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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 Chamberlin, Clarence, House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 322 West Grand Avenue not for publication N/A

city or town City of Eau Claire vicinity N/A

state Wisconsin code WI county Eau Claire code 035 zip code 54703

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.)

Alicia Z. Cochran  
Signature of certifying official/Title  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

12/14/99  
Date

State or federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.  
(   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or federal agency and bureau

Chamberlain House  
Name of Property

Eau Claire County, Wisconsin  
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) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Joe*  
Signature of the Keeper  
*Edson H. Beall* Date of Action  
*1.27.00*

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property    Category of Property  
(check as many as apply) (Check only one box)

private                     building(s)  
 public-local                 district  
 public-state                 site  
 public-federal               structure  
                                   object

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include listed resources in the count)

	Contributing	Noncontributing
buildings	1	1
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	1

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a  
multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

Historic Resources of Eau Claire

0

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DOMESTIC/Multiple dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Queen Anne  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
foundation STONE  
walls Weatherboard  
roof ASPHALT  
other WOOD  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Chamberlain House  
Name of Property

Eau Claire County, Wisconsin  
County and State

**Narrative Description**

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

**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 our prehistory or history

Criteria Considerations  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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 achieved significance  
within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

Areas of Significance  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1881-circa 1904

Significant Dates

1881; circa 1904

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Chamberlain House  
Name of Property

Eau Claire County, Wisconsin  
County and State

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous Documentation on File (NPS):**

- 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

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: State Historical Society of Wisconsin

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property less than one

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

1	<u>1/5</u>	<u>6/1/8/1/4/0</u>		<u>4/9/6/2/5/5/0</u>	3	<u>1</u>	<u>1/1/1/1</u>	<u>1/1/1/1/1</u>
	Zone	Easting		Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

2	<u>1</u>	<u>1/1/1/1</u>		<u>1/1/1/1/1</u>	4	<u>1</u>	<u>1/1/1/1</u>	<u>1/1/1/1/1</u>
	Zone	Easting		Northing		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 Specialist

organization Mead & Hunt

street & number 6501 Watts Road

city or town Madison

state WI

date 1 September 1998

telephone (608)273-6380

zip code 53719-2700

**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.

Chamberlain House  
Name of Property

Eau Claire County, Wisconsin  
County and State

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 Tom and Maureen Slauson  
street & number 322 West Grand Avenue telephone (715)832-5338  
city or town Eau Claire state WI zip code 54703

**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 Reduction Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Chamberlin House  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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## INTRODUCTION

The Clarence Chamberlin House is a two-story, frame building finished with clapboards and set on a rock-faced, sandstone ashlar basement. Built in 1881 in the Second Empire style,<sup>1</sup> the Chamberlin House was updated circa 1904.<sup>2</sup> The update added transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival style elements such as classical details on the front and side porches, and a two-story canted bay. The multi-gabled roof is finished with asphalt shingles. A non-contributing garage on the site dates from circa 1935.

## DESCRIPTION

The Clarence Chamberlin House is located on the northeast corner of West Grand Avenue and Third Street in a residential neighborhood northwest of Eau Claire's central business district. Single-family houses dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries predominate in the neighborhood. The non-contributing garage is set northwest (to the rear) of the Chamberlin House, facing Third Street. A frame, hip-roofed building finished with clapboards, it will accommodate one car.

The footprint of the Chamberlin House is composed of a gable-ell front section and a hip-ell rear section, measuring about 65 feet (north-south) at its longest point by about 40 feet at its broadest point. Slender corner pilasters support a simple classical entablature, enriched with a dentil course, on all four facades of the house. The front- and side-facing gables have: returned eaves ornamented with paired, scrolled brackets; wood shingles in the gable ends; and raking cornice boards, each with a dentil course. Between the returned eaves, the three gables have a bracket course. Almost all the windows and doors have shaped wood surrounds with hood moldings on scrolled brackets. Each hood molding is enriched with a scroll-sawn molding. Most of these surrounds date from 1881; the remainder either date from 1881 and were re-used in the circa 1904 remodeling, or were made to reproduce the originals circa 1904.

