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NPS Form 10-900  
(Expires 5/31/2012)  
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 Cornelius, Charles and Theresa, House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number	118 Clay Street	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Neillsville	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Clark	code 019
			zip code 54456

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets \_ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_ nationally \_ statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jim Darga  
Signature of certifying official/Title  
State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

Date 7/31/13

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

Cornelius, Charles and Theresa, House | Clark | 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  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of the Keeper

9.18.13  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Action

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes 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)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	3	Buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> site		structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
		3	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)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Domestic/Single Dwelling	Domestic/Single Dwelling
Domestic / Secondary Structure	Domestic / Secondary Structure

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne	foundation stone
	walls weatherboard
	roof asphalt
	other wood

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

Cornelius, Charles and Theresa, House  
Name of Property

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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

1909

### Significant Dates

1909

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Billmeyer, Anton F.

### 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

**Acreage of Property** less than one acre

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

1 15 690613.94 4936385.33  
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 Patricia Lacey  
organization  
street & number W5055 US HWY 10  
city or town Neillsville

state WI

date 9-5-2012  
telephone 715-743-4799  
zip code 54456

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Cornelius, Charles and Theresa, House  
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

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**Site Description**

The Charles and Theresa Cornelius House is located within the corporate limits of Neillsville in Clark County, Wisconsin. The house is situated on a large grass covered lot bordered by mature pine and hardwood trees. The lot rises above the surrounding terrain which places the three-story Free Classic Queen Anne style house in a position to tower over the other late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> residential houses in the area. A driveway enters the corner lot property from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (north) and travels in a circular format passing under the porte-cochere located on the south facing elevation and then exits on to Clay Street (east). The driveway also provides access to an "automobile house" and a secondary garage/ storage building located west and south of the rear of the house. Both of these smaller buildings mimic the architecture of the house and are therefore included in the count of contributing structures. All buildings date to 1909.

People walking on sidewalks, which are alongside both the north and east facing elevations of the house, can look upward and view the majestic outside corner polygonal tower, wrap around columned porch, porte-cochere and striking cross gabling of the largest Queen Anne style house in Neillsville.

**Exterior House Description**

The massive Free Classic Queen Anne style house measures approximately 46' wide by 79' deep. The house features a two and one-half story main block with four cross gables. Three of the four cross gables project outward from the main body of the house. In addition, a three-story polygonal tower projects from the northeast corner of the main body of the house. The main massing of the roof is hipped with cross gables on each façade. The roof is steeply pitched and covered with asphalt shingles. The house is asymmetrical and has an irregularity of plan and massing. Balloon framing techniques provided for the ease of changes in the horizontal continuity of the wall planes. Visually, the house appears to expand in all directions.

The structure rests on a stone foundation which rises 24" above ground level. The stone foundation is veneered with a thin layer of concrete that is troweled to resemble blocks. The foundation is capped with a 7 ¾" wide board which is topped with a projecting molding. The 3 ½" wide clapboard siding begins after the projecting molding. The walls are of wood clapboard and fishscale shingles.

**Main Facade**

The main east facing façade has a three-story projecting gable located on the south portion of the main body of the house. A three-story polygonal tower with a tent roof projects from the northeast corner of the main body of the house. A one-story wraparound porch begins at the east edge of the south facing projecting bay and porte-cochere and wraps around the front of the house and the polygonal tower. It continues along the north facing elevation, ending at the east edge of the north three-story projecting

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bay. The porch floor varies in width from 10' to 16'. The porch is quite large; the length across the front façade alone is 70'. Full height classical Ionic columns support the ceiling of the porch. The Ionic columns have volute capitols and smooth shafts, although some of the projecting volute forms are no longer extant. Large turned balusters and railings extend between the columns. The entablature above the porch is undecorated. A balustrade originally extended along the entire outside edge of the roof of the porch and the porte-cochere.

The porch is accessed by a five-step balustraded stairway which is centered on the entry door. Large rectangular newels with recessed panels and sloped caps appear at each side of the bottom of the stairway. A balustrade rises on each side of the stairs abutting an Ionic column located on either side of the top of the stairway. The original lattice porch skirting encloses the area between the porch floor and ground.

The southwest and southeast edges of the porte-cochere roof are supported by a single square post. Historic photos indicate that the posts are replacements for the original Ionic columns. The posts rest on a clapboard clad rectangular wall segment which is the same height as the porch floor. A balustrade identical to the wraparound one-story porch extends between the posts.

The first floor of the east facing elevation has an entry door located at the northeast corner of the main body of the house. A fixed Queen Anne window appears centered on the three story projecting gable south of the entry door. The upper 1/5 of the window is divided into six lights.

The second floor of the east facing projecting gable has two adjacent one-over-one double hung sashes which are centered above the first floor Queen Anne window. A wide horizontal molding is located above the second floor windows. This molding separates the clapboard siding of the house from the fish scale shingling contained within the gable end. The gable verge boards are unadorned. Two adjacent one-over-one double hung sashes are centered in the gable end above the second floor windows.

A single one-over-one double hung sash is located on the main body of the house above the entry door. An eyebrow roof dormer appears in the roof of the main body of the house north of the projecting gable directly above the single window. The window of the eyebrow dormer is divided into small squares.

The base of the polygonal tower appears on the porch of the first floor elevation as a rectangular angled projecting bay. A Queen Anne window is centered on the northeast facing wall of the projecting bay. The upper 1/5 of the window is divided into reticulated hexagonal panes. A single one-over-one double hung sash appears on the northwest and southeast wall of the projecting bay.

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The second floor of the tower takes on polygonal characteristics. A single one-over-one double hung sash appears on the three exposed angled sides of the second floor of the tower. The top of the second floor of the tower pierces the southeast corner of the roof. The third floor of the polygonal tower has five exposed sides. Each of the five sides contains a single one-over-one double hung sash. The surrounds around each window are quite wide and are of wood. The base of the third floor of the tower flares outward over the second floor windows. The third floor of the tower is clad with fish scale shingles. The flare of the eave of the tower's tent roof is supported by thirty curved brackets.

**Side (North) Facade**

The north facing elevation's cross gable contains an angled bay. The first floor has a Queen Anne window centered on the north wall of the bay. The upper 1/5 of the window is divided into small reticulated hexagons. A single one-over-one double hung sash is located on the northwest wall of the projecting cutaway bay. A door enters the house on the northeast wall of the projecting cutaway bay. The wraparound porch abuts the northeast wall of the projecting cutaway bay, sheltering the entry door.

The second floor fenestration of the projecting cutaway bay has a single one-over-one double hung sash centered above each first floor window and entry door. Due to the clipped angle of the cutaway bay, the gable end projects outward over the northwest and northeast window of the second floor window. The two intersecting planes at the base of the gable end are supported by long graceful brackets. A square drop appears under the lower outside corner of the brackets.

A horizontal molding is placed above the second floor windows. The molding separates the clapboard siding from the fish scale shingles contained within the gable end. The gable verge boards are unadorned. Two adjacent one-over-one double hung sashes are centered within the peak of the gable.

On the first floor and at the far west end of the north façade there is a one-story porch which projects 7' from the wall. Half of the porch is open and half is enclosed; a configuration original to the house and which provides a sheltered entry. A door enters the vestibule on the west facing wall. Two adjacent one-over-one double hung sashes appear on the main body of the house to the west of the entry door. An Ionic column on the northwest corner of the porch and an Ionic pilaster located on the main body of the house supports the porch roof. The entablature above the porch is unadorned. The roof edge is not balustraded. The original lattice porch skirting encloses the area between the porch floor and the ground.

A one-over-one double hung sash is located on the main body of the house on the first floor and to the east of the one-story porch. Two one-over-one double hung sashes appear on the second floor of the main body of the house. A hipped roof dormer is centered above and between the two second floor

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windows. The dormer contains two adjacent one-over-one double hung sashes. The dormer's gable end is clad with fish scale shingles. The side walls of the roof dormer are clad with clapboard siding.

**Side (South) Facade**

The south facing elevation contains a similar cross gable and angled bay to that found on the north facing elevation. The first floor has a Queen Anne window centered on the south wall of the projecting cutaway bay. The upper 1/5 of the window is divided into small reticulated hexagons. A single one-over-one double hung sash appears on the southwest wall of the projecting cutaway bay. A door enters the house on the southeast wall of the projecting cutaway bay. The wraparound porch abuts the southeast wall of the projecting cutaway bay, sheltering the entry door. A Queen Anne window is centered on the south facing wall of the main body of the house to the east of the three story projecting bay. The upper 1/5 of the window is divided into six lights.

The second floor fenestration of the projecting gable has a single one-over-one double hung sash centered above each first floor window and the entry door. Due to the angle of the cutaway bay, the gable end projects outward over the southwest and southeast second floor windows. The two intersecting planes at the base of the gable end are supported by long graceful brackets. A square drop appears under the lower outside corner of the brackets.

