



**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 Stebbins, Edward N. and Mary T. , House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 130 East Division Avenue N/A not for publication
city or town Barron N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Barron code 005 zip code 54812

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

September 4, 2006
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer - WI

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property x 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

Stebbins, Edward N. and Mary T., House

Barron County

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

10-18-06

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as
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)

contributing	noncontributing
1	1 buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	1 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: Hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Sandstone

walls: Weatherboard

Roof: ASPHALT

other Wood

Narrative Description

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

Stebbins, Edward N. and Mary T., House
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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

1897 – 1908

Significant Dates

1897
c. 1908

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 589580 5027950
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth L. Miller, Historic Preservation Consultant
organization
street & number 4033 Tokay Blvd
city or town Madison state WI

date June 10, 2004
Telephone 608-233-5942
zip code 53711

Stebbins, Edward N. and Mary T., House

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Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

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	Charles Uehlin	date	
organization		telephone	715-537-5324
street&number	130 East Division Avenue	zip code	54812
city or town	Barron	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.

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Section 7 Page 1

Stebbins, Edward N. and Mary T., House
City of Barron, Barron County, Wisconsin

INTRODUCTION

The Stebbins House is a two and one-half story, frame, Georgian Revival house, located in the city of Barron (see photo 1). Erected c. 1897,¹ for Edward N. and Mary T. (Clapp) Stebbins, the house rests on a rock-faced, sandstone ashlar basement. It is finished with clapboards, and exhibits an asphalt-shingled, side-gambrel roof. The house is trimmed with corner boards and cornices with returned eaves. A frame, one and one-half story, Side Gable carriage house clad with clapboards stands southwest of the house. It dates from c. 1897 and is capped with a metal roof. Because of a substantial addition, the carriage house is a noncontributing element on the Stebbins House property.

DESCRIPTION

The Stebbins House is situated on the southwest corner of Division Avenue (USH 8) and Second Street, at the northwestern edge of Barron's central business district. Single-family residences dating from the early-to-mid twentieth century are found north and west of the house. On site, a concrete driveway runs west from Second Street to the carriage house. A picket fence encloses the property along Division Avenue and Second Street.

The house possesses a rectangular footprint, measuring approximately 25 feet (north-south) by 35 feet (east-west). The Stebbins House faces north, toward Division Avenue (USH 8), a four-lane highway that carries considerable traffic.

The north-facing (front) façade is symmetrical about a slightly-projecting, two-story, pedimented entrance pavilion. At the base of the pavilion, the front door is flanked by broad sidelights with diamond-paned glass. The entrance is accented with a flat-roofed portico, displaying tripled Doric columns, a broad entablature embellished with a modillioned cornice, and a balustrade enriched with urns set on paneled posts. Above, the pavilion holds three, 1/1, double-hung sash windows with a lozenge pattern in the upper sashes. The closed pediment features a fanlight, fish scale shingles, and raking modillioned cornices. On either side of the entrance pavilion, a polygonal bay window appears. At the second story, hip-roofed wall dormers ornamented with pilasters and a broad cornice board flank the gabled pavilion. Each dormer holds a double-hung window with a lozenge-patterned upper sash. A brick, interior chimney rises through the roof toward the west end of the front façade. A hip-roofed porch with Doric columns and a modillioned cornice wraps around the front and east-facing facades. Originally, the house had a full-façade front porch. Sometime between 1903 and 1909, either the wrap-

¹ Barron County Tax Rolls; *Map of Barron, Wisconsin*, (Pelham, New York: Sanborn Publishing Company, December 1902); and Charles Uehlin, property owner, personal communication 30 April 2004.

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around was added to the original porch, or the original porch was replaced with the existing porch.² Most likely, the alterations to the porch were carried out c. 1908, for new owners John E. and Lillian Bowen, who bought the house in 1907.³ The appearance of the original porch is unknown, as no historical photographs or written descriptions of it could be found.

The south-facing (rear) façade is irregular and exhibits a one-story, flat-roofed, porch (east) and a polygonal bay window (west) that match those on the front façade. The back porch likely was added at the same time that the front porch was expanded, and was originally open.⁴ The east end of the porch was enclosed after 1926, probably to create the small bathroom it houses.⁵ The west end of the porch was enclosed with incompatible materials in the 1970s. In 2000, Charles Uehlin (the current owner) removed those materials and enclosed the porch with clapboards that match the originals, installing a pair of double-hung windows with diamond-paned upper sashes that were previously located in the attic on the west-facing façade.⁶ A small, 1/1 window with a lozenge-patterned upper sash, set between the porch and the bay window, lights the kitchen. At the second story, three hip-roofed wall dormers appear. The one in the middle is small and exhibits a slender, 1/1 window. It marks the location of the original bathroom. Each of the flanking dormers holds a 1/1 window with a lozenge-patterned upper sash. Toward the east end of the rear façade, a brick, interior chimney with a corbelled top pierces the roof. In the basement, a small window filled with glass block (not original) is found beneath the bay window.

The east-facing façade overlooks Second Street. A door opens onto the porch (north, see photo 4). A 1/1 window is found west of the door, and another, smaller window appears in the enclosed back porch. At the second story, two 1/1 windows with lozenge-patterned upper sashes can be seen. A pair of small, 1/1 windows with diamond-paned upper sashes lights the attic. The basement exhibits two, small, single-pane windows.

On the west-facing façade, two 1/1 windows and a fixed, diamond-paned window (south) are found at the first story (see photos 5). At the second story, two, 1/1 windows with lozenge-patterned upper sashes can be seen. Above, a door opens from the attic onto a large fire-escape. These were installed in 2000, when the owner converted the attic into living space for himself, in preparation for opening

² *Map of Barron, Wisconsin*, (Pelham, New York: Sanborn Publishing Company, December 1902; and October 1909).

³ Barron County Deeds, 53:83; and Newton S. Gorden, editor, *History of Barron County*, (Minneapolis, Minnesota: H.C. Cooper, Jr., & Co., 1922), II:553.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Map of Barron, Wisconsin*, (Pelham, New York: Sanborn Publishing Company, June 1926).

⁶ Uehlin.

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the rest of the house as a bed and breakfast. Two, small, single-paned windows appear in the basement.

On the interior, the first floor plan is composed of a central vestibule, flanked by a front and rear parlor (west), and a dining room and kitchen (east, see attached plan). In the vestibule, a wooden, quarter-turn staircase with narrow board wainscoting rises to the second floor (see photo 6). The staircase features paneled main and landing newel posts enriched with egg-and-dart moldings. The main newel post is crowned with an ornate brass lamp with a frosted ball globe. A goose-neck handrail with spindling joins the newel posts, while the principal railing has solid, square balusters. A paneled, wooden seat is built in at the foot of the stairs. An opaque bowl fixture on chains hangs from the ceiling. This light originally hung in the dining room. On either side of the vestibule, a pair of paneled pocket doors frames the entrance into the front parlor (west) and the dining room (east). The front parlor showcases a fireplace with an ornate masonry mantelpiece (see photo 7). The hearth is framed with pilasters enriched with floral guilloche patterning, and egg-and-dart capitals. Lamb's-tongue, beaded, and decorated dentil moldings further embellish the mantelpiece. A cased opening with a wooden, scroll and spindle grille separates the front and back parlors. Each parlor displays an original shower pendant with bell shades of Steuben glass. The dining room and the kitchen retain original light fixtures with multiple looping branches and dome shades hanging from a roped stem (although the light in the dining room used to hang in the vestibule). In the kitchen, original, built-in cabinets line the east wall. Narrow board wainscoting and corner beads also appear in the kitchen. A door in the southwest corner of the kitchen opens onto a narrow, wooden, winding, servant staircase. Through a door in the northwest corner, a straight, wooden staircase descends to the basement.

