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Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)



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 Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number W6582 State Trunk Highway 144 N/A not for publication
city or town Silver Creek N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Sheboygan code 117 zip code 53075

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 (Handwritten signature)

Date 5/17/2018

State Historic Preservation Office - Wisconsin

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 commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
Name of Property

Sheboygan
County and State

Wisconsin

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:)


Signature of the Keeper

7/6/18
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
public-local	District	1	0 buildings
public-State	Structure	0	0 sites
public-Federal	Site	0	0 structures
	Object	0	0 objects
		1	0 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
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: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements/
Craftsman

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

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 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

1903

Significant Dates

1903

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Leenhouts and Guthrie

Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House

Sheboygan

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

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:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

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

1 16T 417210.93E 4823208.82N
 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	<u>Emily Pettis and Shannon Dolan</u>	date	<u>March 2017</u>
organization	<u>Mead & Hunt, Inc.</u>	telephone	<u>608-273-6380</u>
street & number	<u>2440 Deming Way</u>	zip code	<u>53562</u>
city or town	<u>Middleton</u>	state	<u>WI</u>

Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House

Sheboygan

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	<u>Pamela and Michael Neu</u>	date	<u>March 2017</u>
organization	<u>N/A</u>	telephone	<u>920-207-5137</u>
street & number	<u>W6582 State Trunk Highway 144</u>	zip code	<u>53075</u>
city or town	<u>Silver Creek</u> state <u>WI</u>		

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
Silver Creek, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

The Charles T. and Gertrude Rietz House is located at W6582 State Trunk Highway (STH) 144 in the unincorporated community of Silver Creek in southern Sheboygan County, Wisconsin. The house fronts Silver Creek's main street (STH 144) to the south. The L-shaped parcel on which the house is situated features a grassy lawn, scattered deciduous and ornamental trees, and groupings of perennial shrubs adjacent to the house. A line of arbor vitae separates the parcel from undeveloped land north of the house. The main entrance on the front (south) façade is accessed by a concrete sidewalk that extends north from the edge of STH 144 to a series of wood steps that lead to the raised porch. From here, the sidewalk wraps around the side (east) and a portion of the rear (north) sides. A concrete driveway is located on the east side of the house and behind the house; there is a large pole barn garage (constructed c2000) which is located outside of the boundary of the nominated property.

The two-and-one-half-story house was constructed in 1903 and has a rectangular plan. It is of frame construction, is clad in clapboard on the first and second stories and wood shingles on the third story, and rests on a mortared fieldstone foundation. The house has wide overhanging open eaves with exposed rafters, bargeboards, and decorative knee braces, all of wood. The steeply pitched cross-gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

Front (South) Façade

The front façade is largely symmetrical and is two and a half stories. The main roof is side gabled and its broad expanse lends a horizontal emphasis to the composition of the façade. At the second floor, three large wall dormers are spaced across the entire width; each is lower than the main roof and has a front facing gable. At the first floor, a single story, broad porch extends across the entire front, and wraps around the corner to the east. The porch roof is hipped with a center section that is front gabled; this gable is shallow and broad. The second floor is further underscored by broad, cornice details having flattened arches that separate the second and third stories and decorative wood shields adorn the wide fascia board beneath. The windows are also wide, exhibiting a Craftsman style influence in their 5-over-1, and 6-over-1 light configurations. The raised foundation is of stone. Each dormer is clad in wood shingles and features an eight-light, fixed window. The eastern gable projects slightly, forming a full-height cutaway bay. The porch has wide overhanging eaves and scrolled modillions,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
Silver Creek, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

and is supported by square wood posts atop battered fieldstone piers with a simple wood balustrade. At the center of the porch is a broad gable with knee braces, wide bargeboards, a hanging pendant, decorative cross, and decorative half-timbering and dentils. There are five arched openings across the front of the porch and the center and each end arch is wide and broad, while the second and fourth arches are more curved. A series of seven wood steps provides access to the raised porch and main entrance centered on the front façade. The entrance consists of a wood panel screen door that opens to a solid, wood, paneled door having a fixed-light in the upper panel. The door is flanked by single-pane sidelights.

Side (East) Façade

The porch continues to wrap around to the east side of the house. A set of five wood stairs and simple metal railing located on the side (east) façade provides additional access to the porch and a secondary entrance that opens to the kitchen. This side of the house is three bays wide; the first bay is dominated by a two-and-a-half-story gabled wall. A secondary, narrower gabled section, makes up the second bay and projects from this wall plane, forming a compound gabled roof, each having the same roof pitch. The third bay is deeply recessed. The foundation is of stone, the wall of the first two stories is of wood clapboards, and the third floor half-story under the gables is finished with wood shingles. Roof rafters are visible in the open eaves. A second-story door (located at the second bay) faces south and accesses the porch roof where the roof wraps around from the front of the house. This door leads to a flat portion atop the wraparound porch - this appears to have been a small porch; however, the area is currently not enclosed with a railing. There is a simple, broad, peaked cornice detail that separates the second floor from the third floor at both the first and second bays. At the first floor, the first bay includes the wrap around porch and a single large window. The second bay has a pair of large windows with a wood window box supported by knee braces. The third bay has a smaller, single window. At the second floor, there is a single, window centered in the first bay, and another centered in the second bay. At the third bay, there is a small round window under the roof gable. The third floor has a pair of windows under the large gable, while under the gable of the second bay there is a smaller, single window. A pair of small, wood, basement level windows is centered in the second bay. Window types, sizes, and configurations on the façade include the original eight-light, fixed windows;

