

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Siegner, George V., House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 513 Dale Street ___ not for publication

city, town Spooner ___ vicinity of congressional district Seventh

state Wisconsin code 55 county Washburn code 129

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Gary Cuskey

street & number 511 Dale Street

city, town Spooner ___ vicinity of state Wisconsin 54801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washburn County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Shell Lake state Wisconsin 54871

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

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
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 George V. Siegner house is located at the intersection of Dale and Vale Streets on a knoll overlooking Walnut Street, Spooner's major commercial thoroughfare. The one and a half story house is easily the largest and most interesting of Spooner's early residences. White clapboard siding sheathes the rectangular form. A two story gabled projection on the front facade is offset with a two story square tower to the south and a larger square tower on the northeast corner. These square towers provide an interesting contrast with the curvilinear lines of the two wrap-around porches. These porches appear to be original, although the rustic cobblestone foundations and trim may belie a later remodeling. One of the porches has been enclosed with screen, the other, with siding and windows.

Decorative details are commonly found in houses of this vintage but much less so in this part of Wisconsin. The Siegner house still retains its early detailing. Lacy bargeboards in the south and north gables and in the front porch gables soften the gable lines. Iron cresting and finials top the roof and porch ridgelines. Decorative brackets support the towers' hipped roofs.

With the exception of the porch enclosures, the exterior appears to be little changed. The interior has been divided into apartment. Two detached garages stand on the rear of the lot. They are not significant to the nomination.

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 prominent person
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

Specific dates 1904¹ **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The George V. Siegner house has been a visual landmark in Spooner for more than 75 years. It is important both as an excellent and locally-prominent example of carpenter-built domestic architecture of the Victorian era and for its associations with a locally prominent family.

Association With Prominent Person

The village of Spooner began in 1883 as a division point between St. Paul and Superior for the Omaha Railroad. The town took its name from the Omaha Railroad attorney and the current United States Senator from Wisconsin, J. C. Spooner. Growth came slowly to the community, centered mostly around the railroad yard and depot.

George V. Siegner arrived in Spooner in the summer of 1893 and in association with P. P. Stoltzman, opened up a general mercantile business. Six years later, Siegner bought out the interest of his partner. In the following years, the "Big C.O.D. Bee Hive Department Store" grew to become one of the largest stores between St. Paul and West Superior. At the time, Siegner was buying such large tracts of land in both Washburn County and adjoining Burnett County that in his obituary he was noted as one of the largest landholders in the region.

Siegner was generous in his civic gifts like many prominent men of his time. The local paper described him as a "man of public spirit and is first to put his name down for a liberal sum at all times for anything for the advancement of Spooner's interests."² Indeed, Siegner donated a city block in 1904 for a public school. Siegner died in 1912 at the age of 55.

Architecture

In 1904 Siegner erected a house that reflected his position in the community. Basically longitudinal in form, the house's picturesque out-croppings (tall square towers, decorated gable ends, fieldstone porch, and bracketed overhangs) mark it as a late manifestation of Queen Anne design. In both scale and elaborateness, the house is outstanding in the small community of vernacular dwellings, few of which show any relation to high-style American architecture.

The house's location reinforces its intended stature. The site selected was atop a knoll that overlooked the several commercial blocks facing on Walnut Street. At the far end of Walnut Street was the railroad depot and train yard. Passengers disembarking found the Siegner house the most visible structure on the western horizon. The house was, and remains among the largest and most ambitious residences in Spooner. After Siegner's death, his widow continued to live in the house until 1920.

¹ Spooner Advocate, April 22, 1904.

² Ibid., February 27, 1903.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Abstract of Title, in possession of current property owner, Gary Cuskey, Spooner Advocate. February 27, 1903; April 22, 1904; November 12, 1912.
Tarr, Sharon, Ed. Spoooner, Wisconsin, A History to 1930. Spooner, Wisconsin, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property c. 0.156

Quadrangle name Spoooner, Wisconsin

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

A

1	5	5	8	5	9	5	0	5	0	7	5	3	7	5
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The north 135.5 feet of undivided lot 15, Block 3, Ridgewood Addition, City of Spooner.

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 Marilyn McMillan, Historic Preservation Assistant

organization Northwest Regional Planning Commission date July 15, 1980

street & number 302 Walnut Street telephone (715) 635-2197

city or town Spoooner state Wisconsin 54801

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Richard Kewey

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 2/24/81

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>for Secretary</i> <i>Delores Byers</i> Keeper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register date <u>3/1/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Siegner, George V., House, Spooner, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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Like most of the other settlements in this region, Spooner never realized its early expectations. The village's importance departed with the last passenger train. The Siegner house continues to be a Spooner landmark and a symbol of past times when money and aspirations were abundant.