	DISTRICT	SURVEY FORM	Historic Preservation D	ivision State Historical	Society of Wisconsin
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				Wisconsin Avenue Histo	ric District
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4	1880 Con	mty History			
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Wisconsin Avenue Historic District

General Character:

The Wisconsin Avenue Historic District is a small, cohesive group of four buildings, located on the north side of Wisconsin Avenue at the intersection with Maple Avenue. These residential buildings are significant architecturally as fine representative examples of styles popular in Waukesha from mid to late nineteenth century. In addition, the district was associated with the resort era which was instrumental in the development of Waukesha.

The district consists of three frame buildings and one building veneered with cream city brick. These residential buildings are located in Cutler's First Addition to Waukesha, which contains one of the oldest parts of the City. Within the district, the oldest house is a frame Italianate house at 406 Wisconsin Avenue erected prior to 1871. The building is two stories with Italianate details such as brackets terminating in heavy pendants. The Putney Cottage is smaller in scale than the other three buildings in the District and the best remaining example in Waukesha of the Italianate cottage style.

In 1883 Aaron Putney's son-in-law, Samuel Hadfield moved the Putney house to the present location. The Hadfield House (402 Wisconsin) was then located on the cleared site. One of the few Second Empire buildings in Waukesha, the Hadfield House is a symmetrical building capped by a mansard roof. It stands two stories in height with the mansard roof covering an additional level of living space. The facade is symmetrically composed with a central pavilion projecting to form the entrance. The window pairs are set beneath pedimented hood molds and bargeboards decorate the dormer gable peaks. Constructed at the height of the resort era, the Hadfield House could easily accommodate sixty guests.

The Showerman House (352 Wisconsin) was constructed c. 1900 and is a somewhat simplified version of the Hadfield House. The proportions and fenestration are identical to those of the Hadfield House; however, the building appears more austere, lacking the decorative window heads, bargeboards and bracketted perch posts.

The Street-Waite house was originally a private residence, erected in the 1880's. This is one of the fine Victorian Italianate residences constructed of cream brick in the city. The design of this two-story structure is drawn from the Victorian Italianate style, and is a more highly decorated and asymmetrical version of the Italianate style. The fenestration is capped by segmental arches, with stone keystones and imposts. A group of three windows appears in the gable end, partly screened by decorative trusswork at the peak.

Significance:

The four buildings which form the Wisconsin Avenue Historic District offer an excellent example of an older residential area near the downtown which, at one time, provided both accommodations for the springs tourists, trade and housing for some of Waukesha's most prominent citizens. The Hadfield House, at 402 Wisconsin Avenue, is nominated not only for architectural significance but also because of its association with Waukesha's development as a resort center. The other three buildings in the district are nominated because they represent a style, period or method of construction.

Wisconsin Avenue Historic District

Historical Background:

The Wisconsin Avenue Historic District is located in one of the oldest sections of Waukesha, and is situated opposite the homestead site of Morris Cutler, pioneer settler (site is now Cutler Park). Homes of many prominent citizens were once located on Wisconsin Avenue; however, since the area is located only three blocks from the heart of downtown Waukesha, the growth of the commercial district has since destroyed or altered many of the structures surrounding the district. As discussed below in greater detail, the area was also well located in relation to Wankesha's many springs: the Bethesda Springs was five blocks away and the ornate Hygeia Springs was only one block away. As a result, the Hadfield House was built to accommodate the rising tourist trade in 1883-4 and a similar rooming house, the Showerman House across the Maple Avenue was built about 1900. The smaller Aaron Putney cottage was built prior to the tourist surge and had to be moved a few feet to make way for the Hadfield House. The remaining building, the Street/ Waite House, was originally owned by the superintendent of the Waukesha County Manufacturing Company, a large woolen mill and Waukesha's largest employer for many years.

Period of historical significance: 1870 - 1917

Area of Significance - Associated with the Commercial Development of Waukesha One structure in the Wisconsin Avenue Historic District, the Hadfield House, is nominated in part because of its association with Waukesha's Springs Era. This Era began with the amnouncement, in 1869, that the water of Bethesda Springs had health giving qualities. The springs attracted tourists in increasing numbers until tourism peaked in 1895. The Hadfield House was one of several smaller hotels and rooming houses built to take advantage of the need for accommedations. One other hotel from this era, the National Hotel, also survives and has been individually nominated. Because both the Hadfield House and the National Hotel were within or close to the downtown, they were able to operate as year-round commercial hotels rather than closing after the season. The Hadfield House was not a large hotel, but was capable of accommodating 60 guests. The Showerman House, built around 1900, also accommodated tourists to the city's springs.