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 3

Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
Silver Creek, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

one-over-one, double-hung sash and single-pane fixed (one window located at the southwest corner of the first story is covered with a multi-light storm); and replacement, twelve-over-one, ten-over-one, and six-over-one, double-hung sash.

Rear (North) Façade

The back of the house is composed of a large wall plane and cross gables. The most prominent cross gabled section is at the center of the wall, and two-and-a-half stories high. This large front gabled section crosses the broad side gable of the primary roof. The eaves match the rest of the house with exposed rafters and braces. The simple, broad, peaked cornice detail separating the shingles in the gables from the clapboard siding is also included on the rear. A shed-roof portico with large scrolled braces shelters a ground-level entrance door. There is a single window to each side of the door; directly above the door is another single window. Stacked directly above the first floor window to the right of the door, is another single window, directly below it is a basement window. Centered under the third floor gable, is another single window. On each side of the front-gabled wall, the wall plane is deeply recessed and has a single window at the first floor. Windows are a combination of fixed multi-light and replacement, one-over-one and six-over-one, double-hung sash. Basement-level windows are the original, fixed, multi-light windows.

Side (West) Façade

The west side is dominated by a center, two-and-a-half story gabled wall, also recessed at each end. The simple, broad, peaked cornice detail separating the shingles in the gables from the clapboard siding is also included on this side. The center gabled portion has two, single, double-hung windows at the first floor; each window has another stacked directly above at the second floor and a window directly below at the basement level. The third floor has a pair of windows centered under the gable. The recessed wall section to the left side has a single, double-hung window on the first floor, and a fixed circular window above at the second floor. Windows are a combination of fixed multi-light and replacement, one-over-one and six-over-one, double-hung sash. Basement-level windows are the original, fixed, multi-light windows.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 4

Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
Silver Creek, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

The Rietz House does not represent one specific architectural style; rather, it exhibits an eclectic design containing elements of two popular styles of the period, namely the Craftsman with elements of the Queen Anne. The prominent front-facing gable, variation in exterior wall texture, wraparound porch, cutaway bay, cornice line dentils, and modillions are character-defining elements of the Queen Anne style. The Craftsman style can be seen in the horizontal emphasis, the broad arches, wide overhanging eaves, decorative knee braces, exposed rafters, multiple roof planes, and wide multi-light over single-pane, double-hung sash windows. According to blueprints in the collection of the property owner, the design of the house is attributed to the Milwaukee-based architectural firm of Leenhouts and Guthrie.¹

Based on information from the current property owner and a review of blueprints, alterations to the exterior of the house are minor and consist of some replacement windows and the removal of the second-story balustrade. As a whole, the exterior of the Rietz House retains a high degree of integrity.

Interior

Based on the site visit, interview with the current property owner, and review of the blueprints in the owner's private collection, the Rietz House retains its original configuration and a majority of its interior wood finishing. The flooring, baseboards, window and door surrounds, pocket doors, built-in buffet, and staircase are original to the house. Walls throughout the house are plaster, typically painted, aside from a portion of the kitchen walls that have been covered with wallpaper. Other original details include the corner beads, cast-iron radiators, and brass hardware. According to the current property owner, framework in the house is stamped with Rietz's name. Drawings of the floorplans based on the blueprints are provided in the Figures section.

Rooms on the first story are predominantly intended to receive guests or for family gathering uses, while rooms on the second story are private living spaces. The front (south half) of the first story consists of the foyer, sitting room, and dining room; the utilitarian rooms at the rear consist of the

¹ Leenhouts and Guthrie, "Charles T. Rietz House (Blueprints)" (N.p., c.1903), available in private collection of current property owner.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
Silver Creek, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

kitchen, pantry, and bathroom. One bedroom is also located at the rear (northwest corner) of the first story. The basement functions as a utilitarian and storage space that includes laundry tubs, a cistern, boiler room, coal bin, and space for food storage.² While access to the basement and second story was not permitted during the site visit, information provided by the current property owner along with the blueprints was used to get a sense of the floorplan as it was designed and is currently configured.