A horizontal molding above the second floor windows separates the clapboard siding from the fish scale shingles contained within the gable end. The gable verge boards are unadorned. Two adjacent one-over-one double hung sashes are centered within the peak of the gable.

To the west of the projecting cutaway bay, two adjacent one-over-one double hung sashes are centered on both the first and second floor. A hipped roof dormer is located on the roof of the main body of the house. The dormer contains two adjacent one-over-one double hung sashes. The dormer's gable end is clad with fish scale shingles. The side walls of the roof dormer are clad with clapboard siding.

**Rear (West) Facade**

The hipped roof of the rear facade of the main body of the house is clipped and then finished with a gable end. The west facing elevation does not have a projecting gable or bay. A one-story enclosed entry projects 11'6" from the main body of the house. A single one-over-one double hung sash appears on the main body of the house to the north of the enclosed entry porch. The north facing and south facing fenestration of the enclosed porch consists of a single one-over-one double hung window. The west facing elevation of the entry porch has a centered entry door and two adjacent one-over-one double hung sashes located to the north of the door. The roof of the enclosed entry porch retains its original balustrade. Large turned balusters and railings are placed between rectangular newels with recessed panels and sloped caps.



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Access to the one story enclosed entry (which is original to the house) is via an uncovered porch platform which is 6' in width and is accessed by stairs located on both the north and south elevation. A balustrade comprised of modern square balusters borders both stairways and the west edge of the platform. Crisscross lattice skirting encloses the area between the porch floor and the ground.

The second floor of the west facing façade contains a single door which accesses the upper porch. A one-over-one double hung sash is located directly adjacent to the door. The entry door and window are treated as a single unit with the surrounding trim boards. A single one-over-one double hung sash is located at the north edge of the second floor. A single one-over-one double hung sash is centered within the gable end. Unlike the gable ends of the three other facades, this one does not contain fish scale shingles.

With the exception of the fish scale shingles in the gable ends, the entire exterior of the house is clad with clapboard siding. Corner boards are found on all outside edges and the inside corners appear as pilasters. All of the windows and entry doors have identical detailing. The windows and doors are surrounded with 5" wide flat undecorated molding. The window and door lintels are capped with a projecting cornice.

The body of the house is painted cream. The window and door surrounds, corner boards and gable ends are painted a dark teal. Historic photographs indicate that shortly after its completion, the house was painted a uniform white. The roof is covered with brown asphalt shingles. Many of the roof ridges still have their original iron cresting and a few of the peak finials remain. The house has two brick chimneys. One chimney rises from the three and one half story roof ridge. The second chimney rises from the north facing roof of the three story rear facing gable.

### **Interior House Description**

The interior of the Charles and Theresa Cornelius House is handsomely detailed. Carpenters Ole C. Hansen, J. W. Lynch, John Carter, and William Free were responsible for the finish carpentry work completed within the home.<sup>1</sup>

The interior of the house has a free-flowing first floor plan, a center hall plan for the second floor and a center hall access to the third floor ballroom. The first floor of the home has six major spaces: a great hall, two parlors, dining room, kitchen, and servants quarters. Formal entry is attained through the main east facing entry which accesses the vestibule and great hall; a south entry which exits the wraparound porch and porte-cochere and enters the formal parlor contained within the south facing projecting cutaway bay; a north entry which exits the wraparound porch and enters the dining room contained within the north facing projecting cutaway bay.

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<sup>1</sup> Clark County Press, May 12, 2010 page 14, "Good Old Days" column.

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Servant entry was obtained both through the one-story north facing porch which enters the kitchen and pantry area, and the rear entry which accesses the servants quarters, lower full bathroom and rear stairs to the second floor.

When entering the house through the main entry, one first enters the vestibule. Small square white tiles cover the vestibule's floor. A black tile Greek key pattern borders the white tile. A fixed rectangular window appears on the south wall of the vestibule. The window overlooks the parlor. The interior door of the vestibule opens into the great hall. To the left (or south) of the vestibule the open entry into the parlor is flanked on each side by Ionic columns, similar to the porch columns but having a more detailed volute. Each column rests on a supporting platform. The panels on each side of the supporting platform are recessed. The two flanking Ionic columns support an undecorated entablature.

To the right of the vestibule (or north) is the base of the polygonal tower which appears within the house as a projecting bay. A window seat spans the northeast wall of the bay. The formal staircase begins at the north wall of the projecting bay. Seven stairs rise (west) to a large platform which has a seating area inset into the north wall. The sides of the seating area are clad with raised paneling. The staircase then turns to the left (or south) and ascends nine more stairs to the second floor. The lower exposed portion of the staircase is bordered by thin Colonial style turned balusters which support shaped handrails. The balusters are located between square newels. The newels have recessed panels and square newel caps. The base of the staircase is clad with raised paneling. Several steps descend to a small bathroom located under the staircase.

The opening for the staircase at the second floor level is much larger than the staircase itself. The same balusters and newels edge the stairwell opening from the double newel located at the top of the stairs to the east wall. Raised paneling appears beneath the second floor balustrade. The newel posts are capped with square caps both at the top of the newel and at the bottom of the newel which drops below the raised paneling.

The formal parlor contains an angled fireplace. The curved mantel is supported by two graceful cabriole legs. The legs finish with an animal style foot which rests on a round pedestal. The slip and the cheeks of the fireplace are clad with white rectangular ceramic tiles. The hearth is tiled with greenish-white rectangular ceramic tiles. The iron fireplace insert is square with an oval firebox. The surface of the insert is covered with raised leaves on long stems. The surface of the summer piece is covered with raised lily pads.

The overmantle consists of a flat bottomed oval mirror. The mirror has a wood surround. The base of the mirror has a rope design. Stylized animal feet rest on the mantel at the left and right of the rope base of the mirror. A leaf cluster appears at the top center of the mirror.

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The second floor has six major spaces: five bedrooms and a large sitting area located south of the main staircase opening. The northeast corner of the sitting area encompasses the polygonal tower. Two bathrooms are present upstairs. The dressing room west of the southwest bedroom has a ceiling height built in cupboard. The enclosed staircase at the rear of the second floor accesses the third floor.

The third floor is still a work in progress with some of the walls added by subsequent owners still remaining. The third floor is accessed by an enclosed stairwell located to the rear (west) of the third floor. A central hall similar to the second floor is located at the center of the house and is oriented from west to east. Several doors open to storage areas located under the eaves. A ballroom was originally located in the front (east) portion of the third floor. The ballroom extended into the polygonal tower and received light from the eyebrow roof dormer.<sup>2</sup> The window and door surrounds are identical to the remainder of the house.

The interior window and door surrounds are indential to the exterior surrounds and appear to be entirely intact. The baseboards are 12” high and are capped with a projecting molding. Wide crown molding appears at the top edge of the walls on the first floor. All of the woodwork, doors, built in cupboards, and fire place retain their original finishes. The original hardwood floors exist throughout the house.

**Automobile House – Contributing, 1909**

The *Republican and Press* in their May 20, 1909 paper stated that Charles Cornelius had begun excavation of his new house. In addition he was having an automobile house built which will be used as a warehouse during the house construction project.<sup>3</sup> Charles owned a 1908 Cadillac touring car which is featured on an early photograph of the house.<sup>4</sup>

The two-story automobile house is located to the south and west of the main house. It reflects the design of the main house but on a smaller scale. The structure was built in conjunction with the house and appears on early photographs. It is rectangular in plan and is 30’ wide by 22’-5” deep. A steeply pitched hipped roof is intersected by four cross gables. A horizontal molding separates the clapboard siding from the fish-scale shingling contained within the gabled ends.

The north facing entry façade has a two-story centered projecting bay. Currently, the first floor of the structure has three door openings, each of which contains an 8’ wide modern, one-car overhead garage

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<sup>2</sup> Please refer to the third floor drawing. The walls that are present at this time have been drawn in. The dotted line refers to the where the ballroom was located.

<sup>3</sup> Republican and Press, May 20, 1909

<sup>4</sup> Clark County Press, August 20, 2003, page 16, “Good Old Days” column

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door. Each garage door has three lights above solid panels. One garage door entry is centered on the projecting bay and one garage door entry appears on the main wall of the automobile house at each side of the center garage door. Originally, only the center projecting bay contained a full height entry garage door. A door was located on the main body of the automobile house to the east of the full height garage door and a window was located west of the full height garage door. The window and door in the side bays have been replaced by a one car full height overhead garage door. The original entry doors on the projecting bay have also been replaced by a one car overhead garage door. Two adjacent one-over-one double hung sashes are located over the center vehicle door. These windows break the plane of the gable and are centered within the projecting gable end. The remaining wall area of the second floor has no openings.

The east facing facade has a small square window located on the south portion of the first floor and a single one-over-one double hung sash located on the north portion of the first floor. The second floor fenestration consists of a single one-over-one double hung sash which breaks the plane of the gable and is centered within the gable end.

