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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 Wallace-Jagdfeld Octagon House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number	171 Forest Avenue	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Fond du Lac	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Fond du Lac	code 39 zip code 53935

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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title *Alvina L. G...*

Date *March 4, 2002*

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

Wallace-Jagdfeld House

Fond du Lac

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

4/26/02

[Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as 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

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

0

total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources is previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY/Octagon Mode

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation stone

walls vinyl

roof asphalt

other wood

Narrative Description

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

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Section 7 Page 1 Wallace-Jagdfeld Octagon House
Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, WI

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Wallace-Jagdfeld Octagon House sits on a medium-sized, urban lot in a residential neighborhood in Fond du Lac, a medium-sized city in east-central Wisconsin. The Octagon house is located on the city's west side, several blocks west of the downtown commercial district. It is located along Forest Avenue near the old Chicago NorthWestern Railroad tracks and across the street from the old Chicago NorthWestern Railroad Depot. The Chicago NorthWestern Railroad tracks were a physical divider between the city's west side residential neighborhood and an industrial further beyond the tracks. Most of the west side residential neighborhood developed during the nineteenth century with the construction of medium-sized and large houses. Most of these houses were built for middle class families, but a few houses, primarily closer to the downtown, were large and stylish and were built for prominent families. Near the railroad tracks and the depot, a few commercial buildings and two medium-sized railroad hotels were also built.

Forest Avenue, near this house, is moderately dense, with medium to large-sized houses sitting on small to medium-sized lots with similar setbacks from the street. Forest Avenue is a wide residential street improved with concrete curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. The street is wide enough for parallel parking on both sides of the street and for narrow terraces between the sidewalks and the street. The topography of the area is generally flat and dotted with mature trees and shrubs. A number of large and medium-sized trees are located in the terraces along the streetscape.

There is little landscaping around the Octagon house, as the house takes up most of the lot and a paved parking area is located behind the house. There is a small area of lawn in front of the house and two sidewalks run along each of the side elevations. There are no trees or shrubs currently on the lot.

Exterior

The Wallace-Jagdfeld Octagon House is a two story, eight-sided structure with a one-story rear ell, two smaller side ells, a two and one-half story tower at the southeast corner, and a large veranda that spans the entire main elevation and wraps around both the east and west sides of the building. The house has a very low-pitched, octagonal hip roof with an octagonal deck. The tower has a low-pitched hip roof. The roof over the rear ell is a gable roof and shed and hip roofs top some small additions to the rear ell. On the main octagonal block, the roof eaves are wide and overhanging and decorated with paired brackets and a plain frieze. A denticulated frieze decorates the tower.

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The house sits on a tall cut limestone foundation that is covered with stucco on the octagon main block and the side ells. The stone is exposed on the west elevation of the rear ell. A concrete foundation sits under the addition to the east wall of the rear ell. The walls of the entire house are covered with narrow gauge vinyl siding and punctuated with primarily symmetrical fenestration. On the main elevation, the windows of the octagon block are medium-sized double-hung sashes with single lights on the first story and two-over-two lights on the second story. In the tower, the openings are taller and narrower and are paired above the main entrance. These openings are filled with single-light double-hung sashes. The main entrance is a period twelve-light door flanked by four-light sidelights and topped with a rectangular transom.

The most decorative feature of the main elevation is the large veranda that curves around to the west elevation of the house and wraps around at a right angle along the east elevation of the house. It has a flat roof that curves on the west side. The roof has a wide frieze that is supported by plain round wood columns. The balustrade of the porch is made up of square posts placed closely together between the large columns. The porch has a wood deck and a set of wooden steps rises to the front entrance. The porch base is covered with tall panels of vertical slats between small round columns that sit under the columns of the porch. This base sits under the entire span of the veranda.

A large one-story bay projects into the veranda on the east elevation of the house. The bay features large single-light windows decorated with pilasters. The other openings on this elevation include two tall and narrow openings in the tower and openings on the second story that are filled with two-over-two-light double-hung sashes. Projecting from the northeast corner of the east elevation is a small hipped-roof ell that is also attached to the shed-roofed addition to the rear ell. In the side ell, there is an entry door that is reached by a wooden staircase with a modern wooden balustrade. In the shed-roofed addition to the rear ell, there are two openings, a medium-sized single-light sash and a pair of smaller, modern, single-light sashes.

