

**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 Hugunin, John and Martha, House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number	2739 Beloit Avenue	N/A	not for publication						
city or town	Janesville	N/A	vicinity						
state	Wisconsin	code	WI	county	Rock	code	105	zip code	53546

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] 4/13/05
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

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

Huginin, John and Martha, House

Rock County

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):

Robert W. Beall

6/1/05

[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	2 buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	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/Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation stone

walls brick

roof asphalt

other weatherboard

Narrative Description

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

Huginin, John and Martha, House
Name of Property

Rock County
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

1875

Significant Dates

1875

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.)

Huginin, John and Martha, House
Name of Property

Rock County
County and State

Wisconsin

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	City of Janesville	date	October 15, 2004
organization	c/o Judith Adler, Dept. of Housing, Building & Neighborhood	telephone	608-755-3107
street&number	200 West Milwaukee Street	zip code	53547
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.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

Hugunin, John and Martha, House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

Start

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The John and Martha Hugunin House sits on a two-acre parcel on the far south side of Janesville, a medium-sized city in southern Wisconsin. Once part of the rural agricultural area of Rock County between Janesville and Beloit, the site of the Hugunin House has been incorporated into the City of Janesville boundaries. This part of the expanded city is primarily industrial, an extension, somewhat, of the large General Motors complex that was established on the south side of Janesville during the mid-twentieth century. In fact, the Hugunin House is surrounded by a modern industrial park and the property, itself, is owned by the City of Janesville, which owns the land in the park. Because of this industrial development, Beloit Road, which runs past the Hugunin House is a very busy thoroughfare, with extensive truck traffic.

The site of the house was once part of the large Hugunin farm, but much of the farmland today is in the industrial park. Despite its small setting and industrial neighbors, the house has retained a small portion of its former rural setting. The two acres are relatively flat, indicative of the general topography of the immediate area. The landscaping is picturesque and includes a large, well-manicured lawn punctuated with many mature trees, shrubs, and planting beds. Mrs. Eva Hugunin, who has a life tenancy on the property, maintains her family's homestead with meticulous care.

A large barn and other outbuildings that were once part of this agricultural homestead are no longer extant, but a small shed and large garage (non-contributing) are still part of the setting that gives the house its rural appearance. Near the house is a formal hedgerow, some shrubs, and ivy that climbs the walls. Some narrow concrete sidewalks run in front of the main entrance and from the south side entrance around the back of the house. A gravel driveway leads from Beloit Road along the side of the house to a small parking area on this elevation. A less-used driveway extends to the large garage.

Exterior Description

The Hugunin House has two sections: a two-story main block constructed of cream bricks and a one and one-half story frame rear ell. The rear ell was the original house constructed on this site in 1868, with the two-story brick block, which gives the property its architectural significance, constructed a few years later in 1875. The rear ell is a simple side-gabled structure with few details. It has a gable roof and sits on a low stone foundation. The north and east elevations are clad with later-added wide clapboard siding, while the south elevation has original narrow clapboards.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2

Huginin, John and Martha, House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

The main block of the house is a large and finely decorated example of the Italianate style. It has a low-pitched hip roof covered with asphalt shingles. Historic photographs show that the roof peak originally had a "widow's walk" with a balustrade of turned posts attached to paneled corner posts decorated with finials. This feature is no longer extant. A wide paneled wooden frieze runs under the wide-overhanging roof eaves. The frieze is decorated with a row of dentils and large paired scroll brackets. The brackets are decorated with pyramid blocks and have acanthus leaf feet. The cream brick walls sit on a low stone foundation separated by a stone water table. Additional details of each elevation of the house will be described in detail below.

The main, or west, elevation of the house is punctuated with many Italianate decorated openings. On the first story, tall, narrow, paired arched openings flank the main entrance. These openings are filled with original two-over-two-light, double-hung sashes. The openings are decorated with compound segmentally arched window hoods decorated with stone keystones. Slightly shorter paired openings flank a central opening on the second story. These openings are also filled with four-light sashes and decorated with the same window hoods.