On the second floor, five rooms are arranged around the central hall (see attached plan). A large bedroom and a bathroom are found on the north side of the hall. The bedroom was originally divided into two smaller bedrooms, and the bathroom was yet another bedroom. The wall between the first two bedrooms was removed in 1960, when the upstairs was made into an apartment. Its use as an apartment was discontinued in 1992. The current owner then converted the third bedroom into a bathroom.⁷ South of the hall, the original bathroom is flanked by two small bedrooms. The attic was unfinished until 1996, when the current owner remodeled it into a tiny apartment (with no kitchen) for himself. Wallpaper (not original), plastered ceilings, simple classical surrounds and baseboards, wooden floors and paneled wooden doors with decorated metal plates and knobs are found throughout the house. The basement is unfinished and exhibits sandstone walls, a poured concrete floor and an exposed ceiling.

⁷ Ibid.

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The original section of the carriage house measures about 20 feet (north-south) by 15 feet (east-west). Small windows on the south, east and west facades at the south end of the building mark the location of the horse stall (see photo 8). The carriage bay is located in the north end of the building. The second floor was a hay loft, and the hay chute has been preserved. Around 1965, a one-story, frame addition was attached to the north end of the front of the carriage house.⁸ The addition has a poured concrete slab foundation, a low-pitched side-gable roof, and two garage doors. An antiques store, operated by the current owner, occupies the carriage house. The carriage house is noncontributing because of the substantial addition at its front.

ALTERATIONS

Alterations to the exterior of the Stebbins House are few. The enclosure of the back porch is not visible from either street façade, and presents an appearance compatible with the historic character of the house. Although the fire escape is unsightly, it is an alteration that is easily reversible. The replacement of the attic windows on the west-facing façade with a door is a minimal change that does not impair the integrity of the house or its architectural significance. On the interior, small fiberboard tiles were affixed to the ceilings on the first floor; the current owner is removing these. On the second floor, a wall was removed between two bedrooms in 1960. In 1996, one bedroom was converted into a bathroom, and a partition was erected to create private access from the large bedroom into the new bathroom. Finally, the unfinished attic was converted into living space. The interior alterations are minimal and confined to private, upstairs spaces, while the first floor is intact, was always more ornate, and retains many original decorative features. Taken altogether the changes do not affect the excellent integrity of the Stebbins House.

⁸ Ibid.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Edward N. and Mary T. (Clapp) Stebbins House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under *Criterion C* at the local level. It is an outstanding and early example of the Georgian Revival style. The period of significance extends from the original date of construction, c. 1897, through construction of the porch alterations, c. 1908. The Stebbins House retains a high degree of integrity.

HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BARRON

In the nineteenth century, much of Barron County was heavily wooded. Stands of pine were interspersed with hardwoods, especially sugar maple. Logging began in Barron County, along the Red Cedar River, in 1848, for the Knapp and Wilson Lumber Company, which operated a sawmill at Menomonie (Dunn County). The first permanent Euro-American settler in Barron County was John Banks, who began farming in Prairie Farm Township in 1859, but worked as a lumberjack during the winter, as did many early settlers. Many of the European-American pioneers in Barron County came from Maine and from New Brunswick, Canada. As lumbering increased, employment opportunities drew Scandinavian immigrants, especially Norwegians, to the area.

The first sawmill in Barron County was erected in 1862 on the Yellow River southeast of the present city of Barron. Knapp, Stout & Company (successor firm to Knapp and Wilson and by then one of the largest lumber companies in the world) constructed additional sawmills at Prairie Farm (1871) and Chetek (1875), and erected grist mills at Prairie Farm (1871) and Rice Lake (1871). The construction of grist mills reflected the fact that, as the woodlands were cleared, the land was put into agricultural use. In the mid-to-late nineteenth century, Barron County farmers primarily raised grain, especially oats and wheat.

Barron County was formed by detaching townships from Polk County (1859), Chippewa County (1860), and Dunn County (1862). It was initially called Dallas County, but was renamed Barron County in 1869, in honor of Henry D. Barron, the first judge of the 11th Judicial Court (which included Barron and Polk counties), and a prominent state legislator.