The rear or north elevation of the house features the back wall of the rear ell and the shed-roofed addition. At the northwest corner of this wall, there is another modern entrance with a wooden staircase. The west elevation of the house includes the west wall of the rear ell and another side ell with a hip roof that projects from an octagonal wall on the northwest corner of the house. The west wall of the rear ell features another modern entrance and a pair of modern single-light sashes north of this entrance. There is a tall single-light sash in the west wall of the side ell and the second floor of the east elevation features windows with two-over-two-light double-hung sashes. An additional modern entrance is in the first story of the westernmost octagonal side of the house.

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According to Sanborn-Perris maps for 1884 through 1915, both of the small hipped-roof side ells were extant on the building, along with the original gable-roofed rear ell. The stone foundations under these ells (as seen both on the exterior and in the basement) suggests that they were original parts of the house or built shortly afterward. The shed-roofed addition to the rear ell was constructed after 1915. The original porch on the building was removed and the veranda constructed some time between 1902 and 1908.

Interior

The Wallace-Jagdfeld Octagon House has been divided into five rental units, three on the first floor and two on the second floor. Each unit has one bedroom with a living room, kitchen and bathroom. The units are all approximately the same size. Due to this remodeling, some of the historic interior features of the house have been removed, but surprisingly, more of these features are extant than would be expected in this type of alteration.

For example, the main entrance leads into the foyer, which features many of its original details. The foyer's original walls are covered with wallpaper and accented by very wide molded baseboards that are painted. Painted architrave moldings decorate the four-panel painted doors that lead into two first-floor apartment units. The floor of the foyer is covered with narrow wood boards that are stained with a dark varnish. This flooring occurs throughout much of the interior of the house and dates from the mid-twentieth century. The ceiling of the foyer is also modern and consists of acoustical tiles.

Also in the foyer is the main staircase. The open string staircase is painted white while the risers are stained with a dark varnish that matches the balustrade. The walnut balustrade features a smooth railing supported by spiral-turned balusters. The balustrade curves up to the second floor and becomes a railing for the hallway of this floor. The large newel post at the foot of the stairs features a tapered paneled body sitting on a turned knob that sits on a paneled base. The top of the newel is a double-turned knob. The staircase and balustrade are in good condition.

The apartments used some of the walls of the interior within their floorplans. They also use the original doors in the foyer as their main entrances. Because of this, the original floorplan can be guessed at with some accuracy. The first floor of the main octagon block probably consisted of one or more parlors, a dining room, and a kitchen in the original rear ell. The second floor had two entrances, suggesting at least two bedrooms. It is likely that one or more bedrooms were accessed via the two bedrooms with entrances in the hallway. Some of the apartment alterations appear to have taken place during the early to mid-twentieth century, while other alterations appear to be more recent.

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Beyond the door along the west wall of the foyer hallway is Unit A, a largely remodeled apartment unit. This unit is probably located in an area where there was an original parlor and dining room, since the old kitchen wing is behind this area of the house. Unit A now contains a modern kitchen area and living room in the front of the apartment. At the rear of the apartment is a small hallway that leads to the bedroom, a bathroom, and a large closet. The living room has an odd, almost triangular shape that reflects the short walls of the octagon design and the addition of a wall between the living room and the bedroom. The bedroom and bath area is a square area because it extends into the small ell at the northwest corner of the main octagon block. This apartment features simple, period, moldings around the historic window and door openings, and an architrave molding around the main entrance of the apartment. Modern ranch style baseboards have replaced original baseboards in the areas of the apartment that have been carpeted. Where there is no carpeting, the baseboards are similar to those in the foyer.

Access to Unit B is through the door at the end of the foyer hallway. The plan of this unit also includes a living room, with a kitchen, bathroom, and bedroom behind it. Part of this unit is probably located in one or more parlors and/or other rooms of the first floor. The bedroom of the unit extends into the modern shed-roofed addition to the rear ell. This unit is slightly less remodeled than Unit A with more original baseboards and moldings around doors and windows. There are acoustical tile ceilings in parts of this unit. This unit also has a separate entrance in the small ell at the northeast corner of the main octagon block.