The main entrance is centrally placed in the first story. It consists of an original pair of arched wood panel and glazed doors covered with early twentieth century wood panel and glazed storm doors. The entrance sits under a brick segmental arch and is covered by an original Italianate porch. The porch features a flat roof with wide, overhanging eaves. Historic photographs show that this porch once had a balustrade on the roof that matched the "widow's walk" of the main roof. The eaves are decorated with paired scroll brackets and rows of dentils attached to an arched frieze. A sign, "Huginin Place," decorates the frieze on the west side of the porch. Supporting the porch roof are two squared and chamfered columns and two identical pilasters that sit on paneled bases. The columns and pilasters are topped with capitals decorated with a curved molding and fluted frieze.

The north elevation of the house consists of both the main block and the rear ell. The main block is punctuated by four window openings identical to those of the main elevation. There is also a small four panel wooden entry door at the northeast corner. According to Mrs. Huginin, this door once led to an old summer kitchen. The north elevation of the rear ell has three small window openings, including a small "eyebrow" style window filled with six-light glazing. An addition projects from this elevation. It has a small modern window and a two panel and two light entry door on the east elevation.

The south elevation of the house also consists of the main block and rear ell. This elevation of the main block is a bit more decorative than the north elevation. There are three window openings identical to those of the main elevation, and there is also a one-story square bay at the southeast corner.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 3

Huginin, John and Martha, House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

The bay has a flat roof with wide, overhanging eaves decorated with scroll brackets, a frieze, and dentils. The tall, narrow openings are separated with plain pilasters. The openings are filled with four-light sashes.

The south elevation of the rear ell features a long porch that spans the first story. The later-added porch is included with large screened openings, a screen door and a clapboard-clad balustrade. Above the porch are three small, square windows filled with six-light windows. Inside the porch is the original wall covered with clapboards and a possibly later-added side entrance into the rear ell. There are also two later-added openings along the wall. The porch roof is covered with wainscoting and the floor is constructed of narrow boards.

The details of the rear or east elevation are primarily on the rear ell. The rear elevation of the main block has no openings. The rear elevation of the ell features two narrow sashes on the second story and a small, modern opening on the first story. The rear entrance is covered with a small enclosed porch with a hip roof and wood-panel and two-light entry door.

Interior Description

First Floor

The rear ell of the Huginin House, constructed around 1868, is the oldest part of the house, but the first floor interior has the most modern features, although they are almost 50 years old. The first floor ell has one room that is a combination kitchen and dining room. The space was remodeled around 1958 and had details typical of that era, including an acoustical tile ceiling and walls covered with high-quality knotty pine paneling. A counter separates the kitchen from the dining room and it, too, is covered with pine paneling. Cabinets are vintage 1958, as is the tile floor.

The back door in the east elevation leads into a small enclosed porch that was probably added in the twentieth century. Another addition along the north elevation has a storage room and a small wash room. A large rectangular opening leads into the living room, which is in the main block. At the northeast corner of the living room is a narrow 1950s-era bathroom which was probably made from a small hall that originally led to an old one-room summer kitchen that extended from the northeast corner of the main block. Historic photographs show this small kitchen ell, and the entry door on the north elevation of the main block is still extant.

The living room, itself, spans the entire width of the main block. It has details that are repeated throughout the first floor of the main block, including wallpaper-clad walls; a replaced modern

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 4

Hugunin, John and Martha, House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

sheetrock ceiling; carpeting covering wide board floors; and a large, period, cast iron radiator, probably dating from the 1916 mechanical update of the house. Wide wood moldings frame the large windows of the interior as well as four-panel wood doors leading to other parts of the house. A set of large, arched, pocket doors on the west wall of the living room lead into the south parlor. The baseboards are wide and all of the woodwork is painted white. Doors also have period hardware.

In the living room is the bay window that extends from the south elevation of the main block. This bay is clad with original wood paneling painted white and has original wood shutters that once covered all of the interior windows. According to Mrs. Hugunin, her father-in-law, John Morgan Hugunin, decided to sell all of the shutters to an antique dealer, and all the shutters were removed except from the bay window. Reportedly, he did this without consulting his wife, causing some consternation in the family.

