UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATA	SHEET
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FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 2 0 1975

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HISTORIC Jenr	nings, Janet, House			
AND/OR COMMON				
2 LOCATION	J			
STREET & NUMBER				
612 22nd Ave	enue		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN		•	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT
Monroe		VICINITY OF	2nd	
STATE Wisconsin	53566	SDE 55	county Green	CODE 045
3 CLASSIFIC	CATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	—PUBLIC ▼	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
XBUILDING(S)	XPRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		Xno	MILITARY	OTHER:
4 OWNER O	F PROPERTY			
NAME				
Mrs. Grace 1	E. Elmer		·	
STREET & NUMBER				
612 22nd Ave	2011.0			
CITY, TOWN	ende		STATE	
Monroe		VICINITY OF	Wisconsi	n 53566
5 LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION		
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	ETC. Green County Co	urthouse		
STREET & NUMBER	dreen ddaney do			
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
			Wisconsin	53566
Monroe S DEDDESEN	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
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DEPOSITORY FOR				
SURVEY RECORDS	State Historical So	ciety of Wisconsin		
CITY, TOWN			STATE Wisconsin	53706
Madison			MTSCOIISTII	23100



CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

_EXCELLENT XGOOD

__DETERIORATED

ZUNALTERED
_ALTERED

__ORIGINAL SITE

__FAIR

__UNEXPOSED

X MOVED 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	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	ERELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	√ ✓ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X1890-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
X1900-	∠COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	Xother (Specify) Associa-
•	TWO	INVENTION		tion with historicall
	70"			significant person.

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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 brieffy, 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

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. Dexhedmer, Florence (comp.), Sketches of Wisconsin Pioneer Women 18-21 (Biographical sketch by Nettle Jennings) GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ACRAGO FROMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1.0 UTM REFERENCES Ali 6 28,4 0,8 0 4.712.012.0,0 8 ZONE EASTING ONE THE CODE COUNTY CODE THORM PREPARED BY NAME TITE Donald N. Anderson, Assistant Director, Historic Preservation ORGANIZATION ORGANIZATION 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 Aut 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 creating and proceedings as forth by the National Park Service SAMEN YEAR STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS NATIONAL STATE X UCCAL As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Aut 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 creating and proceedings as forth by the National Park Service SAMEN YEAR STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION THE CEPTURE OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER ATTERY DATE DAT	9 MAJOR BIBLIOG			_
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State Historical Society of Wisconsin State Historical Society of Wisconsin To August 1975 STREET & NUMBER 816 State Street 608/262-0746 CITY OR TOWN Madison Wisconsin 53706 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS: NATIONAL STATE 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 EXEMPLY RECENTANCE SERVATION TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin DATE DA		- Assistant Director	. Historic Preserv	ation
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Form No. 10-300a Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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See

CONTINUATION SHEET

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 <u>Seneca</u>, 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