Unit C is reached from two entrances in the rear ell, one at the northwest corner of the rear wall and the other in the west wall. The rear entrance leads into the kitchen of Unit C. To the left of the kitchen is a small living room. Behind the kitchen is a bathroom and a small bedroom. This unit is more extensively remodeled, probably because it was the part of the original rear kitchen wing and part of the shed-roofed addition to the rear wing. The windows and doors are modern and interior trims date primarily from the mid-twentieth century.

The main staircase in the foyer leads to the two apartment units on the second floor. The balustrade of the staircase spans the second-floor L-shaped hallway. The base of the L is in the square tower. The tower windows are in this area, one each in the east and west walls, and a pair of windows in the south wall. These windows are decorated with painted moldings and pediment cornices. A wide baseboard spans the second floor hallway that also has the narrow wood flooring seen on the first story. The ceiling in the hallway is made of acoustical tiles and the walls are covered with wallpaper.

The doors to both of the second floor apartment units are trimmed with the painted moldings and cornices that trim the tower windows. The wooden apartment doors are different from the first

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floor in that they feature two narrow vertical panels instead of four panels. Access to Unit D was not available, but it has a similar plan and details to Unit A on the first floor.

Full access was given to Unit E, at the end of the second floor hallway. Unit E's living room is on the other side of the entry door, which is trimmed on the interior in the same manner as in the hallway. The floor of the living room, as it is in the entire apartment, consists of the same narrow wood boards seen in the second floor hallway. Behind the living room is the kitchen. The east wall of the kitchen is slanted, reflecting one of the main block's octagon walls, and along the rear wall is a set of built-in painted cabinets that date from the early twentieth century, a newer sink, and a small, modern sash window. To the left of the kitchen is the bedroom, which has a triangular shape due to the slant of the octagon wall. Between the bedroom and living room is a small bathroom. There are simple painted period moldings around the doors and windows of the bedroom and bathroom.

The basement of the house is a large, unfinished open space. The floor is covered with poured concrete and there are laundry facilities near the basement steps. In the basement, the original stone foundation walls are exposed and some of the old framing timbers of the house are also extant in the ceiling area.

While the conversion of the building to apartments has changed the original function of the house, the building retains a high level of integrity relating to its type. Octagon houses are relatively rare resources, whose primary importance lies in their form, rather than in their decoration. As a result, the alterations to this property do not destroy the distinctive characteristics that define the octagon style.

Wallace-Jagdfeld Octagon House
Name of Property

Fond du Lac
County and State

Wisconsin

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1857-1908

Significant Dates

N/A

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.)

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SIGNIFICANCE¹

The Wallace-Jagdfeld Octagon House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C, architecture, because it is locally architecturally significant as a relatively intact example of an Octagon House, a rare and unusual style from the mid-nineteenth century. This house is one of two octagon houses in the city of Fond du Lac. The other example, the Isaac Brown Octagon House is already listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a contributing building in the potentially eligible Linden Street Historic District. Although some remodeling has been done to the Wallace-Jagdfeld Octagon House to convert it into apartments, it has retained its octagon form on the exterior, along with its Italianate details. The interior also has many original details and the overall integrity of the house is good. Because of its unusual form, it is an important local architectural landmark.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Between 1672 and 1829, the area at the southern end of Lake Winnebago was visited by French explorers, missionaries, and fur trappers; and trading posts were built in what is now the city of Fond du Lac. In 1829, James Duane Doty, along with several companions, traveled from Green Bay to Prairie du Chien looking for sites to develop. Among the sites they viewed was an area where the Fond du Lac River flows into Lake Winnebago. In 1835, after the federal government overcame Native American claims to the area, Doty and George McWilliams purchased 3,705 acres of this land under the name of the Fond du Lac Company. Within these acres, Doty also drew the city's original plat of 33 city blocks with 1800 lots.²

In 1836, the historic Military Road came through Fond du Lac on its way between Green Bay and Prairie du Chien, an event that helped early settlement in the state. Looking to capitalize on the new road, the Fond du Lac Company established a tavern, inn, and land office at the site of the new community. Brothers Colwert and Edward Pier, with Colwert's wife, Fanny, agreed to run this business in a log cabin, becoming the first permanent white settlers in Fond du Lac.³

In 1838, physician Mason C. Darling, who was recruited to the new settlement by James Doty, arrived in Fond du Lac. As a fee for locating there, the Fond du Lac Company gave Darling 80

¹ The period of significance for this house includes the probable date of construction through the period of the addition of the porch. The end date of 1908 was selected to incorporate the known addition of the verandah. The significant date for this house was selected based on an evaluation of tax rolls, city directories, and information from the owner.

