

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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                      Braley, Judge Arthur B., House

and/or common                     

## 2. Location

street & number 422 North Henry Street                      not for publication

city, town Madison                      vicinity of                      congressional district 2

state Wisconsin code 55 county Dane code 025

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>          </u> district	<u>          </u> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u>          </u> agriculture	<u>          </u> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<u>          </u> unoccupied	<u>          </u> commercial	<u>          </u> park
<u>          </u> structure	<u>          </u> both	<u>          </u> work in progress	<u>          </u> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<u>          </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>          </u> entertainment	<u>          </u> religious
<u>          </u> object	<u>          </u> in process	<u>          </u> yes: restricted	<u>          </u> government	<u>          </u> scientific
	<u>          </u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<u>          </u> industrial	<u>          </u> transportation
		<u>          </u> no	<u>          </u> military	<u>          </u> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Todd McGrath

street & number 422 North Henry Street

city, town Madison                      vicinity of                      state Wisconsin 53703

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dane County Registrar of Deeds

street & number 210 Monona Avenue

city, town Madison                      vicinity of                      state Wisconsin 53709

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of  
Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?            yes  no

date 1976                      federal  state            county            local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison                      vicinity of                      state Wisconsin 53706

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The two and one half story residence is of frame construction with a cream brick veneer painted a cream color. The irregular floor plan, roof and fenestration together with the detailing characterize the building's Nineteenth Century picturesque residential style.

Each of the major visible roof planes of the many gabled roof is pierced by a dormer window embellished with carpenter's lace on its gable end. The two chimneys display corbelled brickwork.

A rectangular porch is found on the Henry Street side of the house and an octagonal porch is located on the Gilman Street side. The octagonal porch was enclosed in 1961-1962 in a manner which retained some of its porch-like features. The gothic details ornamenting the porches and cornice bracketing is similar to other local turn-of-the-century buildings attributed to Claude and Starck, a local architectural firm, thus indicating design alterations to the original building dating to about that time. A horizontal banding of the porch cornices runs continuous along the Henry Street facade. The facing below the sills of the bay window found on that side is decorated with original crossed diagonal wood bracing.

A one story rectangular plan bay window projects from the southeast face of the Henry Street wing.

The main entrance on Henry Street, originally featured sidelights and top lights which have since been replaced by wood panels. The two windows on the street side of the same wing are floor length.

Window lintels are of dressed sandstone with incised patterns. Their lower edges are chamfered.

An additional window was cut between two existing ones on the Gilman Street facade of the rear wing.

The wing sheltering the garage and studio, designed by Frank Riley, a prominent Madison architect, was built at the rear of the house on the southeast side during the 1940s. The fireplaces have been removed and other interior changes were made in the conversion of the residence to two apartments and a studio. The original stair newel post has an octagonal base, heavy reeding on its tapered shaft with necking and cap molding classically contoured. Classical moldings are also found on door and window casings.

## 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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				Association with
<b>Specific dates</b>	1877-1878-1889	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Unknown	significant person

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The significance of the house at 422 North Henry Street, built by Judge Arthur Briggs Braley in 1877-1878,<sup>1</sup> is based primarily upon its association with the respected justice, writer and Shakespearean scholar and to a lesser extent with Braley's friend, poetess Ella Wheeler (whose married name in 1884 became Ella Wheeler Wilcox). The home hosted activities in the practice and encouragement of literary endeavors whose audience extended beyond the Madison community.

### Association with a significant person.

As a public servant, Braley maintained the respect of the voting public as indicated by his twenty-seven years in public office. Braley's impressive record in serving the public began with his service as Madison's first Police Justice upon the organization of the capital city in 1856, having been admitted to the local bar just eight years previous. He held the position for three successive terms of two years each. In 1864, he was chosen Alderman of the First Ward, in which capacity he served for three years. The spring of 1868 saw him elected City Attorney, a position he held for one year. In 1872, he was again elected Police Justice, without opposition. On March 14, 1873, the State legislature established the Municipal Court for the City of Madison and the County of Dane with its corresponding judgeship to which office Braley was elected in the spring of 1874, again without opposition, for a six year term.<sup>2</sup> In 1875, the jurisdiction of the court was greatly enlarged in criminal matters and made concurrent with that of the circuit court in all crimes except murder. To that more powerful position, he was re-elected in 1880 and 1886, during which term he was claimed by death on January 31, 1889.<sup>3</sup>

As a justice, Braley was regarded as impartial and fair and was beheld with great respect. This was best evidenced in March, 1874 by "a call from the electors," a petition signed by over five hundred prominent Dane County citizens, "without distinction of party," including the Dane County bar,<sup>4</sup> requesting Braley to accept the candidacy for the newly created Municipal Judgeship. The petition and Braley's acceptance letter were published almost a month before the elections, far in advance of the then routine schedule for the selection of nominations for elected posts. Upon Braley's death, the editors of the Wisconsin Daily Democrat recounted upon his abilities as a justice: "...of the scores of cases sent from his court to the Supreme Court, not one has ever been reversed or remanded."<sup>5</sup>

(see continuation sheet)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 0.1

Quadrangle name Madison West, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	6	3	0	5	3	1	0	4	7	7	1	8	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The northwest 82 feet of Lot 8, Block 58, of the original plat of Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gary Tipler

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date March 4, 1980

street & number 1118 East Dayton Street telephone 608/257-9335

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53703

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Richard M. Mery*

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 10/7/80

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

*Carol D. Shurt*

date 11-28-80

Attest:

*Linda Flint McClelland*

date 11.28.80

Chief of Registration

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Judge Arthur B. Braley House  
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8. Significance

