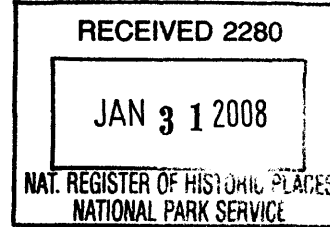


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**United States Department of Interior
National Park Service**



**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Jones, John H., House

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number	538 South Main Street	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Janesville	N/A	vicinity
state	Wisconsin	code	105
	code	WI	county
	Rock	zip code	53545

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.)

1/28/08

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer - 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

Jones, John H., House

Rock

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

3-14-08

[Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- structure
- site
- object

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

contributing	noncontributing
2	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
2	total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources is previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

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.)

Jones, John H., House

Rock

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Name of Property

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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

1890

Significant Dates

1890

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Jones, John H., House

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Name of Property

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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
 - X Other
- Name of repository:
Hedberg Library, Janesville, Wisconsin

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

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

1 16 334839 4726669
 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	Carol Lohry Cartwright	date	9/1/2006
organization	Prepared for the City of Janesville	telephone	262-473-6820
street & number	W7646 Hackett Rd.	zip code	53190
city or town	Whitewater	state	WI

Jones, John H., House

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Name of Property

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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	James and Jan Chesmore	date	9/1/2006
organization		telephone	608-754-0310
street&number	538 South Main Street	zip code	53545
city or town	Janesville	state	WI

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Jones, John H., House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

DESCRIPTION

Site

The Queen Anne style John H. Jones House is located in a relatively-dense residential area on the near south side of Janesville, a medium-sized city in southern Wisconsin. The house sits along South Main Street, a major north-south thoroughfare through the city, less than a block away from a major east-west thoroughfare, Racine Street. Several blocks to the north of this house is Janesville's downtown commercial district. To the east and south of the house is a large neighborhood of primarily later nineteenth century and early twentieth century houses. The Rock River, which runs north-south in this part of the city, is the western boundary of this house, as well as its immediate neighbors along South Main Street.

The Jones house sits on a standard-width Janesville city lot, but the length of the lot extends further back to the Rock River than a normal-sized lot, probably to create a flood plain along the river. The setback in front of the house, as well as other houses on this side of South Main Street, is also more generous than many other parts of the city. These features give the setting of the house more green space than many of the other houses in this area of the city.

The topography of the Jones house lot is generally flat at the street level, sloping gently back toward the Rock River. The slope is not dramatic and only a small portion of the foundation is slightly raised at the back of the house. The Rock River gives the large back yard a picturesque setting with a large lawn space that is accented by a number of large, mature trees. At the front of the house, the long setback allows for a generous lawn with a sidewalk and terrace near the street. A narrow lawn extends along the south elevation of the house, and along the north elevation of the house, there is a paved driveway that leads back to the carriage house. A number of well-maintained shrubs accent the house foundations along the main or east and south elevations, as well.

Exterior Description

The Jones house is a two-story building with a generally rectangular form, but with an irregular plan and elaborate details that display its Queen Anne architectural style. The house has a steeply-pitched complex hip and gable roof with several gable projections. A brick corbelled chimney projects from the center of the roof that is covered with asphalt shingles. Under most of the roof eaves is a frieze that is decorated with "zigzag" stickwork.

The walls of the house are divided between the first and second stories by a flared cornice and frieze. This decoration also divides the wall covering material between the two stories, which is narrow

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Jones, John H., House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

clapboards on the first story and wood shingles on the second story. A slightly projecting wood water table separates the first story from the raised foundation of regularly-coursed limestone blocks.

The numerous decorative details of the house are slightly different on each elevation and will be described individually below.

Main (East) Elevation

The main elevation features projecting gable peaks at the roof line, a second story oriel window, irregular fenestration, and two entrances that sit under a decorative veranda. The main elevation is part of a large hip-roofed section that is bisected on the south elevation by a two-story projecting ell and bay. This configuration allows for the front porch to wrap-around the south side of the hip-roofed section to form a veranda.

Projecting from the hip-roofed section of the house are two gables that are decorated with wood moldings, beaded wood siding, and fanbursts with circle ends suggesting the feather display of a "peacock." This fanburst design is repeated in different shapes throughout the house and will be known hereafter as the peacock fanburst. The second story of the main elevation has a pent roof that projects above the roofline and includes an oriel window with a frieze decorated with wood scrollwork. There are three openings in the oriel, a larger central two-light window with a decorative transom, and flanking single-light, double-hung sashes. These windows are topped with a flat, curved, window hood decorated with narrow variations of the peacock fanburst. To the north of the oriel is a pair of single-light sashes that are also decorated with the peacock fanburst.