² Carol Lohry Cartwright, *City of Fond du Lac Intensive Survey Report*, Fond du Lac: City of Fond du Lac, 1992, pp. 9-10.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

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acres of prime land in the new plat, along with some nearby farm land. In a shrewd, but underhanded, economic move, Darling legally blocked the Fond du Lac Company from selling their lots for a time, while selling the lots from his own 80-acre parcel and some additional land he had obtained. Much of Darling's land was in what would develop as downtown Fond du Lac, and Darling quickly became wealthy. Additionally, Darling promoted the settlement by giving away some lots, donating land for the county courthouse, acquiring the postmaster appointment, and opening a hotel. But, despite Darling's efforts, Fond du Lac grew slowly during the 1840s, and only 400 people lived there in 1847.⁴

During the 1850s and 1860s, the population of Fond du Lac grew rapidly, the result of two important developments. The first was the development of an important rail link. In 1851, ground was broken for the Rock River Valley Railroad, a line out of Janesville, Wisconsin. This line was reorganized in 1855 and absorbed by the large Chicago NorthWestern Railroad Company (CNW) in 1859. The Fond du Lac stop was part of the CNW's rail line that they developed through eastern Wisconsin during the 1860s, a line that became one of the most important transportation lines in the state.⁵

The second development that changed Fond du Lac was the lumber industry. Fond du Lac was an early "sawmill town," processing the timber that came down the Fox River system from areas north of the city. The first sawmill built in Fond du Lac operated in 1846-1847, then reopened in 1849, and operated until 1855. During the 1850s and 1860s, more sawmills were established in Fond du Lac, and in 1873, at the peak of the lumber industry in the community, the city had 18 lumber and wood products mills that employed over 1,400 workers, who processed 67,000,000 feet of lumber and 2.3 million dollars worth of wood products.⁶

Largely due to these developments, the population of Fond du Lac rose to almost 5,000 in the early 1850s, then doubled to 10,000 during the 1860s. At the peak of the lumber boom, Fond du Lac had just over 15,000 residents, 18 churches, six banks, and a dozen hotels. In order to house all of these new residents, a building boom began in the city. This boom included the development of downtown Fond du Lac, as well as three residential neighborhoods that grew up to the east, west, and south of the downtown. Much of the new housing was built for workers and was simple, vernacular housing, but a number of wealthier families built larger, more stylish, houses in these neighborhoods.⁷

⁴*Ibid.*

⁵*Ibid.*, pp. 11, 108.

⁶*Ibid.*, pp. 84-85.

⁷*Ibid.*, p. 11.

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In the residential area east of Fond du Lac's downtown, the larger, more stylish houses were concentrated primarily along two streets, East Division and Sheboygan, and during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, this area developed into the city's most prominent residential neighborhood. South and east of the city's downtown, the larger, more stylish houses were less concentrated. Only two small concentrated areas of stylish houses were built in these neighborhoods. One is a small area along West Division Street close to downtown, and the other is a small area along Linden Street, just south of the city's downtown and courthouse complex.

After the lumber industry died out in the 1880s, Fond du Lac's economy slowed for a while. Although the city had other industries, none could rival the size of the lumber mills and factories. But, after the turn of the twentieth century, new or expanded industries brought a revival of the city's industrial economy. Large repair shops and division headquarters for both the Soo Line and Chicago Northwestern railroads in North Fond du Lac employed almost 2,000 men by 1912. Several industries, including the Fred Rueping Leather Company, the Moore and Galloway Lumber Company, and the Giddings and Lewis Company, employed another 1,500 workers at that time. Several smaller industries, such as the Gurney Refrigerator Company, the Fond du Lac Table Manufacturing Company, the Northern Casket Company, the Vulcan Manufacturing Company, and the Galloway-West Dairy Products Company employed almost 1,000 workers in 1912. These companies continued to grow during the twentieth century; in particular, the Giddings and Lewis Company, the Vulcan Manufacturing Company, and the Galloway-West Company. They were the core of Fond du Lac's industrial economy in the twentieth century that helped the city become one of the largest industrial centers in east-central Wisconsin.⁸