The south parlor is in the southwest corner of the first floor of the main block. It has the architectural details seen in the living room, including all of the wide wood moldings that are painted white. Along the north wall of the parlor there is another set of large arched pocket doors that lead into the main hallway. Across the hall from the south parlor is a third set of large arched pocket doors that lead into the north parlor. This room has the same features as the south parlor, except that instead of a fourth set of pocket doors on its east wall, it has a single entry door into the first floor bedroom. A door in the north wall of the living room also leads into this bedroom. Along with the moldings seen throughout the rest of the first floor, the bedroom has a large, later-added, built-in closet along its south wall. The bedroom walls are covered with wallpaper and this room has its original plaster ceiling. The bedroom may have had another use in the original house, perhaps as a sitting room.

The main hallway features the aforementioned sets of pocket doors leading into the north and south parlors. There is also a door at the east end of the hallway that leads back into the living room. The arched entry doors sit in the west wall and along the north wall of the hallway is the staircase leading to the second floor. The staircase is a single-run, curved staircase with a plain face string and painted wooden risers. The walnut balustrade has a curved walnut banister, a spool-and-hexagonal-spindle set of balusters, and a large matching newel post. The stair treads are carpeted. The balustrade curves up to the second floor hallway of the main block, then forms a railing. The hallway is carpeted and has wallpaper-covered walls, original plaster ceilings, simple wood moldings painted white, four-panel wood doors with period hardware, and period (circa 1916) light fixtures. The hallway is lit by a large window along the west wall.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 5

Huginin, John and Martha, House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

Second Floor

The second floor of the main block has four bedrooms, two on each side of the central hallway. Each set of bedrooms is connected to the other by either large double doors or a single door. All of the rooms are similarly decorated with wallpaper-covered walls, original plaster ceilings, simple wood moldings painted white, four-panel wood doors with period hardware, period light fixtures, and vintage linoleum over wide board floors. Each bedroom is lit by large windows, with the southwest and northwest bedrooms being brighter due to their extra west wall openings.

On the north side of the second floor of the main block, the northwest bedroom is connected to the northeast bedroom via a large opening filled with very large four-panel doors. On the south side of the main block, the two bedrooms are connected by a single door. All bedrooms in this part of the house also have doors that lead into the hallway. At the east end of the hallway is the connection with the rear ell, which is slightly lower than the main block. To make the connection, a small hallway running perpendicular to the main hallway leads to a shorter connecting hallway at the northeast part of the main block. This connecting hallway has a set of steps that lead down into the rear ell.

A four-panel wood door with a plain molding leads into what was probably a small bedroom in the rear ell, but is now a bathroom, added probably around 1916. It has a vintage bath tub and mid-twentieth century fixtures. The walls are plaster, as is the ceiling, and the room is carpeted. The moldings are flat and typical of the plain flat moldings seen in many mid-nineteenth century houses. A door leads into the rest of the rear ell, which is currently used for storage. Two small bedrooms have entrances facing each other at the end of a hallway that runs perpendicular to the hallway leading from the bathroom into the rest of the rear ell.

This part of the rear ell has original plaster walls and ceilings, wide board floors, and some wallpaper. The simple flat moldings are painted. At the north end of the rear ell is an enclosed wooden staircase that leads down to the kitchen. The second floor of the rear ell is in rather poor condition due to lack of use, but its original architectural features are extant.

Outbuildings

There are two extant outbuildings on this property and both are non-contributing. The small shed sits in back of the house and is a one-story frame building with a raised concrete foundation. It has shiplap siding and plain single-light sash windows. The large garage may have also been used as a machine shed. It is a medium-sized building with a low-pitched gable roof, shiplap siding, and a large sliding entry door in the west elevation. The door is constructed of vertical boards. There are some small

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 6

Huginin, John and Martha, House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

two-light openings along the north and south walls. A concrete wall sits near the garage. It enclosed a concrete pad that was once a cow yard. The main barn sat behind this structure.