The first story of the main elevation is dominated by the wrap-around veranda. This porch has a low-pitched hip roof and elaborate details. Under the roofline is a frieze made up of both cut-out circle panels and spool and spindle panels. The spool and spindle panels sit above the staircases that lead to the entrances of this elevation. The porch posts are turned and sit on square paneled bases. They are decorated at the frieze level with delicate scrollwork and scroll-cut brackets.

The porch balustrade has panels of three different designs. The panels flanking the steps to the entrances have an Eastlake style design of long vertical and short horizontal pieces of wood between newel posts with round finials. The porch panels consist of curved scroll-cut posts flanked by diagonally crossed posts meeting at a center circle that is accented with a projecting knob. The porch has a wood deck, a wood ceiling, and three wooden staircases leading to the front entrances. The porch base is covered with wood lattice panels.

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Jones, John H., House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

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At the center of the first story of the main elevation is a large four-light window with a decorative transom of pictorial stained glass. It is topped with the same type of window hood as the second story windows and is decorated with the peacock fanburst. This same decoration accents both of the entrances in the main elevation. The main entrance sits (north of the window) is filled with a double wood "storm" door with horizontal panels and rectangular openings. The secondary entrance sits in the east wall of the ell that projects from the south elevation. This single door entrance is also topped with a flat window hood and peacock fanburst.

South Elevation

The south elevation of the house is dominated at the center by the previously-mentioned two-story projecting ell that is surmounted by a bay. Topping the ell is a projecting gable clad with scalloped wood shingles. Directly underneath the gable is the two-story bay. Its second story is recessed behind round columns in a manner that suggests an inset porch. This part of the bay has a projecting hip-roofed hood and frieze that is supported by the free-standing columns sitting on flared paneled bases. The second story bay wall is curved on either side of a tripartite window with a larger central single-light sash flanked by two narrower single-light sashes. The window is topped with a flat hood a peacock fanburst.

The column bases of the second story bay sit on a projecting hip roof that covers the first story of the bay, which has a more traditional three-wall form. In each of the walls are long, narrow, single-light sashes decorated with flat moldings and peacock fanbursts. The bay projects from the south elevation of the ell, which is attached to the main elevation by the veranda described earlier. Behind the south section of the veranda is a single-light sash with the flat molding and peacock fanburst decoration.

Behind the large bay on the south elevation, the main block of the house projects west. This part of the south elevation sits under a large gable roof and is relatively plain, punctuated on the first story with two single-light sashes that are identical to the other first story sashes of this elevation. On the second story, though, the sole single-light, double-hung sash sits in a shorter opening and is undecorated.

North Elevation

The north elevation of the house has some similarities to the south elevation in that it consists of the front hip-roofed section of the house and the rear gable-roofed section of the house as described above. A small projecting gable, like the two described under the main elevation, projects from the hip-roof of the north elevation. Like the south elevation, this wall is dominated by a central two-story bay. In this case, though, the second-story section of the bay projects over the slightly recessed first story section

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Jones, John H., House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

of the bay. The bay is topped with a projecting gable clad with scalloped shingles and is decorated with a central single-pane window opening with a wood surround featuring "flat" brackets and topped with a triangle-shaped window hood filled with beaded boards and a peacock fanburst.

Under the gable of the bay is a curved-wall with the same type of tripartite window seen in the second story bay of the south elevation. Also similar is the projecting hip-roof hood over the more shallow first story bay, also with the traditional three sides. Like the south elevation bay, each side is filled with a tall and narrow single-light sash decorated with a flat molding and peacock fanburst.

East of the two-story bay is a large T-shaped opening filled with panes of elegant pictorial stained glass. The opening is topped with a shed-roofed hood supported by narrow scroll brackets attached to narrow pilasters that separate the three upper panes of the window. The central pane of this grouping is slightly larger than the flanking panes. The lower section of the "T" is recessed behind the flared cornice that runs through the center of the main wall. This section of the window consists of a long stained glass pane flanked by flat scroll brackets near the intersection with the top of the "T" and large, projecting, scroll panels that suggest a "frame" for this part of the window.

Below and east of this decorative window is a shorter sash decorated with a flat molding and peacock fanburst. A similar sized window sits on the other side of the bay in the rear section of this elevation. Above this opening is a smaller, undecorated, single-light sash similar to the one on the north elevation.

Rear (West) Elevation

The rear elevation of the house is plain and punctuated with simple, largely undecorated sash windows. An attic window sits in the gable peak of the rear elevation and there are sashes in both the first and second stories. A small porch covers the rear entrance. It is decorated with the same elements as the veranda along the main elevation. Also in this area is a modern octagonal window that replaced a door that was not original to the house.

Attached to this elevation is a large deck, constructed by the current owner. The wood deck has a base of lattice panels and a balustrade that mimics the design of the veranda. It has a staircase at the northwest end providing access from the back yard.

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Jones, John H., House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

First Floor

There are some general characteristics of the first floor that are repeated in all the rooms. Throughout this floor, all of the walls have original plaster surfaces that are painted in a decorative manner except where noted. The ceilings are modern plasterboard, but have been blended into the walls in a very unobtrusive manner. Doors and windows are all original and have original hardware decorated with elaborate Eastlake patterns. The interior doors have a structure of pine with an inset of five oak panels. Door and windows have fluted oak trim joined at the corners with rosette-filled bull's-eye blocks. All of the rooms feature appropriate historic-style modern light fixtures.

All first floor rooms, except the entry foyer and kitchen, have original painted crown moldings with combined picture rails. The dining room, living room, and parlor also have corner moldings. All of the first floor rooms, except for the entry foyer and kitchen, have original narrow-board maple flooring and wide oak molded baseboards.

The main entrance in the east elevation has two sets of double doors. The exterior "storm" doors have been described earlier and cover two large seven-panel wood doors. Facing the exterior, these doors have a central pilaster decoration and a vertically divided lower panel. The foyer floor had to be restored with modern narrow-board maple flooring, but decorative floor grates were retained. Ahead of the foyer is a hallway that leads into the dining room. On the south side of the foyer is a set of pocket doors that lead into the formal parlor.

The most dominant feature of this part of the house is the Eastlake style staircase. The heavy oak staircase has a paneled wall that spans the north side of the hallway leading to the dining room. At the bottom of the staircase is a large square newel post accented with foliated blocks and topped with a replica staircase lamp. The heavy balustrade has three sections. Right under the banister are narrow panels of short square posts. Under these panels are the middle panels filled with turned posts. Below these panels are additional panels with short horizontal and vertical posts. The staircase has two runs with balustrades separated by another newel post topped with a round finial.

Lighting the staircase is the large, dramatic, T-shaped window filled with pictorial stained glass. Each individual pane is filled with colored glass featuring Art Nouveau style floral shapes and motifs. The moldings around this window group are more elaborate versions of the fluted trim and floral bull's-eye blocks seen in the rest of the first floor.

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Jones, John H., House
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The dining room sits at the head of the hall leading from the foyer. It is largely lighted from the north side bay window described on the exterior, north elevation. A corner china cabinet in the room is not original, but was custom-built to blend in with the oak trim that exists in the room. To the west of the dining room is the kitchen, which has been remodeled, but with many original details left extant. In this room the trim around doors and windows is painted and a modern floor in an alternating pattern of narrow maple and cherry boards, aligned on a diagonal, is a recent alteration. The floor plan of the kitchen has a "period" feel to it with a large cabinet group along one wall and other cabinets and appliances sitting around the original windows.

Also in this section of the house are an enclosed staircase that leads to the second story (rear staircase) and a staircase that leads to the basement. The rear entrance is in the west wall of the kitchen and is covered with a simple wood paneled door. To the south of this entrance, a former owner put in another entrance. The current owners have reversed this entrance and added a modern octagonal window for light.

The living room is open to the dining room via a set of original pocket doors and the wood flooring in the dining room continues right into the living room. This room is also lighted by a large bay window, the one described in the south elevation exterior. The secondary front entrance, as described in the main elevation exterior, leads into the living room in its southeast corner. It has a single door with the same features as the double doors of the main entrance. In front of this entrance, there is a small section of tile flooring.

Flanking the living room on the east is a large formal parlor, and on the west, there is a smaller den. The den is reached through another set of original pocket doors. It has similar features to the living room, but along the west wall there are two doors. The southwest corner door is a newer six-horizontal-panel door that leads into a closet. The other door (like those of the rest of the first floor) leads into a small bathroom. The bathroom has modern plasterboard walls, replacement narrow oak flooring, modern fixtures, and a period footed tub.

As mentioned above, on the east side of the living room is the formal parlor, also accessed through a set of original pocket doors. The flooring in the parlor is laid perpendicular to the living room floor, creating a contrast between these two areas. In the north wall of the parlor, there is another set of pocket doors that lead directly into the foyer, a separate entrance for guests coming in directly from the main entrance.

The main decorative feature of the parlor is the fireplace, which was badly damaged by previous tenants when the property was rented. The current owner restored the extant oak surround that features

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Jones, John H., House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

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a mantel decorated with foliated scroll brackets. The owner also replaced the tiles surrounding the fire box and on the floor in front of the fire box. They have an appropriate period appearance and have brought back the historic quality of this feature. It is very likely that the fireplace had an overmantle that was removed, but with the owner's restoration of the lower section, the fireplace remains a centerpiece of the parlor.