During the economic boom of the early twentieth century, Fond du Lac's already-established residential neighborhoods grew significantly. But, most of this new housing was in the form of small to medium-sized residences built for the skilled industrial workers of the city. In fact, Fond du Lac's historic housing stock contains large concentrations of American Foursquare and simple Bungalow style houses, both built among the older streetscapes of the city and in new streetscapes further east, west, and south of the older neighborhoods. In the East Division and Sheboygan streets neighborhood of large, stylish houses, the new construction of the early twentieth century consisted primarily of large Craftsman and Period Revival style homes. But, in the older neighborhoods to the south and west of downtown Fond du Lac, including the West Division and Linden Street neighborhoods, this new construction was primarily smaller "infill" type housing for middle-class and working-class families that was typical of the American Foursquare and Bungalow homes rising in other areas of the city.

⁸*Ibid.*, pp. 11-12.

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During the late twentieth century, the residential neighborhoods of Fond du Lac continued to expand, primarily with tracts of suburban-style ranch houses. The prominent neighborhood along East Division and Sheboygan streets has been largely retained, and some houses that had been deteriorating during the 1970s and 1980s, are now being restored. The other old neighborhoods in Fond du Lac have seen more intrusive elements introduced and more remodeling. But, overall, these neighborhoods are relatively stable, and the larger, old homes along West Division and Linden Streets are still extant. Other historic period houses scattered throughout the city have also been largely preserved and are recognized as local landmarks in the community.

The Wallace-Jagdfeld Octagon House was built around 1857. According to historic deeds, the lot for this house was sold by the developer to B. F. Field and Company of Chicago in 1855. Tax rolls suggest a significant rise in value for the property around 1857. It is unclear whether the house was built as a rental property or as an investment. Since octagon houses in Wisconsin were generally built by people who were drawn to this unusual type of architecture, and wanted it for their own residences, it would be unusual if this house were built on speculation. In any event, in April of 1863, Field and Company sold the house to Norman B. Wallace, a local jeweler. The Wallace family owned the house for over 30 years.⁹

In 1894, Norman B. and Mary Wallace sold the house to Casper Jagdfeld, who owned it for over 40 years. During the late nineteenth century, Jagdfeld was the proprietor of the nearby Northwestern Railroad Hotel. It is possible that he operated this house as part of his railroad lodging business. Jagdfeld owned the house until 1935, when he sold it to Norman and Tessie Frost for \$1.00, suggesting that they were family members. In 1945, the Frosts sold the house to Eugene and Betty Beyer, also for \$1.00. During the late twentieth century, the octagon house has been used as an apartment building.¹⁰

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHITECTURE

The Wallace-Jagdfeld Octagon House is architecturally significant at the local level as a good and relatively intact example of the Octagon style. The Octagon style is an unusual mid-nineteenth century house form that had a brief popularity in Wisconsin. Generally built by

⁹ Deeds, Volume 6, p. 263; Volume 29, p. 505, Volume 131, p. 613, on file in the Register of Deeds Office, Fond du Lac City-County Building, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin; Tax Rolls for the City of Fond du Lac, on file in the Area Research Center of the Library of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Oshkosh, Wisconsin; City Directories for the City of Fond du Lac, on file in the Fond du Lac Public Library, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

¹⁰ Deeds, Volume 131, p. 613; Volume 246, pp. 389 and 401; Volume 287, p. 609.

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progressive-thinking Yankees, the Octagon house was seen as an advance in home building during that time.