____ End

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 1

Hugunin, John and Martha, House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

Insert

The Hugunin House is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C, architecture, because it is a locally important example of the Italianate style. This well-preserved house has the distinctive characteristics of the style that make it stand out in a community that features many Italianate houses. Its fine architectural details, high-quality construction materials and methods, and its high level of integrity combine to make the Hugunin House one of the Janesville area's important architectural landmarks.¹

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Hugunin House has only recently become part of the City of Janesville. For much of its history it was a part of the Town of LaPrairie, one of two rural towns that border Janesville on the south. As the city encroached into the surrounding countryside during the twentieth century, it annexed some of the land of the neighboring towns into its borders. The area surrounding the Hugunin House is industrial today, with only the house left as a reminder of the thriving farm the Hugunin family had at this location for several generations.

The Hugunin family came to Wisconsin as part of the Yankee influx of settlers during the late 1830s and 1840s. The family, originally of French descent, came to the United States in the 1730s. By the mid-1800s, Richard and Jane Van Epps Hugunin, and their son John, were living in Fultonville, Montgomery County, New York, where John was born in 1829. Richard Hugunin owned a boat that plied the Erie Canal and John drove horses along the tow path. In 1849, John and his parents came to Wisconsin, settling on a farm in the town of Johnstown west of Janesville. For several years, John worked this farm with his parents, then in 1853, he purchased his own farm of 200 acres in that town.²

In that same year, John Van Epps Hugunin married Martha Caroline Nye of Beloit and they had five children, one of whom was John Morgan Hugunin, born in 1872. During the Civil War, John V. Hugunin provided wood for an encampment of soldiers near Janesville, near the site of what is now

¹ This citation refers to the period of significance and the significant date for this nomination. Both the period of significance and the significant date relate to the year of construction of the main portion of the Hugunin House in 1875. It is with the construction of the main stone block that the property achieved significance. Information on the dates of construction came from family history and legal documents provided by Eva Godfrey Hugunin, who is still residing in the house. Also, see Eva G. Hugunin, "Hugunin Place," *LaPrairie Our Township*, Janesville: Hulick Printing Company, n.d., copy in possession of Eva Hugunin.

² Information about the Hugunin family and the history of this house came from family history and legal documents in the possession of Eva Godfrey Hugunin. Also, see "Hugunin Place."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2

Huginin, John and Martha, House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

the General Motors complex. Camping on a 274-acre farm he liked nearby in the Town of LaPrairie, John V. Huginin purchased it. He moved the family to the new farm, the site of this house, in the spring of 1868. On this farm, the Huginins flourished, growing wheat (the main cash crop), other grains, and raising stock.³

According to family history, John V. Huginin took his wheat crops to Milwaukee to sell and on one trip, he returned with the cream bricks to construct this house. John V. Huginin wrote a brief history of himself and his farm and stated that the brick house was built in 1875. He also indicated in this document that he always farmed in a diversified manner, with a mixture of grains and types of stock. But, like most Yankee farmers, it was probably the wheat farming he and his family did in Johnstown and on this farm that accounted for much of his wealth. Both Johnstown and LaPrairie are located on the notable "Rock Prairie," an area known for having some of the richest farmland in the country. That John V. Huginin was very successful farming the Rock Prairie is shown in the elaborate house he had built in 1875.⁴

The Huginin family became community leaders and John V. Huginin held several town offices, although in the history he wrote he indicates he did not actively seek such offices. However, it was natural for the largest and most important farmers in a town to become leaders. John V. Huginin donated land for a rural school known as the Huginin School, which operated until 1956. When he died in 1882, all of John V. Huginin's children, except for 10-year-old John Morgan, had married and acquired their own farms. Because of the Huginin family wealth, Martha Huginin was able to maintain the farm for John Morgan.⁵