Second Floor

The second floor has general characteristics that repeat in the hallway and bedrooms. On this floor, both the walls and ceilings are covered with original plaster. The bedrooms have five-panel entry and closet doors with period hardware. The hallways have fluted oak trim with rosette bull's-eye blocks that are identical to the first floor decoration. However, in the bedrooms, and in the back portion of the floor (maid's room and bathroom), the trim is painted because it is constructed of yellow pine. Flooring consists of narrow maple boards with wide molded baseboards, and the hallway is covered with carpeting. Like the first floor, rooms have period-style modern light fixtures.

The main staircase ends in the front of the second floor (east section). The decorative balustrade with several additional newel posts continues along a short hallway and landing in front of the front or southeast bedroom. This bedroom is lighted by a bay that corresponds to the oriel on the main or east elevation of the house. The trim in this room, like the other bedrooms, is painted.

The hallway directly in front of the end of the staircase curves sharply south to form another hallway off of which the north and south bedrooms can be reached. These bedrooms are both lighted by the bays on the north and south elevations of the house as described in the exterior description section. Like the front bedroom, the trim is painted, as are the closet doors.

At the back of the floor, the hallway turns sharply north and runs in front of the bathroom. Slightly to the right, though, is the "maid's room," or southwest bedroom. This room has a lower ceiling, vinyl flooring, and an expanded modern closet that is used for laundry fixtures. Along the north wall is an enclosed staircase that leads to the unfinished attic.

At the end of the back hallway is the bathroom, in the northwest corner of the house. The current owners suspect that this room may have been a storage room in the original floor plan, which might have not included a formal bathroom. Currently, the bathroom has modern finishes, fixtures, cabinetry, vinyl flooring, and simple modern baseboards and trim.

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Jones, John H., House
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Between the "maid's room" and the bathroom is the enclosed rear staircase. Protecting the small landing from the staircase is a very short, modern, balustrade with a large turned newel post and two turned posts. The rear hallway and rear staircase is covered with carpeting.

Basement

The house has a full basement that is largely open space used for utilities and for storage. It has a poured concrete floor.

Carriage House (Contributing)

The carriage house is a two-story structure with a one-story shed-roofed ell extension. It sits at the end of the driveway that runs along the north elevation of the house. Its location is behind and slightly north of the house. The building is covered with wood lap siding that has been replaced on the west elevation. Some alterations have turned the carriage house into a garage and workshop.

On the main elevation, there is a large entrance with original doors that was the carriage house's main entrance. Above the entrance is a smaller opening leading to a loft. A small rectangular window in the gable peak lets light into the upper level. In the shed-roofed extension, there is a large garage door opening covered with a modern garage door. A smaller opening sits over this entrance. Most of the floor in the building is poured concrete, but the southwest corner of the building still has a wood floor.

Along the south elevation, there are several small single-pane openings that were probably original to the building. A large single-pane window is a later addition to this elevation, adding southerly light for the modern workshop. The west or rear elevation has several original door and window openings, but in the second story, there is a large single-light opening that was also added probably to lighting the loft area of the building. The north side of the carriage house is the wall of the shed-roofed section and is undecorated.

Although the building has had some alterations, its general form and most of its characteristics as a carriage house are still extant and it is a contributing resource to this property.

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Jones, John H., House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

SIGNIFICANCE¹

The John H. Jones House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C, Architecture, because it is a locally important example of the Queen Anne style. This well-preserved house has the distinctive characteristics of the style that make it stand out in a community with a large concentration of Queen Anne architecture. Its outstanding decorative and picturesque details that represent the exuberant qualities of the Queen Anne style; its high-quality construction materials and methods; and its very high level of integrity combine to make the Jones house one of Janesville's most interesting and well-preserved examples of the style.

Historical Background

The first settlers came to the Janesville site in 1835 and by 1836, three separate communities were platted. Two of the plats failed, but Henry Janes' plat, which included present-day downtown Janesville, was a success. Eventually, the city grew to encompass both of the other early plats and many subdivisions were added to Janes' original plat in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Due to the hilly topography east of the Rock River just beyond the original downtown, that area of the city was developed later for residential housing than the flat areas west and southwest of the Rock River and downtown. Much of these historic residential areas are included in the Look West and Old Fourth Ward Historic Districts.²

During the nineteenth century, Janesville grew as a commercial center, a county seat, and as an agribusiness center. The nineteenth century industries of the community processed agricultural products from both local and outside sources. The mills of nineteenth century Janesville included lumber, grist, and textile mills, all located along the Rock River. In the mid-nineteenth century, two rail lines came to Janesville, further boosting the community's growth as an industrial and commercial center in south-central Wisconsin. In the late nineteenth century, another agricultural product, tobacco, became an important cash crop for local farmers and Janesville was a center for the trading and processing of this product.³

¹ This footnote references the period of significance and significant dates in Section 8 of the form. The 1890 date is information from the current owners supported by local documents.