The Chamberlin House faces south, more or less. The south-facing facade (see photo 1) is composed of a south-facing gable (on the west end of the facade) and an east-facing gable. The entrance is located in the south-facing gable, and consists of a pair of tall, paneled, wood doors with glass canted at the top in the upper half. In the front-facing gable section west of the entrance, there is a multi-pane picture window with a leaded glass transom. This window dates from the circa 1904 remodeling. Originally, two regularly-spaced, double-hung sash windows

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<sup>1</sup>Eau Claire Directory, (St. Paul, Minnesota: R. L. Polk & Co., 1884); Lois Barland, The River Flows On (Stevens Point, Wisconsin: Worzalla Publishing Company, 1965), p. 411; and Undated Photograph Showing Second Empire Appearance, on file, Chippewa Valley Museum, Eau Claire.

<sup>2</sup>Circa 1905 Photo, Eau Claire Sunday Leader, Supplement, Published 1905-06.

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Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

occupied its place.<sup>3</sup> At the second story, three, evenly-distributed, double-hung sash windows occupy the front-facing gable. A pair of single-pane, casement windows with a plain cornice and a dentil course appear in the gable end of the front-facing gable. These windows are replacements, installed since 1984, but are compatible with the historic character of the house. No openings appear on this facade of the east-facing gable. A shed-roofed porch with tripled Doric columns on paneled pedestals, turned balusters, and lattice-work vent boards extends across the front of the house. The porch has a simple classical entablature with a dentil course. A closed pediment marks the entrance to the porch, and is set opposite the front doors (see photo 2). There is a raking cornice with a dentil course within the pediment. With the exception of the windows in the gable end, all of the windows and doors on this facade have surrounds that either date from 1881, or recreate the 1881 appearance.

The north-facing (rear) facade is composed of two, intersecting, hip-roofed sections; one to the east, and a smaller one to the west (see photo 3). A single wood door with a single-pane transom at the east end of the east hip-roofed section leads into the basement. West of this door, there is a shed-roofed porch with slender turned posts, turned balusters, and lattice-work vent boards. The posts, which are enriched with scroll-sawn trim, appear to be original, although they are not in their original locations. The 1881 rear porch was at the west end of this facade. When the Chamberlin House was remodeled circa 1904, the rear section appears to have been extended north by about ten feet and the rear porch put back on, but at the east end of this facade.<sup>4</sup> The fenestration pattern at the first story consists of a single, paneled, wood door with an 1881 surround at the west end of the porch; a narrow, one-over-one, window with an 1881 surround in the center; and a pair of single-pane, wood casement windows in a plain surround at the east end of the porch. A one-over-one window with an 1881 surround is centered on the second story. There is a wide, triangular dormer with shingling in the gable end on the roof of this section. It opens onto a small balcony with a plain wood balustrade. The narrow, north-facing facade of the west hip-roofed section has a one-over-one window with an 1881 surround at each story.

The east-facing facade consists of the south-facing gable (south), the east-facing gable (center), and the hip-roofed section (north). On the east-facing facade (see photo 4), the narrow, south-facing gable section has a single, one-over-one window with an 1881 surround at each story, and a small, hip-roofed dormer with a pair of single-pane, casement windows on the roof. The casement windows were installed since 1984, but are compatible with the historic character of the Chamberlin House. The center section has a group of three windows (south) between the first and second stories on this facade. These windows mark the interior staircase and are composed of a wide center window with narrower, flanking windows. All three windows have transoms, and are united beneath a surround that matches the appearance of the 1881 surrounds. This configuration probably dates from the circa 1904 remodeling. Four, single-pane casement windows are grouped beneath a continuous 1881-type surround at the first story, north

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<sup>3</sup>Undated Photograph Showing Second Empire Appearance.

<sup>4</sup>Map of Eau Claire, Wisconsin (Pelham, New York: Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Company, 1889 and 1931).

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Chamberlin House  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

of the staircase windows. This group of windows likely dates from circa 1904. Above these windows, a single, one-over-one window occupies an 1881 surround. The gable end of this center section contains a pair of single-pane windows. In the hip-roofed section at the north end of this facade, there are four one-over-one windows and a single door at the first story, and three one-over-one windows at the second story. These windows all have 1881 surrounds. There is also a hip-roofed dormer with a pair of single-pane windows in this section. A small, shed-roofed, entry porch with square posts shelters the door.