In 1892, John Morgan Huginin married Myrtie Pollock and moved into the homestead with Martha. Apparently, the space was divided into two households, but no significant physical changes on the interior were made to accomplish the division. Martha died in 1916, and at that time, the house was modernized with running water, central heating, and electricity. Once again, these changes brought few physical alterations of the interior. John Morgan and Myrtie Pollock had five children, the youngest of whom was Roy, who would eventually take over the farm. One daughter died as an infant, but the three remaining children, all girls, were well educated and pursued professional careers. Carrie was a college home economics teacher before she married, and Gladys was a rural schoolteacher

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 3

Hugunin, John and Martha, House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

before her marriage. Marjorie became a professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.⁶

Roy Hugunin was born in 1907 and worked with his father, John Morgan, on the family farm. Along with the other farming activities, the Hugunins raised Percheron draft horses, Shetland ponies, and trotters. The Hugunins were locally noted for their trotting horses. John Morgan was also a local leader, holding the offices of the Pure Milk Association, the Town of LaPrairie, and treasurer of the Hugunin School. Roy Hugunin was well educated like his sisters, graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison before returning to the farm. In 1935, he married Eva Godfrey of neighboring Johnstown, who was a nurse.⁶ Roy and Eva Hugunin moved to a neighboring farm also owned by the family and farmed there until 1958. In that year, two years after Myrtie Hugunin's death, John Morgan moved into Janesville and Roy and Eva took over the homestead.⁷

It was around 1958 that the first floor of the rear ell was remodeled into a modern kitchen-dining room and the bathrooms were improved. However, the remainder of the house remained the same, especially in the main block, which retained its original walls, ceilings, floors, and architectural details. The house virtually remained the same during the time Roy and Eva Hugunin lived there. Roy and Eva had two children, but unlike the previous three generations, they have not remained on the farm. Marilyn graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and was a teacher. Alan graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and moved away from Wisconsin.⁸

Roy Hugunin died in 1976 about a year after retiring from farming. The farm was rented to Hugunin nephews, but much of it today is part of the surrounding industrial park. The City of Janesville purchased the land for the park with the stipulation that Mrs. Eva Hugunin remain as a life tenant on the homestead property. Despite the surrounding industrial park, with its noise and truck traffic, Mrs. Hugunin relishes her home and the history of the Hugunin family. She has extensive genealogical and legal documents pertaining to the Hugunin family and the farm and is excited about the prospect of it being listed as a National Register property. Preserving the family homestead has, in part, been her legacy and its preservation in the future will continue this legacy in the 21st century.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 4

Huginin, John and Martha, House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHITECTURE

The Huginin House is architecturally significant at the local level as one of the finest examples of the Italianate style in the Janesville area. Originally, this house was part of a farmstead in the Town of LaPrairie and its elaborate size and style made it unusual for a rural farmhouse. In comparison to other Italianate houses in the city of Janesville, of which there are many, it is one of the best preserved examples with details that are typical of how the style is seen in that city.

According to Wisconsin's *Cultural Resource Management Plan*, the Italianate style was widely popular in Wisconsin between 1850 and the early 1880s. Since many Wisconsin communities went through an economic "boom" during this era, Italianate houses are common in the state. Italianate houses are generally square or rectangular two-story buildings with hip roofs; wide, overhanging eaves with brackets; arched openings; and picturesque porches with beveled posts and brackets. Italianate houses built during the early period of the style's popularity generally have low, square plans, with a low-pitched hip roof and picturesque details. Later Italianate houses are often taller and more rectangular in plan, with more classical details, and sometimes, a gable roof. These details often overlapped during the long period of the style's popularity.⁹

The Huginin House has all of the distinctive characteristics of the Italianate style mentioned above. Its low-pitched hip roof; wide, overhanging eaves; bracketed frieze; arched openings; and intact picturesque front porch with brackets are finely executed on a well-constructed cream brick structure. The use of cream bricks for Italianate buildings was popular in Janesville as well as the area and many of Janesville's finest Italianate houses have cream brick construction.

