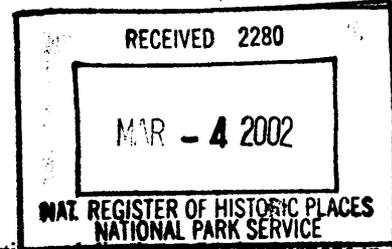


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United States Department of Interior
National Park Service



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 Kendall-Blankenburg House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 47 Sixth Street N/A not for publication
city or town Fond du Lac N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Fond du Lac code 039 zip code 54935

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.)

Alicia L. [Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title

February 15, 2002
Date

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

Kendall-Blankenburg House
Name of Property

Fond du Lac
County and State

Wisconsin

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:)

Edward M. Beall

4-18-02

lbr

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	1 buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	1 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/Second Empire

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
Foundation Stone
walls Weatherboard

roof Asphalt
other Wood

Narrative Description

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

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Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1 Kendall-Blankenburg House
Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, WI

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Kendall-Blankenburg House is a Second Empire style house that sits on a small urban lot in a large residential neighborhood in Fond du Lac, a medium-sized city in east-central Wisconsin. The Kendall-Blankenburg House is located southeast of the city's downtown commercial district in a part of the city's large historic period east side residential neighborhood. This residential area developed primarily during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with the construction of both large and modest-sized houses in the Queen Anne, Period Revival, American Foursquare, and Bungalow styles for both prominent, middle and working-class families. The intensive development of the east side residential neighborhood began after some earlier houses dotted the area during the mid-nineteenth century. These early homes featured primarily the Greek Revival and Italianate styles, but also included some Gothic Revival and Second Empire style houses.

The Kendall-Blankenburg House is located in a moderately dense area of residential buildings on small lots with similar set backs that are landscaped with mature trees and shrubs. The Kendall-Blankenburg House is one of the older houses in the streetscape. In front of this house, Sixth Street is an average-sized urban street with improved concrete curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. The street is wide enough for parallel parking on both sides of the street and there are wide terraces between the sidewalks and the street. Large, mature trees landscape most of the terrace space along the streetscape and the topography of the area is generally flat.

Several mature spruce and arbor vitae conifers sit close to the Kendall-Blankenburg House, which is also landscaped with smaller shrub plantings near the foundation. At the southeast and southwest corners of the lot, there are two large deciduous trees. The remainder of the lot features small lawn spaces both to the north and south of the house. On the east side of the house, there is a wide paved driveway that leads into the modern garage addition. A small non-contributing building sits at the northeast corner of the lot.

Exterior

The Kendall-Blankenburg House consists of two sections, a two story Second Empire main block constructed in 1874 that sits on a raised foundation, and a one and one-half story ell constructed around 1890 that has details that suggest the Stick Style. The main block features a mansard roof with projecting round-arched dormers on all four elevations. These dormers are filled with pairs of round-arched, casement-style sash. The roof has wide, overhanging eaves supported by paired scroll brackets attached to a paneled wooden frieze. This main block of the

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Section 7 Page 2 Kendall-Blankenburg House
Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, WI

house is covered with clapboards accented at the corners by thin pilasters. The entire main block sits on a raised limestone foundation.

The one-and-one-half story east ell was added around 1890. The roof of the ell is also a mansard, but with a flatter surface. On the east elevation, the ell roof is punctuated by a shed-roofed dormer and shed roofs covering large wall openings. The walls of the ell are covered with clapboards and heavily decorated with vertical and horizontal stickwork. A band of vertical boards accents the center of the walls of the ell.

On the main or south elevation, the house has a projecting central section flanked by a wing of the main block and the ell wing. The tall limestone foundation of the main block is punctuated with two-over-two-light double-hung sashes. The projecting central section of the main elevation features a large "picture" style window composed of a large single light flanked by sidelights and topped with a transom. The window is topped with a shed-roofed hood supported by brackets. Under the window is a panel of vertical boards. Connecting the projecting central section and the west ell of the house is a porch that has a flat roof supported by simple round columns. A plain balustrade of posts spans the flat roof of the porch that sits on tall, limestone piers. Two entrances sit under the porch. One entrance is at the southwest corner of the projecting central section, while the other entrance sits in the west ell. The entrances are decorated with simple cornice moldings. A two-over-two-light double-hung sash is also in the west ell.