The west-facing facade consists of the south-facing gable at the south end, the west-facing gabled bay (center), and the hip-roofed section (see photo 5). There is a one-over-one window with an 1881 surround at each of the first and second stories, as well as a hip-roofed dormer with a pair of single-pane windows, in the south-facing gable section. The centered, gabled bay (see photo 6) dates from circa 1904, and replaced an 1881 bay that was square and enriched with wood panels.<sup>5</sup> The circa 1904 bay is three-sided, enriched with carved brackets, and has corner pilasters and a window with an 1881-type surround on each face at both stories. The center windows are cottage-type, with headers. There are wood panels beneath the first-story windows, and a dentil course surmounted by wood shingling between the first and second stories. The gable end features a pair of windows. In the hip-roofed section at the north end of this facade, there is a single door (south), a cottage window with a leaded-glass header and an 1881-type surround (center), and a one-over-one window (north) at the first story. A shed-roofed porch with a center gable, Doric columns, and turned balusters extends across much of the hip-roofed section (see photo 7). At the second story, a one-over-one window opens onto a small balcony (south), a pair of small windows appear beneath a continuous 1881-type surround (center), and a one-over-one window (north) finishes the pattern. The small balcony has Doric columns and turned balusters.

The interior plan consists of a stairhall with a wood, dogleg staircase in the southeast corner and groups of rooms that open into each other on each floor. The house was divided into three apartments circa 1949.<sup>6</sup> Each floor has one apartment, entered from the stairhall. Interior finishes have been retained and include wood flooring, and plaster walls and ceilings. The doors and windows have simple classical surrounds. Several rooms retain early twentieth century pendant lights with opaque glass bowls. The first-floor (original) living room features a fireplace mantelpiece with fluted pilasters, wood panels and floral carvings (see photo 8), and paneled wainscot with panel strips above. Changes made to convert the house into three apartments include the erection of several partition walls to create additional rooms; the installation of a small kitchen on each of the second and third floors; and more recently, the addition of fire doors separating the apartments from the staircase. These changes are minimal and reversible. They do not compromise the historic integrity of the Chamberlin House.

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<sup>5</sup>Undated historic photo showing Second Empire appearance.

<sup>6</sup>Maureen Slauson. Current Owner. Personal Communication to Stacey E. Pilgrim, 10 June 1998.



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Exterior alterations are confined to the replacement of the pair of windows in the gable ends on the south-facing (front) and east-facing facades, installed after 1984. These replacements are single-pane, wood casement windows and are compatible with the historic character of the house. Interior alterations include the erection of several partition walls to create an apartment at each floor, small kitchens at the second and third floors, and the installation of fire doors to separate the apartments from the staircase. These alterations are minimal and reversible, and do not compromise the integrity of the Chamberlin House. The current owners, Tom and Maureen Slauson, are concerned about the historic appearance of the house, and have already removed some partition walls and re-finished the wood flooring.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: SUMMARY

The Chamberlin House is architecturally significant at the local level under Criterion C. It represents the evolution in residential architectural styles between 1881 and 1904, from the Second Empire to Queen Anne/Colonial Revival, reflecting the changing tastes of the period. The Chamberlin House is especially interesting as an example of this phenomenon because it began as a good example of Second Empire style, and became a good example of the Queen Anne/Colonial Revival transition. Even after the change, the house retained many of the essential elements of Second Empire design. The Chamberlin House retains excellent integrity. The period of significance extends from the year that the house was built, 1881, through circa 1904, the year it was remodeled into its present Queen Anne/Colonial Revival appearance.

HISTORY OF THE CITY OF EAU CLAIRE

The early history of the city of Eau Claire is closely associated with the development of the lumber industry in the Chippewa Valley, earning the community its nickname, the Sawdust City. Logs were rafted down the Chippewa River beginning in 1821, and a sawmill was built at Chippewa Falls in 1838. In 1846, Stephen McCann, Jeremiah Thomas, George Randall and Simon Randall erected a dam and a sawmill at the junction of the Eau Claire and Chippewa rivers. The sawmill was washed away by heavy rains in 1847, but the Randalls, with new partners, were able to rebuild the mill. A second dam and mill complex was built for Jesse Gage and James Reed soon afterward.<sup>7</sup>

Lumbermen such as Daniel Shaw, Charles Bullen, Joseph G. Thorp, Orrin Ingram, Donald Kennedy, H. C. Putnam and George Buffington set up operations near the sawmills in the 1850s. Three small settlements grew up near the sawmills, separated by the rivers. The village of Eau Claire was located south of the Eau Claire River and west of the Chippewa River; Eau Claire City was located south of the Eau Claire and east of the Chippewa; and North Eau Claire was north of the Eau Claire River and east of the Chippewa. In 1856, plats for the Village of Eau Claire and Eau Claire City were recorded, and Eau Claire County was separated from Chippewa County. The village of Eau Claire was made county seat. In 1861, the population of the three settlements was 3,164.<sup>8</sup>

Following the Civil War, many Norwegian immigrants settled in Eau Claire, adding to an ethnic base of Germans, Irish, Canadians and Yankees. By this time, a fourth community had developed in the area. West Eau Claire was located north of the Eau Claire River and west of the Chippewa River. When Eau Claire incorporated as a city in

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<sup>7</sup>Jane Hieb, Eau Claire, Heartland of the Chippewa Valley: An Illustrated History (Northridge, California: Windsor Publications, Inc, 1988), pp. 20-22.

<sup>8</sup>Mary Taylor, "Final Report: Intensive Historic/Architectural Survey of the City of Eau Claire, Wisconsin," Report Prepared for the City of Eau Claire, March 1983, pp. 6-7; and Lois Barland, Sawdust City (Stevens Point, Wisconsin: Worzalla Publishing Company, 1960), pp. 12-20.

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Chamberlin House  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

1872, the new city included what had been West Eau Claire, as well as the former communities of Eau Claire, Eau Claire City, and North Eau Claire. The population in 1880 was 9,771. By 1885, the booming lumber industry had caused the population to swell to 21,668, making Eau Claire the second-largest city in Wisconsin. During the late 1880s, the lumbering industry in Eau Claire declined sharply. The city's population fell twenty percent in response, dropping to 17,415 in 1890. Eau Claire's business community moved into wood-products manufacturing, with such enterprises as the Pioneer Furniture Company (1887), the Phoenix Furniture Company (1899), the Dells Pulp and Paper Company (1894), the Linderman Box and Veneer Company (1895) and the Kaiser Lumber Company Box Factory (1905). These concerns helped stabilize Eau Claire's population.<sup>9</sup>

After the turn of the century, the manufacturing sector expanded beyond wood-products, with the Gillette Safety Tire Company (later Uniroyal, Incorporated, and the city's largest employer until it closed in 1992), the Northwestern Steel and Iron Works (later National Presto Industries, producing small home appliances), and other companies. In 1916, the Wisconsin State Normal School for teacher-training opened in Eau Claire. This post-secondary institution, now the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, drew students from all over west-central Wisconsin. Eau Claire's population, which had hovered around 17,500 from 1890 to 1910, began to grow again in the 1910s. This reflected the city's development as a regional economic and educational center for the surrounding rural counties.<sup>10</sup>

In 1940, the population of Eau Claire was 30,745. It reached 44,619 in 1970.<sup>11</sup> Today the city of Eau Claire is a lively community with more than 55,000 residents and thriving institutional, commercial and industrial sectors.

### CLARENCE CHAMBERLIN

Clarence Chamberlin (1846-1911) was born in New Hampshire and settled in Eau Claire in 1856. In 1870, Chamberlin went to work for the Ingram and Kennedy Lumber Company as a traveling salesman. Founded by A. M. Dole, O. H. Ingram and Donald Kennedy in 1857, the firm was one of the largest in Eau Claire. In 1881, Kennedy sold out and the firm was reorganized as the Empire Lumber Company. Chamberlin served on the board of directors as assistant secretary from at least 1882 until at least 1897. Chamberlin was also a director of the Rice Lake Lumber Company, the Dells Paper and Pulp Company, the Howe Shoe Company and the Eau Claire Linen Mill Company.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup>Taylor, pp. 8-9.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid.; and Barland, Sawdust City, p. 112.

<sup>11</sup>Taylor, p. 9.