As a political writer and a proponent of the literary arts, Braley played a unique role in Madison. Among his accomplishments were his editorial appointments for two Madison based newspapers. In 1864, he took on the editorial duties of the Wisconsin Daily Patriot for the duration of the Presidential election campaign.<sup>6</sup> The suspension of publication of the ten year old paper followed his resignation after the election by only three days. In mid-June of 1868, three weeks after the first publication of the Madison Daily Democrat, Braley assumed the post as the paper's principal political editor until the closing of the November Presidential election.<sup>7</sup> The numerous contributions which flowed from his pen over the years - essays, stories and book reviews - covering political analyses to reviews of Shakespeare - enjoyed wide publication through the local and State newspapers as well as "for various newspapers through the West."<sup>8</sup> They were regarded by their readers with high esteem.<sup>9</sup>

Literature

Braley's interest in literary expression undoubtedly influenced that of at least one other notable Wisconsin-born writer - Ella Wheeler Wilcox. The popular and prolific poetess was a dear friend of Braley from her early childhood until her marriage to Robert Wilcox in 1884 which led to her move from Wisconsin, eventually to settle near Branford, Connecticut where she basked in the adulation of her admirers and held court until her death in 1919. In a memorial address in honor of the late judge in January, 1890 which was presented to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, she stated, "it was from his well-filled library that I gained my first knowledge of books. His editorial pen gave some of my earliest local literary efforts encouragement, and during a period of fully twenty years I was a frequent guest in his home."<sup>10</sup>

It was also in the Braley home, sometime after the Judge's death that Zona Gale, seeking advice on the merits of her work, was introduced to Ella Wheeler Wilcox by Mrs. Braley.<sup>11</sup>

Although, the British press, in the mid-1870's, conferred upon her (Wheeler) the high distinction of being the "Temperance Poet Laureate of Europe and America,"<sup>12</sup> it was Ella's controversial "Poems of Passion," published in 1883, which first catapulted her into the national limelight. She was a frequent contributor to Harper's, Atlantic Monthly and numerous other national and local publications. Her writings appealed to the hearts and the sentiments of a large public while shocking the more conservative elements of late Victorian society with her unabashed heartfelt yearnings and assertions of liberal mores. The most popular of her verses were the often quoted opening lines of the poem "Solitude" - written while she was a guest in the Braley home in February, 1883 and first published in the New York Sun later that month: "Laugh and the world laughs with you, Weep and you weep alone."<sup>13</sup>

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8. Significance

Berton Braley, the Judge's only offspring to survive childhood and a friend of Wilcox, acknowledged that Ella was never a great artist, although her work "did break loose from the shackles of prudishness and hypocrisy, and undoubtedly gave a lot of lesser and greater bards courage..."<sup>14</sup>

Of Ella's place among the Wisconsin writers, historian Fred L. Holmes states, "Many of them have written more finished and cultured verse, but none of them have given voice to the thought, the hopes, the faith of the common people as has Mrs. Wilcox."<sup>15</sup>

(Archibald) Berton Braley, a self-styled "versifier" who wrote "for loot, not laurels," also was undoubtedly influenced by the atmosphere of literary encouragement in the Henry Street home. He was born there in 1882 and spent his childhood there. Upon graduation from the University of Wisconsin in 1905 he left for newspaper work in Montana and, in 1909, went on to New York where he lived and wrote during much of the remainder of his life. It was there that he first worked for The Evening Mail and as an associate editor for Puck before commencing his career freelancing written verse. He is credited with over twenty books, several hundred short stories and eleven thousand verses for everything from greeting cards and trade journals to Burma Shave jingles. He also contributed articles to Saturday Evening Post, Cosmopolitan, Red Book and the New York Times. Of all his verses perhaps none are better known to Madisonians as those that seasonally issue from the lips of thousands of football fans each autumn to the score by John Phillip Sousa, Wisconsin Forward Forever, "Varsity."<sup>16</sup>

In conclusion, the Braley house serves as a tangible reminder of the Honorable Judge Arthur B. Braley, whose role in the political scene in Madison was one of influence in both local and state political thought, and in the literary arts, was one of encouragement of artful expression and its appreciation. The house served as a stage for the interaction among a few local literary talents and those aspiring to be writers and in this capacity reflects a segment of late Nineteenth Century Madison's contributions to popular American literature.

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Footnotes

1. Tax rolls for Dane County, City of Madison, 1877 and 1878.
2. Madison Democrat, April 2, 1874, p.2.
3. The United States Biographical Dictionary: Wisconsin Volume, American Biographical Publishing Co.; Chicago, Cincinnati and New York; 1877, pp. 164-165.
4. Madison Democrat, March 11, 1874.  
Wisconsin State Journal, March 12, 1874.
5. Madison Democrat, February 1, 1889.
6. Wisconsin Daily Patriot, September 5 and November 10, 1864.
7. Madison Democrat, November 5, 1868.
8. Op. cit., U.S. Biographical Dictionary, p.166.
9. 37th Annual Proceedings of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1890, pp. 89-94.
10. Ibid.
11. Ella Wheeler Wilcox, The Worlds and I, George H. Doran Co., New York, 1918, p.168.
12. Charles R. Tuttle, An Illustrated History of the State of Wisconsin, B.B. Russell & Co., Boston and Madison, 1875, p. 704-706.
13. Jenny Ballou, Period Piece: Ella Wheeler Wilcox and Her Times, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1940, p. 117.  
Fred L. Holmes, Wisconsin, Volume 2, Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, p.522.  
Annabel Douglas McArthur, article in Exclusively Yours, August 17, 1973, p.28-31.
14. Berton Braley, Pegasus Pulls a Hack, Minton, Balch & Co., New York, 1934, p.42; autobiography.
15. Op. cit., Holmes, p.519.
16. New York Times, January 27, 1966, p.33.  
Time, February 4, 1966, p.88.