The west facing facade has a single one-over-one double hung sash centered on the first floor fenestration. The second floor fenestration consists of a single one-over-one double hung sash centered over the first floor window. The second floor window breaks the plane of the gable and is centered within the gable end.

The rear south facing facade has only a single one-over-one double hung sash located beneath and to the west of the gable end.

The building rests on a concrete slab. All of the windows, corner boards and original garage door openings have detailing identical to the main house. The window and doors are surrounded with flat wide undecorated molding. The window and garage door lintels are capped with a projecting cornice. The roof is clad with brown asphalt shingles. The automobile house is painted in the same fashion as the main house. Historic photographs indicate that the automobile house originally had the same cresting as the main house, but this feature is no longer extant.

**Garage/ Storage Building Description – Contributing**

The small, one-story front gabled garage is located west of the main house. It also mimics features of the main house only on a smaller scale and not as fully as the automobile house. The structure was built in conjunction with the house and appears on early photographs. The garage is rectangular in plan and is 16'-7" wide by 24'-4" deep. A steeply pitched gable roof contains two cross gables on the side elevations. The gable ends are clad with the same fish-scale shingling as the main house.

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The east facing main façade contains a one-car garage door and an entry door located north of the garage door. The south facing fenestration consists of three single one-over-one double hung windows evenly spaced on the wall beneath the cross gable. The west facing fenestration consists of one small square window centered on the wall beneath the gable end. The north facing elevation has two single one-over-one double hung windows centered on the wall beneath the cross gable. A brick chimney rises from the roof of the garage west of the north facing cross gable.

The building rests on a concrete slab. All of the window, door, corner boards, and the garage door opening detailing matches that of the main house. The window and doors are surrounded with flat wide undecorated molding. The window and garage door lintels are capped with a projecting cornice. The roof is clad with brown asphalt shingles. The garage is painted in the same fashion as the house.

**Integrity and Alterations**

The Charles and Theresa Cornelius house is marked by a high degree of historic integrity and has experienced only minor exterior alterations over time. The interior of the house maintains all of its original woodwork and floors, all of which retain their original finish.

Most changes have occurred on the exterior and most appear to be due to deterioration of original features. In most cases, these features could be replicated using historic photographs or by matching extant elements. The two columns located on the northwest corner of the first floor wrap-around porch were replaced by simple square posts. And, the two columns which support the outside edge of the porte-cochere were replaced with simple square posts. The balustrade which followed the outside edge of the porch roof and the porte-cochere was removed. The north facing projecting one-story porch deck extension has been shortened. It is now even with the original porch column and pilaster. The stairs to the porch have been removed as well as the stair newels and stair and porch balustrades. The rear porch deck originally had access stairs only on the south edge and did not have any balustrade. Currently stairs access both the north and south porch edges and a modern balustrade edges the stairs and porch floor. While these alterations reflect changes to the original appearance, they are minimal given the scale of the house and do not affect our ability to evaluate the architectural significance of the property.

Both the automobile house and the garage remain in amazingly original condition. As noted above, the changes that were made to the automobile house were made on the first floor of the north facing entry elevation by providing additional garage doors. The original appearance could be replicated using historic photographs.

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Cornelius, Charles and Theresa, House  
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**Significance**

The Charles and Theresa Cornelius House is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for local significance under criterion C. It is architecturally significant as an excellent example of the Queen Anne Free Classic style. Virginia and Lee McAlester in A Field Guide for American Homes, state that only 35% of Queen Anne houses use classical columns that are found in the Free Classic variant rather than turned porch posts, spindling and lacy spandrels.<sup>5</sup> Built in 1909, fairly late in the Queen Anne era, architect Anton F. Billmeyer utilized classical columns indicative of the new interest in elements of classical vocabulary.<sup>6</sup> The Cornelius House is the largest and perhaps the finest example of Queen Anne architecture in Neillsville. Charles Cornelius's biography in the 1918 History of Clark County, describes the house as being "finished in the Colonial Revival style."<sup>7</sup> The period of significance corresponds with the date of construction of the house and its outbuildings.

The overall effect of complexity and irregularity distinguishes the Queen Anne from all preceding American styles. Its influence on American architecture survived well into the first decade of the twentieth century. However, the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Queen Anne became more restrained and the style became more rectilinear in shape, and adapted decorative elements based on classical precedents.<sup>8</sup>

**History of the Queen Anne style of Architecture**

The Queen Anne style, often referred to as Neo-Jacobean or Free Classic in England, was initiated by British architect Richard Norman Shaw (1831 – 1912). Shaw believed that architecture should be viewed as an art form. This philosophy was reflected in his house designs which evoked the return to the domestic architecture of some two hundred years earlier. His country houses were free from the Neo-Gothic designs popular in England in mid to late 1800s, drawing on an eclectic combination of classical, Tudor and Flemish architecture. He revived the use of projecting gables, massive chimneys and half timbering, which produced a picturesque effect.<sup>9</sup>

The Queen Anne received its first major exposure in America at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The fair was a celebration of the centennial signing of the Declaration of

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<sup>5</sup> Virginia & Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1997), pages 262-287

<sup>6</sup> Virginia & Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1997), pages 262 - 287

<sup>7</sup> Franklyn Curtiss Wedge, History of Clark County, (H. C. Cooper Jr. & Co., 1918), pages 180-182

<sup>8</sup> Rebecca Bernstein, Neillsville Architectural Survey 2003-2004, (Wisconsin Historical Society, 2004), pages 29-30

<sup>9</sup> Richard Norman Shaw (1831-1865), Online Encyclopedia Online, 1911 Encyclopedia Britannica Vol. V24, page 814, [http://encyclopedia.jrank.org/SHA\\_SIV/SHAW\\_RICHARD\\_NORMAN\\_1831\\_HTML](http://encyclopedia.jrank.org/SHA_SIV/SHAW_RICHARD_NORMAN_1831_HTML), accessed August 2012

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Independence and was the first World's Fair held in the United States. The British government constructed several buildings in the Queen Anne style at the fair.<sup>10</sup>

Queen Anne architecture dominated domestic building in the United States during the period 1880 – 1910. The industrial revolution was beginning and America was caught up in the excitement of new technologies. The Queen Anne quickly spread throughout America through magazines such as “The American Architect and Building News” which reproduced Queen Anne designs.<sup>11</sup>

The first Queen Anne constructed in the United States was the Watts-Sherman house designed by Henry Hobson Richardson (1838 – 1886) and built in Newport, Rhode Island in 1874. Richardson's Sherman House was a large two-and one-half story house with a rectangular but somewhat irregular plan. Asymmetrical in composition, the exterior of the house was faced with stone, half-timbering and shingles.<sup>12</sup>

The creation of balloon framing, whereby the framework of a house could be made out of uniform lumber, furthered the popularity of the Queen Anne. The framing system was comprised of inexpensive two-by-four-inch boards, combined as upright studs and cross-members that were held together by cheap mass produced nails. This technique replaced the traditional hewn timber construction and simplified the construction of such architectural features as overhangs, bay windows and towers.<sup>13</sup>

By 1883, advances had been made in the manufacturing of glass. Windows were no longer an extravagance. Queen Anne architects utilized large single fixed-pane windows, multiple one-over-one windows and in some instances stained glass windows to admit massive amounts of light to the interior of the structure.<sup>14</sup>

The Queen Anne is usually asymmetrical in plan and elevation, two-and-one-half to three stories in height, with irregular rooflines and steeply pitched gables. A dominant front gable is often present. Many include a tower and a porch that covers all or part of the front façade, including the front entry. Some have sweeping porches which extend to additional elevations of the house. Additional elements may include cross gabling, polygonal turrets, eyebrow dormers, and gable on hip dormers. A variety of surface textures are created through shingling, vertical and horizontal boards which divide the

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<sup>10</sup> Rachel Carley, The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture (Henry Holt & Co., New York, 1994), page 154

<sup>11</sup> Virginia & Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1997), page 268

<sup>12</sup> Jeffrey Karl Ochsner, H. H. Richardson Complete Architectural Works, (M.I.T. Press, 1981), page 245

<sup>13</sup> <http://buffaloah.com/a/DCTNRY/vocab.html>, Illustrated Architectural Dictionary, balloon framing, accessed August 2012

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.richmondhistory.org/queenanne.html>, “About Queen Anne Victorian Homes” The Richmond Hill Historical Society, page 1-2

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clapboard surfaces, and wall and roof projections.<sup>15</sup> The style was popular in Wisconsin from 1880 to 1910 and the state's examples feature the elements of the national style.

The influence of the Queen Anne survived into the first decade of the twentieth century. The earlier Queen Anne projected exuberance through decorative elements including spindle work, elaborate brackets, and lacy spandrels. In many instances these decorations were made locally. In other areas, factory-made precut architectural elements were shuttled across the country on the rapidly expanding train network. The later Queen Anne became more subdued and used more classically derived elements, as is represented in the Cornelius House.