² Carol Lohry Cartwright, Scott Shaffer, and Randal Waller, *City on the Rock River: Chapters in Janesville's History*, Janesville, Janesville Historic Commission, 1998, pp. 43-45.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 59.

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Continuation Sheet

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Jones, John H., House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

The location of the county seat at Janesville and its location in the center of one of the most fertile prairies in the state helped the city become a bustling commercial center in the nineteenth century. The industries also drew workers who lived in the city and traded in its downtown. Local farmers came to the community to engage in commercial activities that boosted the city's downtown. By the late nineteenth century, Janesville had a multi-block downtown on both sides of the Rock River filled with shops, department stores, specialty stores, and professional offices. Between the late nineteenth century and the 1960s, Janesville's downtown was a regional commercial center.⁴

During the later nineteenth century, residential building techniques began to conquer the hill east of the downtown and the results formed the city's most prestigious residential neighborhood, now encompassed in the Courthouse Hill Historic District. This neighborhood was filled with large Italianate, Queen Anne, and Period Revival houses and extended for several blocks east of the courthouse and downtown Janesville. Most wealthy families or the second generations of wealthy families who had once resided in the Look West or Old Fourth Ward neighborhoods on the west side of the Rock River, moved to new houses in Courthouse Hill.⁵

Residential development continued to grow beyond the immediate boundaries of Courthouse Hill on both the north and south sides. Much of this historic north side development is included in the Prospect Hill Historic District. South and west of Courthouse Hill, the neighborhood continued to develop, primarily in the later nineteenth century. Much of this development consisted of Queen Anne style houses of the late nineteenth century and very early twentieth century and Period Revival, Bungalow, and Craftsman-influenced houses of the first half of the twentieth century. Much of the area east of Courthouse Hill is included in the Jefferson Avenue and Bostwick Avenue Historic Districts. The area south of Courthouse Hill has not been listed in a historic district due to a general lack of integrity, but this area also has a large concentration of Queen Anne, Bungalow, Craftsman, and Period Revival influenced houses.⁶

Between 1900 and 1940, Janesville's economy was transformed from a balanced community of commerce and industry into a community with more of an industrial profile. Commercial activities continued to be important, but during the first several decades of the twentieth century, industry became the dominant economic force in the city. The industrial changes in the twentieth century also

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 95.

⁵ See nominations for the Courthouse Hill, Look West, and Old Fourth Ward Historic Districts, on file in the Historic Preservation Division of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin.

⁶ See nominations for the Courthouse Hill, Prospect Hill, Jefferson Avenue, and Bostwick Avenue Historic Districts, on file in the Historic Preservation Division of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin.

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included a change from agribusiness to the production of consumer goods. Two of the most important of these new industries was the Parker Pen Company, a producer of high-quality writing instruments; and the General Motors automobile factory, established in 1922. In fact, GM and its related industries dominated the economy of Janesville for much of the twentieth century and remains an economic powerhouse in the community today.⁷

The growth of the Janesville as a commercial center in the later nineteenth century had a direct effect on the history of this house. It was built in 1890 for John H. Jones, a downtown merchant, and its location only a few blocks from downtown in the still-pedestrian community, was perfect for Jones. Jones was part of the successful merchant middle class that profited from Janesville's bustling regional economy. Like many other successful merchants, Jones built an impressive home near his downtown business. Not necessarily as large as the Queen Anne style mansions in Courthouse Hill that were owned by the wealthy industrial and professional families, Jones' house was still an impressive-sized home that suggested his success as a businessman in the city.

After the Jones family vacated the house in the early twentieth century, there were several other owners of the property, including John J. Lyke in the early twentieth century. By the later twentieth century, though, the building had become rental property. With the change from owner-occupied to tenant-occupied, the building suffered from inappropriate alterations, lack of proper maintenance, and outright damage. It was in this condition that the current owners, James and Jan Chesmore, found the house in 1995. But, seeing its good "bones," the couple decided to restore the house.⁸

The Chesmores have meticulously brought back the house to its original charm and historic character. Restoring original features, along with sensitively replacing lost details, and adding appropriate modern features, the Chesmores have a home that stands out not only in this neighborhood, but in the city as a whole. This house is an example to its neighbors, many of which are in need of preservation efforts, of what can be done with a fine, middle-class, historic house in an important historic neighborhood.