The city of Barron originated in 1860, when John Quaderer, an Irish immigrant, established a lumber camp on the future town site, for Knapp, Stout & Company. For the first ten years it remained an unnamed lumber camp with a small store. In 1869, Quaderer's lumber camp was selected as county seat, and given the name, Barron. A modest growth spurt followed. By 1877, the hamlet was home to 11 families, had a courthouse, a general store, a barber shop, a blacksmith shop, a saloon, a billiard hall, a hotel, a newspaper, a school, and a road leading to the terminus of the North Wisconsin Railroad

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(eight miles to the east in the village of Cameron). A sawmill was erected in Barron in 1878, the village was platted in 1880, and a branch of the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie (Soo) Railroad was extended eastward, reaching Barron in 1884.

By 1894, the village of Barron counted about 1,800 residents, and boasted a flour mill, a woolen mill, two sawmills, a planing mill and a barrelhead and stave company (the latter founded by Edward N. Stebbins, for whom this house was built). In 1909, the population had grown slightly to about 2,000, and the community had added waterworks and electricity. The industrial sector had grown to include a woodworking plant, a brewery, and a concrete block factory. A creamery and a canning factory had also appeared, reflecting the shift from raising grain to dairying and vegetable cultivation as the leading agricultural pursuits in the region.

By 1926, Barron's sawmills and flour mill had closed, but the woolen mill, woodworks, and concrete block factory were still thriving. The cooperative creamery and the canning factory had expanded, and four potato warehouses had been erected adjacent to the railroad. Potatoes and other vegetables continued to be important agricultural products in the region through World War II, while dairying continues to retain its position as the leading agricultural endeavor today. By 1942, the Jerome Turkey Hatchery had opened in Barron. This business was very successful, and was eventually acquired by the national firm, Jennie O. Turkeys are now raised on many farms around Barron, and Jennie O operates a large processing plant in the city. The city of Barron, which numbered 3,248 persons in 2000, is a governmental center and agricultural support community dominated by the Jennie O turkey processing plant.

SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHITECTURE

The Georgian Revival style was a current in the Colonial Revival movement, rising out of an interest in the American colonial period that followed the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876. In 1877, Charles F. McKim and his future partners, William R. Mead, and Stanford White, indulged their mutual curiosity about colonial buildings by taking a walking tour through communities along the Atlantic seaboard north of Boston. The Georgian and Federal architecture of the English colonies had been inspired by the Italian-derived Renaissance classicism of distinguished British architects such as Christopher Wren and Inigo Jones, and disseminated to America through pattern books. Mead later attributed his firm's preference for classical forms to the partners' study trip, although McKim's training at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris likely increased his appreciation for classical design. McKim, Mead and White produced two designs that inaugurated the Colonial Revival style: the Appleton House in 1883-84

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(Lennox, Massachusetts); and the Taylor House in 1885-86 (Newport, Rhode Island).⁹ The Colonial Revival style took hold gradually and evolved over time, but remained popular through much of the twentieth century.

Prior to World War I, Colonial Revival designs generally represented liberal interpretations of Georgian and Federal precedents. In contrast, Colonial Revival architecture of the post-World War I period typically displayed proportions and details that more accurately reflected historical precedents, as a result of the publication of a number of carefully researched books that provided photographs and measured drawings of Colonial buildings. The Georgian Revival style, as a subtype of the Colonial Revival, represents an archaeologically correct interpretation of the Georgian and Federal architecture of the American colonial period, making it a high-style mode that generally required the expertise of an architect to carry it off. The Georgian Revival residence is characterized by a rectangular plan, and a formal, symmetrical façade embellished with details such as classical columns, front entrance with flanking sidelights, modillioned cornices, dormers, fanlights, and Palladian windows. The front entrance is typically accented with a prominent classical surround or a one-story portico.¹⁰ Although the hip-roofed form dominates, side gable and side gambrel examples do occur. Side gable and side gambrel were both common roof shapes in the eighteenth century Georgian style.¹¹