### **History of Neillsville**

Neillsville is located in southern Clark County and is situated at the junction of the O'Neill Creek and the Black River. Clark County was created from territory taken from Jackson County by legislation which was approved on July 6, 1853.<sup>16</sup> The Black River runs north to south, within the county, dividing the county into two nearly equal parts. In the mid-1800s, abundant pine forests lined the Black River. The Black River became the perfect highway on which to float the harvested logs to the mills of Onalaska and La Crosse.

James and Henry O'Neill cut the first road into Clark County. Starting in Black River Falls in Jackson County, they traveled by oxen drawn wagon arriving in Neillsville in 1845. A cabin and then a saw mill were built and the first logging operation began.<sup>17</sup> Over the next forty years logging concerns would cut 8 billion board feet from Clark County. This harvest was valued at \$12.00 per thousand feet for a total of \$100,000,000.<sup>18</sup>

James O'Neill had cleared 50 acres of timber in the area of the junction of the O'Neill Creek and the Black River by 1850. He made the decision, in April of 1855, to appropriate four acres of that land for the first village in Clark County, which was named in his honor. He instructed surveyor Allan Boardman to plat the village into lots.<sup>19</sup> Neillsville was designated the county seat through a tumultuous election held in November of 1854.<sup>20</sup> The City of Neillsville was incorporated on March 28, 1882.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Virginia & Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1997, pages 262-299

<sup>16</sup> A. T. Andreas, *History of Northern Wisconsin*, (Western Historical Co., 1881), page 230

<sup>17</sup> Franklyn Curtis Wedge, *History of Clark County Wisconsin*, (H. C. Cooper, Jr. & Co., Chicago, 1918), page 37

<sup>18</sup> Ibid page 117

<sup>19</sup> Ibid page 628

<sup>20</sup> Bella French, *The American Sketch Book*, "A Glimpse of Neillsville", (The American Sketch Book Company Publisher, Green Bay, 1876) page 225

<sup>21</sup> Franklyn Curtis Wedge, *History of Clark County Wisconsin*, (H. C. Cooper, Jr. & Co., Chicago, 1918), page 631



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The surrounding pine forests continued to attract large logging concerns and the community expanded in size in support of that industry. The arrival of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minnesota & Omaha Railroad in 1887 signaled a guaranteed economic and population boom. A commercial district developed along Hewett Street (State Highway 73), Neillsville's main artery. Several substantial brick structures were built from 1872 to 1895 in Neillsville's commercial downtown.<sup>22</sup>

By the turn of the century, logging in southern Clark County was coming to an end. The Black River Improvement Company disbanded. The final blows came when the Hemlock Dam and the Dell's Dam were destroyed in the 1914 flood.<sup>23</sup> Logging continued in northern Clark County, but now the harvest was transported by rail not river.

Fortunately, the prospect of owning land brought many potential farmers to the area surrounding Neillsville to buy up the cutover land. Farms began to produce crops, meat and dairy products. Over the next ensuing decades, the area would thrive on milk production. A transition began in the early 1900s whereby businesses such as the Neillsville Milk Condensary, several cheese factories, the Neillsville Canning Factory, and the Neillsville Clark County Elevator were created to support the area's growing agricultural industry. Many of the same businesses that originally supported the logging industry were still needed to support a community devoted to agriculture. The 1906 Neillsville business directory showed a litany of small businesses. In many instances there were multiples of the same business (grocers, hotels, implements, dry goods, dressmakers, general merchants, shoe stores, restaurants, saloons, furniture, hardware, jewelers, and undertakers.)<sup>24</sup> Growth in population led to the construction of a new high school in 1906.<sup>25</sup>

Three banks had already been established in Neillsville: Clark County Bank of Neillsville (established in 1875 and closed in 1897), The Neillsville Bank (established in 1879, today known as Mid-Wisconsin Bank),<sup>26</sup> and the Commercial State Bank (established in 1898 and merged with the Neillsville Bank in December of 1931).<sup>27</sup>

In 1906, Richard Dewhurst completely rebuilt his Neillsville Bank. The new two-story bank building was clad with cut limestone. The entrance to the bank resembled a vault door. A limestone plaque that read "BANK" was centered over the door.

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<sup>22</sup> These buildings, from the alley south of 5<sup>th</sup> Street (both sides of the street) to 6<sup>th</sup> Street, were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1999.

<sup>23</sup> Clark County Press, June 1, 1994, "Good Old Days" column

<sup>24</sup> The Neillsville Times, January 4, 1906, 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue

<sup>25</sup> Franklin Curtiss Wedge, History of Clark County, (H. C. Cooper Jr. & Co., Chicago, 1918), pages 627 - 632

<sup>26</sup> Ibid, pages 149 - 152

<sup>27</sup> Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune, December 31, 1931

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In 1909, Charles Cornelius built his two-story First National Bank building out of Bedford limestone. A rivalry had begun between these Neillsville banks which would last for decades.

Charles Cornelius was born January 4, 1854 on a farm in Grandville Township, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin. From there the family moved to a farm on the banks of the Sheboygan River in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin. As a young man, he worked in a mercantile in Glenbeulah (Sheboygan County) selling sewing machines, pianos, and organs. In 1876, he walked from the rail hub of Marshfield, Wisconsin to Maple Works (now Granton) in Clark County, Wisconsin. In Granton he purchased the little Grange Store, which he developed into an agricultural machinery and implement dealership.<sup>28</sup> He carried stock valued at \$8,000 and did a yearly business of \$35,000.<sup>29</sup>

On September 9, 1886, Charles married Theresa Nitzche. They had one child, Lydia. In 1887, Charles expanded his business, opening an additional store in Neillsville. He rented a barn on what would become, years later, the site of his First National Bank of Neillsville. His Neillsville business became so prosperous that he sold his Granton business and moved his family to Neillsville.

In 1896, Charles was elected the Register of Deeds for Clark County. He was re-elected three times. In 1904 he resigned as Register of Deeds to devote more time to his timber ventures. Also in 1904, Charles became the vice-president of the Commercial State Bank of Neillsville.<sup>30</sup> He retained that position for four years. During the same period Charles was acquiring extensive timber holdings in Oregon and in Richland Parish, Louisiana. Charles took a sabbatical in 1907 and moved his family to Boston, so that his daughter Lydia could pursue an education in music. While in Boston, Charles took advantage of the educational opportunities and enrolled in Boston Commercial Business College, taking courses in commerce and finance.

Upon returning to Neillsville, Charles purchased the site of his former place of business from P. J. Walk in February of 1909 (southwest corner of Fifth and Hewett).<sup>31</sup> Builder George W. Trogner began the construction of the first portion of his bank building in 1909. Two years later, he erected a duplicate building to the south of his first building doubling its size.<sup>32</sup> The bank building's exterior was buff Bedford limestone<sup>33</sup> and the interior of the building was appointed with marble and mahogany detailing. A large clock placed on the corner of the building furnished the time for the

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<sup>28</sup> Ibid, pages 180-182

<sup>29</sup> A. T. Andreas, History of Northern Wisconsin, (Western Historical Co., 1881), page 244

<sup>30</sup> Franklyn Curtis Wedge, History of Clark County, (H. C. Cooper Jr. & Co., Chicago, 1918), page 150

<sup>31</sup> Republican & Press, February 4, 1909.

<sup>32</sup> Franklyn Curtiss Wedge, History of Clark County, (H. C. Cooper Jr. & Co. Chicago, 1918), pages 180-182.

<sup>33</sup> Republican & Press, August 12, 1909.

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public and chimed every quarter hour. The bank contained fire and burglar-proof vaults. The First National Bank opened its doors on January 17, 1910 with Charles Cornelius as its president. The bank carried \$500,000 in resources and had 113 stockholders.

At the same time that he was building his bank (1909), Charles purchased a large parcel of land outside the city boundaries. This parcel included all of Lot 1 of Bacon's Subdivision. The lot was bordered on the east by Clay Street, on the west by Oak Street, and on the north by 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. The southern boundary of Lot 1 abutted other lots owned by Bacon.

Besides building a large home, Charles Cornelius established a park encompassing the entire parcel. The park exhibited expansive lawns, flower gardens, hedges, walkways, sitting areas and a fountain. A variety of tree species were planted throughout the park.<sup>34</sup>

The current .52 acre corner lot is all that remains of the original parcel. Sometime after the death of Charles Cornelius in December of 1918, the parcel was divided into smaller lots and sold for additional home construction. Several homes now face both Clay Street and Oak Street creating a quiet residential neighborhood.

After purchasing Lot 1, Charles procured architect Anton F. Billmeyer from Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin to design a large home for his family.<sup>35</sup> Although the house was begun in April of 1909,<sup>36</sup> it was not completed until May of 1910.<sup>37</sup>

Charles Cornelius helped to organize and was president of the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Greenwood, and assisted in the organization of the Farmers Exchange Bank of Thorp. He was also the vice-president of the Continental State Bank of Minneapolis and sat on the Board of Directors of the Exchange State Bank of South St. Paul. He was a stockholder in the Mercantile State Bank of Minneapolis and the Peoples Bank of St. Paul.