Area of Significance: Architecture

The Jones house is architecturally significant at the local level because it is a fine and well-restored example of the Queen Anne style in Janesville, as interpreted for middle and upper-middle class families. The house sits in a neighborhood of middle and upper-middle class houses, many of them

⁷ Cartwright, Shaffer, and Waller, pp. 59, 69-70.

⁸ Information from current owners, City Directories for Janesville, on file in the Hedberg Library, Janesville, Wisconsin.

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showing elements of the Queen Anne style. However, due to its high level of integrity brought about by expert restoration techniques, this house stands out as an important example of this type of historic architectural resource. The elaborate details, high level of construction methods and materials, and high level of historic appearance make this house a very good example that can be used to study the wide breadth of the Queen Anne style in Janesville.

According to Wisconsin's *Cultural Resource Management Plan*, the Queen Anne style was popular in Wisconsin between 1880 and 1910, and is seen in the state in large numbers. Often called "Victorian," the Queen Anne style is characterized by asymmetry and irregularity of plan and massing. Queen Anne houses often express their asymmetry with a variety of surface materials such as wood shingles, elaborate stickwork, stone veneer, or stucco. Most Queen Anne houses in Wisconsin are of frame construction with clapboard or other wood siding, but there are also some outstanding brick Queen Anne houses in the state. Common details of the style include steeply-pitched multiple gable or combination hip and gable roofs, gable projections, bay with elaborate hoodmoldings or cornices, round or polygonal turrets or oriels, classical details, and large, wrap-around verandas. Fenestration is usually irregular both in size and in placement of openings.⁹

The Jones house has features that represent almost all of the above-mentioned characteristics of the Queen Anne style. Although it has a relatively compact, generally rectangular, shape, its plan is very asymmetrical, with a complex hip and gable roof, projecting gable-roofed bays and decorative gables, and many other irregular details. The two large bays are loaded with elaborate details, such as curved walls, columns, and windows with the flat, but decorative, window hoods featuring several sizes and forms of the peacock fanburst.

The style's commonly seen variety of surface materials is abundant on this house and is one of the elements that give it architectural distinction. The most obvious of this element is the use of plain clapboards for the first story and square wood shingles for the second story. But, this is only the beginning of the exuberant use of decoration to convey this element of the style. The projecting gables are clad with scalloped wood shingles as well as flat bead board. The main frieze has a zigzag stickwork decoration, but the bays and the front oriel have a more elaborate scroll pattern wood decoration in their friezes. The peacock fanburst, a common motif of this house, has another texture and particularly stands out against the curved, but flat window hoods where it is frequently used. In fact, it is the use of the whimsical peacock fanburst that is the most unifying and distinctive detail of the house.

⁹ Barbara Wyatt, ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. 2*, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Architecture, p. 2-15.

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One of the most elaborate details of this house, a detail that gives it both an irregular form and an asymmetrical use of wood details, is the wrap-around veranda. Many Queen Anne houses have verandas or porches that feature consistent motifs or decoration within the frieze and the balustrade. This house has multiple patterns for both the frieze and the balustrade. The spool and spindle pattern in the frieze is typical, as are the turned posts and brackets. But the use of the circular cut out design in the frieze, along with three different balustrade patterns ("X" with circles, curvy or scroll posts, and short horizontal and vertical posts) give this veranda a very distinctive appearance.

Two other distinctive features of the house add asymmetry to the plan as well as a variety of details. These elements are the north and south bays. The curved walls, the columned second story section of the south elevation bay that suggests an inset porch and all of the brackets and wood decoration show the complexity and irregularity of the house's design. The amazing T-shaped window with a shed-roofed hood and beautifully-executed stained glass panels is a detail more likely to be on a Courthouse Hill mansion than on a merchant's middle-class house. It is a highlight of the building's architectural features, particularly because of the high quality of the stained glass patterns.

The exterior of the house, alone, has the picturesque, well-restored, details that make the building stand out in the city. But, equally as significant and impressive is the well-restored interior, with its emphasis on high-quality Eastlake interior design details. These details are seen most elaborately in the main staircase; a well-crafted, highly-decorative, example of a type of interior decoration common in Queen Anne houses. The balustrade, in particular, is a fine example of nineteenth century craftsmanship.