The east ell of the main elevation features a long, sloping roof from which the gable roof of the front porch projects. This porch covers the main entrance to the house that consists of a double wood paneled door covered with a double period screen door. The entrance is decorated with a large transom. The gable-on-pent porch roof is decorated with an arched frieze of stickwork. The frieze is supported by turned columns and scroll brackets. The wall of this ell is decorated with applied stickwork and a panel of vertical boards.

The east elevation of the house is primarily comprised of the east wall of the c.1890 addition. This wall is covered with clapboards decorated with applied stickwork and panels of vertical boards. Numerous irregular openings punctuate primarily the second story. These openings consist of both single lights with transoms and sashes with transoms. The transoms are filled with stained glass panels. Projecting from the northeast corner of this elevation is the non-contributing garage addition. This addition features a flat roof that covers one long enclosed garage bay on the north side. On the south side of the garage addition, there is a partially enclosed garage bay. The enclosed garage bay has a modern door and is sided with modern vertical siding. The partially enclosed bay features a south wall of horizontal wood slats. There are two sash openings in the north wall of the garage.

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Section 7 Page 3 Kendall-Blankenburg House
Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, WI

The north elevation of the house consists of the north wall of the garage addition that extends past the east ell. Spanning the east ell and the central section of the house to the west ell is a one-story screen porch. The porch covers the tall stone foundation. Above the porch are the wall surfaces of the north elevation. These walls surfaces are primarily covered with clapboards and punctuated with tall, narrow openings on the second story of the central section and west ell of the house. A short, wide, sash sits above the porch on the north wall of the east ell. The tall windows are filled with two-over-two-light double-hung sashes decorated with architrave surrounds.

The west elevation of the house consists of the west wall of the west ell. It is covered with clapboards and punctuated with a large oriel. The oriel sits on two large brackets that are attached to the stone foundation. It has a hip roof with wide overhanging eaves decorated with scroll brackets. The oriel's openings are tall and narrow and are filled with single-light sashes sitting on a paneled base.

Interior

The main entrance into the interior of the house is in the c.1890-constructed east ell. The large, multi-paneled wood doors of the main entrance lead into a small entryway. A set of large wood-paneled and glazed doors lead into a large foyer. The doors are topped with a large transom filled with etched glass and are decorated with fluted oak moldings accented with bull's-eye corner blocks. The foyer contains a large, open-wall, four-run staircase that leads up to the first and second floors. The floor of the foyer is oval shaped and three oval shaped steps lead to a small sitting area near a fireplace that sits under the staircase. A tall oak post rises from the small set of steps to support the first floor staircase landing. This post is decorated in a similar manner to the smaller posts that make up part of the staircase.

The foyer sitting area has an oak floor with wide oak baseboards. A built-in oak bench sits along the face of the first flight of the main staircase. This face is covered with wainscoting that also serves as the back of the bench. The oak bench features a curved side arm and a paneled base. Next to the bench is the fireplace. The fireplace has a rectangular opening surrounded by tiles with a criss-cross pattern. The oak mantel is decorated with both plain and beaded moldings and a set of carved acanthus leaf scrolls. The short overmantel consists of two rectangular mirrors surrounded by oak moldings that are decorated with sprigs of acanthus leaves, a teardrop-shaped acanthus-leaved carving at the center, bull's eyes, large beads, and a small shelf decorated like a classical bowl or very shallow urn.

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Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 4 Kendall-Blankenburg House
Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, WI

Prior to the construction of the c.1890 east ell, the main entrance to the house was via the porch that spans the projecting central section and the west ell of the house. The c.1890 addition of the east ell made a new entrance into the house and possibly changed the floorplan and use of the basement in the raised foundation. Because of the raised foundation, the basement story was usable as living space, and it is fully improved. To the left of the fireplace sitting area in the foyer, there are two large oak paneled doors trimmed with fluted moldings and bull's eye blocks. This set of doors leads into a large room once used as a formal dining room. This room has an oak floor, plaster walls, and simple wide oak moldings. On the south wall there is a built-in cabinet with trim in the Eastlake style. The room is currently used for storage.

Next to the fireplace is a single wood door with fluted trim and bull's eye blocks that leads into a hallway that runs through the rest of the basement space. At the east end of the hallway there is a door that leads into the modern garage. Other doors off this hallway lead into a bathroom, an old laundry room, and at the west end of the hallway, and an old kitchen that once serviced the formal dining room. Throughout this area of the basement, the doors are simple four-panel wood doors trimmed with simple moldings. Also at the west end of the basement are two small rooms used for utilities and storage.

