

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0676161

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RECEIVED MAR 29 1979

DATE ENTERED

MAY 14 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

Frederick Laue House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1111 South Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Alma

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE

55

COUNTY

Buffalo

CODE

011

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 Rooming House

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Gerald E. Schreiber

STREET & NUMBER

Box 176

CITY, TOWN

Alma

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 54610

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Buffalo County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Alma

STATE

Wisconsin 54610

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1977

___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 type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Laue house is a two-story High Victorian Italianate house. Elaborate wood trim painted white adorns this red-brick veneered structure. The house has a hipped roof with two low-pitched gables featuring denticulated moldings oriented above bays. The front-facing gable contains a semi-circular attic window while the window in the side gable is a full circle. A two-story bay, crowned with a denticulated pediment, projects from the main (west) facade; the projecting bay on the side is a single story high. A large wooden veranda wraps around the front and south sides. An entrance towards the rear of the building on the south side has a smaller porch. The porches have attenuated square posts with decorative woodwork on the bases and capitals. The front double doors have blazed round-arched panels. The building is further embellished by brackets in the eaves. Windows have stilted segmental arches and are one-over-one double-hung sash. The exterior appearance of the house is unaltered with the minor exceptions of the addition of modern concrete stoops, the removal of ornamental cresting, and the removal of decorative brickwork on the chimneys.

A naturally finished wood stairway with a graceful curve dominates the entryway. On the main floor the parlor occupies the front of the house, with the dining room behind it and the kitchen to the rear of the building. Upstairs, bedrooms open from both sides of a central hallway. Although the owners presently use most of the rooms of the house as bedrooms, the basic original plan is little altered.

Structurally, the house is in good condition, although much of the exterior woodwork is in need of repair.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1866¹

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Charles G. Maybury²

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Laue house is significant to the history of Wisconsin as the home of Frederick Laue, sr., a founding member of the Beef Slough Manufacturing, Booming, Log Driving and Transportation Company, a company important in the history of logging in Wisconsin. Laue is also locally significant as an important industrial pioneer in Buffalo County. His house reflects his success and is a tangible remnant of Alma's short-lived heyday. It is significant to the architectural history of the area as the best domestic example of the Italianate style surviving in Buffalo County and as one of the finest pieces of Victorian architecture in Alma. It is the work of the locally significant architect, Charles G. Maybury of Winona, Minnesota. The exterior appearance of the house is little altered from the time it was built.

Frederick Laue, sr., a German immigrant, came to Buffalo County in 1857 with the Colonization Society of Cincinnati, a group comprised largely of Germans that had earlier failed in an attempt to establish a colony in Kansas. The society established a settlement at Buffalo City, and in 1859 Laue and a partner, Adolf Bueker, built a steam powered sawmill there. In 1865 Laue, now in partnership with Charles Schaettle, moved the operation to the south side of Alma, taking with him the boiler and steam engine from the Buffalo City mill. Alma was located just to the south of Beef Slough, the major collection point where logs from the Chippewa Valley could be sorted and rafted together for the trip down the Mississippi. This made Alma a promising location for a sawmill. Laue quickly established himself there, building the house in the year following his arrival.

In the latter half of the 1860s, Beef Slough was the focus of a contest between rival Wisconsin logging interests that was known as the Beef Slough War. The war pitted the upriver millmen of the Eau Claire-Chippewa Falls area, who sought to control the processing of Chippewa Valley logs, against downriver millmen like Laue, who sought unrestricted access to Chippewa Valley logs. Several individuals and groups who controlled stands of Chippewa timber but had no interest in the Eau Claire-Chippewa Falls mills allied with the downriver millmen. In 1866 the upriver millmen attempted to gain exclusive control of Beef Slough. The following year the downriver millmen responded by forming the Beef Slough Manufacturing, Booming, Log Driving and Transportation Company with the goal of obtaining rights to build and operate a boom there.

Laue appears to have been a relatively small figure in the contest, but being situated at Alma he had first-hand contact with events at Beef Slough, and thus would be an essential member of a company seeking control of the staging area. The location of Laue's mill gave him a strong vested interest in the success of such a company. Thus, Laue became a founding member of the Beef Slough Company and was elected to the board of directors

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .11 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Alma, Wis.- Minn.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5	5	8	46	19	0	4	9	07	4	6	0
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING								

B

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING								

C

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING								

D

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING								

E

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING								

F

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING								

G

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING								

H

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING								

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 6 Block A of Banner's Addition

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

Patricia A. Marks, Preservation Assistant and David Donath, Historian

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

January 1979

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

608/262-3390

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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 Kewey

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE 3/22/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles Johnson
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

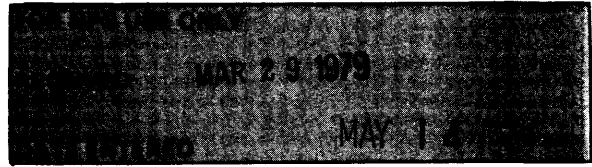
DATE 5.14.79

ATTEST: *Lucy B. Franklin*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 5.11.79

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at the first stockholders meeting. The company gained booming rights in 1869 through some legislative chicanery, but the upriver-downriver conflict proved so detrimental to business by 1870 that the Beef Slough Company faced bankruptcy. That year Frederick Weyerhaeuser set up the Mississippi River Logging Company, which leased the failing Beef Slough Company's booming rights. Eventually Weyerhaeuser virtually controlled Chippewa Valley lumbering.

Laue's lumber mill remained the single largest industry in Alma through the latter part of the nineteenth century, and during that time Laue played an important role in the economic life of the community. In addition to his mill and his Beef Slough activities, he established flour mills and a creamery in the town. Before the incorporation of Alma as a city, Laue served as village board president.

Laue's house reflects the role he played in the development of Alma. When it was built it was the most pretentious and elegant house in the village, and it is today the best remaining example of domestic Italianate architecture in Buffalo County. The Laue house was designed by Charles G. Maybury of Winona, a pioneer Minnesota architect. Maybury received his training in New York and came west at the age of twenty-six, establishing his Winona practice in 1856 and becoming the second architect practicing in the Minnesota Territory. Much of the better Victorian architecture of the Winona area is the work of Maybury. Among his designs are the following Winona buildings: St. Stanislaus Church, Morgan Block, Richardson Block, and St. Martin's Lutheran Church. Perhaps his most impressive work was executed in the Richardsonian Romanesque mode. His Winona County Courthouse (1888) and Central United Methodist Church are cited as among the best examples of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture in Minnesota.³

1 Laue is thought to have built the house soon after his arrival in Alma. The inscription 1866 was made in one of the bricks of the house before it was fired.

2 Blueprints in the possession of the owner.

3 David Gebhard and Tom Martinson, A Guide to the Architecture of Minnesota (Minneapolis, 1977), pp. 326, 330.

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- Curtiss-Wedge, Franklyn. History of Buffalo and Pepin Counties. Winona, Minnesota, 1919.
- Gebhard, David and Tom Martinson. A Guide to the Architecture of Minnesota. Minneapolis, 1977.
- Kessinger, L. History of Buffalo County. Alma, Wisconsin, 1888.
- Maybury, C.G. manuscript biography in possession of the Winona County Historical Society.
- Sanborn-Perris Insurance Maps. Alma, Wisconsin. Chicago, 1889.
- Twining, Charles E. Downriver: Orrin Ingram and the Empire Lumber Company. Madison, Wisconsin, 1975.