The consistency and wide use of the fluted trim with floral bull's-eye blocks on both the first and second floors is another interior feature that gives the house a distinctive décor, but an outstanding feature of the house are the interior doors, particularly the pocket doors. Many houses of this size might have one or two sets of pocket doors. This house's four sets of pocket doors, give the interior a distinction beyond its size. Adding to the craftsmanship of the interior are the other decorative doors and the fine original hardware, some with elaborate Eastlake style motifs. The original wood floors in the dining room, living room, den, and formal parlor are also exceptional and with their varying horizontal or vertical patterns, add a special visual quality to the main rooms of the house. The largely intact second floor continues the high-quality details from the first floor and gives the house an added historic quality.

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All of these interior details would be much less distinctive if they had not been expertly restored by the house's current owners. The expert restoration and thoughtful modernization, only occurring where absolutely necessary, gives this house an exceptionally high level of integrity. The rich woods of the first floor would be significantly less impressive if they were painted or covered with carpeting. Moreover, the original plaster walls and ceilings in much of the house add an authenticity to the interior. Only in small parts of the house and the first floor ceilings, where there was extensive damage, did the owners replace original plaster with modern sheetrock or other materials. And, where these alterations occur, they are blended in well with the original surfaces so that the alteration is barely noticeable. The effect is that the historic plaster walls and ceilings have an interior texture that is soft and rich, a texture that is very difficult, if not impossible to achieve using modern materials.

Owner James Chesmore has been responsible for the almost all of the restoration of the house and his techniques provide a textbook of appropriate ways to restore or rehabilitate a historic property. He has meticulously stripped interior trim, coming up with unique ways to strip the wood without damaging it. He has devised many ways of solving "old house" problems without resorting to replacement with modern or inappropriate materials. Jan Chesmore has contributed to the historic character of the house with her attractive decorating elements that highlight the historic details of the house, rather than detracting from them. For example, she used a faux marbling technique on the walls of the first floor that is not only attractive, but hides the imperfections of the old plaster. The result of the Chesmore's efforts is a truly beautiful house where the historic details of the house are shown in their best light.

The city of Janesville has conducted many historic surveys and defined and listed many National Register historic districts so that almost all of the historic resources in the community have been recorded and a large context has been established within which individual historic buildings can be easily placed. Because of the economic growth in the city throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Janesville has a large concentration of many popular historic architectural styles. Of these styles, the Queen Anne is one of the most numerous, second only, perhaps, to the Italianate style.

A review of Queen Anne style architecture in Janesville indicates that there are many examples of this style in the historic neighborhoods of the city, from small and very simple examples, to large mansions. The bulk of the best examples of this style lie in the Courthouse Hill Historic District and the Prospect Hill Historic District, with good examples found in the other residential historic districts of the city. Because of this large context, a Queen Anne style house needs to have individual distinction to be considered for the National Register.

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In the case of the Jones house, this is, indeed, the case. Because of Jim Chesmore's high-quality restoration of both exterior and interior details, the Jones house is almost an artifact of this variation of the Queen Anne style. Its intact details well illustrate its type; that is, Queen Anne style houses built for middle and upper-middle class families. In particular, this house, as the home of a successful downtown merchant, can provide us with important information about the lifestyle of this specific type of businessman and his family.

Janesville's Queen Anne housing stock includes examples of the Queen Anne style that range from classically-appointed, interpretations to exuberantly-detailed, picturesque, interpretations. This house is a fine example of the very picturesque variation of the style. Its emphasis on a variety of surface materials, its irregular details and plan, and its exuberant use of wood in so many interesting and decorative ways, makes it a "classic" picturesque Queen Anne house. It is clear that John H. Jones wanted a house with elaborate style where no detail was too much, perhaps to represent to the community and his business colleagues that he was, indeed, as successful as or more successful than other downtown merchants.

The most important point in considering the context within which this house can be evaluated is that even though there are other good examples of the Queen Anne style, this fact does not diminish the quality or significance of the Jones House. Rather, this house adds to the depth of our understanding of this style in Janesville, illustrating the style's broad diversity in the city. The high integrity of the house, the result of the high quality of the restoration work done by the current owners, makes this house almost museum quality, yet it provides a modern and comfortable home for the twenty-first century.

Conclusion

The John H. Jones House has the outstanding distinctive characteristics of the Queen Anne style that make it eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The well-crafted picturesque Queen Anne style details add irregularity and asymmetry to the house and its high level of integrity add to its architectural significance. It is almost literally an artifact from the late nineteenth century that helps us form a more complete understanding of the style in Janesville. The many examples of the Queen Anne style in the community make it imperative that a house that is eligible for the National Register must stand out. The Jones house, by virtue of its significant style characteristics, integrity, and historic appearance, does, indeed, stand out in the built environment of the city and well deserves listing in the National Register.

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The historic boundary of this house corresponds to its legal parcel and is described as follows:
Dickson and Bailey's Addition, Lot 21.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary has been the historic location of the house since its date of construction.