The large main staircase is constructed of oak and includes several flights and landings. The staircase features a wide facing of oak boards. The balustrade is composed of square oak posts supporting an oak banister. Both the banister and the posts are fluted with very narrow grooves. There are several identical newel posts that sit at the bottom of the staircase and on each of the landings. These posts feature chamfered bodies topped with blocks decorated with deep horizontal grooves. The posts are topped with dome-like knobs and where the newel bases are exposed under the upper landings, the posts feature similar shaped pendants. The exposed underside of the staircase is covered with oak wainscoting. The staircase risers are made of oak and covered with carpeting, as are most of the landings. The landing on the first floor is not carpeted and is covered with narrow oak flooring.

The dining room-kitchen area and the large living room can be reached through entrances from the first floor landing. A four-panel wood door leads into the dining room-kitchen, while a set of four-panel pocket doors lead into the living room. These entrances are decorated with fluted moldings and bull's eye corner blocks. The landing area also features wide oak baseboards. Attached to the west wall on the first floor landing is a vertical tube cast iron radiator that has a date of 1874.

The large living room is reached through four panel wood pocket door that have been painted. The space probably consisted of two parlors in the original 1874 house plan. The central wall

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Section 7 Page 5 Kendall-Blankenburg House
Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, WI

was probably opened up around 1890 when the east wing was added and the house was remodeled. A later nineteenth century beam, pilasters, and brackets sit in the probable location of the old wall, and most of the other decorative features of the room appear to date from c.1890. The floor of this room is covered with a large rectangular carpet that exposed the edges of the maple flooring. The room has wide oak baseboards and the openings are trimmed with raised moldings that are painted. The central ceiling beam, brackets, and pilasters are also painted and fluted. They are decorated with fluted corner blocks and carved wooden tiles. The walls of this room are plastered and partly decorated with wallpaper. Running between the plaster ceiling and the walls is a wide painted rinceau molding. Most of the doors in the living room are from the c.1890 remodeling and are simple four panel painted wood doors. The door that was probably the main entrance in the original house also has four panels, but the panels are raised and accented with decorative moldings.

Along the west wall of the living room is the interior of the oriel. Wood paneling sits under the large opening, but the ceiling of the oriel has an unusual feature. This feature is a hand painted mural featuring young angels and shrubs or large flowers. Between the ceiling and the wood trim of the oriel windows, there is also a hand painted floral panel. The artist is unknown and may have been one of the historic homeowners. The mural is beautiful, but the technique is not complex, suggesting that an amateur could have executed it.

Along the north wall of the living room are entrances into the family room and into the kitchen-dining room. The entrance into the family room was once much larger and suggests that this may have been the original dining room. This larger entrance is defined by a raised molding that surrounds it. The current family room entrance consists of a single four panel wood door that is painted. A second door encloses the rest of the entrance. The family room has a wood floor covered with a large rug, plaster walls and a plaster ceiling, and plain wood trim. To the east of the family room is a bathroom that may have been an old pantry, due to its location between the kitchen and what might have been the dining room. The bathroom features are modern.

East of the entrance into the family room is the kitchen entrance. This four-panel painted wood door leads into the slightly remodeled kitchen-dining area. The walls of the kitchen are covered with wallpaper and there is a plaster ceiling. The floor is maple and painted fluted moldings and bull's eye blocks decorate the window along the north wall. Along the west wall of the kitchen is a set of 1970s-era built-in cabinets and a sink. There is space for a modern stove that is filled with an antique stove and a modern shelf unit. The north wall contains a modern refrigerator and an antique cupboard. Other antiques fill the room.

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Section 7 Page 6 Kendall-Blankenburg House
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A large opening in the east wall of the kitchen leads into the current dining room. Both sides of this opening feature fluted moldings and bull's eye corner blocks that have been painted. This type of trim also accents the large window along the east wall and the three doors in the dining room area. The floor of the dining room is identical to that of the kitchen and the walls are covered with wallpaper. The ceiling has been covered with modern acoustical tiles. The two doors on the north wall of the dining room lead to a closet and to an enclosed porch.

The dining room has a fireplace and a built-in cabinet along the south wall. The built-in cabinet is painted and consists of an upper set of shelves covered by three glass doors. The bottom of the cabinet has three drawers and three one-panel doors below. In between is a shelf with two round colonettes with Ionic capitals that support the upper shelves. The fireplace has a rectangular opening with a glazed tile surround accented by two large, decorative tiles. Similar glazed tile is used for the hearth. It is accented by a decorative tile border. The oak mantel features a wide double quarter circle molding supporting a flat mantel shelf.

