Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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

Beyer Home Museum **1** NAME

HISTORIC Hart-Beyer House

AND/OR COMMON Beyer Home Museum (preferred)

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 917 Park Avenue

	NOT FOR PUBLICATION				
CITY, TOWN Conto		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8th			
STATE Wisconsin	CODE 55	COUNTY Oconto	CODE 083		

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESE	INTUSE
DISTRICT	X_PUBLIC		AGRICULTURE	XMUSEUM
X_BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Oconto	County Historical Society			*
STREET & NUMBER	k Avenue	- <u>-</u>		
CITY, TOWN	k Avenue		STATE	
Oconto		TY OF	Wisconsin	54153
LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCRIPT	ION		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS,E	erc. Oconto County Courthou	se		
STREET & NUMBER				
	Washington Street			
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
	Oconto /		Wisconsin	54153
6 REPRESEN	TATION IN EXISTING	SURVEYS		
TITLE Wiscons	in Inventory of Historic	Places		
DATE 1975		FEDERAL XSTATECOU	NTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	State Historical Society	of Wisconsin, Historic H	reservation	Division
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
Madison	L		Wisconsin	53706



	CONDITION	CHECK ONE		CHECK ON	IE
EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	UNALTERED			TE
_ <u>-</u> ¥G00D	RUINS	_XALTERED		MOVED	DATE
FAIR	UNEXPOSED		4		

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 continous 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 occured 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 restor ation, 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.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

1		211 E		·
PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTOHIC 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 & 1800-1899	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE ARCHITECTURE ART COMMERCE	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY	RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION X other concount dSSOCiated
1900- SPECIFIC DAT		INDUSTRY INVENTION 	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<u>X_{отнея (specify)}associated</u> with locally important persons.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Beyer House is significant because of its association with two locally important business people, Cyrus S. Hart and George Beyer. It is also architecturally significant as a fine example of the Queen Anne style.

Cyrus S. Hart, a pioneer of Oconto, came there when it was nothing but an Indian village without houses or roads. He pursued a number of businesses, changing his career when a better opportunity appeared. From 1863-1865 he owned the Oconto Pioneer, a local newspaper. In 1865 he established the Hart Steam Boat Line and in 1870 he invested in a milling business. One of his most successful ventures was ownership of the Oconto Reporter. During the years of his ownership (1873-1881 and 1885-1895) he made the Reporter the principal newspaper in the country. After selling the Reporter he became active in real estate.² He is remembered as a determined and energetic person who is closely identified with the business and political life in Oconto. 3

George Beyer had lived in near abject poverty as a child in Germany and his educational opportunities were limited to two terms in a common school. When he was twelve his family immigrated from German to Wisconsin; within two years of their arrival his parents had died. Beyer performed a variety of jobs, including manual labor, hotel clerk and bookkeeper, to make ends meet. During this period he managed to attend four months at a business college. From 1862 until 1864 he served as the assistant Ctreasurer of the county. In 1864 Beyer enlisted in Regiment H of the 39th Wisconsin Infantry, when he served as Second Lieutenant. After the war, Beyer's investments in timber lands and insurance made him a prosperous man. When the Oconto National Bank was organized, Mr. Beyer was appointed president, a position that he held until his death in 1922. He was also one of the organizers of the Farmer's State Bank of Oconto and he organized and was president of the Oconto Lan Company and the Citizens Light and Fuel Company. Beyer was instrumental in attracting the railroad to run two lines through Oconto.⁵

(continued)

- 1. Commemorative Biographical Record of the West Shore of Green Bay. Chicago: J.H. Beers & Co. 1896, p. 627
- 2. Oconto Enterprise. Oconto, Wisconsin. 5 March 1920.
- 3. Ibid.
- The Columbian Biographical Dictionary Chicago: J.H. Beers & Co. 1896, pp. 658-660 Ibid. pp. 660-662 4.
- 5.

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	Commemorative				of t	he West	Shore o	of Greer	n Bay.	Chicago:	J.H	. Beers
	and Co.	1896,	pp. 627	-628.								
	Hall, George	Е. <u>А</u>	History	of Oco	<u>nto.</u> ,	Oconto,	Wiscon	isin: ()conto	Publishing	Co.	1969.

Oconto Enterprise. Oconto, Wisconsin. 5 March 1920.

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ELII		FL		
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCR				
Beyer House - Lot 4 E Beyer House Carriage			ddition. 2 of Lot 2 Block 6 of	Eliza J. Hart's addition.
LIST ALL STATES AND	COUNTIES FOR PROPERT	TIES OVERLAPP	PING STATE OR COUNTY BOUN	IDARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
11 FORM PREPARED	BX			4 -
Patty Marks				
ORGANIZATION	<u> </u>		DATE	<u> </u>
State Historical Soci	ety, Historic Pres	servation D	ivision April 1979	
STREET & NUMBER 816 State Street			telephone (608)262-890	74
CITY OR TOWN			STATE	
Madison	·		Wisconsin !	53706
12 STATE HISTORIC	PRESERVATIO	N OFFICE	ER CERTIFICATION	N
THE EVAL	JATED SIGNIFICANCE OF	THIS PROPERT	TY WITHIN THE STATE IS:	
NATIONAL	STAT	ΓΕ	LOCAL	
As the designated State Historic P	reservation Officer for the N	National Historic	Preservation Act of 1966 (Publi	c Law 89-665), I
hereby nominate this property for	inclusion in the National I	Register and cer	tify that it has been evaluated	according to the
criteria and procedures set forth by	the National Park Service.			
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OF	FICER SIGNATURE	K	celever Delun	1
TITLE Director, State	Historical Society	/ of Wiscon	sin DATE	22/79
FOR NPS USE ONLY	-A			
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS	I A	IN THE NATION		-111-25
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ATTEST: (mma) and Ja	. REGISTER 252		DATES-14.	79
Regional Coordin	dor			

FHR-8-300A (11/78) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR HCRS		
	JUN 26 1973	
DATE ENTE	RED. ALG	4 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER g

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 guite unusual.

George Beyer and Cyrus Hart both demonstrated fulfillment of the the entrepreneural 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.