Octagon houses are rare in the United States, with the greatest concentration of extant examples in New York, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin. Phrenologist Orson Squire Fowler popularized the design in the late 1840s. He felt the octagon shape to be a beautiful, functional design that mirrored spherical shapes in nature. He suggested that octagon houses were cheaper to build, easier to heat, and with the addition of a cupola, easier to cool. In 1848, Fowler published *A Home for All*, in which he detailed the advantages of the octagon house. In the early 1850s, Fowler came to Wisconsin and toured the octagon inn of Milton pioneer Joseph Goodrich. Goodrich had built his inn with "grout," a crude version of poured concrete. He soon became an advocate of using grout in his octagon house designs. The octagon house was never embraced by traditional builders, though, due to their unusual interior plans, and low-pitched roofs that strained under Wisconsin winters.¹¹

In Wisconsin, most octagon shaped buildings were constructed for residences that range in size from one to three stories in height. Octagon houses were built with brick and clapboard exteriors, but the use of grout was also common. Because the houses were built during the mid-nineteenth century, at the height of the Italianate style, most octagon houses feature Italianate style architectural details. In 2001 the Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory listed 36 extant octagon houses. Most of these examples are not exact copies of Fowler's designs, but several are considered to be among the best surviving examples of the style in the U.S.¹²

According to the 1992-completed intensive survey report for the City of Fond du Lac, this house was identified as one of two octagon houses in the city. The most well-known is the Isaac Brown Octagon House, listed in the National Register of Historic Places and a contributing building in the proposed Linden Street Historic District. The Brown house is a grout example and it has a good level of integrity. Originally, the Wallace-Jagdfeld Octagon House was thought to be a partial octagon house due to the two-story tower and obscuring rear ell. But on further investigation, it is a genuine octagon house, with eight sides, all of which can be seen on the second story level.

Also on further inspection, the Wallace-Jagdfeld Octagon House has a higher level of integrity than at first glance. Although it has been covered with vinyl siding, most of the house's nineteenth and early twentieth century details are extant, including the Italianate style cornice

¹¹ Barbara Wyatt, *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. II*, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Architecture, p. 2-7.

¹² *Ibid.*

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and the tall, narrow openings in the tower. Also, none of the window sizes and shapes have been altered, and only a few modern windows and doors have been added to convert the building into apartments. The small rear ells and half of the larger rear ell appear to be original details of the house or were added shortly thereafter, since the current shape of the house matches the oldest Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Map from 1884. The only major change to the house was a small porch being replaced by the large veranda on the main elevation. But, this change was completed during the historic period, between 1902 and 1908. The high quality of materials and construction of this veranda, especially in the decorative base, adds to the interesting historic appearance of the house.

There are many interior details of this house that are also surprisingly intact, given its conversion to an apartment building. One of the most important details of this simply-decorated interior is the foyer, with its original staircase featuring the fine walnut balustrade of unusual turned balusters. Also extant are period doors with original wide architrave and cornice moldings. Units A, C, and D have the most alterations, but these units also have retained some of their historic moldings and walls. Units B and E have more of their historic fabric than the other units, including more old moldings, wall surfaces, and period doors. Unit E has well-preserved early twentieth century kitchen details.

Although the original floorplan has been disrupted, the apartments' floorplans still suggest the unusual octagon shape of the house and its mid-nineteenth century construction date. The apartments were formed largely within existing walls of the house. The result is that a number of rooms have odd triangular shapes or slanted walls that reflect the unusual eight-sided structure of the main block. The original eight sides of the octagon main block are also extant on the exterior, even though the rear and side ells, the tower, and the veranda somewhat obscure them. In particular, the eight sides can be best seen at the second story level. Also, the extant foyer, upstairs hallway, tower, historic moldings, and beautiful curved staircase all suggest the house's mid-nineteenth century construction date.

The Wallace-Jagdfeld Octagon House is architecturally significant and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because of its unusual architectural style and form and because octagon houses are a rare resource in Wisconsin. The house's eight-sided form and Italianate details make it typical of octagon houses in the state and the alterations do not significantly detract from the historic quality of the house. In fact, most of the alterations on the exterior were made during the historic period and there are still many interior details that are extant. The alterations to the house illustrate a fundamental problem with octagonal form buildings. The difficulty and awkwardness of attaching additions is readily apparent in this example. These alterations add to our understanding of the short-comings of the octagonal form house, and help to explain the short-lived nature of its popularity.

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Section 8 Page 7 Wallace-Jagdfeld Octagon House
Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, WI

It is unusual for a community to have two extant octagon houses, both of which have a similar good level of integrity. Although the Wallace-Jagdfeld Octagon House is not as well-known as the Isaac Brown Octagon House, it is of similar architectural significance and importance in Fond du Lac.