The last two flights of the open wall, four run staircase lead to the second floor. The staircase is in the c.1890 addition, but the second floor is in the original section of the house. Leading up the third flight of stairs, three identical decorative openings can be viewed in the east wall of the staircase area. Two openings are located between the third and fourth flights, while the third opening sits slightly lower and to the south of the other two. These openings have a lower single light topped with a rectangular opening filled with stained glass in a floral and geometric pattern. A stained glass light that is a bit larger, but with an identical pattern, is located lower in the east wall of the staircase area. All of these openings are trimmed with fluted moldings and bull's eye corner blocks.

The second floor has a central hallway that is carpeted and includes wide stained oak baseboards with a wide fluted molding and simple raised and stained moldings around bedroom door openings. The trim around the doors is a later addition that covers the original flat trim. The walls and ceilings of this floor are all covered with plaster, and some of the bedroom walls are accented with wallpaper. On the north side of the hallway is a bedroom and a bathroom. At the end of the hallway is a larger bedroom and attached bathroom. On the south side of the hallway is a third bedroom.

All of the bedrooms are carpeted and the bathrooms feature vinyl floors. Wallpaper and modern fixtures accent the bathrooms, while the bedrooms' most interesting feature is their slanted exterior walls, and deep windows that reflect house's original mansard roof. Each bedroom has one or more dormers. These dormers project beyond the mansard walls and, therefore, have slanted sidewalls and deep sills. The window openings are casements that are filled with arched

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Section 7 Page 7 Kendall-Blankenburg House
Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, WI

single lights. Simple flat wood moldings trim the dormers and the bedroom baseboards are also undecorated. The wood trim in the bedrooms is painted.

Kendall-Blankenburg House
Name of Property

Fond du Lac
County and State

WI

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

1874-1890

Significant Dates

1874, 1890

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.)

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Section 8 Page 1

Kendall-Blankenburg House
Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, WI

SIGNIFICANCE¹

The Kendall-Blankenburg House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C, architecture, because it is locally significant as a Second Empire Style house with additional details executed in the Stick Style. Because the Second Empire style was not as popular as other mid-nineteenth century styles, the city of Fond du Lac only has two good examples of the style. This house stands out because of its fine Second Empire details, its unusual and well-executed raised limestone foundation, and its interesting Stick Style-influenced details added around 1890. It is also of interest because of its well preserved and decorative interior. The interior's late nineteenth century details, such as the massive staircase and impressive foyer, add to the architectural significance of the house.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Between 1672 and 1829, the area at the southern end of Lake Winnebago was visited by French explorers, missionaries, and fur trappers; and trading posts were built in what is now the city of Fond du Lac. In 1829, James Duane Doty, along with several companions, traveled from Green Bay to Prairie du Chien looking for sites to develop. Among the sites they viewed was an area where the Fond du Lac River flows into Lake Winnebago. In 1835, after the federal government overcame Native American claims to the area, Doty and George McWilliams purchased 3,705 acres of this land under the name of the Fond du Lac Company. Within these acres, Doty also drew the city's original plat of 33 city blocks with 1800 lots.²

In 1836, the historic Military Road came through Fond du Lac on its way between Green Bay and Prairie du Chien, an event that helped early settlement in the state. Looking to capitalize on the new road, the Fond du Lac Company established a tavern, inn and land office at the site of the new community. Brothers Colwert and Edward Pier, with Colwert's wife, Fanny, agreed to run this business in a log cabin, becoming the first permanent white settlers in Fond du Lac.³

In 1838, physician Mason C. Darling, who was recruited to the new settlement by James Doty, arrived in Fond du Lac. As a fee for locating there, the Fond du Lac Company gave Darling 80 acres of prime land in the new plat, along with some nearby farmland. In a shrewd, but

¹This footnote pertains to the period of significance and significant dates noted in Section 8 of the form. The period of significance for this house includes the probable date of construction and the date of the major addition. The significant dates for this house were selected based on an evaluation of deeds, historic tax rolls, city directories, and Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance maps, all cited in the bibliography.