<sup>12</sup>Barland, The River Flows On, p. 411; Barland, Sawdust City, p. 41; Eau Claire City Directory (Milwaukee: William Hogg, 1880); Eau Claire Directory, (St. Paul, Minnesota: R. L. Polk and Company, 1883); Wright's Directory of Eau Claire (Milwaukee: Wright Directory Company, 1903-04; 1905-06; 1908; 1910; and 1912).

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Clarence Chamberlin married twice. Following the death of his first wife, Alice Black, Chamberlin married Ida Buffington Kidder (1850-1930). She was the daughter of George Buffington, a prominent Eau Claire lumberman, and the widow of Samuel Kidder. Ida Buffington Kidder and Clarence Chamberlin were probably married in 1904, about the same time the Chamberlin House was remodeled into its current Queen Anne/Classical Revival appearance.<sup>13</sup> Although the marriage may have prompted the remodeling, family history relates that lightning struck the house and caused a fire, which led to the remodeling.<sup>14</sup> Clarence Chamberlin died in 1911. After he died, Ida Chamberlin's daughter and son-in-law, Grace (Kidder) and Percy Atkinson, lived in the house with her. Beginning around 1923, the house was rented out. Grace Atkinson inherited the house in 1930 and it continued as a rental. During this time, the principal tenant opened the house to lodgers.<sup>15</sup> In 1948, Martin and Helen Crowe purchased the house from Atkinson. The Crowes lived in part of the house and rented out the remainder. In 1984, the Crowe's daughter and son-in-law, Maureen and Tom Slauson, purchased the house.<sup>16</sup>

#### ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Chamberlin House is architecturally significant at the local level under Criterion C. It represents the evolution in residential architectural styles between 1881 and 1904, from the Second Empire to Queen Anne/Colonial Revival, and reflects the changing tastes of the period. While it is not unusual to find a residence that began as one style and was updated with elements of another, the Chamberlin House is especially interesting as an example of this phenomenon. When completed in 1881, the Chamberlin House was a good example of Second Empire style. Its circa 1904 remodeling created a fine example of the Queen Anne/Colonial Revival transition, while retaining many of the essential elements of Second Empire design.

Built between about 1870 and 1885, Second Empire style residences generally are one- or two-stories tall and boxy in form. The mansard roof is the signature feature of the style and often has dormers. Ornamentation and fenestration patterns derive from the Italianate style and include single windows and double front doors with

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<sup>13</sup> Wright's Directory of Eau Claire (Milwaukee: Wright Directory Company, 1903-04; 1905-06); and Barland, Sawdust City, p. 44.

<sup>14</sup>Maureen Slauson.

<sup>15</sup>Wright's Directory of Eau Claire (Milwaukee: Wright Directory Company, 1912; 1918; and 1923-1950).

<sup>16</sup>Maureen Slauson to Stacey E. Pilgrim, Letter Dated 8 July 1998.

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classically-detailed hood moldings, squared bay windows, brackets under the eaves, and a full-facade front porch with turned or square posts.<sup>17</sup>

Queen Anne residences were built primarily between 1880 and 1910. Typical features include an asymmetrical facade with multiple gables; polygonal bays; a combination of finishes such as clapboards, brick and shingles; and a front or wrap-around porch. Turrets and towers also occur. The porch elements may be turned or, less commonly, scroll-sawn. The influence of the 1893 Chicago World Columbian Exposition, with its white Classical Revival buildings, inspired some designers and homeowners to combine Queen Anne details. An irregular form, polygonal bays, and shingling were combined with returned eaves, classical moldings and columned porches. This substyle is called the Queen Anne/Classical or Colonial Revival transition, and was popular between about 1895 and 1910.<sup>18</sup>

The Chamberlin House originally had a mansard roof and a squared bay window. When the Chamberlin House was remodeled circa 1904, these features were removed, but the house's boxy form, most of its windows, the double front doors, and the shaped surrounds with bracketed, classical hood moldings were retained. These Second Empire stylistic elements became an integral part of the new Queen Anne/Colonial Revival appearance. The new roof featured intersecting hips and gables, while the squared bay window was replaced with a two-story, three-sided, gabled bay. The stone foundation of the squared bay was rebuilt in three-sided form. A few of the single window openings were expanded to hold broad cottage windows, or grouped windows, but the 1881 surrounds were re-used or re-created.