The first floor is accessed through a single-light wood panel door that is flanked by single-pane sidelights centered on the front (south) façade. The door opens into a small vestibule that features another single-light wood panel door flanked by sidelights that serves as an entrance to a small hallway. The hallway provides access to a sitting room to the west, hallway to the north, and dining room to the east. A wood panel pocket door separates the dining room from the hallway. The dining room in particular is designed in the Craftsman style. The high, paneled wood wainscoting is of stained oak with solid inset wall panels that is characteristic of Craftsman style ornamentation. A built-in wood hutch features an inset mirror flanked by cabinets with glass doors centered above a series of drawers and cabinets with ornamental hardware. The room has an irregular plan and tray ceiling with cornice molding with picture rail below; the wood wainscoting is ornamented with wood modillions and capped by a plate rail.

A second hallway is perpendicular to the first and is accessed by a single-light wood panel door. It provides access to a bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, and staircases to the second story and the basement. A pendant lamp hangs from the ceiling. The bedroom, located at the northwest corner, is encircled by picture rail and accessed by a wood panel door. The bathroom, located east of the bedroom, was remodeled by the current owners. It has a rectangular floorplan and features a claw-foot bathtub, porcelain wall-mounted sink with built-in wood medicine cabinet above, and modern toilet. A simple wood chair rail encircles the room and the floor is covered with linoleum.

The wood staircase that leads to the second story is located east of the bathroom. It has a dog-legged plan and a floor-to-ceiling newel post that supports an open balustrade with wood balusters that

² Leenhouts and Guthrie, "Charles T. Rietz House (Blueprints)," n.p.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
Silver Creek, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

feature teardrop-shaped cutouts, and a curved handrail. A wood panel door located to the east of the staircase leads to the basement and ground-level entrance at the rear of the house.

The kitchen is located at the northeast corner of the house. It is accessed from the hallway to the west by a wood panel door, from the dining room to the south, and from the secondary porch entrance. The door separating the kitchen from the dining room has been removed. The kitchen was also remodeled by the current property owners. The wood cupboards and granite countertops are new and the appliances are modern. Similar to the bathroom, the kitchen walls feature a simple wood chair rail. The remaining woodwork, including the floor, baseboards, window and door surrounds, and corner beads, are a combination of the original and sympathetic replacements. A pantry with modern wood cabinets and granite countertops is located off the kitchen to the north.

Both the kitchen and bathroom have been remodeled; however, the current owners have made efforts to reuse the original materials or use materials that are sympathetic to the overall character of the house. For example, the new kitchen cabinets match the original wood window and door surrounds and the bathroom features a cast-iron, claw-foot bathtub. Although the master bedroom on the second story was converted into a kitchen prior to the current owner's acquisition of the property in 1962, the current owners changed it back to its original function. As a whole, the interior retains a high degree of integrity in its layout and embellishments.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
Silver Creek, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

The Charles T. and Gertrude Rietz House is locally significant under National Register Criterion C: Architecture. The house was designed by the prominent Milwaukee-based architectural firm of Leenhouts and Guthrie in an eclectic blend of popular early-twentieth-century residential architecture. Constructed 1903, the Rietz House features key architectural elements associated with the Queen Anne and Craftsman styles, such as a dominant front-facing gable, wraparound porch, variety of surface textures, and cutaway bays combined with wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafters and decorative knee braces. It is one of the few unaltered residences dating to the early 1900s within the community. Many of the extant historic-age residences within the community have been significantly altered by replacement siding, large additions, and the removal of decorative details, or replaced by modern residences. The Rietz House has few alterations, embodies distinctive characteristics of the Craftsman and Queen Anne styles, and displays a high degree of exterior and interior integrity. The period of significance coincides with the construction date of 1903.

Property History

The Rietz House is located on the north side of present-day STH 144 within the unincorporated community of Silver Creek in south-central Sheboygan County, Wisconsin. The rolling hills and inexpensive land attracted pioneers to the area as early as the mid-1800s. With fertile soil and scattered trees, the land in the surrounding area was ideal for farming. Many early farms relied on subsistence farming and cash crops, such as wheat, to survive. It was not long before small settlements were established; these communities not only offered goods and services, but provided trade opportunities for farm families.

By the early 1850s German immigrants had established a small settlement along the banks of Silver Creek. As more people began to settle in the area between the mid-1850s and mid-1870s, Silver Creek became a trading center for surrounding farms.³ By the end of the nineteenth century the community featured specialized industries such as a brewery, cheese factory, roller mill, sawmill, planning mill,

³ Philip Sellinger ed., *A Guide to Sheboygan County and the Fair: Past and Present* (Plymouth, Wis.: Centennial Celebration Committee, 1952), 95.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2

Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
Silver Creek, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

and distillery.⁴

Theodore Rietz established the Rietz Distillery in Silver Creek by 1862. The distillery was not only unique to the community, but was one of the first distilleries in Sheboygan County as well as the northeastern part of the state.⁵ Rietz was born and raised in Germany and worked in a distillery until he immigrated to the United States in 1860. After a brief stay in Pennsylvania, Rietz moved to Milwaukee and assisted in the founding of the Went & Pfile Distillery Company.⁶ It is unclear why Rietz sold his portion of the distillery and relocated his family approximately 40 miles north to Silver Creek. Shortly after he arrived, he established a small whiskey distillery on the banks of Silver Creek. As the only distillery in Sheboygan County, business prospered, and it was not long before Rietz began to expand distribution to other areas in the state, such as Milwaukee. Noted for his strong work ethic and the quality of his whiskey, Rietz and his distillery continued to gain recognition and prosper. Instead of relocating to a larger community, Rietz maintained the distillery in Silver Creek, expanding and constructing new buildings as needed. By the late 1800s he was an established businessman and prominent resident of Silver Creek; after 40 years of operation production had increased from five gallons of whiskey per day to 130 gallons that were made and shipped every 24 hours.⁷

Born in April 1867, Charles T. Rietz grew up working in his father's whiskey distilling business. He married Gertrude Stahl in 1889 and the couple had five children. Rietz worked as an associate at the distillery before becoming the head of the business in 1903. The distillery continued to grow and prosper during the early 1900s and it was about this time that he commissioned the Milwaukee-based

⁴ Gustave Buchen William, *Historic Sheboygan County* (Sheboygan, Wis.: Sheboygan County Historical Society, 1976), 341.

⁵ "Distillery at Silver Creek is of Much Interest Historically to Residents of This Vicinity," *Sheboygan Press*, November 17, 1947, 13.

⁶ "Charles T. Rietz Killed Last Saturday," *N.p.*, November 7, 1914, n.p., available at the Sheboygan County Historical Society clippings files; *History of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin: Past and Present* (Chicago: S.J. Clark Publishing Co., n.d.), 365.

⁷ *History of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin: Past and Present*, 362; "Gone Are the Days: Reflect Silver Creek Residents Who View Old Whiskey Distillery," *Sheboygan Press*, November 12, 1931, available at the Sheboygan County Historical Society clippings files.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3

Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
Silver Creek, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

architectural firm of Leenhouts and Guthrie to design a house for his family in Silver Creek. Research did not identify the reason Rietz retained Leenhouts and Guthrie, nor did it identify how or why the eclectic blend of the Queen Anne and Craftsman style was selected.⁸

The 1903 house was constructed less than 500 feet east of the distillery on the north side of STH 144. Rietz lived there with family until he died in a car accident in 1914. His wife and children lived in the house until 1917, when the distillery closed and his family left the area. It is unclear how many people have owned the house since the Rietz family sold it in 1917; the current owners acquired the property in 1962.⁹ Although several of the buildings associated with the distilling operations located on the south side of STH 144 are extant, they have been converted into residential use and/or storage space.

Architecture

Technological innovations of the Industrial Revolution combined with the philosophical evolution of architecture inspired a change in architectural trends in the United States around the turn of the twentieth century. The Queen Anne style was introduced to the United States in the late 1800s and spread across the country as people moved from the east coast further west. The style was popular in Wisconsin between 1880 and 1910.¹⁰ Queen Anne architecture was a stark contrast to the restrained vernacular architecture that dominated the Wisconsin landscape during the early and mid-1800s. Hallmarks of Queen Anne Free Classic architecture include irregular massing, asymmetrical façades with wraparound porches, varying surface textures, cornice line dentils, modillions, and cutaway bay windows.¹¹ Examples of Queen Anne details featured on the Rietz House include wood shingles in the gable ends, prominent front-facing gable, cutaway bay, and wraparound porch.

⁸ Research did not reveal where Charles and his family lived prior to construction of the house at W6582 STH 144.

⁹ Carl Ziller, *History of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin*, vol. II (Chicago: S.J. Clark Publishing Co., 1912), 365. According to research, Arthur C. Seriling, a Silver Creek resident, took over management of the distillery after Rietz's death. It is unclear whether Seriling continued working at the distillery until its closure.

¹⁰ Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (Madison, Wis.: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), 2–15.

¹¹ Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (Chicago: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000), 264.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4

Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
Silver Creek, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

Similar to the Queen Anne style, the Craftsman architectural style began in Europe and spread to the United States around the turn of the twentieth century. Influenced by the English Arts and Crafts movement, Craftsman architecture emphasized the use of natural materials to create a distinct design aesthetic.¹² The style gained popularity through its exposure in national magazines and pattern books and was made accessible to the general public via pre-cut lumber house packages.¹³ The Craftsman style was popular in Wisconsin between 1900 and 1920.¹⁴ The Rietz House was constructed using local raw materials such as fieldstone and wood, and displays other key characteristics of the Craftsman style, including wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafters, decorative brackets, a low-pitched porch roof supported by simple square columns resting on battered piers, and multi-light windows.