² Carol Lohry Cartwright, *City of Fond du Lac Intensive Survey Report*, Fond du Lac: City of Fond du Lac, 1992, pp. 9-10.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

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Section 8 Page 2

Kendall-Blankenburg House
Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, WI

underhanded, economic move, Darling legally blocked the Fond du Lac Company from selling their lots for a time, while selling the lots from his own 80-acre parcel and some additional land he had obtained. Much of Darling's land was in what would develop as downtown Fond du Lac, and Darling quickly became wealthy. Additionally, Darling promoted the settlement by giving away some lots, donating land for the county courthouse, acquiring the postmaster appointment, and opening a hotel. But, despite Darling's efforts, Fond du Lac grew slowly during the 1840s, and only 400 people lived there in 1847.⁴

During the 1850s and 1860s, the population of Fond du Lac grew rapidly, the result of two important developments. The first was the development of an important rail link. In 1851, ground was broken for the Rock River Valley Railroad, a line out of Janesville, Wisconsin. This line was reorganized in 1855 and absorbed by the large Chicago NorthWestern Railroad Company (CNW) in 1859. The Fond du Lac stop was part of the CNW's rail line that they developed through eastern Wisconsin during the 1860s, a line that became one of the most important transportation lines in the state.⁵

The second development that changed Fond du Lac was the lumber industry. Fond du Lac was an early "sawmill town," processing the timber that came down the Fox River system from areas north of the city. The first sawmill built in Fond du Lac operated in 1846-1847, then reopened in 1849, and operated until 1855. During the 1850s and 1860s, more sawmills were established in Fond du Lac. In 1873, at the peak of the lumber industry in the community, the city had 18 lumber and wood products mills that employed over 1,400 workers, who processed 67,000,000 feet of lumber and 2.3 million dollars worth of wood products.⁶

Largely due to these developments, the population of Fond du Lac rose to almost 5,000 in the early 1850s, then doubled to 10,000 during the 1860s. At the peak of the lumber boom, Fond du Lac had just over 15,000 residents, 18 churches, six banks, and a dozen hotels. In order to house all of these new residents, a building boom began in the city. This boom included the development of downtown Fond du Lac, as well as three residential neighborhoods that grew up to the east, west, and south of the downtown. Much of the new housing was built for workers and was simple, vernacular housing, but a number of wealthier families built larger, more stylish, houses in these neighborhoods.⁷

⁴*Ibid.*

⁵*Ibid.*, pp. 11, 108.

⁶*Ibid.*, pp. 84-85.

⁷*Ibid.*, p. 11.

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Section 8 Page 3

Kendall-Blankenburg House
Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, WI

In the residential area east of Fond du Lac's downtown, the larger, more stylish houses were concentrated primarily along two streets, East Division and Sheboygan, and during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, this area developed into the city's most prominent residential neighborhood. South and east of the city's downtown, the larger, more stylish houses were less concentrated. Only two small concentrated areas of stylish houses were built in these neighborhoods. One is a small area along West Division Street close to downtown, and the other is a small area along Linden Street, just south of the city's downtown and courthouse complex.

After the lumber industry died out in the 1880s, Fond du Lac's economy slowed for a while. Although the city had other industries, none could rival the size of the lumber mills and factories. But, after the turn of the twentieth century, new or expanded industries brought a revival of the city's industrial economy. Large repair shops and division headquarters for both the Soo Line and Chicago Northwestern railroads in North Fond du Lac employed almost 2,000 men by 1912. Several industries, including the Fred Rueping Leather Company, the Moore and Galloway Lumber Company, and the Giddings and Lewis Company, employed another 1,500 workers at that time. Several smaller industries, such as the Gurney Refrigerator Company, the Fond du Lac Table Manufacturing Company, the Northern Casket Company, the Vulcan Manufacturing Company, and the Galloway-West Dairy Products Company employed almost 1,000 workers in 1912. These companies continued to grow during the twentieth century; in particular, the Giddings and Lewis Company, the Vulcan Manufacturing Company, and the Galloway-West Company. They were the core of Fond du Lac's industrial economy in the twentieth century that helped the city become one of the largest industrial centers in east-central Wisconsin.⁸

During the economic boom of the early twentieth century, Fond du Lac's already-established residential neighborhoods grew significantly. But, most of this new housing was in the form of small to medium-sized residences built for the skilled industrial workers of the city. In fact, Fond du Lac's historic period housing stock contains large concentrations of American Foursquare and simple Bungalow style houses, both built among the older streetscapes of the city and in new streetscapes further east, west, and south of the older neighborhoods. In the East Division and Sheboygan streets neighborhood of large, stylish houses, the new construction of the early twentieth century consisted primarily of large Craftsman and Period Revival style homes. But, in the older neighborhoods to the south and west of downtown Fond du Lac, including the West Division and Linden Street neighborhoods, this new construction was primarily smaller "infill" type housing for middle-class and working-class families that was typical of the American Foursquare and Bungalow homes rising in other areas of the city.