The Chamberlin House originally had front, side and rear porches. These porches were retained, but each was updated. On the front and side porches, the original slender, turned posts were replaced with single and multiple Doric columns on paneled pedestals. A pedimented entry was also added to the front porch. A small balcony with Doric columns on paneled pedestals was added to side porch. The rear porch was moved out and to the east, but the original turned posts were retained.

Other elements added to reflect the Queen Anne/Colonial Revival appearance include returned eaves and shingling in the gable ends, hip-roofed dormers, and the dentil course beneath the eave. All of these elements taken together create a fine local example of Queen Anne/Colonial Revival transition that retains many essential elements of its earlier Second Empire styling. The Chamberlin House retains excellent integrity.

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<sup>17</sup>Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991), pp. 240-43; and Barbara Wyatt, editor, *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), II:2-13.

<sup>18</sup>McAlester and McAlester, pp. 262-265; and Wyatt, II:2-15.

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Chamberlin House  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

The 1983 and 1997 intensive surveys of Eau Claire's historic resources identified numerous Queen Anne residences. The 1983 survey highlighted only one Queen Anne/Colonial Revival residence, the Galloway House at 213 Oakwood Place. Built in 1889, this two-story brick building has a somewhat symmetrical plan and a regular fenestration pattern, but is predominantly Queen Anne in style with its patterned brickwork, shingled gables and variety of window shapes. The Fred Kleiner House (see photo 9) provides a better comparison to the Chamberlin House. Located at 432 West Grand Avenue, one block west of the Chamberlin House, the Kleiner House is a two-story frame building with a front gable, a center gable on the side-facing facade, and a full-facade front porch with turned balusters. The Kleiner House is a more modest example of the Queen Anne/Colonial Revival transition than the Chamberlin House. Further, the Chamberlin House displays the evolution in architectural style that took place during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, which both the Galloway and Kleiner Houses lack.

#### CONCLUSION

The Chamberlin House is architecturally significant at the local level under Criterion C. The house is a relatively rare example of a modernization that embodies the distinctive characteristics of two styles. Though it began as a good example of Second Empire style, the house's circa 1904 remodeling created a fine example of the Queen Anne/Colonial Revival transition, while retaining and recreating many of the essential elements of Second Empire design. Elements of the two styles, as seen here, include the Italianate style's double front doors and decorative window hoods. The Queen Anne style is represented by the multi-gabled roof, the polygonal bay, and the shinglework in the eaves. The relatively late date of the Queen Anne remodeling is seen in the transitional elements of the Colonial Revival style; at the Chamberlin House, they are represented by the dentil course below the eaves and the classically inspired porches. As a result, the Chamberlin House represents the evolution in residential architectural styles between 1881 and 1904, from the Second Empire to Queen Anne/Colonial Revival, and reflects the changing tastes of the period.

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Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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Chamberlin House  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The Chamberlin House is located on the west ½ of lots 6 and 7, Block 12, Chapman Thorp Second Addition to the City of Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin. The parcel is less than one acre in size.

**VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundaries of the Chamberlin enclose all the resources historically associated with the house, and coincide with the legal boundaries of the parcel on which the house sits.



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Chamberlin House  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

*Photo 1 of 9*

Clarence Chamberlin House  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin  
Photo by Stacey Pilgrim, Mead & Hunt, 10 June 1998  
Negative on file in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin  
View of the south-facing (front) facade, looking north.

For the photographs listed below, the information is the same as the above, except as noted:

*Photo 2 of 9*

Closeup of the main entrance.

*Photo 3 of 9*

View of the north-facing (rear) facade, looking south.

*Photo 4 of 9*

View of the east- and south-facing facades, looking northwest.

*Photo 5 of 9*

View of the south- and west-facing facades, looking northeast.

*Photo 6 of 9*

Closeup of the three-sided bay on the west-facing facade, looking northeast.