Charles helped to organize the Neillsville Farmers Co-operative Elevator & Lumber Co., the Neillsville Canning Factory and the Neillsville Oatman Condensery. For several years, Charles served on the Neillsville City Council.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Franklyn Curtiss Wedge, History of Clark County Wisconsin, (H. C. Cooper Jr. & Co., Chicago, 1918), pages 180-182.

<sup>35</sup> Clark County Press, July 28, 1999, "Good Old Days" column, page 7.

<sup>36</sup> Republican and Press, May 20, 1909.

<sup>37</sup> Clark County Press, May 12, 2010, "Good Old Days" column, page 14.

<sup>38</sup> Franklyn Curtiss Wedge, History of Clark County, H. C. Cooper Jr. & Co., Chicago, 1918, pages 180-182.

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Charles Cornelius suddenly became ill in December of 1918. He was rushed to St. Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield Wisconsin.<sup>39</sup> Charles died at the hospital on December 10, 1918. He was 63 years of age.<sup>40</sup>

The Charles and Theresa Cornelius House was sold to George H. Lowe in 1927. Lowe established a funeral home in the building.<sup>41</sup> In 1948, the building was sold to Charles Hubing who reconfigured the building into eight apartments.<sup>42</sup> Fortunately, Hubing mainly locked interior doors to create the apartments. The few walls that were added did not compromise any of the original wood work.

In 2011, Jan Drangsholt bought the house. Kai and Cindy Moseid are living in the house and they have been working to restore the house to its original grandeur. They have removed all of the non-original walls on the first and second floors and have again made the home a one family dwelling. They have begun the process of restoring the third floor and reclaiming the ballroom.

**Architect Anton F. Billmeyer**

Anton F. Billmeyer was born in Grand Rapids (now known as Wisconsin Rapids) on February 22, 1873. His parents, Anton and Ludwine, came from Germany in 1868 on the steamship "Saxonia", landing in New York. They arrived in Grand Rapids in 1869.

Anton attended the Howe School in Wisconsin Rapids and subsequently learned the carpentry trade. In 1889, he worked as a carpenter in Milwaukee and in the evenings he attended night classes. The teacher of the class, a civil engineer, taught Anton technical drawing, or drafting. In 1895, Anton returned to Wisconsin Rapids where he opened a contractor and building business known as A.F. Billmeyer Contractor. He also offered his services as an architect.

Anton married Mary Jeffrey on November 28, 1900. They had six children. Carl J. Billmeyer was born November 29, 1901. Carl attended the Carnegie Institute in Pennsylvania and later joined his father's architectural firm.<sup>43</sup> Carl continued the company after his father's death in 1927.

Anton F. Billmeyer was a prolific architect who is credited with designing the Issac P. Witter house located at 540 Third Street Wisconsin, Rapids (1907); Lowell School Building, Wisconsin Rapids; the clubhouse of the Bull's Eye Country Club, Wisconsin Rapids; St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church

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<sup>39</sup> Marshfield Herald, December 14, 1918, Charles Cornelius Obituary.

<sup>40</sup> Republican & Press, December 19, 1918, Charles Cornelius Obituary.

<sup>41</sup> Clark County Press, November 4, 1993, page 28, "Good Old Days" column.

<sup>42</sup> Clark County Press, March 21, 2012, page 11, "Good Old Days" column.

<sup>43</sup> George O. Jones, History of Wood County, (H. C. Cooper Jr. & Co., 1923), page 534

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Parochial School, Wilcox Building, Wisconsin Rapids; 15 bungalows for the Nekoosa-Edwards Company, Port Edwards; Dexterville School, Dr. O. N. Mortenen House, and the Otto R. Roenius House, Wisconsin Rapids; and the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Sigel, Wisconsin (1901).

Other buildings built by the Anton F. Billmeyer Construction Company but that currently cannot be credited to his architectural skills are the First National Bank (1907), Johnson and Hill Store, Citizens National Bank, Congregational Church, Elks Club House, and the Daly Music Company, all of which are located in Wisconsin Rapids.

**Architectural Significance**

The Charles and Theresa Cornelius House was built toward the end of a period of great expansion and prosperity in Neillsville's history. It is locally significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of a Queen Anne Free Classic style house. The building was recognized in the 2003-2004 Neillsville Architectural Survey as the largest and perhaps the finest example of Queen Anne architecture in Neillsville.

Architect Anton F. Billmeyer's design also demonstrates the emerging popularity of the Colonial Revival and of classically inspired styles which would come to dominate domestic building during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and which along with the Arts and Crafts Movement brought the Victorian era to a close. The house bridges the transitional phase from the Victorian era to the emerging architecture of the Colonial Revival style.

The house retains excellent integrity both on the interior and the exterior. Also, the two contributing buildings, the automobile house and the garage, retain excellent historic integrity.

The Cornelius house presents the irregularity of plan, asymmetrical massing, and variety of roof planes and wall projections which characterize the Queen Anne style. Although asymmetrical, the centered entry suggests a classical balance.<sup>44</sup> In addition, the house utilizes the elements of cross gabling, projecting and angled bays, corner boards, wraparound porch, a polygonal tower, and roofline dormers to provide changes in the horizontal continuity of the wall planes. The house seems to expand in every direction.

Texture is created by a variety of surfaces, including the horizontal clapboard siding and the fish-scale shingling of the imbricated gable ends. The extensive use of glass, including the Queen Anne

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<sup>44</sup> Virginia & Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American House, (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1997), page 279

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windows, bathes the interior with natural light. Additional texture is created by the multitude of rooflines that cast a changing shadow throughout the day.

The interior of the home also represents an expression of opulence, which would become minimized and controlled within the Colonial Revival and Arts and Crafts styles. The interior columns, extensively detailed main staircase, raised panel wainscoting, and elaborate fireplace surround with its suggested cabriole legs created an environment for Charles Cornelius to demonstrate his financial success to others. That aura would entice the other wealthy businessmen of Neillsville to invest their resources in Cornelius's First National Bank.

The resources contained within the nominated property convey the property's history, character and essence of the time. The Charles and Theresa Cornelius House retains its location, design, setting and significant architectural features which contribute to its eligibility.

**Preservation Activities**

In 2002, the City of Neillsville received a grant from the National Park Service to conduct an intensive survey of the city to identify what buildings and districts were considered to be potentially eligible for listing in the National Register. This property was identified in the survey as a potential candidate for National Register listing. In 2012, the city received a Certified Local Government grant, this time to prepare National Register nominations based on the results of the 2003-2004 survey.<sup>45</sup> The grant funded the preparation of this nomination, along with two others. The house has also been landmarked by the Neillsville Historic Preservation Commission.

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<sup>45</sup> Rebecca Bernstein, Neillsville Architectural Survey 2003-2004, (Wisconsin Historical Society, 2004)

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

Lots 5 & 7 BLK 1 Bacon's Subdivision, City of Neillsville.

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundaries correspond with the current legal description of the property.

The original Cornelius property was much larger. The historic boundary would have included all of Lot 1 of Bacon's Subdivision. The lot was bordered on the east by Clay Street, on the west by Oak Street, on the north by 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. The southern boundary would have abutted other lots owned by Bacon. The entire original parcel, except for the property immediately surrounding the house, has been sold off and subdivided for single family houses.

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Name of Property:	Cornelius, Charles and Theresa, House
City or Vicinity:	Neillsville
County:	Clark
Name of Photographer:	Patricia Lacey
Date of Photographs:	August 2012
Location of Original Digital Files:	W5055 US HWY 10 Neillsville, WI 54456
Number of Photographs:	13

Photo #1 of 13  
East facing elevation, camera facing west

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

Photo #2 of 13  
Northeast facing elevation, camera facing southwest

Photo #3 of 13  
Southeast facing elevation, camera facing northwest

Photo #4 of 13  
South facing elevation, camera facing north

Photo #5 of 13  
Rear west facing elevation, camera facing east

Photo # 6 of 13  
Automobile House north facing elevation, camera facing south\

Photo #7 of 13  
Garage, southeast facing elevation, camera facing northwest

Photo #8 of 13  
Main staircase, camera facing northwest

Photo #9 of 13  
Upper portion main staircase, camera facing southwest

Photo #10 of 13

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section Photos Page 2

Cornelius, Charles and Theresa, House  
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

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One of two Ionic columns which flank parlor entry, camera facing northeast

Photo #11 of 13  
Fireplace, mantel, overmantel, camera facing northwest

Photo #12 of 13  
Pocket doors (window and door surrounds are identical on both the interior and exterior), camera facing north.