What stands out about the Italianate characteristics of this house is how well they were executed. The frieze with panels and dentils is finely crafted, as are the elaborate scroll brackets with their additional acanthus-like feet. These features are repeated on the front porch, which is notable not only for its detailing, but also for surviving relatively intact into the 21st century. The compound brick arches over the four-light windows give the openings a distinctive appearance.

The Italianate style is also seen throughout the interior of the Huginin House, but particularly on the first floor. The high ceilings of the rooms and the fine wide moldings of the first floor are typical of Italianate interiors and are in excellent condition. The three arched openings with the arched pocket

⁹ Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. II*, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Architecture, p. 2-6.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 5

Huginin, John and Martha, House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

doors, along with the arched entry doors, are an outstanding interior feature, giving the house an elegance that rivals the exterior style.

Many fine Italianate houses have been identified in Janesville through historic surveys and National Register nominations. In fact, in the Courthouse Hill, Look West, Prospect Hill, and Old Fourth Ward Historic Districts, there are many fine examples of the Italianate style, some that would also be individually eligible for the National Register. Of course, the best example of the style in Janesville is the Tallman House, a noted house museum of the Midwest. The Huginin House is not as elaborately decorated or as well-preserved as the Tallman House, but, its Italianate details are as well crafted and its level of integrity is very high, a notable feature given that unlike the Tallman House, the Huginin House has not been a house museum for the last 50 years.

Of the other important Italianate style houses in Janesville, most of which are in the aforementioned historic districts, the Huginin House also compares favorably. It is not among the largest or the smallest, and its details are very similar to the examples of the Italianate style in the districts. Its square form, bracketed eaves, low-pitched hip roof, and arched openings are commonly seen details of these other Italianate houses. That there are other good examples of the Italianate style in Janesville does not diminish the quality or significance of the Huginin House, rather, the Huginin House adds to the depth of our understanding of this style in Janesville, illustrating the style's broad diversity in the city. In addition, the Huginin House was constructed as part of a working farm rather than a city residence, demonstrating the spread of the high end of the style beyond the limits of the state's urban areas.

The outstanding integrity of this house adds to its architectural significance. A few features of the exterior have been lost, including the "widow's walk," the second story balustrade of the front porch, and the old summer kitchen. The lack of these details does not significantly detract from the overall high level of integrity of the main block. The rear ell has lost some of its integrity, but the original form of the ell, once the first house on the site, is still extant.

The interior integrity of the house is remarkable. Only the rear ell has seen significant remodeling, and then, only on the first floor. The interior of the main block has almost all of its original features intact, including doors, moldings, floors (under carpets and/or linoleum), walls, and ceilings. Vintage wallpaper covers most of the interior walls, and gives the interior the historic charm of another era. Only in the main rooms of the first floor have the ceilings been covered with modern sheetrock and this has been done in a sensitive manner. The outstanding staircase with its walnut balustrade is in excellent condition and is a beautiful example of nineteenth century craftsmanship.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 6

Hugunin, John and Martha, House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

Although the second floor of the rear ell is in need of renovation, its original details are intact and a historic renovation would easily bring them back to their original condition. When the fine period hardware and light fixtures of the house are added to its wonderful nineteenth century details, the result is a beautiful historic home that is an artifact of the architecture and lifestyle of successful farmers of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. That this home has been so well-preserved through the twentieth century is a tribute to John Morgan and Myrtie Hugunin and, especially, to Eva Hugunin, who has lived in this house since 1958 and could have subjected it to numerous remodeling or modernization projects. Rather, Mrs. Hugunin chose to maintain the historic character of the house, keeping it as an architectural landmark for future generations.

Conclusion

The Hugunin House has the outstanding distinctive characteristics of the Italianate style that makes it eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Its well-crafted details, its fine brick construction, and its high level of integrity are important components of its local architectural significance. Because of the many examples of the Italianate style in Janesville, a house that is eligible for the National Register for this style must stand out. The Hugunin House, by virtue of its significant style characteristics, integrity, and historic appearance, does, indeed, stand out in the built environment of the city and the surrounding area. For these reasons, it well deserves listing in the National Register.

