE

October 18, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

730 Washington Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Racine

STATE

Wisconsin 53401

# 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 Murray*

TITLE Director,  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE 4/18/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*William Charles Huntington*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6-6-79

ATTEST: *William H. Bealham*  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

6-4-79

DATE

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(REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS, continued)

Designated Racine Landmark

1976

Local

Architectural Conservation Program

Racine

Wisconsin 53401

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Item 9:

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Assessor's Rolls, Mt. Pleasant Township, Area Research Center, UW-Parkside, Kenosha.

Biography of George Murray in the collection of the Racine County Historical Society, copied from an entry in the U.S. Biographical Dictionary of 1877.

Cleveland City Directories.

"Hamilton Utley Claimed by Death," Racine Journal, April 24, 1912.

"Kearney, Long a Lawyer in Racine, Dies," Milwaukee Sentinel, January 16, 1932.

"Kearney Mansion Background Related to Historical Society," Racine Journal Times, December 9, 1949.

"The New Residence at Slausondale," The Advocate, April 25, 1874, p. 3.

"The Presbyterian Sociable," The Racine Weekly Journal, March 10, 1875, p. 3.

Register of Deeds, Racine County.

Simmons, John B., "Thomas Matthew Kearney Memorial," Wisconsin Supreme Court, Wisconsin Reports, v. 210 (1932-1933): p. xxxix.

"The Slausondale Mansion," The Advocate, March 6, 1875, p. 3.

Stereo Photographs, Iconographic Collections, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Item 11: (FORM PREPARED BY, continued)

Katherine E. Hundt, Architectural Historian  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin  
816 State Street  
Madison

April, 1978  
608/262-2970  
Wisconsin 53706