Photo #13 of 13  
Built in stepback cupboard second floor, camera facing west

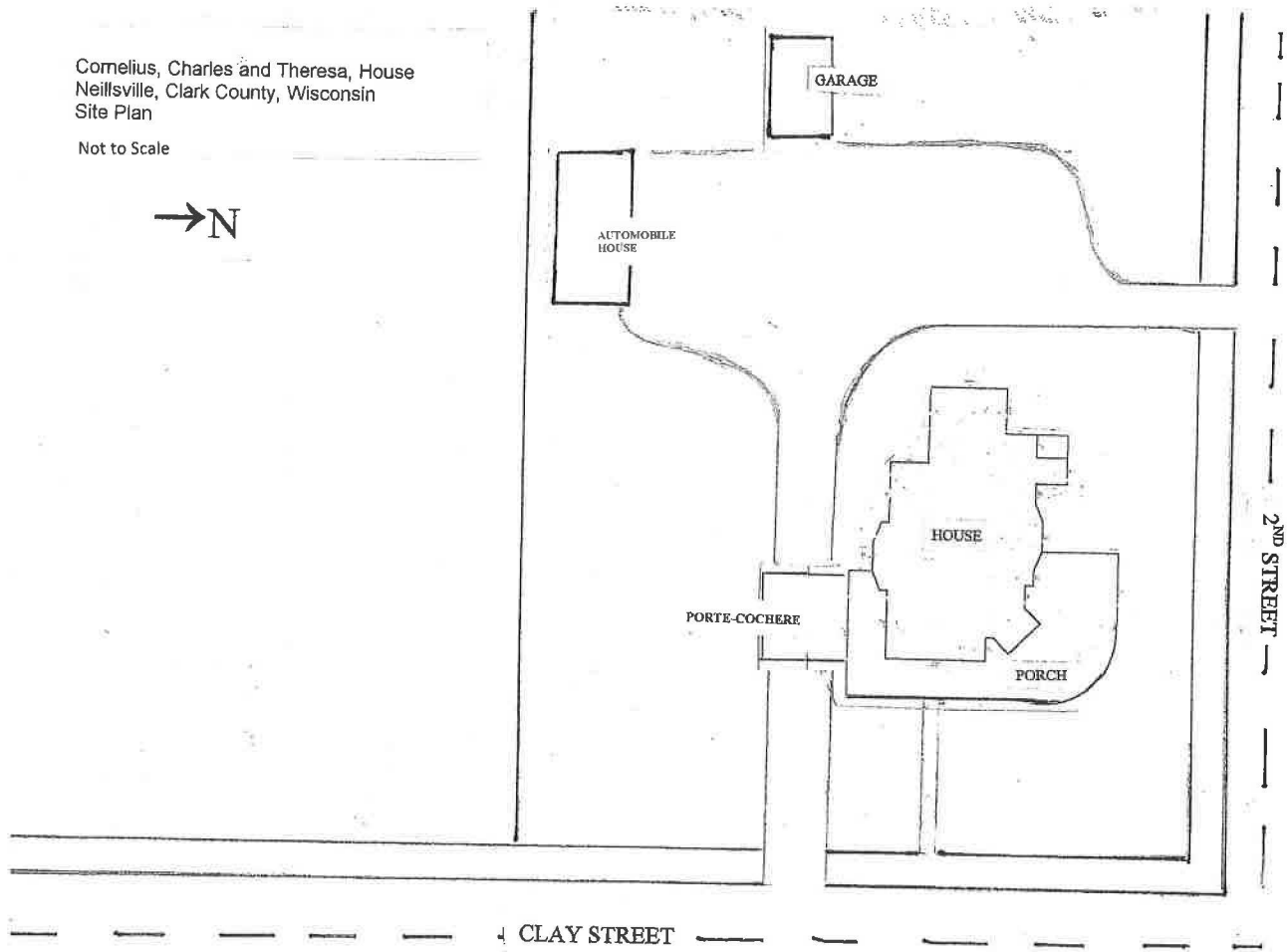
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section Figures Page 1

Cornelius, Charles and Theresa, House  
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

Cornelius, Charles and Theresa, House  
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin  
Site Plan  
Not to Scale



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

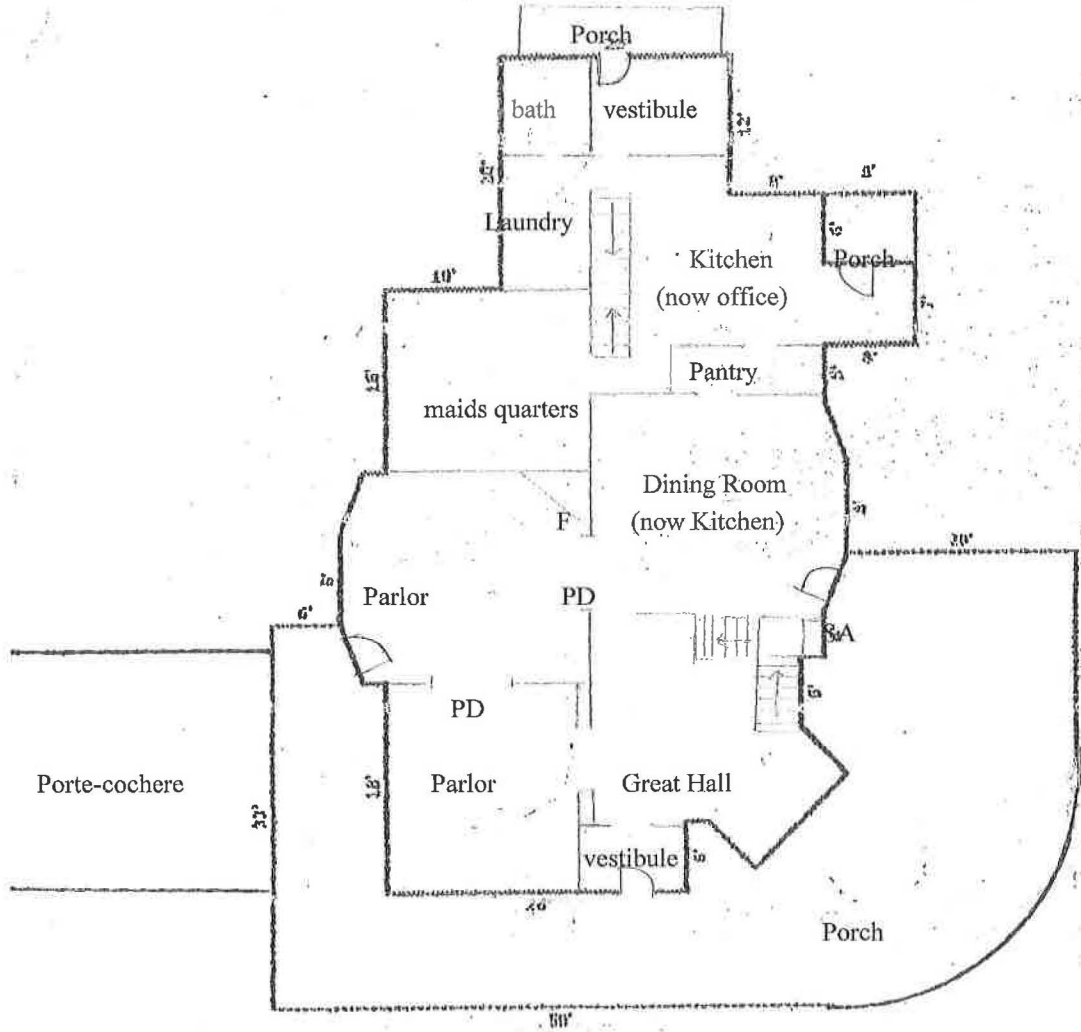
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Cornelius, Charles and Theresa, House  
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

Section figures Page 2

Cornelius, Charles and Theresa, House  
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin  
First Floor Plan  
Not to Scale

KEY  
F fireplace  
PD pocket door  
SA seating area



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

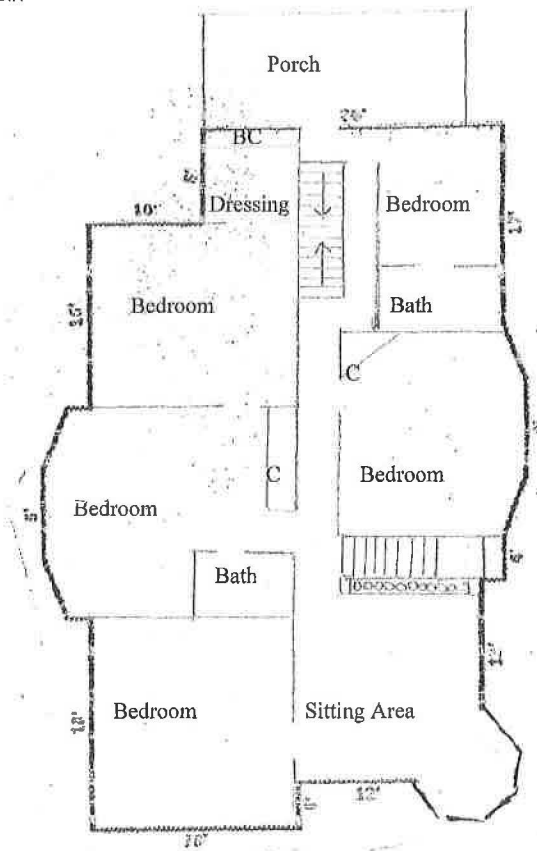
**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Cornelius, Charles and Theresa, House  
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