Leenhouts and Guthrie Architects

The firm of Leenhouts and Guthrie was commissioned to design the Rietz House. The Milwaukee-based firm was established in 1900 when Cornelius Leenhouts and Hugh Wilson Guthrie formed a partnership. Leenhouts was born in Milwaukee in 1865 and worked in Milwaukee as an apprentice for architects, such as Edward Townsend Mix and Company, in the mid-1880s. He worked under Louis Sullivan on the construction drawings for the Agriculture and Transportation buildings at the 1892 Columbian Exposition in Chicago.¹⁵ Eight years later he formed a partnership with the Scottish native Guthrie, who previously worked for several Milwaukee firms.¹⁶ The pair eventually became well-known architects and was responsible for the design of several residences, apartment buildings, churches, commercial and industrial buildings, and Masonic Temples throughout the state. The pair

¹² Wyatt, *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, 2–24.

¹³ Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (Chicago: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000), 454.

¹⁴ Wyatt, *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, 2–24.

¹⁵ National Register of Historic Places, Masonic Temple, Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin, National Register #85002330, 8–2.

¹⁶ *History of Milwaukee City and County*, vol. III (Chicago & Milwaukee: S.J. Clark Publishing Co., 1922), 79.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 5

Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
Silver Creek, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

continued to work together until Leenhouts's death in 1935. Shortly thereafter, Guthrie left the practice to work for the Village of Fox Point. He died in 1945.¹⁷

Local Comparative

The Rietz House stands out in the community as one of the few historic homes, architect-designed in a recognized architectural style. It is one of the few unaltered residences dating to the early 1900s within the community. Many of the extant historic-age residences within the community have been significantly altered by replacement siding, large additions, and the removal of decorative details, or replaced by modern residences. The Rietz House has few alterations, embodies distinctive characteristics of the Craftsman and Queen Anne styles, and displays a high degree of exterior and interior integrity. As such, this home is notable as a house of architectural distinction.

Conclusion

The Charles T. and Gertrude Rietz House blends Craftsman with Queen Anne style features and is prominent in the community as a striking, architect-designed home with high integrity. Designed by Milwaukee-based architects Leenhouts and Guthrie, the Rietz House is a blend of two popular early-twentieth-century architectural styles: Queen Anne and Craftsman. The house displays character-defining features of both styles, including a dominant front-facing gable, wraparound porch, variety of surface textures, and cutaway bays combined with wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafters and decorative knee braces. As one of the few unaltered residences within the small community of Silver Creek dating to the early 1900s, the Rietz House stands out not only for its size and scale, but overall architectural interest. As a whole, the residence retains its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, as well as integrity. The period of significance coincides with the construction date of 1903.

¹⁷ North Point North Historic District, Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, *National Register of Historic Places*, n.d., National Register # 00000255, 8-14-8-16.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
Silver Creek, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 2

Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
Silver Creek, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
Silver Creek, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the point at the southeast corner where the east property line meets the back edge of the road pavement, continuing west along a straight line corresponding to the back edge of the road pavement for 126 feet to the west property line, at which point turning north and continuing along the west property line 150 feet, at which point turning east and continuing in a straight line 126 feet until reaching the east property line, at which point turning south and continuing along the east property line 150 feet to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification:

The historic boundary for the Rietz House was delineated to encompass the historic property and to provide an appropriate setting. The boundary was defined to exclude features that were not historically associated with the house and to limit extraneous land; therefore, the boundary does not coincide with the current legal parcel. Instead, the rear portion of the parcel, which creates an L-shape, was eliminated from the boundary. This rear portion has one modern pole building/garage that does not contribute to the historic residential setting of the house. A c.1945 garage located immediately west of the house is also excluded from the historic boundary. Although this building is not located on the current legal parcel, it was when it was constructed. The boundary excludes the garage because it does not date to the period of significance of the Rietz House and postdates occupancy of the home by the Rietz family by almost 30 years.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section photos Page 1

Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
Silver Creek, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

Name of Property:	Reitz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
City or Vicinity:	Random Lake
County:	Sheboygan
State:	Wisconsin
Name of Photographer:	Shannon Dolan
Date of Photographs:	November 2016
Location of Original Digital Files:	Wisconsin Historical Society, Division of Historic Preservation, Madison, WI

Photograph 1 of 17
Overview
View facing northwest

Photograph 2 of 17
Front (south) and side (east) façades
View facing northwest

Photograph 3 of 17
Front (south) façade
View facing north

Photograph 4 of 17
Detail of porch
View facing north

Photograph 5 of 17
Side (west) and rear (north) façades
View facing southeast

Photograph 6 of 17
Rear (north) and side (east) façades
View facing southwest

Photograph 7 of 17
Detail of gable ends

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section photos Page 2

Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
Silver Creek, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

Photograph 8 of 17
Foyer with pocket door

Photograph 9 of 17
Dining room looking west toward sitting room

Photograph 10 of 17
Hallway looking east toward the kitchen

Photograph 11 of 17
Bedroom on first story

Photograph 12 of 17
Bathroom on first story

Photograph 13 of 17
Staircase to second story

Photograph 14 of 17
Kitchen

Photograph 15 of 17
Pantry

Photograph 16 of 17
Radiator, detail view

Photograph 17 of 17
Detail of brass hardware

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 1

Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
Silver Creek, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