⁸*Ibid.*, pp. 11-12.

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Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4 Kendall-Blankenburg House
Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, WI

During the late twentieth century, the residential neighborhoods of Fond du Lac continued to expand, primarily with tracts of suburban-style ranch houses. The prominent neighborhood along East Division and Sheboygan streets has been largely retained, and some houses that had been deteriorating during the 1970s and 1980s, are now being restored. The other historic neighborhoods in Fond du Lac have seen more intrusive elements introduced and more remodeling. But, overall, these neighborhoods are relatively stable, and the larger, older homes along West Division and Linden streets are still extant. Other historic houses scattered throughout the city have also been largely preserved and are recognized as local landmarks in the community.

The Kendall-Blankenburg House is one of the older houses built in this area of Fond du Lac's large east side residential neighborhood. It was constructed before the neighborhood was densely developed with infill houses. The original land parcel attached to this property included all of lots 17-19 of Darling's Addition, one of the early plats in the city. These three lots changed hands several times prior to February of 1874 when local developer H. B. Fargo acquired them. Fargo immediately sold the lots to Charles M. Kendall, who built the original Second Empire house on Lot 17 and part of lots 18 and 19.⁹

Charles M. Kendall was a native of New York State who, as a baby in 1843, came with his parents to the outskirts of the relatively new community of Fond du Lac. His father was a farmer and a shoemaker. Kendall, himself, attended local schools and the Fond du Lac Academy. After working at several different jobs, he enlisted in the army in 1862, and fought in the Civil War. During the war, Kendall received several flesh wounds, then was severely wounded in 1863. No longer able to fight, he worked as Ward Master in the army hospital at Memphis, then moved up to the position of Steward and Commissary of that hospital. After he mustered out of the army in 1865, he returned to Fond du Lac and began a painting business that he operated until 1877, when he became a salesman. He married Jennie Oliver in 1867.¹⁰

Charles M. and Jennie Kendall lived in this house until May of 1880, when they sold it to Albert and Emily Blankenburg. Albert Blankenburg was a native of Fond du Lac and the son of a successful furniture storeowner. Blankenburg worked for his father between 1868 and 1878, then took over the family business himself. In 1875, he married Emily Wegeman of Lake Mills, Wisconsin. On the Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance map of 1884, the house is shown without the east ell, so the Blankenburgs did not remodel the house until they were in it for several years.

⁹ Deeds, Volume 69, pp. 121, 126; on file in the Register of Deeds Office, Fond du Lac City-County Building, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

¹⁰ C. W. Butterfield, *The History of Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin*, Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1880, pp. 823-824.

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On the 1892 Sanborn map, the house is shown with its east ell, so it can be assumed that the Blankenburgs made this alteration during this period. The historic tax rolls show a small jump in value around 1890, so it may be around that year that the addition of the east ell was made and the rest of the house remodeled.¹¹

In March of 1900, Blankenburg granted a quit claim deed for the house to a Kate Tuttle; then in October of 1900, Tuttle sold the house to H. J. Baker and his wife, Verna. The Bakers would be the longest owners of the house, residing there for over 50 years. Harris J. Baker was a native of Fond du Lac County, but grew up in Minnesota. In 1889, he started a nursery business in Iowa. In 1891, he married Verna Huck, then in 1894, the family moved to Fond du Lac, where Baker started the Baker Nursery and Seed Company. Harry Baker was president of the business until his retirement in 1946. At that time, his son, Leonard, took over the business. Harry Baker died in August of 1949, and, a few years later, Verna Baker also passed away. In November of 1954, the estate of Verna Baker sold this house to David and Patricia Sullivan.¹²

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHITECTURE

The Kendall-Blankenburg House is architecturally significant at the local level because it is a good example of the Second Empire Style with additions from the Stick Style. The main block of the house was built in the Second Empire Style and sat on an unusually tall stone foundation. The stone foundation gave the house added height and interest. The addition of the Stick Style east ell and other details give this house further architectural interest. What makes this house even more important is its well-preserved interior. The basement and first floor of the house have fine details primarily from the c.1890 alterations, while the second floor has many details from the original Second Empire style house. While some modern alterations have been made to make the house more suitable for the 21st century, primarily the addition of modern bathrooms, the current owners have restored this house to much of its turn-of-the-twentieth-century appearance. The result is a house that has a high degree of integrity both on the exterior and the interior.