Section figures Page 3

Cornelius, Charles and Theresa, House  
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin  
Second Floor Plan

Not to Scale



KEY

BC Built in Cupboard

C Closet

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**National Park Service**

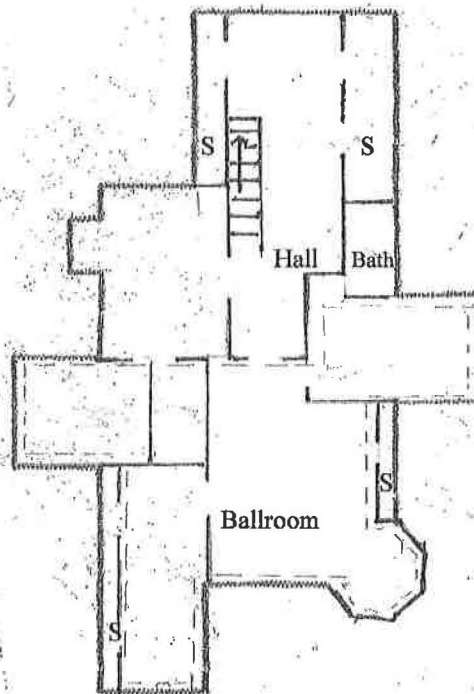
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section figures Page 4

Cornelius, Charles and Theresa, House  
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

Cornelius, Charles and Theresa, House  
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin  
Third Floor Plan (not restored)  
Not to Scale

KEY  
S Storage  
Dotted Line - Ballroom foot print



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Cornelius, Charles and Theresa, House  
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

Section figures Page 5

Charles and Theresa Cornelius House  
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin  
Photo circa 1910





**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section figures Page 6

Cornelius, Charles and Theresa, House  
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

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CHARLES CORNELIUS' RESIDENCE

Charles and Theresa Cornelius House  
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin  
Photo circa 1910

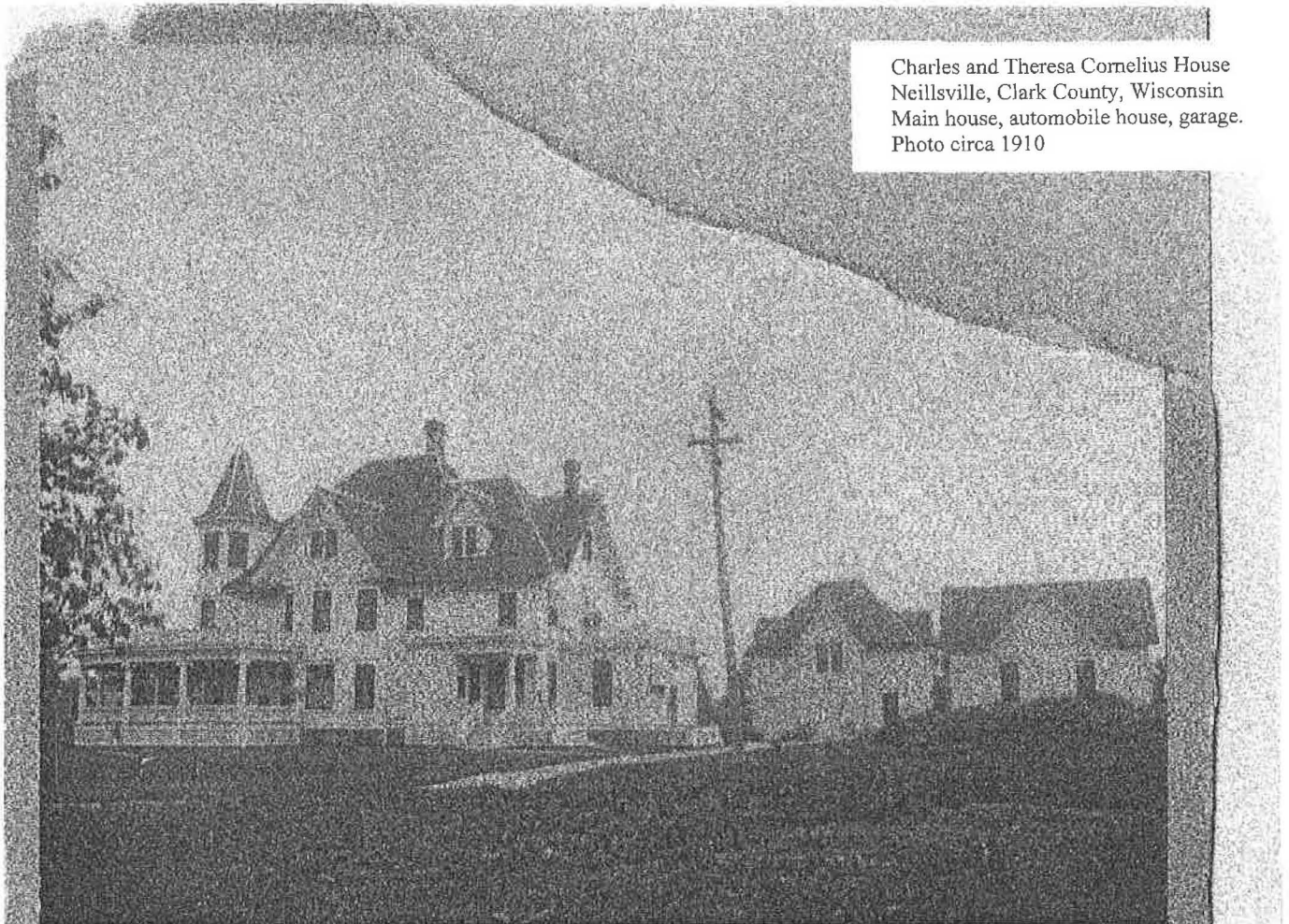
**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section figures Page 7

Cornelius, Charles and Theresa, House  
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

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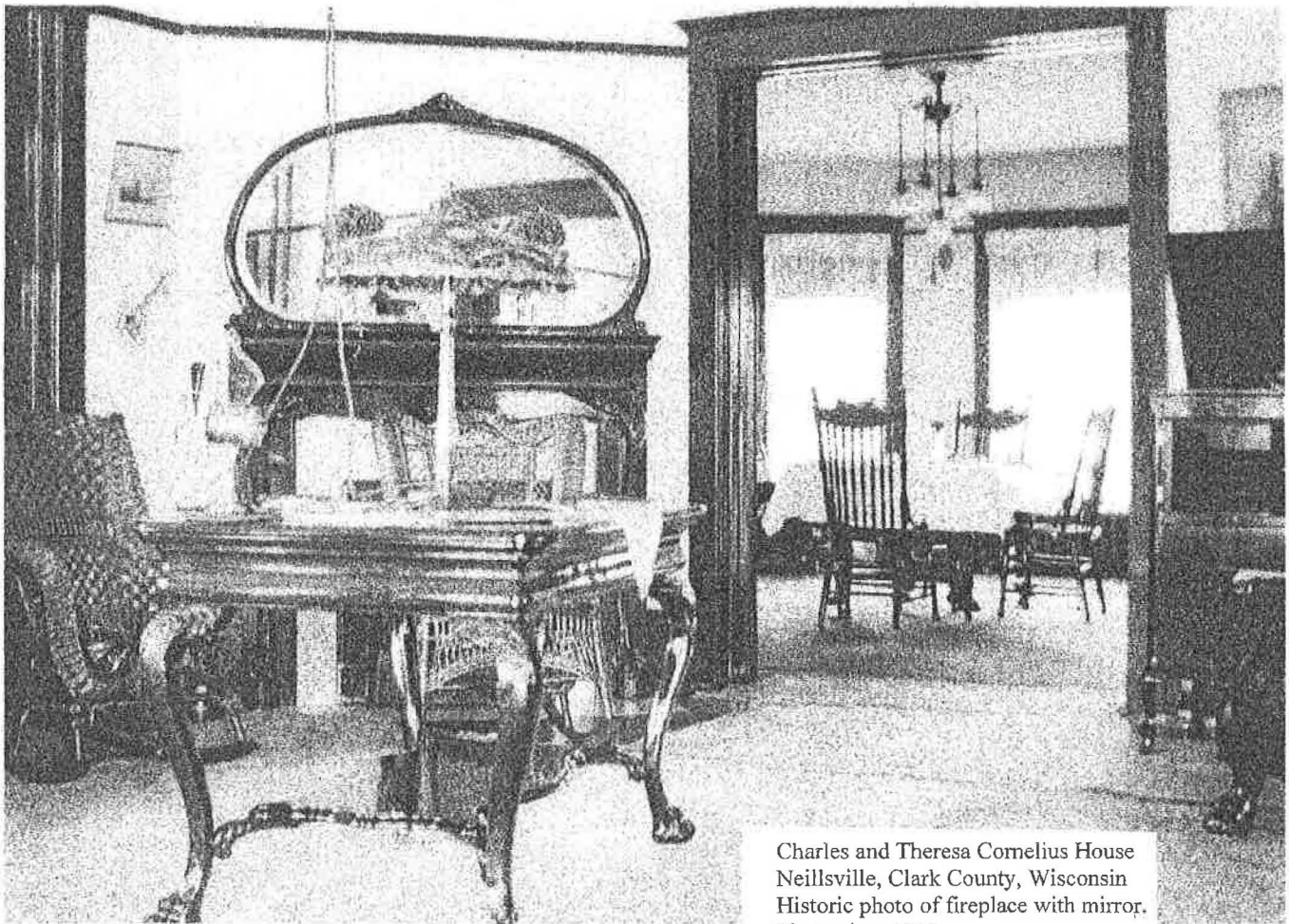
Charles and Theresa Cornelius House  
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin  
Main house, automobile house, garage.  
Photo circa 1910