*Photo 7 of 9*

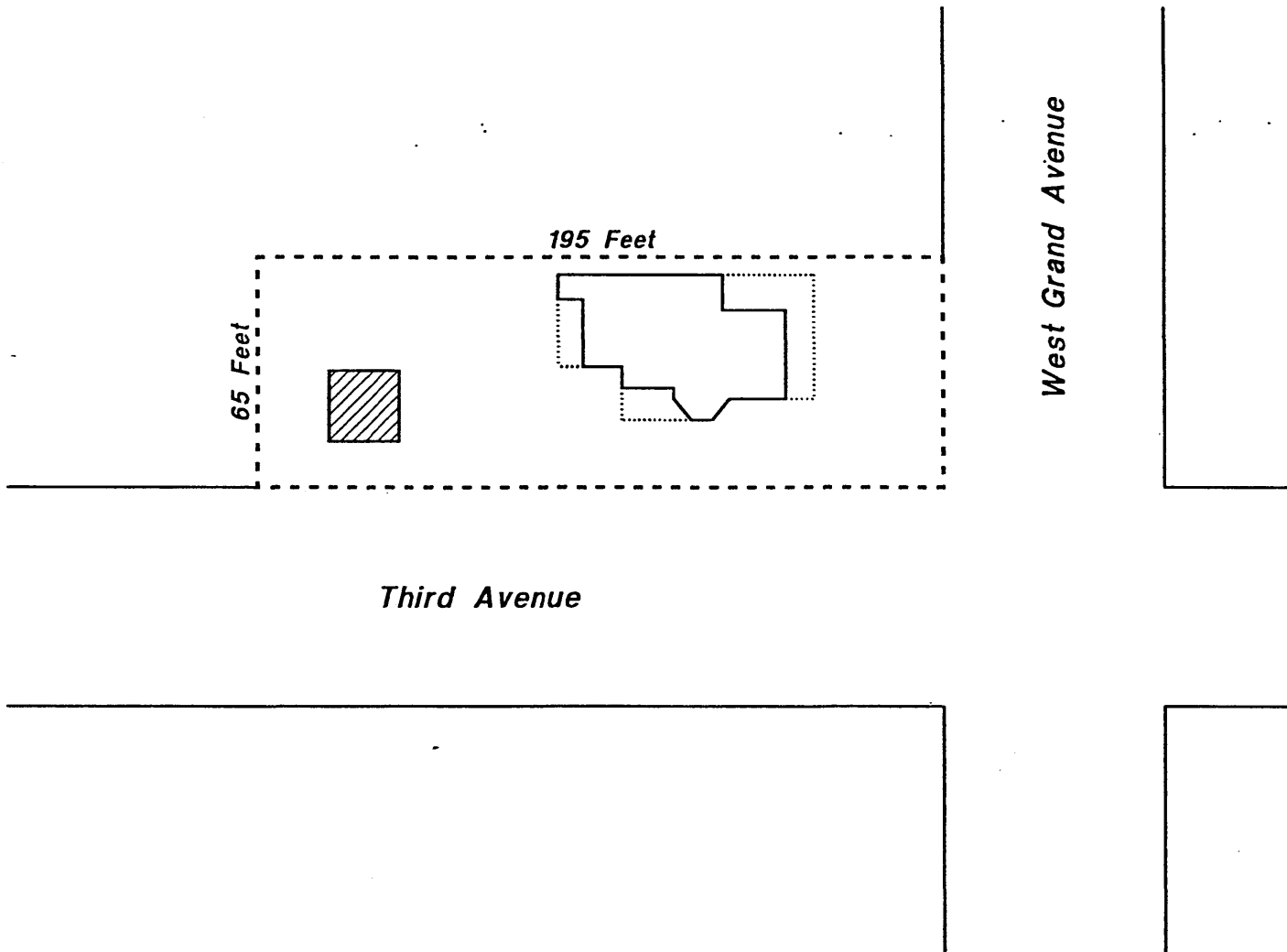
Closeup of the west-facing facade porch, looking east.

*Photo 8 of 9*

View of the fireplace in the first floor living room.

*Photo 9 of 9*

432 West Grand Avenue, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, a comparison property.







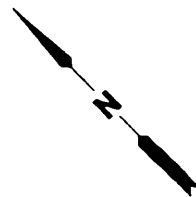
*Third Avenue*

*West Grand Avenue*

**CHAMBERLIN HOUSE**  
 322 West Grand Avenue  
 Eau Claire, Eau Claire County  
 Wisconsin

**Legend:**

-  Contributing
-  Non-Contributing
-  Historic Boundary
-  Porches



Scale: 1" = 50'