

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 14 1979
DATE ENTERED	17

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Regez, Jacob, Sr., House

AND/OR COMMON

Regez-Bartsch House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

2121 Seventh Street

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Monroe

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

second

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE

55

COUNTY

Green

CODE

045

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_\_DISTRICT

\_\_\_PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

\_\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

\_\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_PARK

\_\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_\_BOTH

\_\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_OBJECT

\_\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_\_YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

\_\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_NO

\_\_\_MILITARY

\_\_\_OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Arthur and Barbara Bartsch

STREET & NUMBER

2121 Seventh Street

CITY, TOWN

Monroe

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 53566

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Green County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

The Square

CITY, TOWN

Monroe

STATE

Wisconsin 53566

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1976

\_\_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

## CHECK ONE

## CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Regez House is a two story and garret balloon frame structure on a limestone foundation. The house faces south and is centered on a corner lot. A clapboarded two-story frame carriage house stands at the northwest corner of the lot.

The house is sided with molded narrow clapboard. A broad raked band of sawtooth shingling, set off by flat boards that suggest stickwork, belts the house between the first and second stories. Similar belts of flat boards encircle the house at the foundation and first-floor window-sill levels. Sawtooth shingling also is found in the gables. The color scheme of the house and the carriage house is a handsome buff with dark brown trim. The roofs are covered with green asphalt shingles. At one time wooden shingles was the roof covering. Chimneys are of cream colored brick.

The southeast corner of the house is dominated by a large curving single-story veranda. Seven smooth Roman Doric columns plus pilasters, all set on pedestals, support the porch roof, which features a heavy decorative cornice with scroll-like modillions and dentils. A ballustrade connects the pedistals.

A pavilion capped with a large dormer occupies two-thirds of the main facade. A first-floor window in the pavilion features decorative leaded glass. On the right side of the face of the pavilion a second-story bay projects over the porch roof. The dormer features three recessed windows and a gable with full pediment; the gable contains a round arched window with a decorative key. The dormer windows contain colored panes, and altogether, the composition suggests a Palladian window. The east facade has a large two-story bay topped with a small pedimented dormer. A large pavilion with a screened veranda projects from the west facade. It, too, has a pedimented dormer.

The main block of the house and its pavilions have hipped roofs which rake outward to form wide overhanging eaves. The eaves have scroll-like modillions and shelter a heavy cornice with dentils.

The interior of the house is irregular in plan. The first level contains a formal entry hall, parlor, dining room, kitchen, butler's pantry, den or office, and bathroom. The second level contains the master bedroom with sunroom, four smaller bedrooms, and a bathroom. Salient interior features include the ornate main staircase, a fancy built-in china cabinet in the dining room, parquet floors in the entry hall, parlor, and dining room, a decorative tiled fireplace in the parlor, a Romantic mural on the cove cornice of the entry hall, and original stenciling on the entry hall ceiling.

The exterior of the house is virtually unaltered. Visible interior alterations are limited to the installation of French doors between the entry hall and the parlor, at an unknown date, and alteration of the upstairs hallway approximately thirty-five years ago.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) assoc. with locally significant person; ethnic
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1901<sup>1</sup>

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Fridolin J. Heer & Son<sup>2</sup>

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jacob Regez, Sr., House is significant to the history of Monroe as the home of one of the dominant figures in the development of Monroe's Swiss cheese industry. The home of a successful Swiss immigrant, it reflects the prosperity of the significant Swiss population of Monroe. It is architecturally significant as a relatively unaltered example of late Queen Anne architecture. It is one of the finest historic houses of Monroe. It is also significant as the work of the regionally significant architectural firm of Fridolin J. Heer & Son of Dubuque, Iowa.

