

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUN 26 1979 AUG 14 1979  
DATE ENTERED

**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** *Beyer Home Museum*

HISTORIC *Hart-Beyer House*

AND/OR COMMON *Beyer Home Museum (preferred)*

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER *917 Park Avenue*

CITY, TOWN *Oconto*

STATE *Wisconsin*

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
*8th*

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CODE  
*55*

COUNTY  
*Oconto*

CODE  
*083*

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME *Oconto County Historical Society*

STREET & NUMBER  
*917 Park Avenue*

CITY, TOWN  
*Oconto*

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
*Wisconsin 54153*

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. *Oconto County Courthouse*

STREET & NUMBER  
*Washington Street*

CITY, TOWN  
*Oconto*

STATE  
*Wisconsin 54153*

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
*Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places*

DATE  
*1975*  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS *State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Historic Preservation Division*

CITY, TOWN  
*Madison*

STATE  
*Wisconsin 53706*

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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		

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

The Beyer House is a two-and-one half story brick Queen Anne residence, originally constructed in the Italianate style in 1868. When built it was a two-story house with a front veranda spanning the facade. Its shape was a central block with one wing and a large cupola and balustrade resting on the hipped roof. The windows were shuttered, and the cornice was bracketed.

In the 1890s the house was transformed in the Queen Anne style. As such, it features two-story polygonal bays on the south side and at the front southeast corner; the latter is crowned with a turret. The main entry to the house is at the first floor of the turreted bay. At the second floor there is a round-arched window with stained glass panes. Stained glass is also apparent in the turret windows, in the dormer extending north from the turret, and in the side bay.

Wood trim on the house is admirable. A continuous decorative frieze band accentuated with brackets defines the cornice. The front veranda, curved at the southeast corner, is trimmed with ornate woodwork and features a pediment at the doorway. It shelters a Chicago-type window topped with an elliptically arched glazed panel. The wing at the rear of the house was built in 1871 as a washhouse. It has since been converted to a garage.

The interior of the house has been restored in the Victorian mode by its present owner, the Oconto County Historical Society. It is richly furnished and approximately 20% of the furnishings are from the Beyer family. The rest of the furniture was obtained from Oconto County residents and are contemporaneous with the Beyer furniture. There are seventeen rooms and two fireplaces on each floor. One enters into a small vestibule and through double doors into the hall and stairway. The spiral stairway is walnut and features a lovely newel post. There is a parlor, sitting room, and music room in the front third of the house, all of large proportions. On the west wall of the dining room is a built-in cupboard and the door on the south side of this room leads to a porch.

Few changes have occurred in the house since the 1890s. The major addition has been indoor plumbing and heating systems, installed in the 1890s.

The house is presently owned by the Oconto Historical Society and serves as a County museum. The Society began refurbishing the house in 1967 when they painted and papered the walls using wallpaper with period motifs. In 1973-1974 the Society faithfully restored the porches, duplicating original parts as needed. The Society hopes to obtain a grant to continue their restoration, with the philosophy of maintaining the historical fabric of the house.

A small carriage house directly west of the house was built in 1868. It is a small rectangular building with a hipped roof and raised vent at the crown. Three large doors line the south side of the building. A loft is inset above. To the east side there is a shed addition. The building has served as a barn, carriage house and general storage area.



# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Commemorative Biographical Record of the West Shore of Green Bay. Chicago: J.H. Beers and Co. 1896, pp. 627-628.

Hall, George E. A History of Oconto., Oconto, Wisconsin: Oconto Publishing Co. 1969.

Oconto Enterprise. Oconto, Wisconsin. 5 March 1920.

The Columbian Biographical Dictionary. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co. 1895, pp. 658-662.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .0084 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Oconto East, Wisconsin

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 | 431690 | 4971220

B      |      |     

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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H      |      |     

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beyer House - Lot 4 Block 6 of Eliza J. Hart's addition.

Beyer House Carriage House - North 1/2 of East 1/2 of Lot 2 Block 6 of Eliza J. Hart's addition.

## 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

Patty Marks

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society, Historic Preservation Division

DATE

April 1979

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

(608)262-8904

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL X

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Richard Perry*

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

5/22/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Carol Shall*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8-14-79

ATTEST:

*Cynthia Jane Saye*  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

8-14-79

*Reginald Coordinator*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

SIGNIFICANCE continued

In 1878 George Beyer bought the fine brick house that Cyrus Hart had built in 1868. Originally built in the Italianate style and was transformed into a Queen Anne design in the 1890's. The architects for the original design and the remodeling are unknown. Probably the most interesting aspect of the house is its Queen Anne transformation. In keeping with the Queen Anne tradition, this house has interesting and varied detailing and massing. The Beyer House is in excellent condition. It remains one of the finest Queen Anne homes in Oconto. Oconto was a lumber town and as such a brick house, as the Beyer House is, is quite unusual.

George Beyer and Cyrus Hart both demonstrated fulfillment of the entrepreneurial ambition. Their involvement with various business ventures displays their ability to change with the times, being ever aware of timely investment. Both of these people helped foster social and economic growth in the young Oconto community.