

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 5 1976
DATE ENTERED MAY 17 1976

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC *Albrocht C.,*
Wks Ringling, *At*, House
AND/OR COMMON

Baraboo B.P.O.E. #688 Elks Club

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
623 Broadway

CITY, TOWN Baraboo VICINITY OF Second

STATE Wisconsin 53913 CODE 55 COUNTY Sauk CODE 111

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Baraboo B.P.O.E. Elks Building Corp.

STREET & NUMBER
623 Broadway

CITY, TOWN Baraboo VICINITY OF Wisconsin 53913

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Sauk County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
515 Oak Street

CITY, TOWN Baraboo STATE Wisconsin 53913

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Wisconsin Historic Preservation Plan: Volume II, The Inventory

DATE
1975 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Al Ringling house is a two-and-one-half-story late Richardsonian Romanesque mansion of rock-faced Lake Superior brownstone from the Port Wing quarry and trimmed with smooth-faced brownstone. The house has a steep-pitched hip roof broken by gables and a three-and-one-half-story, square, hip-roofed tower at the northeast corner. The picturesque effect of the silhouette is heightened by four tall chimneys. Around the tower is a veranda. Both it and a porte-cochere, located on the south side of the house, are supported by polished granite columns. Though the house gives the impression of great mass, it has ample fenestration.

A one-story addition built of brownstone salvaged from the original carriage house was added to the west side by the Elks Club in 1948. This wing has no architectural or historical significance ~~and is not included in the nomination.~~ Its demolition would not constitute an adverse effect upon the house.

5.14.76
Each room on the ground floor is decorated in a different style. One enters from the east through a vestibule and arrives in a broad, oak-finished hall. On the left is a reception room decorated in a Louis XV style with white-enameled woodwork, silk-covered paneling, mahogany trim, and a Mexican marble fireplace. Beyond the reception room was a billard room. Now used as a small dining room, it has a beamed ceiling and a panoramic landscape scene painted above oak paneling. Across from this was the oak-beamed "Gothic" dining room, now a small cocktail lounge. The original kitchen was removed when the 1948 addition was built.

Between the reception room and the billard room is an oak staircase that ascends at right angles to the hall. Slightly above the landing is a small conservatory. The second floor contained bedrooms, now converted to game rooms, and was simply decorated. In the basement was a ballroom which has become a cocktail lounge.

The Al Ringling mansion has been well-maintained by the Elks Club. Its modifications have had minimal effect on the integrity of the building, and many of the original fixtures and furnishings are still intact.

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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Association with historically important person.
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

At the time of its completion in 1906, the Al Ringling mansion was hailed as the "finest home in the county."¹ It is a late example of Richardsonian Romanesque domestic architecture and is noteworthy for the richness of its interior decoration. It is unusual to find a mansion of this size and style outside of major urban areas. The house is a landmark in Baraboo and is historically significant for its association with Al Ringling.

Albrecht C. Ringling (1852-1916) was the son of August and Marie Ringling and the eldest sibling of a family that included seven brothers and one sister. He was trained to follow his father's occupation of carriage building, but he became interested in the circus, and, in the mid-1870's, he began to perform with a succession of small circuses. In 1882 he organized, with four of his brothers, the Ringling Bros. Classic and Comic Concert Co. This led to the formation in 1884 of the Ringling Bros. Circus which by 1907 developed into the country's largest circus empire.

Al Ringling remained attached to Baraboo throughout his life. In 1905 he decided to build a mansion on the site of his parents' home. The house was completed in December, 1906, and Al occupied it with his wife, Louise, until his death in 1916. The house was owned by the Ringling family until it was purchased by the Elks Club in 1936.

¹Baraboo Weekly News, Wednesday, December 5, 1906.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baraboo Daily News, December 8, 1906

Baraboo Weekly News, December 5, 1906

Plowden, Gene, Those Amazing Ringlings and Their Circus. Caxton Printers, Ltd.
Caldwell, Idaho. 1967.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	27,800,0	4,81,685,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard L. Cleary, Preservation Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

DATE

December 19, 1975

TELEPHONE

(608) 262-2970

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

S.H.P.O. Signature

James Norton Smith

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE 1/29/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Smith

DATE 4/17/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

Charles Adams

DATE 5.17.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Act

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Ringling, Albrecht C., House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Sauk

DATE RECEIVED: 10/27/99 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/11/99
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 76000079

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 11.5/99 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Accepted

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER E Beall

DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____

DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

76 000079

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Ringling, Albrecht C., House
Sauk County, Wisconsin

The original nomination for the Albrecht C. Ringling House was prepared without a verbal boundary description or a boundary justification. The following information amends the original nomination.

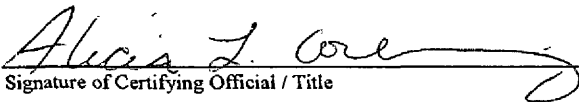
10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

The Albrecht C. Ringling House property consists of lots 1, 2 and 3, block 12, original plat, City of Baraboo.

Boundary Justification

The nominated boundary corresponds to the historic parcel of the Ringling House and garage (no longer extant). The nominated parcel includes the historic house and its additions. The current (1999) legal parcel for the property also includes lot 4, block 12. However, lot 4 is occupied by a paved parking area. The parking lot replaces a house that occupied the parcel adjacent to the Ringling property.


Signature of Certifying Official / Title

10/20/99
Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau