

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 20 1975
DATE ENTERED	JAN 2 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Jennings, Janet, House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
612 22nd Avenue

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Monroe

___ VICINITY OF

2nd

STATE
Wisconsin 53566

CODE
55

COUNTY
Green

CODE
045

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
___ DISTRICT	___ PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	___ AGRICULTURE	___ MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	___ UNOCCUPIED	___ COMMERCIAL	___ PARK
___ STRUCTURE	___ BOTH	___ WORK IN PROGRESS	___ EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___ SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	___ ENTERTAINMENT	___ RELIGIOUS
___ OBJECT	___ IN PROCESS	___ YES: RESTRICTED	___ GOVERNMENT	___ SCIENTIFIC
	___ BEING CONSIDERED	___ YES: UNRESTRICTED	___ INDUSTRIAL	___ TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	___ MILITARY	___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mrs. Grace E. Elmer

STREET & NUMBER
612 22nd Avenue

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Monroe

___ VICINITY OF

Wisconsin 53566

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Green County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Monroe

Wisconsin 53566

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Plan, Volume II: The Inventory

DATE

1975

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Madison

Wisconsin 53706

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE c. 1900

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Probably built in the early 1870's, this is a typical example of the nineteenth century vernacular architecture in the Midwest. It is two stories high, cube-shaped, with an open porch across the front, and harmoniously proportioned. Except for the rock-faced stone foundation, it is a frame construction and the exterior is faced with narrow clapboards. A bracketed hipped roof with a central chimney covers the cube-shaped part of the house.

A north wing displays some different stylistic characteristics and may not be original, although it is by no means recent. It is two stories high, but the shape and size of the windows differ from story to story. The single first floor window is narrow and pointed, and the two second story windows are small and cube-shaped. The roof of the wing is a moderately pitched gable with brackets below the eaves exactly matching those of the main roof. A small enclosed porch on the south side has a lean-to-like appearance. This appears to be an addition to the original house of uncertain dating but not recent. The front porch, with its ornately bracketed columns, was added around 1914 in Janet Jennings' late years. The entire composition is very geometric and even window moldings and the brackets have a sharp-edge characteristic.

Early in the 1900's the Jennings tract was subdivided into lots and the house was moved to a city lot approximately 400 feet west of its original location and turned 90° so that it faces west rather than north. This served to clear the Jennings tract for platting and had no significant effect upon the house.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Association with historically significant person.		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although she was instrumental, along with Clara Barton and others, in advancing military nursing and, as well, had a long, distinguished career in journalism, Janet Jennings (nee Jane Jennings) was little known in her home town until long after her death. This was due in part to her being away from Monroe much of the time and in part because she shunned publicity. Nevertheless she was an important Wisconsin woman and one of Monroe's most historically significant persons. During the Civil War Centennial she was the subject of a series of articles in the Monroe Evening Times which for the first time emphasized her true significance. In 1872 she purchased the house in Monroe for any members of her family who wished to live in it, and throughout her long career she herself lived and worked there on numerous occasions, especially from the end of the Spanish-American War until near the time of her death. It is the structure with which she is most closely associated and was approved for designation as a Wisconsin Registered Landmark in 1971.

Janet Jennings' dual careers in nursing and journalism began in the hospital tents of Armory Square in Washington in 1863 when she went there to care for her brother Dudley, who had been wounded at Chancellorsville. Although she was below the minimum age for army nurses, she succeeded in being accepted for duty and was very soon in charge of a unit of several hospital tents. There she met and worked with Clara Barton, who was to be a lifelong friend and associate. After her brother's release in mid-1864, Janet continued at Armory Square until hospital tents were no longer needed. Exhausted from overwork, she rested briefly, then began working for the Treasury Department, but she was unable to continue for long and returned to Monroe. While regaining her health there, she began to write, and during the years that followed was a correspondent for the Janesville (Wisconsin) Gazette, Milwaukee Sentinel, Chicago Tribune, Chicago Inter Ocean, and four eastern papers, the Boston Transcript, Springfield Republican, New York Tribune, and New York Independent. She wrote for the latter two for many years and was still writing for the Independent when she incurred her terminal illness in 1915. Much of her early writing was on Civil War personalities, but she also wrote of the Washington scene, fashions, social events and manners, education, and prominent figures of the day. She traveled extensively while continuing her columns for the New York papers. One of her articles in the Tribune was devoted to education in Hawaii. For the World Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, a selection of nine articles from Janet Jennings' columns was compiled and published as Pen Sketches in Journalism.

When the Spanish-American War began, Janet was 58 and an established journalist, but nurse were needed for the army and she volunteered for Red Cross duty. She was assigned to a medical unit and sent to Cuba where, working with her longtime friend Clara Barton, she

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Anderson, Don N., "Chancellorsville and the Fortunes of Janet Jennings," The Thirtieth Star, VII(4):4-6 (Madison, Wis., 1961)
 "Civil War Scrapbook: Writer, Patriot Saw Tragic Side," Monroe Evening Times, May 2-6, 1961.
 Dexheimer, Florence (comp.), Sketches of Wisconsin Pioneer Women (Ft. Atkinson, 1925), 18-21 (Biographical sketch by Nettie Jennings)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1.0

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1, 6 | 2 | 8, 4 | 0, 8, 0 | 4, 7 | 2, 0 | 2, 0, 0 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C | | | | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Donald N. Anderson, Assistant Director, Historic Preservation

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

7 August 1975

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

608/262-0746

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

S.H.P.O. Signature

~~XX~~

James Norton Smith

TITLE

Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

10/14/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

1/2/76

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/31/75

Ronald M. Mackay
Actg

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET See
ITEM NUMBER Below PAGE 1

JENNINGS, JANET, HOUSE

8. organized the nursing care in a hospital in Santiago. When she came back from Cuba on the Seneca, a ship returning convalescent soldiers to the states, she gave extraordinary care to her patients and in one case, although the only female nurse aboard ship, she insisted on giving up her own cabin to a soldier who had to undergo surgery at sea. At the end of the voyage, the men aboard presented her with a scroll naming her "Angel of the Seneca," the greatest honor they could muster for her.

Returning to Monroe once more, Janet resumed her writing for both New York papers. In 1909 and 1910 she also wrote two small books, Abraham Lincoln, the Great Emancipator, and The Blue and the Gray. In addition she became actively interested in Monroe's civic affairs and served on the school board. After suffering a stroke in mid-1915, she was eventually taken to her sister's home in Washington, D. C., where she died on December 31, 1917 at the age of 78. She is buried in Monroe. Except for her name, her gravestone reads only, "Contract Nurse, U. S. Army."

11. Biruta Erdmann, Preservation Planning Assistant

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

1 August 1975

816 State Street

Madison

Wisconsin 53706