¹¹ Deeds, Volume 85, p. 75; Butterfield, p.782; City Directories for the City of Fond du Lac, on file in the Fond du Lac Public Library, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin; Tax Rolls for the City of Fond du Lac, on file in the Area Research Center of the Library of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Oshkosh, Wisconsin; Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Maps for the City of Fond du Lac, 1884, 1892, on file in the Archives of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin.

¹² Deeds, Volume 145, p. 423; Volume 147, p. 533; Volume 376, p. 405; "H. J. Baker, 84, Early Nursery Founder, Dead," *Fond du Lac Commonwealth Reporter*, 30 August 1949, p. 16.

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The Second Empire Style of architecture was popular in Wisconsin between 1870 and 1890. The most identifiable characteristic of the style is the mansard roof, almost always punctuated with dormers. Many Second Empire houses are elaborately trimmed with details from the Italianate style; in fact, some Italianate houses were remodeled into Second Empire houses by the addition of a mansard roof. Even though the style has some popularity in the state, the Italianate and Queen Anne styles were much more popular during the last half of the nineteenth century, so the numbers of Second Empire style houses are not as large, and good examples are not as common.¹³

Examples of the Stick Style were built in Wisconsin during the late nineteenth century. The Stick Style is related to the Queen Anne style in their similar form and massing. Stick Style houses are usually tall with steeply-pitched gable roofs. Stick Style houses feature plans that are usually irregular and include projecting gables and ells, large front porches, and towers. The hallmark of the style is the elaborate application of applied stickwork, usually to a clapboard-clad wall, and gables and porches that have an abundance of brackets, cross-pieces, and cut-out wood trim, very often using straight boards instead of the curved decoration and turned posts of the Queen Anne style. There are few true examples of the Stick Style in the country, most are on the east or west coasts. In Wisconsin, the Stick Style was used primarily as an added detail to Queen Anne houses and only a very few houses in the state were built in an authentic Stick Style.¹⁴

The main block of the Kendall-Blankenburg House is a good example of the Second Empire style because it has typical details of that style executed with high quality materials and high quality craftsmanship. In particular, the mansard roof, with its round-arched dormers, is a fine and well-executed detail of the house. All of the roof's original details are intact, including the overhanging eaves with brackets. What makes the main block unusual, as well as architecturally interesting, is the raised limestone foundation. This high-quality detail uses a common local building material, limestone, which adds a decorative quality to the lower part of the house.

The late nineteenth century details of the house are primarily seen on the east ell, but the large window in the main elevation and the west elevation oriel are details that add to the architectural interest of the main block. The Stick Style details of the east ell, including the stickwork porch, the porch roof, and the applied stickwork on the ell walls, are well executed and add additional picturesque detail to the Second Empire main block. These details are all in good condition and add to the overall high integrity of the house.

¹³ Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. II*, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Architecture, p. 2-11.

¹⁴ *Ibid*, p. 2-14.

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Kendall-Blankenburg House
Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, WI

The high integrity of the exterior is repeated on the interior of this house. Details from both the original Second Empire house and the c.1890 remodeling and addition are extant and include some outstanding details. The mansard roof dormers are a well-preserved detail of the second floor interior and reflect the original style of the house. The details added during the c.1890 remodeling give the interior an elegant and lavish style. The foyer, with its impressive, four-run staircase is a fine example of wood craftsmanship, as are the details of the basement sitting area, with its built-in bench and decorative fireplace. The first floor is also a reflection of the fine remodeling executed during the c.1890 era. The wood trim with the abundant use of fluted boards and bull's eye blocks, the dining room oak fireplace, the stained glass openings, and the bay window with its unusual mural gives the interior late nineteenth century distinctiveness, a distinctiveness that is accented by the high quality of integrity of these details. The result is a house that is both picturesque and elegant; a well-preserved example of a middle-class family's lifestyle during the late nineteenth century.

The Kendall-Blankenburg House is architecturally significant at the local level and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because of its fine Second Empire and Stick Style architectural details, its high quality building materials and methods, and its overall high level of integrity. It is one of the city's most distinctive houses, an architectural gem in the midst of a large residential neighborhood that is recognized as a local landmark for its fine style and outstanding historic quality.