End

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Hugunin, John and Martha, House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

___Insert

Hugunin, Eva G. "Hugunin Place." In *La Prairie Our Township*. Janesville: Hulick Printing Company, n.d. Copy in possession of Eva Hugunin.

Personal Information from Eva G. Hugunin, including family history and legal documents related to the Hugunin house and farm.

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

___End

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

Huginin, John and Martha, House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

____ Insert

Boundary Description

The Huginin House boundaries are as follows: Beginning at an east-west line 32.8 feet south of the south edge of the driveway and the east edge of Beloit Road, then running each along this line 328 feet to the intersection with a north-south line, then north along this line 262.5 feet to another east-west line, then west along this line 328 feet to the east edge of Beloit Avenue, then south along this line 262.5 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses much of what was the original Huginin farmstead, including the house and its outbuildings. The boundary includes a large lawn and the many mature trees and shrubs that were planted over the years as part of the farmstead. As such, the boundary includes an appropriate historic setting for the property while drawing out as much of the industrial park as possible.

____ End of Boundary Descriptions

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section photos Page 1

Huginin, John and Martha, House
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

___ Insert Photo Descriptions

Huginin House. Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin. Photos by Carol Cartwright, August 2004. Negatives on file in the Historic Preservation-Public History Division of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin.

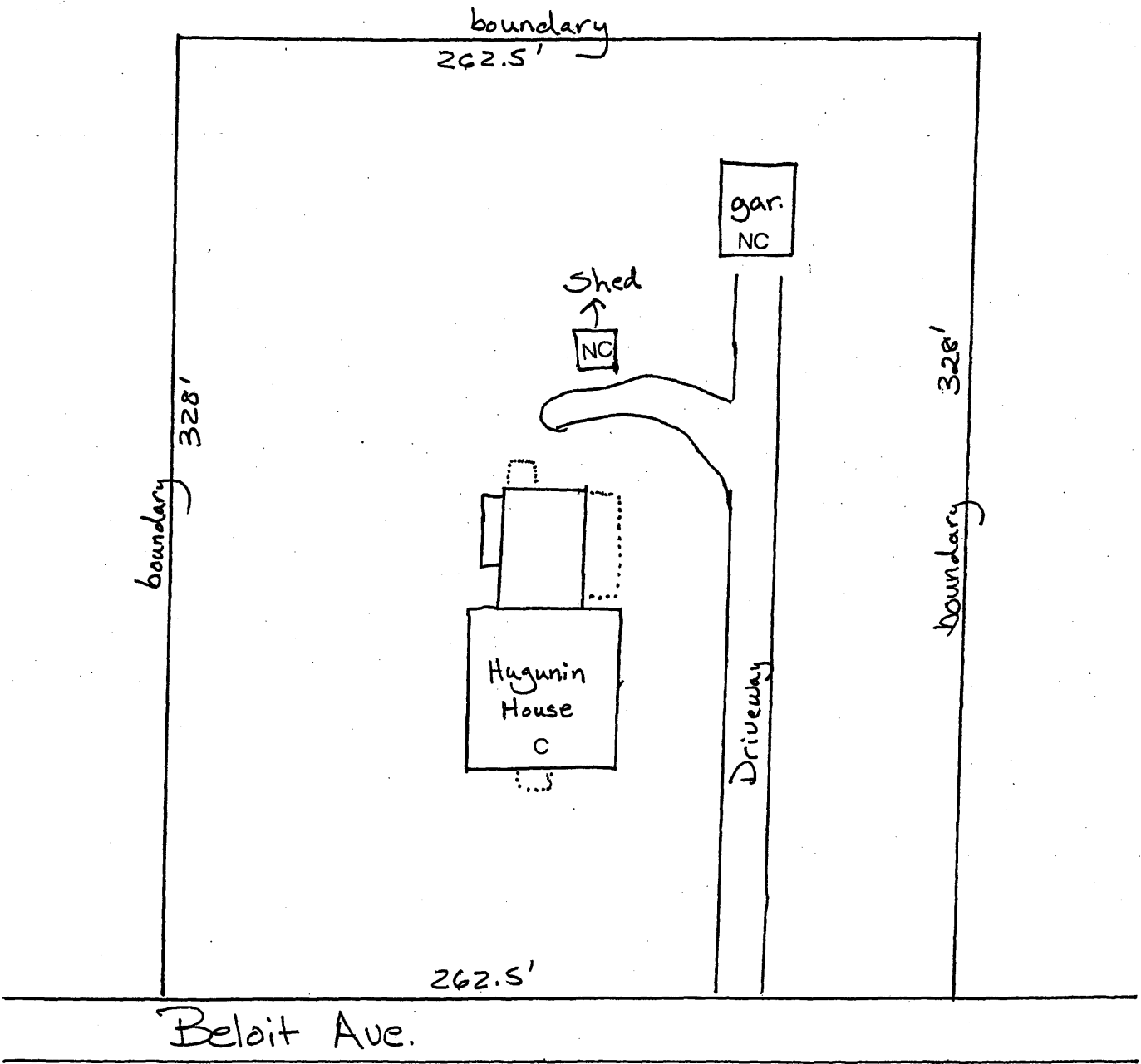
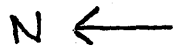
Views:

- 1 of 14: Site view from the southwest.
- 2 of 14: Main or west elevation, from the southwest.
- 3 of 14: Front porch, west elevation.
- 4 of 14: South elevation, from the southeast.
- 5 of 14: North elevation, from the northeast.
- 6 of 14: East elevation, from the east.
- 7 of 14: Interior, first floor, kitchen-dining room.
- 8 of 14: Interior, first floor, living room and looking into south parlor and main hallway.
- 9 of 14: Interior, first floor, living room from south parlor.
- 10 of 14: Interior, first floor, looking from south parlor into north parlor showing pocket doors.
- 11 of 14: Interior, first floor, main staircase.
- 12 of 14: Interior, second floor, looking from northwest bedroom into northeast bedroom.
- 13 of 14: Interior, second floor, looking from northwest bedroom across hall into southwest bedroom.
- 14 of 14: Interior, second floor, rear ell, looking into bathroom and hallway of rear ell beyond.

___ End of Photo Descriptions

HUGUNIN HOUSE
2739 Beloit Avenue
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

Site Map

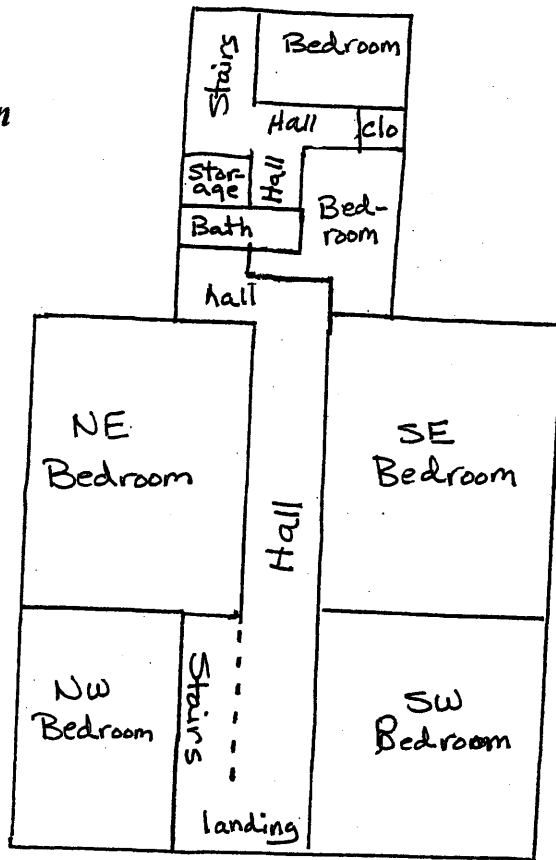


* map Not to Scale

C=Contributing
NC=Non-contributing

HUGUNIN HOUSE
 Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin
 Floor Plans

Second Floor



First Floor