Area of Significance - Architecture:

The Wisconsin Avenue Historic District contains four pivotal buildings considered to be significant as representatives of a type, period or method of construction. The Aaron Putney cottage is a fine example of the Italianate cottage design; the City of Waukesha contains a number of fine examples of Italian Villa and Victorian Italianate structures but the Putney cottage is an important and rare example of the simpler cottage form of the Italianate style. The Hadfield House is one of the few examples of the Second Empire style in Waukesha and is distinguished by the fine detailing of fenestration porch and dormers. The Showerman is another Second Empire rooming house which echoes the design of the Hadfield House in terms of its proportions and fenestration; however, this building is more austere, lacking the window, porch and gable peak decoration. The Street/Waite House is a fine Victorian Italianate design of cream city brick with fenestration capped by segmental arches, stone imposts and keystones plus decorative trusswork in the gable peak.

Continuation Sheet No. 3

Wisconsin Avenue Historic District

Boundary Justification:

The similar two-and three-story scale as well as orientation, with the main facade of each building located on the long axis facing Wisconsin Avenue to the south, creates a unified group of buildings. Buildings located to the west and north are generally nineteenth century buildings, many of which are Greek Revival designs. These are generally small scale buildings which suffer from a loss of integrity. Twentieth century buildings, primarily commercial and a parking area are located to the east. A major city street, Wisconsin Avenue, forms the southern boundary for the district, separating the district from Cutler Park.

Boundary Description:

The Wisconsin Avenue Historic District is composed of four buildings. The boundary begins on Grand Avenue at the west lot line of 406 Wisconsin Avenue, running east to the east lot line of 348 Wisconsin Avenue; then turning north along the east lot line. The boundary turns west, following the north lot lines of the four buildings to the west lot line of 406 Wisconsin Avenue where it turns south to the point of origin.

Acreage: 1 acre

USGS quadrange: Waukesha, Wi. (7.5)

UTM References:

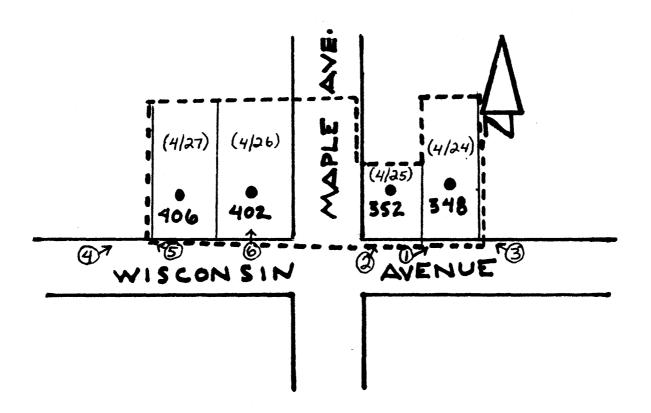
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- d. 16/399720/4762400

Continuation Sheet No. 4

Wisconsin Avenue Historic District

Properties within the District:

348 Wisconsin Avenue	Street-Waite House	4/24	P
352 Wisconsin Avenue	Showerman House	4/25 4/26	P
402 Wisconsin Avenue	Hadfield House	4/26	P
406 Wisconsin Avenue	Putney House	4/27	P



LEGEND WISCONSIN AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT DISTRICT BOUNDARY.....

-INTESIVE SURVEY FORM	Historic Preserva	tion D	ivision Sta	te Historio	al Soc	iety or V	liscon	sin
City, Village or Town: County:			Surveyor:		Date:		Wisconsin	
WAUKESHA				HNTB 2/10/82				
Street Address: 406 Wisconsin Avenue Current Name & Use:	Legal Description: Pt. SE & Acreage: NE & Sec. 3 TON R19E Lots 14 & 15 Blk 4 Cutler's Add. Current Owner:							
Residence - Apartmer	its		James L. Jan		···			Avenue
WK-1			Current Owner's Address: 14504 Kostner Lane New Berlin, WI 53151					
Negative No.	Poure		Special Features	s Not Visible	In Phot	tographs:		4
Facade Orient.	AND CO. CO. CO.			Interior visi	ited?	OYes (€)	No	1
Original Name & Use:		Source		Dates	Uses		Source	
Aaron Putney House		A						1041
Dates of Construction /Alt	eration	Source		,				
pre 1871		A					-	
Architect and/or Builder:		Source					····	vange
Not known			, ·					, and
Architectural Significance Represents work of a ma Possesses high artistic Represents a type, peri Is a visual landmark in Other:	Historical Significance O Assoc. with lives of significant persons O Assoc. with significant historical events O Assoc. with development of a locality O Other: None					section		
See Continuation She Sources of Information (Ref Portrait and Biograph Waukesha County, p.	Historical Statement: Putney moved to Waukesha in 1867 and opened a general store with John S. Buckner. Putney pur- chased Buckner's Store a few years later and operated the store alone until his death in 1876. (A) The Aaron Putney house, a fine Italianate cottage, was erected prior to 1871 on the corner of Wisconsin Ave. and Maple Ave. In 1882-83 the house was moved to its present locatio (a few feet west of the original site) by Putney's son-in-law Samuel Hadfield prior to the construction of his boarding house (402 Wisc. Ave. WK 4/26) Representation in Previous Surveys OHABS ONAER OWHP ONRHP Olandmark					Wisconsin Avenue Historic District		
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F				HP-02-1				