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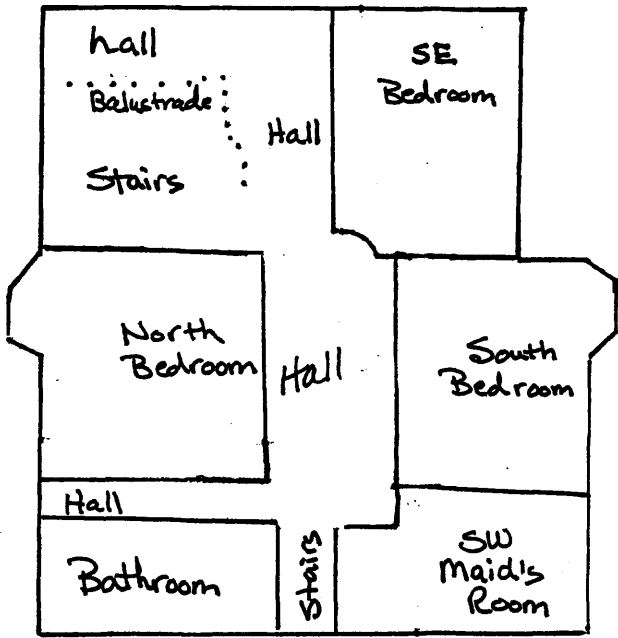
Jones, John H., House. Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin. Photos by Carol Lohry Cartwright, June 2006. Negatives on file in the Historic Preservation Division of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

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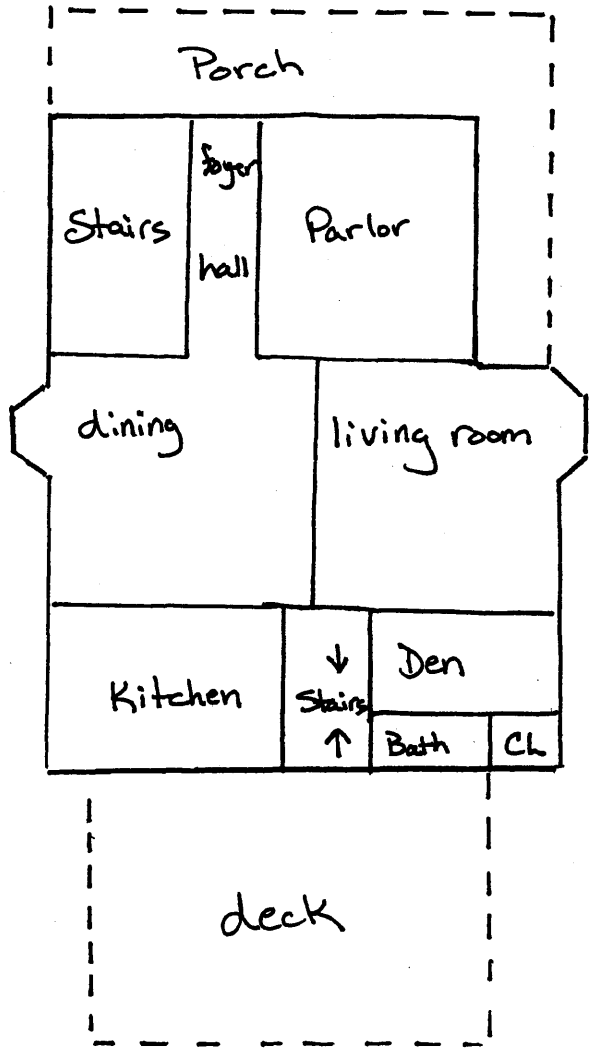
- 1 of 15: Site view, from the southeast.
- 2 of 15: Main (east) and north elevations, from the northeast.
- 3 of 15: South elevation, from the southwest.
- 4 of 15: Rear (west) and south elevations, from the southwest.
- 5 of 15: Carriage House, from the east.
- 6 of 15: Interior, first floor, foyer and main entrance.
- 7 of 15: Interior, first floor, living room showing secondary front entrance.
- 8 of 15: Interior, first floor, living room looking into the den.
- 9 of 15: Interior, first floor, living room looking into formal parlor.
- 10 of 15: Interior, first floor, pocket doors in formal parlor.
- 11 of 15: Interior, first floor, fireplace in formal parlor.
- 12 of 15: Interior, first floor, main staircase.
- 13 of 15: Interior, second floor, staircase balustrade, front hall and front bedroom.
- 14 of 15: Interior, second floor, north bedroom.
- 15 of 15: Interior, second floor, back hallway looking into "maid's room."

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Floor Plans



Second Floor



First Floor

Not to Scale