Furthermore, this house demonstrates the breadth of Victorian taste and eclecticism, as well as the changing aesthetic of the period. This house is significant as an early Victorian Second Empire design that was embellished and ornamented in a late Victorian remodeling. In this example, the relative formality of the Second Empire gave way to ornamental and dramatic elements of the later period. The skillful reworking of the house retained its Second Empire essence, while adding the complex detail and texture of late Victorian fashion, as seen in the inglenook and staircase of the interior and the Stick Style porch of the facade.

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Kendall-Blankenburg House has a boundary that is described as follows: Darling's Addition, Block W, Lot 17 and the west 30 feet of Lots 18 and 19.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of this property has been its historic site since the house was built in 1874 and throughout the period of significance.

Kendall-Blankenburg House
Name of Property

Fond du Lac
County and State

WI

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	Daniel and Margo Gahagan	date	7/10/01
organization		telephone	920-923-1164
street&number	47 Sixth Street	zip code	54935
city or town	Fond du Lac	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.

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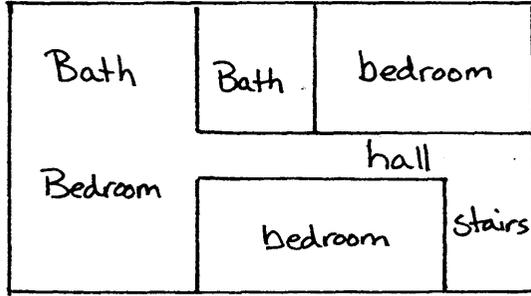
KENDALL-BLANKENBURG HOUSE, 47 6th Street, Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin. Photos by Carol Cartwright, February 2001. Negatives on file in the Historic Preservation Division of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin.

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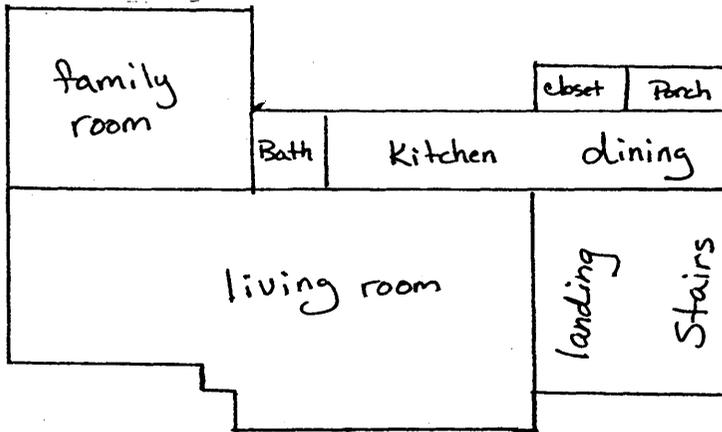
- 1 of 10: Site view, from the southeast.
- 2 of 10: Front or south elevation, from the southeast.
- 3 of 10: Interior, foyer sitting area.
- 4 of 10: Interior, main staircase.
- 5 of 10: Interior, first floor, living room.
- 6 of 10: Interior, dining room, from the kitchen.
- 7 of 10: Interior, dining room fireplace.
- 8 of 10: Interior, first floor, view from living room toward staircase.
- 9 of 10: Interior, second floor hallway, view from the top of the staircase.
- 10 of 10: Interior, second floor bedroom showing interior of dormer window.

**KENDALL-BLANKENBURG HOUSE
FLOOR PLANS**

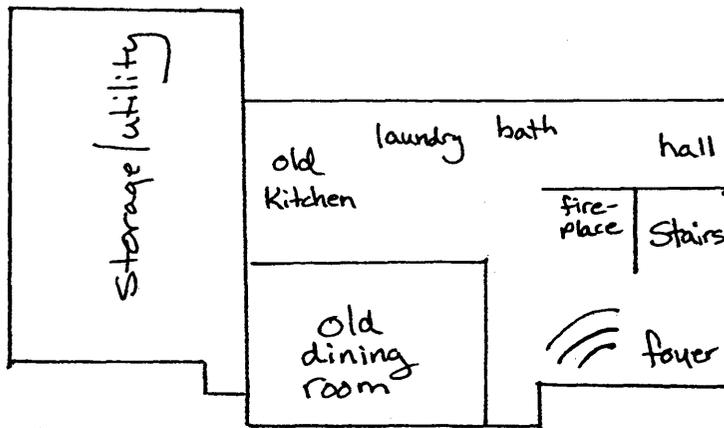
FOND DU LAC, FOND DU LAC COUNTY, WISCONSIN



Second Floor



First Floor



Basement