The Stebbins House, erected c. 1897 and its porch expanded c. 1908, exemplifies the Georgian Revival mode. It displays the distinguishing features of the style: the rectangular plan; the formal, symmetrical façade; dormers; and classical details such as Doric columns, portico and sidelights framing the front door, fanlight and modillioned cornices. In addition, the placement of the fanlight in the entrance pavilion's closed pediment, centered above the triple windows at the second story, suggests the Palladian motif, another feature characteristic of Georgian Revival. The Stebbins House also incorporates two elements of Georgian design not often seen in Georgian Revival: the side gambrel roof; and the central projecting entrance pavilion, terminating in a closed pediment enriched with raking modillioned cornices. Architectural historians Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester call this configuration the "centered gable," and note that this feature is found in late, high style Georgian residences.¹² The windows with the lozenge-patterned upper sashes and the wrap-around form of the

⁹ Marcus Whiffen and Frederick Koeper, *American Architecture, Volume 2: 1860-1976*, (Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1981), p. 269; and Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985)

¹⁰ Barbara L. Wyatt, editor, *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin), volume II: 2-28.

¹¹ McAlester and McAlester, pp. 138-47; and John J.-G. Blumenson, *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945*, (Walnut Creek, California: AltaMira Press, 1995, revised edition), pp. 18-19.

¹² McAlester and McAlester, p. 139.

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porch are Queen Anne elements, testifying to the house's late nineteenth century construction date and identifying it as an early example of the Georgian Revival mode.

There are no other Georgian Revival residences in Barron and, in fact, no properties that are truly comparable to the Stebbins House. It is one of the most high-style buildings in town. There are several modest Colonial Revival-influenced houses, the most developed of which is the house at 49 South Mill Street, a rectangular, brick example with few details. There is also one Dutch Colonial Revival residence that displays the same side gambrel form and symmetrical façade but possesses no architectural flourishes. The presence of the Stebbins House, an early and well-developed example of a style that is uncommon in Wisconsin, in the small, northwoods city of Barron is somewhat puzzling. It may be explained by the fact that Edward and Mary Stebbins were from the East Coast.

Edward N. Stebbins (1835-1903) was born in Hammondsport, New York and raised in Coudersport, Pennsylvania. Stebbins engaged in business in Coudersport until the outbreak of the Civil War. For the duration of the conflict, Stebbins served as paymaster of the Union Army, in which post he superintended the burial of President Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth. Following the war, Stebbins engaged in manufacturing in Bridgeport, Connecticut for several years. He married Mary Treat Clapp (1841-1909), a native of New York City, in Brooklyn, New York in 1866. President Grant subsequently appointed Stebbins to the Board of Indian Commissioners, for which post he traveled throughout the northwestern United States investigating the condition of the Indian nations. Stebbins operated a business in New Jersey in the early 1870s, relocating his family to Coudersport, Pennsylvania prior to 1880. There he served as postmaster and engaged in business. In 1891, the Stebbins family settled in Barron in 1891. Mr. Stebbins established a wood products factory in the community, making barrel heads and staves. Stebbins served several terms as superintendent of schools in Barron, and was elected mayor in 1898-99.¹³ Following Mr. Stebbins' death in 1903, Mary Stebbins continued to live in the house until 1907, when she sold the property to John and Lillian Bowen.¹⁴

During the Stebbins' many years in New York, Washington, D.C., Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, they would have been exposed to many fine examples of Georgian and Federal residences. Further, the Colonial Revival style was gaining influence in the early 1890s, when Stebbins moved to Barron. These experiences may have influenced their choice of architectural style when they built their home in Barron.

¹³ Gorden, I:80; and "Death Summons," *Barron County Shield*, (Barron, Wisconsin), 25 September 1903, p. 1.

¹⁴ Gorden, II:553.