In 1849 Jacob Regez was born in Wimmis, Canton Berne, Switzerland, the son of the mayor, who was also a prominent cheese manufacturer. In 1872 Jacob emigrated to America. Two years later he arrived in New Glarus and began making cheese. In 1875 he settled in Monroe and established a cheese manufacturing business.<sup>3</sup>

During the 1870s factory cheese making began developing in earnest in Wisconsin. Regez had known factory cheese production in Switzerland, and thus he came well equipped to make his fortune in late nineteenth-century Green County. His cheese business expanded rapidly. Regez soon had interest in twenty cheese factories in the region surrounding Monroe. The Regez company also operated the large Legler Cheese Factory and later had part interest in the Monroe Milk Condensing Company. During the heyday of his company's operation, Regez employed more than fifty men at a time. Regez is recognized as one of a handful of early Swiss leaders who established the Monroe cheese industry, an industry that would earn for the city the title, "The Swiss Cheese Capital of America."<sup>4</sup>

The present house is the second of two elegant houses built on the same foundation by Jacob Regez. The first was a frame Queen Anne structure built in 1834. At the time of its construction, it was considered to be among the finest houses in the city. On the evening of July 24, 1901, lightning struck the house and it burned to the ground. Within a week of the fire, Regez laid plans to rebuild on the old foundation. He contracted with Fridolin J. Heer & Son, an immigrant-Swiss architectural firm of Dubuque, to design the new house. It was ready for occupancy by Christmas, 1901. Although it utilized the old foundation, the new house was not a simple reconstruction of the old, but reflected the taste of the turn of the century. The rebuilt house was called "a beautiful modern dwelling," "one of the city's most attractive homes."<sup>5</sup>

Fridolin J. Heer, Sr., was born in Switzerland in 1834 and was trained as a stonecutter. In 1868 he emigrated to America and engaged both in stonecutting, sculpture, and masonry and in architecture. His son, Fridolin, Jr., studied at the School of Architecture at Stuttgart, in Germany, and then joined his father's Dubuque firm in 1887. Heer and Son designed several of the most important landmarks of Dubuque,

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see SIGNIFICANCE, end notes)

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.31 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Monroe, Wis.-Ill.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 284070 4720130  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The south 45 feet of lot 9 and all of lot 12, block 26 in Tallman's Addition to Monroe.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David Donath, Historic Site Manager

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

September 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Old Wade House Historical Site

TELEPHONE

414/526-3551

CITY OR TOWN

Greenbush

STATE

Wisconsin 53026

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Richard Murray*

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

10/16/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

1/17/80

ATTEST:

*John Ray Fuce*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1/16/80

*Anna Jane Sapp*  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

*Regional Coordinator*

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Regez, Jacob, Sr., House, Monroe, Green County, Wisconsin

CONTINUATION SHEET

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SIGNIFICANCE, continued

including public buildings, schools, churches, commercial buildings, and residences. Among the firm's more significant Dubuque buildings are the Town Clock Building (1873), Sacred Heart Church & School (1887), St. Joseph Academy (1894), and the Dubuque County Courthouse (1891). At this time, it is unknown how extensive the firm's work was in Wisconsin or among Green County's Swiss people.<sup>6</sup>

NOTES:

- <sup>1</sup> Monroe Evening Times, Aug. 1, 1901, and subsequent dates.
- <sup>2</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>3</sup> E.C. Hamilton, The Story of Monroe (Monroe, 1976), p. 112; History of Green County, Wis. (Springfield, Ill., 1884), p. 1032; Monroe Evening Times, Jul. 3, 1914.
- <sup>4</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>5</sup> Monroe Evening Times, Jul. 25, Aug. 1, 1901; Monroe Sentinel, Jul. 31, Aug. 7, 1901; Mrs. Walter Regez, interview, 1978; Charles A. Booth, Memoirs of Green County, Wis. (Madison, 1913), II, 212-213.
- <sup>6</sup> Franklin T. Oldth, ed., History of Dubuque County, Iowa (Chicago, n.d. /1911?/), pp. 597-599; Lawrence J. Sommer, The Heritage of Dubuque: An Architectural View (Dubuque, 1975), pp. 159-160.