AARON FUTNEY HOUSE (406 Wisconsin Avenue)
Intensive Survey Form - Continuation Sheet (1)

ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT:

Description of Aaron Putney house: Although the Putney house appears to be a relatively small rectangular structure, it is actually L shaped in plan with a large wing extending to the north. The building is two stories in height and sheathed with clapboards. The front rectangular block of the building is oriented with the long axis to the street and covered by a low pitched gable roof, pierced in the center by the single brick chimney. Enlivening the wide eaves are simple frame brackets terminating in heavy pendants. A similar, bulbous pendant occupies the peak of each gable. The fenestration of the facade is not symmetrically arranged and consists of three windows and an entrance. The entrance is located slightly off center and sheltered by a small porch with bracketted posts. Although windows appear only on the first story of the facade, windows in the gable ends provide light for the second story. Windows are 6/6 sash.

Significance of Aaron Putney house: Architecturally significant as a representative example of a period of construction, the Putney house remains as a fine example of the Italianate cottage mode of design. The City of Waukesha contains a number of fine examples of Italian Villas and Victorian Italianate buildings but the Putney house is an important, and rare example of the simpler cottage form of this style and retains distinctive ornamentation.

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City, Village or Town: County:			Surveyor: Date:					
Waukesha Waukesha			HNTB	2/10/82	Wisconsin			
Street Address: 348 Wisconsin Avenue Current Name & Use: Residence - Apartments	Legal Description: Sec. SE3 TON R19E Cutlers Add. Blk 3 Lot 9 & W2 of Lot 10 Current Owner: William D. Godfrey Current Owner's Address: S53 W26445 Fox Vale Ct. Waukesha, WI							
Film Roll No. WK-4								
Negative No. 24 Facade Orient. S		Special Features Not Visite In Photographs: The building is now an apartment house Interior visited? (Yes () No						
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Z Richard Street Residence/ John Waite Residence Dates of Construction /Alterati	on	A/D Source					o Win	
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Architect and/or Builder: Not known		B/C Source					Kange	
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Architectural Significance Represents work of a master Possesses high artistic values Represents a type, period, or method of construction Is a visual landmark in the area Other: Architectural Statement: See Continuation Sheet			Assoc. with lives of significant persons Assoc. with significant historical events Assoc. with development of a locality Other: None Historical Statement: See Continuation Sheet					
Sources of Information (Reference Waukesha Freeman, Dec. 12, Vol. XX No. 50 p. 3	Representation OHABS ONAEI Oother:		us Surve	eys O landmark	Avenue Historic District			
B Birds Eye Map of Waukesha	7 Condition	S _{good} Of	air O	poor Oruins				
C Birds Eye Map of Waukesha	0	ontributing	_	Historic Dist	Map Code 4/24			
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E 1880 County History, p. 83	32		Opinion of No Oreligible Onational O	not eligibl	e Ou		100	
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-RICHARD STREET RESIDENCE/JOHN WAITE RESIDENCE (348 Wisconsin Avenue)
Intensive Survey Form - Continuation Sheet (1)

Architectural Description: The Street-Waite house dates from c. 1880 and is one of the fine cream brick residences remaining in Waukesha. The design of this two story structure is drawn from the Victorian Italianate style, and is a more highly decorated and more asymmetrical version of the Italianate style. The main body of the house is two stories (plus attic) and topped by a gable roof, with ridge running east-west. Projecting to the south (and forming the main facade) is a two story gable roofed section, distinguished by the inclusion of a two story bay window, (capped by iron cresting) balanced by the main entrance and upper window. Fenestration is capped by segmental arches, with stone keystones and imposts, throughout the design. A group of three windows appears in the gable end and is partially screened by the decorated trusswork in the peak.