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

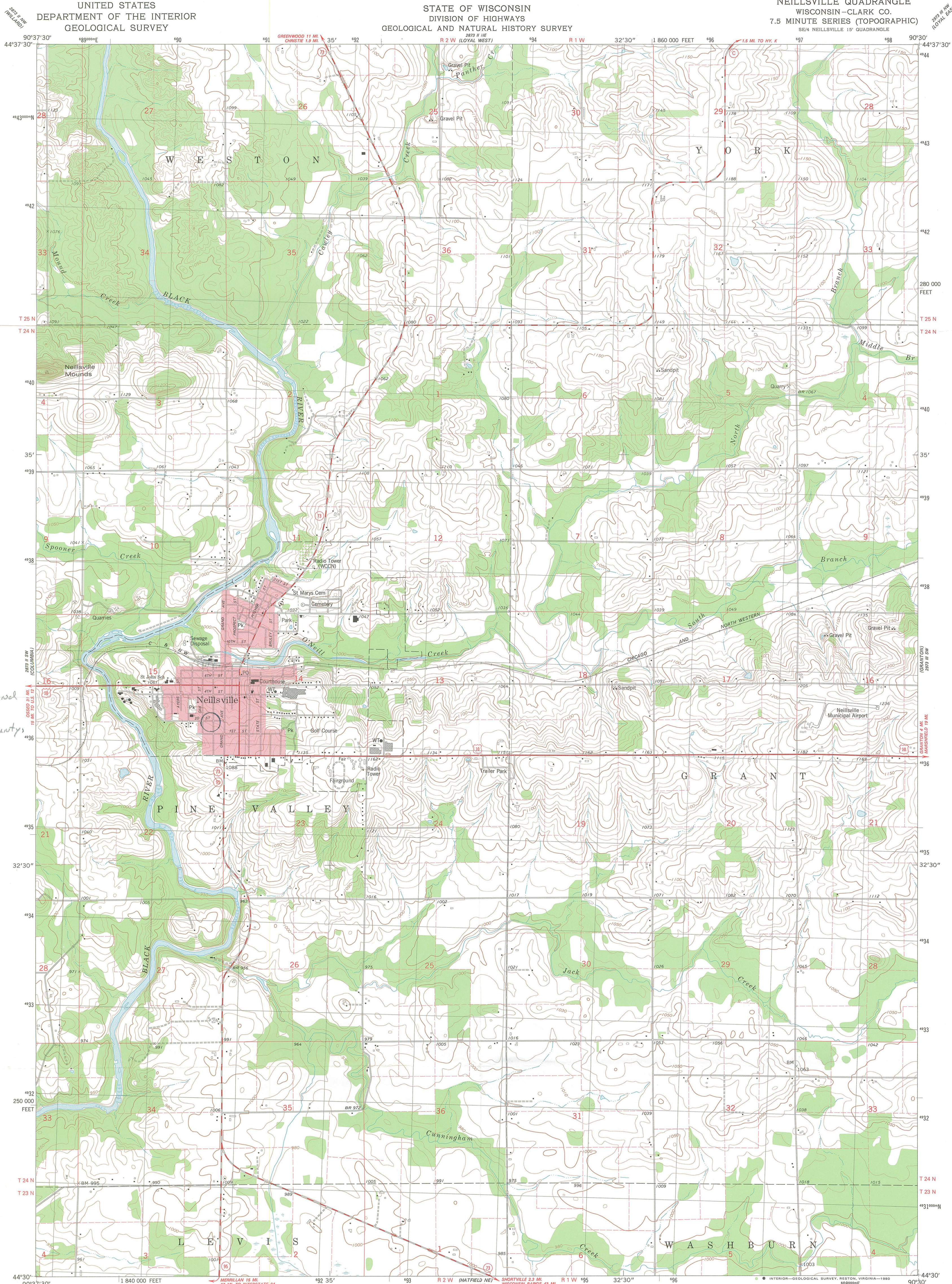
**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section figures Page 8

Cornelius, Charles and Theresa, House  
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

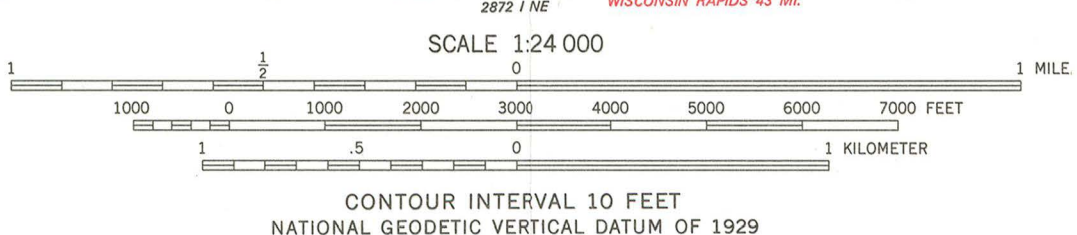


Charles and Theresa Cornelius House  
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin  
Historic photo of fireplace with mirror.  
Photo circa 1910



Cornelius, Charles and  
Theresa House  
Neillsville, Clark County,  
Wisconsin  
Zone 15  
E: 690613.94  
N: 4936385.33

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
in cooperation with the Wisconsin Division of Highways  
and Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey  
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1976. Field checked 1977. Map edited 1979  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Wisconsin coordinate  
system, central zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15  
1927 North American Datum  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983  
move the projection lines 6 meters north and  
11 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks  
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, hard surface ——— Light-duty road, hard or improved surface ———  
Secondary highway, hard surface ——— Unimproved road ———  
○ Interstate Route □ U.S. Route ○ State Route



NEILLSVILLE, WIS.  
SE/4 NEILLSVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4430-W9030/7.5  
1979  
DMA 2873 II SE-SERIES V861

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST





CLAY ST













Paving Shed







Happy birthday to a loved one  
Happy moments are a treasure  
Happy life is a blessing









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Cornelius, Charles and Theresa, House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Clark

DATE RECEIVED: 8/02/13      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/26/13  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/10/13      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/18/13  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000749

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT       RETURN       REJECT      9.18.13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

# City of Neillsville

*Steven J. Mabie*  
Mayor

Common Council - Telephone (715) 743-5662 Office (715) 743-3811 Home  
E-mail [mabieu@yahoo.com](mailto:mabieu@yahoo.com)

Regular Meetings Second and Fourth Tuesday Each Month

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City Hall, 118 West 5th Street  
Neillsville, Wisconsin 54456



October 12, 2012

Daina Penkiunas  
National Register Coordinator  
Wisconsin Historical Society  
816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Ms. Penkiunas:

We on the Neillsville Historic Preservation Commission would like to recommend for eligibility the following property for nomination to the National Register: The Charles and Theresa Cornelius House located at 118 Clay Street in Neillsville, WI. This recommendation is in accordance with the Certification of Agreement between the City of Neillsville and the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Review Board.

If you should have any question regarding our nomination of this property, please feel free to contact me at (715)937-4360 or at [ja.counsell@gmail.com](mailto:ja.counsell@gmail.com). The Commission is excited with the possible placement of another of our beautiful historic properties on the State and National Registers.

Sincerely,

Julie Counsell-Chair  
Neillsville Historic Preservation Commission



**TO:** Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places

**FROM:** Daina Penkiunas

**SUBJECT:** National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 31st day of July 2013, for the nomination of the Cornelius, Charles and Theresa, House to the National Register of Historic Places:

1 Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

           Multiple Property Documentation Form

13 Photograph(s)

1 CD with electronic images

1 Original USGS map(s)

8 Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)/

1 Piece(s) of correspondence

           Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS:**

           Please insure that this nomination is reviewed  
           This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67  
           The enclosed owner objection(s) do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_\_  
           constitute a majority of property owners.  
           Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_