Wallace-Jagdfeld Octagon House

Fond du Lac

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

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

1	16	383020	4848140	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		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	6/14/01
organization	prepared for the City of Fond du Lac	telephone	262-473-6820
street & number	W7646 Hackett Rd.	zip code	53190
city or town	Whitewater	state	WI

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, WI

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cartwright, Carol Lohry. *City of Fond du Lac Intensive Survey Report*. Fond du Lac: City of Fond du Lac, 1992.

City Directories for the City of Fond du Lac. On file in the Fond du Lac Public Library, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Deeds, Volume 6, p. 263; Volume 29, p. 505; Volume 131, p. 613; Volume 246, pp. 389 and 401; Volume 287, p. 609. On file in the Register of Deeds Office, Fond du Lac City-County Building, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Maps. On file in the Archives of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin.

Tax Rolls for the City of Fond du Lac, on file in the Area Research Center of the Library of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Wyatt, Barbara. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. II*. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Architecture.

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Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, WI

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Wallace-Jagdfeld Octagon House has a boundary that is described as follows: Darling, Moore and Drury's Addition, Lot 16, Block 2.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This parcel has been historically associated with the property since the home's construction in 1857.

Wallace-Jagfeld Octagon House

Fond du Lac

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

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	Mr. Len Bacon	date	6/14/01
organization	Algoma LLC	telephone	920-921-2300
street&number	229 N. Main Street	city or town	Fond du Lac
city or town	Fond du Lac	state	WI
		zip code	53935

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

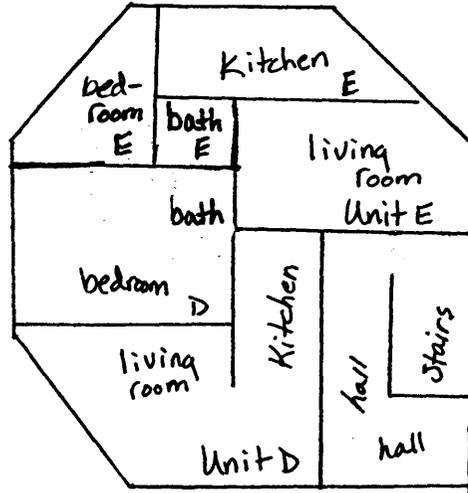
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section photos Page 1 Wallace-Jagdfeld Octagon House
Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, WI

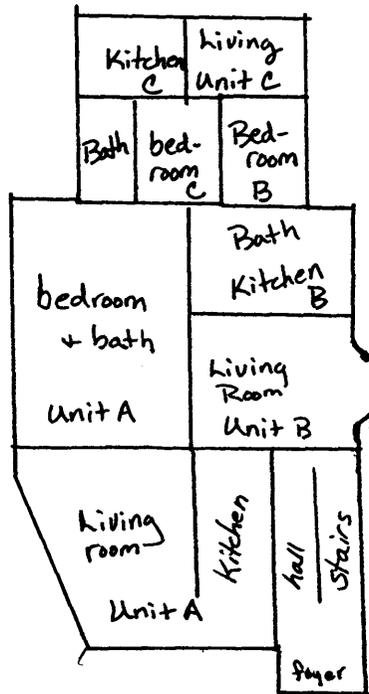
WALLACE-JAGDFELD OCTAGON HOUSE, Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin. Photos by Carol Cartwright, February 2001. Negatives on file in the Historic Preservation Division of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin. Views:

- 1 of 10: Site view, from the southwest.
- 2 of 10: Main or south elevation, view from the south.
- 3 of 10: East and north elevations, view from the northeast.
- 4 of 10: West and south elevations, view from the southwest.
- 5 of 10: Interior, first floor foyer, staircase newel post.
- 6 of 10: Interior, first floor foyer, staircase.
- 7 of 10: Interior, first floor apartment entrance.
- 8 of 10: Unit A, showing triangular-shaped living room.
- 9 of 10: Second floor, main hallway and entrances to Units D and E.
- 10 of 10: Unit E, showing triangular-shaped bedroom off of the kitchen.

WALLACE-JAGDFELD OCTAGON HOUSE
FLOOR PLANS
 FOND DU LAC, FOND DU LAC COUNTY, WISCONSIN



Second Floor



First Floor

Floor Plans Not to Scale