Architectural Significance: Reflecting the influence of the Italianate style in massing and ornamentation, the Waite house in architecturally significant as a representative example of a period of construction. Although built on a slightly different plan, this building employs the cream brick and stone highlights typical of a number of residences constructed in the 1870's and 1880's. See: Frame House, 507 N. Grand Ave., WK 1/15; Moore House, 307 E. Main Street, WK 42/14; Buchner House, 609 E. Broadway, WK 38/23; Blair House, 434 Madison, WK 7/12

Historical Statement: The exact date of construction and ownership of this building is unclear; however, an early newspaper account mentions Richard Street had purchased the residence property from a Mrs. Wolcott in 1878 and intended to make improvements in 1879. (A) The 1880 map does show a smaller house on the lot, so perhaps the present appearance resulted from a remodeling in 1879-80. The 1887 Birds Eye does show the present configuration. By at least 1890 the residence was the property of John Waite.(D) Richard Street was the Superintendent of the Waukesha County Manufacturing Co., the large woolen mill erected in 1866, when the home was built. (E)

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Street Address:	Legal Description: Sec. SE 3 Acreage:							
352 Wisconsin Avenue	T6N R19E Cutlers Add. Blk 3 S100' of Lot 8							
Current Name & Use:	Current Owner:							
Residence - Apartments			William D. & Loyala Godfrey					
Film Roll No.			Current Owner's	Address:				Avenue
WK-14			S53 W26445 F	x Vale Ct	Wan	kesha.		
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3 Architectural Significance Represents work of a master			Historical Significance Assoc. with lives of significant persons Assoc. with significant historical events Assoc. with development of a locality					Ę
Possesses high artistic value Represents a type, period, or	s method of const	ruction						Ę
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Architectural Statement:	O NO	ne -	None					
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W. F. SHOWERMAN HOUSE (352 Wisconsin Avenue)
Intensive Survey Form - Continuation Sheet (1)

ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT:

Description of W. F. Showerman House: This two and one-half story frame house echoes the design of the Second Empire boarding house, located at 402 Wisconsin Avenue (Hadfield House WK 4/26). The proportions and fenestration are identical; however, this building appears more austere, and lacks the decorative window heads and bracketted porch posts. The porch which does extend across the facade is derived from classical sources and includes thin columns, grouped to support the shed roof and the shallow pedimented gable. A residential building was located on this site prior to 1900. However, in 1899 W. F. Showerman purchased the property and either constructed this building or drastically remodeled the existing residence. The Showerman House repeats the massing and scale of the Hadfield House and is also pivotal in the Wisconsin Avenue Historic District.

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Waukesha Waukesha			HNTB 2/82						PLIE
Street Address:	*		Legal Descriptio			Acreage:	-	Wisconsin	ë
402 Wisconsin Avenue	BLK 4 Cutler' NE ¹ Sec # T6N					12			
Current Name & Use:	Current Owner:	KTAE K326	1020			Avenue			
Residence - Apartments Film Roll No.			James L. Janikowski Current Owner's Address:						
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Samuel Hadfield Guest Hor	use	A/B							Town
Dates of Construction /Alterat	ion	Source						ŀ	
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Architect and/or Builder:		Source			·				Range
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Other:	O No	ne	None Period of historical sig:1883-						
Architectural Statement:			Historical S					-1	Мар
See Continuation Sheet			erected by Samuel Hadfield in 1883-4 as a hotel. Hadfield operated it as such until his death in 1917 after which it was turned					Wisc	Ž
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			into apartmen	ts. It st	ill op	erates a	ıs a	nsin	
			rooming house	In order	to bui	ld the h	otel,	n Avenue	
			Hadfield purchased his in-laws home next door (Putney House) and moved it four feet west. The home is an excellent example of						
			the smaller hotels which developed during					Historic	
			the springs era in the city and survives largely intact. (A/B) Its period of significance is from 1884 to 1917, the years in						
			which Hadfield	operated	the ho	otel.			
5 Sources of Information (Referen			6 Representation in Previous Surveys					District	
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Interestve survey form - Continuation Sheet (1)

Architectural Description: The Hadfield house is one of the few Second Empire designs remaining in Waukesha. (See 352 Wisc. Ave. WK 4/25) The building is two stories in height with a mansard roof covering an additional level of living space. The facade is symmetrically composed with a central pavilion projecting to form the entrance. Windows on the main two stories appear in pairs set beneath simple pedimented hood molds. Gable roofed window dormers, with bargeboards, are regularly disposed on the mansard roof. A three story bay window rises on the east side of the building. A one story porch composed of posts with brackets at the eave, extends across the facade.

Architectural Significance: Significant as a representative example of a period of construction, the Hadfield house is one of the few examples of the Second Empire style in Waukesha and is distinguished by the fine detailing of fenestration, porch and dormers. The Showerman House, located across the street at 352 Wisconsin Avenue, imitates this design. See WK 4/25