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City of Barron, Barron County, Wisconsin

The Georgian Revival style is relatively rare in Wisconsin. Statewide, Georgian Revival residences appear predominantly in urban areas, and often were architect designed. Most are finished with brick. Of the 346 Georgian Revival houses identified in the state Architecture/History Inventory (AHI), construction dates have been established for 271. Data for these buildings indicate that 14 were built prior to 1900, 74 were constructed between 1900 and 1909, 53 were erected between 1910 and 1919, 87 date from between 1920 and 1929, and 46 were built between 1930 and 1940. Interestingly, all but one of the Georgian Revival homes erected prior to 1900 is finished with clapboards rather than brick, and most display a few minor details of the Queen Anne style. About one-third of those constructed between 1900 and 1909 are clad with clapboards. In contrast, fewer than ten percent of the post-1910 examples display a clapboard finish. Viewed within a statewide context, the Stebbins House can be seen as one of the earliest examples in Wisconsin of a Georgian Revival residence, and an excellent representative of the early era in Georgian Revival design, with its clapboard finish and Queen Anne-influenced upper sashes and porch form.

Mary Stebbins sold the house to John E. and Lillian (Hemstock) Bowen in 1907. John Bowen (1867-?) was born in La Crosse County, Wisconsin. His wife was also a native of La Crosse County. The Bowens engaged in dairy farming and cheese-making in La Crosse County until 1901, when they purchased a farm in Barron County. In Barron County, the Bowens continued dairying, and John Bowen expanded into livestock dealing, served as manager of the Barron Co-operative Creamery (1902-1910), became a member of the board of directors of the Bank of Barron, and opened a produce and seed store with F. A. Hulbert (1914). In 1907, the Bowens moved into the city of Barron, hiring a manager to oversee the operation of their dairy farm. John Bowen was mayor of Barron for two years, and chaired the Barron County Chapter of the Red Cross during World War I.¹⁵ In 1960, Ralph and Lavonne Uehlin purchased the property from the Bowen family. Mrs. Uehlin operated a gift shop in the house until 1980. Charles Uehlin, the current owner, acquired the house from his parents and converted it into a bed and breakfast in 1997.¹⁶

¹⁵ Gorden, II: 553.

¹⁶ Uehlin.

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Stebbins, Edward N. and Mary T., House
City of Barron, Barron County, Wisconsin

CONCLUSION

The Edward N. and Mary T. (Clapp) Stebbins House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under *Criterion C* at the local level. It is an outstanding and early example of the Georgian Revival style. The period of significance extends from the original date of construction, c. 1897, through construction of the porch alterations, c. 1908. The Stebbins House retains a high degree of integrity.

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Stebbins, Edward N. and Mary T., House
City of Barron, Barron County, Wisconsin

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Section 10 Page 1

Stebbins, Edward N. and Mary T., House
City of Barron, Barron County, Wisconsin

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The general area of this parcel is a rectangle with the long axis parallel to USH 8, as follows: Lots 9 and 12, Block 2, Original Plat of Barron, city of Barron, Barron County, Wisconsin. The parcel encloses less than 1.0 acre.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

These boundaries enclose the resources that are historically associated with the Stebbins House and coincide with the legal boundaries of the parcel on which the building sits.

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Section photos Page 1

Stebbins, Edward N. and Mary T., House
City of Barron, Barron County, Wisconsin

Photo 1 of 8
Stebbins, Edward N. and Mary T., House
City of Barron, Barron County, Wisconsin
Photo by Elizabeth L. Miller, April 2004
Negatives on file, Wisconsin Historical Society
View of the north-facing (front) façade, looking south.

The information for the following photographs is the same as the one above, except as noted:

Photo 2 of 8
Close up of the entrance pavilion and portico, looking south.

Photo 3 of 8
View of the south-facing (rear) façade, looking north.

Photo 4 of 8
View of the east- and north-facing (front) façades, looking southwest.

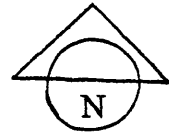
Photo 5 of 8
View of the west- and south-facing (rear) façades, looking northeast.

Photo 6 of 8
View of the staircase in the vestibule.



Photo 7 of 8
View of the fireplace in the front parlor.

Photo 8 of 8
View of the carriage house looking west.

Stebbins House
130 East Division Avenue
Barron, Barron County, WI



Scale: 1" = 25'

-  Contributing
-  Non-contributing

DIVISION AVENUE (USH 8)