List of Figures

- 1 Floorplans
- 2 USGS Map

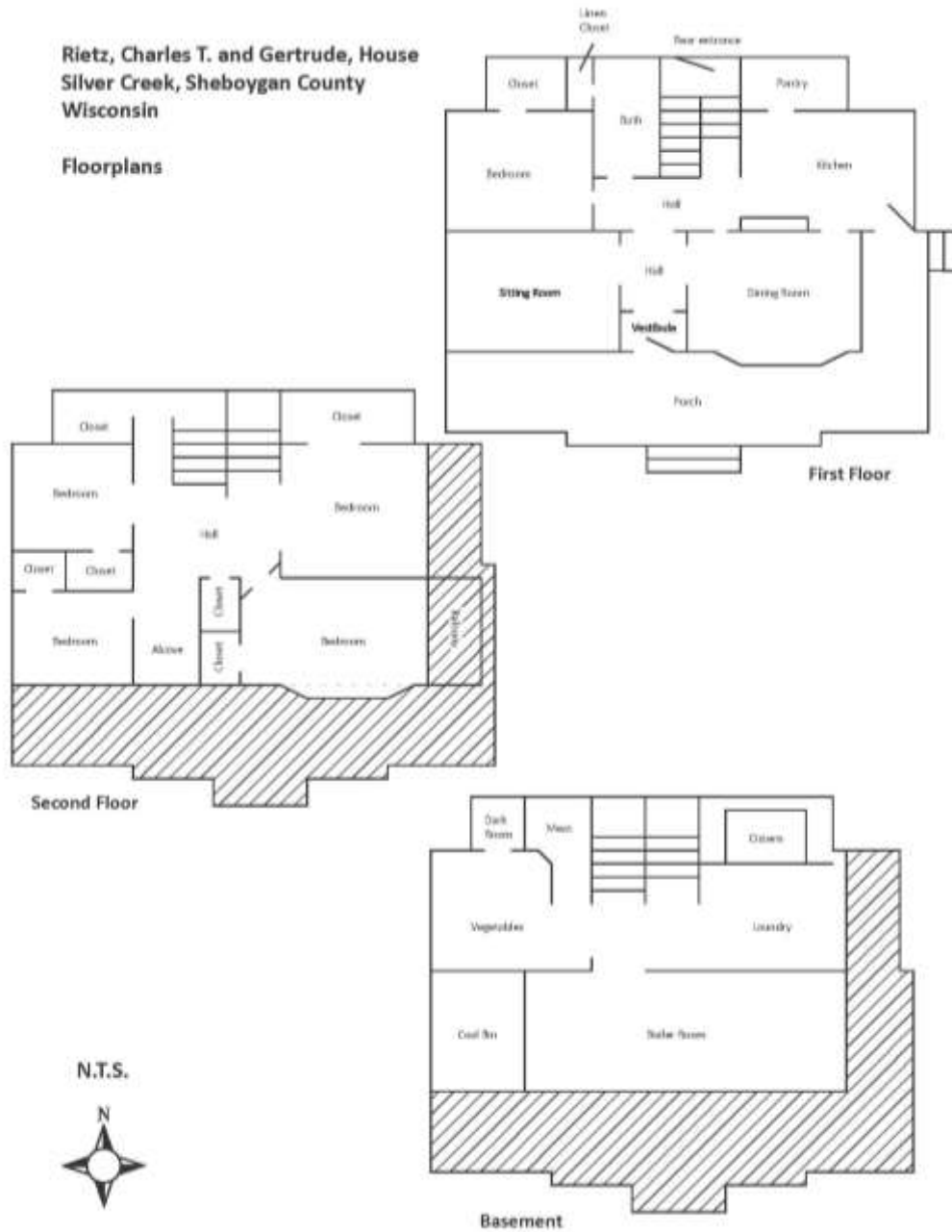
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 2

Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
Silver Creek, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

Figure 1: Floorplans – not to scale



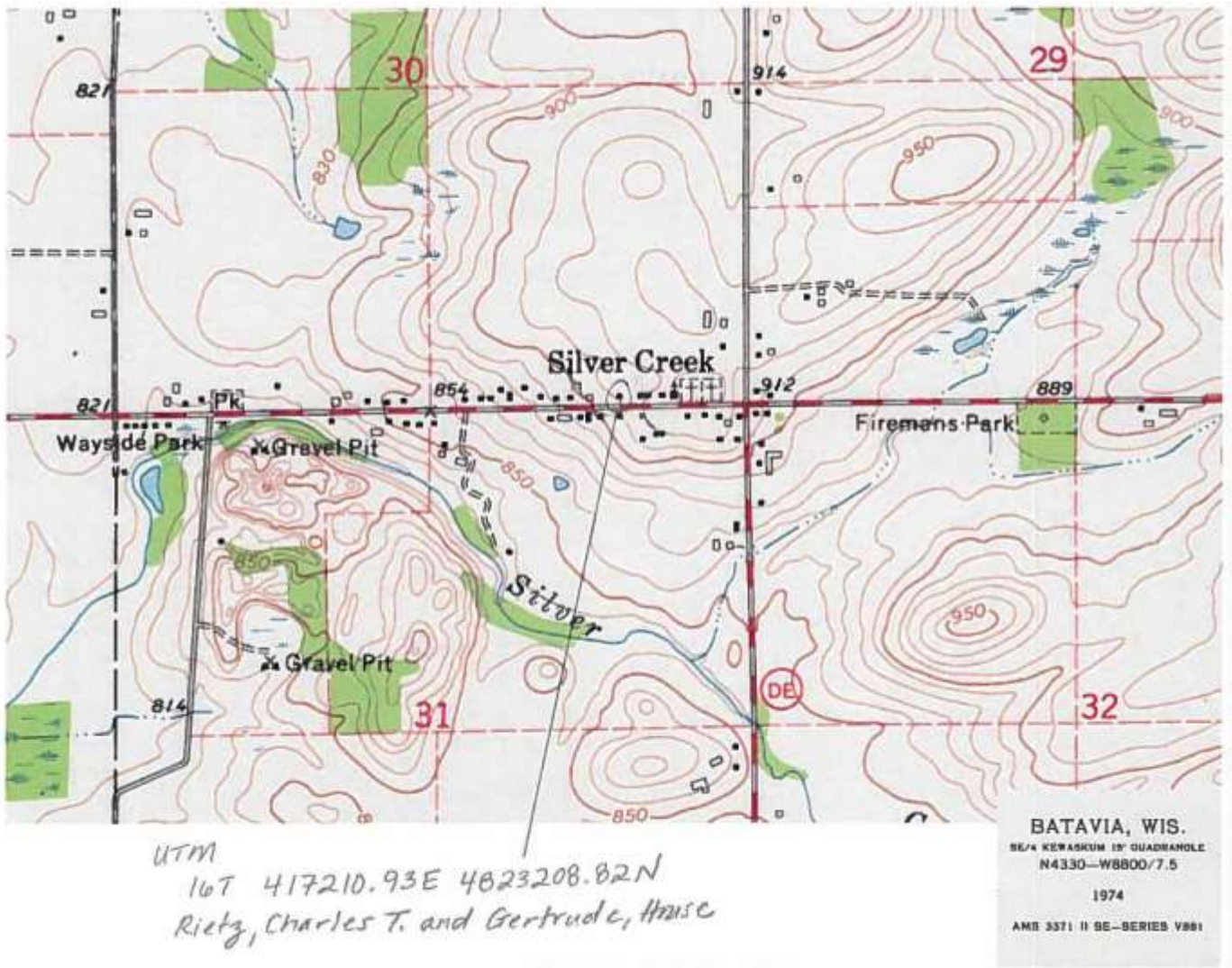
**United States Department of the Interior
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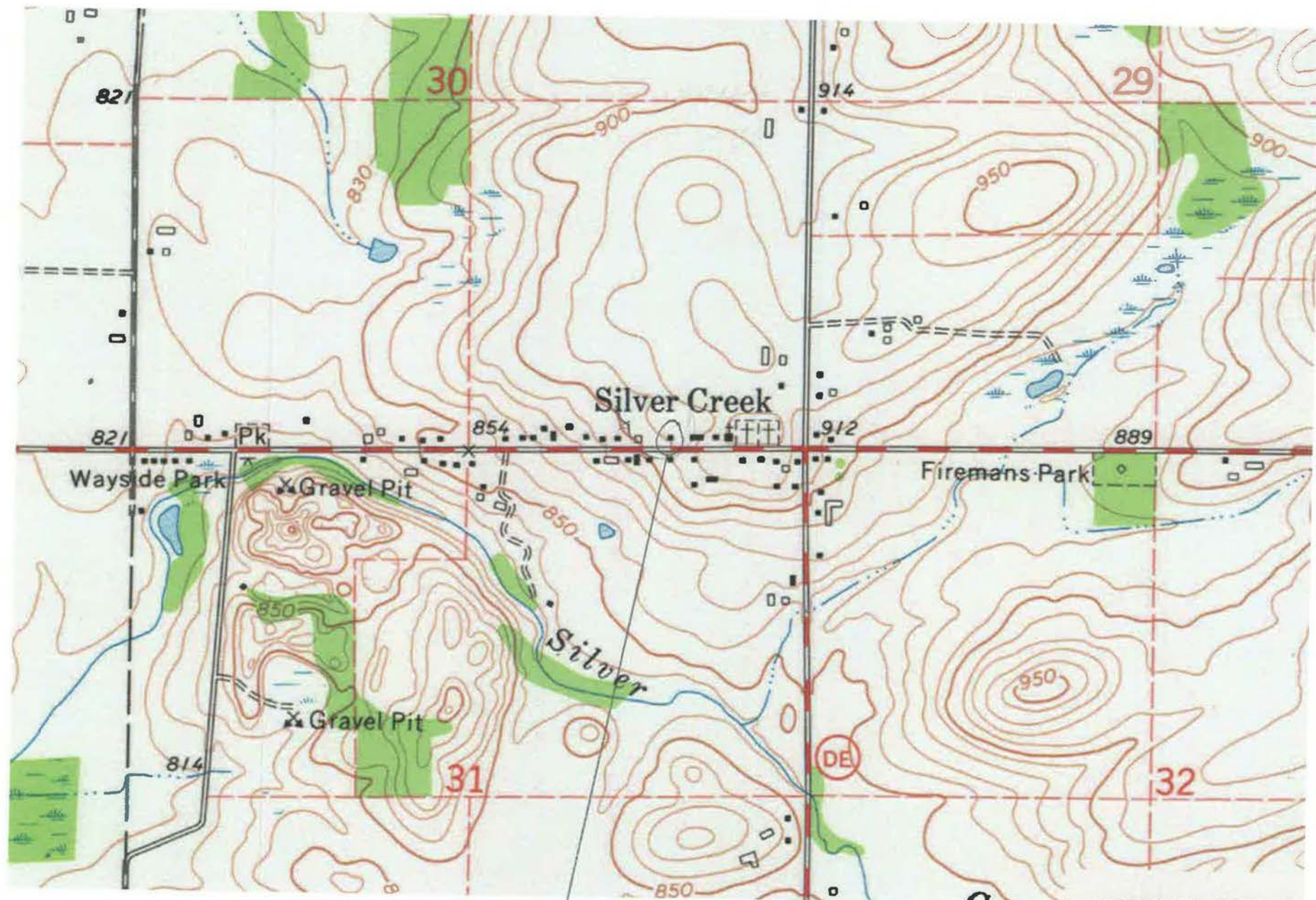
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section figures Page 3

Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
Silver Creek, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

Figure 2: USGS Map





UTM

16T 417210.93E 4823208.82N
 Rietz, Charles T. and Gertrude, House
 Silver Creek, Sheboygan County

BATAVIA, WIS.
 SE/4 KEWASKUM 15' QUADRANGLE
 N4330-W8800/7.5
 1974
 AMS 3371 II SE-SERIES V861









W6582













DRESSING ROOM















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 5/23/2018 Date of Pending List: 6/18/2018 Date of 16th Day: 7/3/2018 Date of 45th Day: 7/9/2018 Date of Weekly List: 7/6/2018

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Control Unit Discipline _____

Telephone _____ Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

February 15, 2018

Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board
Peggy Veregin
Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Ms. Veregin,

We are writing in support of the nomination of the Charles T. and Gertrude Rietz House to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places. The Rietz House is an important historical site in Sheboygan County, because it represents the heritage of Silver Creek and, more broadly, the State of Wisconsin. The Rietz family, who made their living in the distillery industry, were among the first to begin the rich tradition of alcohol manufacturing in Wisconsin.

Shortly after leaving Germany in 1860, Theodore and Christina Rietz relocated in Silver Creek, Wisconsin. While still in Germany, Theodore worked in one of many distilleries located in Saxony, becoming an expert in distilling which he capitalized on in Sheboygan County. Upon his move to America, Theodore helped found the Went and Pfile Distillery Company in Milwaukee, before moving to Silver Creek and beginning his own distilling company—one of five legal distilleries in Wisconsin in 1893. His son, Charles T. Rietz was raised in the business, becoming his father's assistant and later leading the company after his father retired in 1903. Under his leadership, the business was immensely productive and successful, expanding year after year. Additionally, Charles T. began a wholesale and retail liquor store, which thrived under his management. The Rietz house, built across the street from the distillery, housed many of the early operations of the business.

The distilling business has had a profound impact on both our community and the entire state. Many families in Wisconsin have built their wealth from owning, or working



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

in, alcohol manufacturing facilities; and Wisconsinites have long prided themselves on their role in the industry. The Rietz family represents the alcohol manufacturing industry; the heritage of Wisconsin; and the work ethic that has made this great state prosper; their home ought to be recognized for the legacy that has been left in Wisconsin due to their hard work and skill.

We appreciate the opportunity to state our support for the nomination of the Charles T. and Gertrude Rietz House to the Registers of Historic Places. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Representative Terry Katsma
26th Assembly District

Senator Devin LeMahieu
9th Senate District



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

TO: Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Peggy Veregin
National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination



The following materials are submitted on this Seventeenth day of May 2018, for the nomination of the Charles T. and Gertrude Rietz House to the National Register of Historic Places:

<u>1</u>	Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
<u>1</u>	CD with NRHP Nomination form PDF
<u> </u>	Multiple Property Nomination form
<u>17</u>	Photograph(s)
<u>1</u>	CD with image files
<u>1</u>	Map(s)
<u>2</u>	Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)
<u>1</u>	Piece(s) of correspondence
<u> </u>	Other:

COMMENTS:

<u> </u>	Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed
<u> </u>	This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
<u> </u>	The enclosed owner objection(s) do or do not constitute a majority of property owners
<u> </u>	Other: