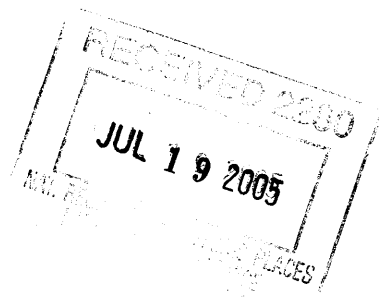


953

**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 Trogner, George W. and Sarah, House  
other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number	108 Grand Avenue	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Neillsville	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Clark	code 019 zip code 54456

**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.)

7/15/05  
Date

Signature of certifying official/Title  
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

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

Trogner, George W. and Sarah, House

Clark

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

**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:)

*Ethan H. Ball*

*9-1-05*

*[Signature]*

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes 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)

Queen Anne

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Stone  
walls Wood

roof Asphalt  
other Wood

**Narrative Description**

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

Trogner, George W. and Sarah, House  
Name of Property

Clark  
County and State

Wisconsin

## 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

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### Period of Significance

1897

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### Significant Dates

1897

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### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

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### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

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### Architect/Builder

Trogner, George W.

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### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Trogner, George W. and Sarah, House  
Name of Property

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### 9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**Primary location of additional data:**

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property under one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1    15    690795    4936150  
    Zone Easting    Northing

3    \_\_\_\_\_  
    Zone Easting    Northing

2    \_\_\_\_\_  
    Zone Easting    Northing

4    \_\_\_\_\_  
    Zone Easting    Northing

See Continuation Sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Patricia A. Lacey	date	11-15-2004
organization		telephone	715-743-4799
street & number	W5055 US HWY 10	zip code	54456
city or town	Neillsville	state	WI

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County and State

Wisconsin

### 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.)

<b>name/title</b>	Mr. and Mrs. Donald H. Jenkins D.V.M.	<b>date</b>	11-15-2004
<b>organization</b>		<b>telephone</b>	715-743-3058
<b>street&amp;number</b>	108 Grand Avenue	<b>zip code</b>	54456
<b>city or town</b>	Neillsville	<b>state</b>	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.

**United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

Trogner, George W. and Sarah, House  
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

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Start

The George W. and Sarah Trogner house was built in 1897 and is locally significant as an example of the Late Victorian Queen Anne style of architecture. The Queen Anne style captivated America from 1880 to 1910. The Trogner house exhibits the strong influence of Eastlake detailing made popular by Charles Eastlake, an English furniture designer.<sup>1</sup> The building was designed and built by Trogner, who built many of the fine residential and commercial structures found in Neillsville. The building is located in a residential neighborhood that supports a mixture of mid-to late-nineteenth century architecture as well as architecture from the 1930s to the 1950s. The Trogner house rises higher than any of the neighboring buildings and faces east on a tree-lined street. The property is in excellent condition retaining most of its original detailing, both inside and out.

The building features a two and one-half story main block with three two and one-half story cross gables. The building maintains an irregularity of plan and massing. The foundation is stone with a projecting base that is interrupted by three windows. The foundation is capped with an eight-inch wide board and projecting molding. The clapboard begins after the projecting molding and continues to the roofline and to the shingled gable ends. Balloon framing techniques provide for the ease of random changes in the horizontal continuity of the wall planes. The steep hipped roof, of irregular shape, has three lower cross gables.

The east facing, front façade is asymmetrical. A one story flat-hipped roofed porch (22'9" by 10'5") begins at the center of the east facing two and one-half cross gable and continues to the south wall. The porch projects from the main body of the house, sheltering the entrance. The porch is accessed by a balustraded stairway, which is centered on the main entry door. The entry door has one large light. A window appears to the left of the entry door. Another window appears on the east facing cross gable, which projects into the porch. Decorative turned porch posts support the hipped porch roof. The porch balustrade is comprised of turned slim turned balusters with rounder supporting balusters at midsection. The frieze has two rows of elaborate Eastlake inspired ornamentation applied directly to the frieze. This ornamentation gives the appearance of tatted lace. Cornice molding is located where the top of the frieze meets the eave. Decorative, ninety-degree, fan-like brackets are present under the frieze on each side of the turned porch posts. Additional single curved brackets, with projecting finials, extend from eave surface to the outside edge of the turned porch posts. These curved brackets aid in accentuating the overhanging eave. Beaded board covers the ceiling of the porch. Ornamental screening conceals the foundation.

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<sup>1</sup> McAlester, Virginia & Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses, 1997, Alfred A. Knopf.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2

Trogner, George W. and Sarah, House  
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

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The outstanding features of the house are the decorative gable ends. The east facing cross gable projects from the main body of the house. Patterned round edge fishscale wood shingling begins at the top of the second floor window. A square Queen Anne window, which has colored squares of glass bordering a clear glass center panel, is centered within the peak directly above the second floor window. Evenly spaced on each side of the separation between the second floor window and the attic Queen Anne window are two diamond shaped areas, within the round edge shingling. These areas are created with diamond shaped wood shingles. The gable end has verge boards fixed to the projected edge of the gable roof. Eastlake inspired ornamentation, lace-like in nature, is fixed to the face of the verge board. Very elaborate ornamentation is present within the gable peak. The main feature within the gable decoration is a large fan supported on cross pieces, which contain several small fan designs. Fan brackets, identical to the porch brackets, support the cross-piece. Scroll-work continues two-thirds of the way down from the gable peak on the bottom edge of the verge board. The base of the verge board extends past the roofline forming a square, which is embellished with a raised circular medallion.

A one story three-sided bay, that is supported by the stone foundation, projects at a 45% angle from the sidewalls of the northeast edge of the east facing cross gable. The bay has a hipped roof with a pedimented gable end supported by paired curved brackets, with projecting finials, identical to the main east facade porch. The pediment is open-ended and contains rounded edge fishscale shingling. Centered within the rounded shingled gable end is a diamond shape area created with diamond shaped shingles. The cornice moldings have applied lace-like ornamentation. The peak of the gable contains Eastlake inspired ornamentation, which repeats the large fan found in the east facing cross gable peak. Coffered panels appear below the windows of the three-side bay. The northwest and southeast sides of the bay contain a one-over-one light. The front of the bay contains a large one pane fixed window with a four-pane storm window mounted to the outside of the front bay window. The corners of the bay are finished with (12") flat corner boards containing two evenly spaced vertical grooved areas of decoration.

The north elevation is asymmetrical in nature with a two and one-half story cross gable present at the west end of the façade, projecting from the body of the main house. The north facing gable has a window present on the first floor and on the second floor, each centered within the body of the cross gable. The north facing gable end's patterned shingling, Queen Anne window, and Eastlake inspired ornamentation contained within the gable peak, is identical to the main façade gable end. The east facing cross gable's north wall has one window centered on the second story.

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Trogner, George W. and Sarah, House  
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

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The west wall of the north facing cross gable has one window on both the first and second story fenestration.

The south elevation is asymmetrical in nature. A two and one-half story cross gable projects from the main body of the house at the southwest corner. A one-story flat hipped entry porch extends the width of the south facing cross gable (14'6") projecting (6'3") from the body of the gable. The porch posts, balustrades, the Eastlake inspired frieze decoration, fan brackets and single curved brackets with projecting finials are identical to the main entry porch detailing. The porch is accessed by a balustraded stairway located at the east edge of the porch. The entry door has two lights. A window is located at each side of the entry door. Beaded board covers the ceiling of the porch.

The south facade three-sided projecting bay is supported by the stone foundation, and is centered on the main body of the house. The bay has a flat-topped hipped roof and projects (4') from the main body of the house. Paired curved brackets, with projecting finials, extend from the eaves to the upright surface walls of the bay. Indented coffered panels appear below the windows of the bay. The corners of the bay are finished with (12") flat corner boards containing two evenly spaced vertical grooved areas of decoration. The east and the west sides of the bay contain a one-over-one window. The front of the bay contains a large one pane fixed window with a four-pane storm window mounted to the outside of the front bay window.

The south facing gable end's patterned shingling, Queen Anne window, and Eastlake inspired ornamentation contained within the gable peak, is identical to the east facing façade gable end. The second floor elevation has a window centered on the south facing cross gable, and a window located on the second floor of the main body of the house that is centered over the south façade's projecting bay.

The rear elevation presents the two and one-half story west wall of the south facing cross gable. A one-story hipped-roof wing projects from the west-facing wall. Two windows are present on the second floor of the west fenestration. A small rectangular window appears on the first floor of the west wall of the south facing cross gable. The wing has one window located on the north elevation.

The windows are taller on the first floor than on the second floor elevation and are primarily one-over-one double hung sashes. All of the windows and entry doors present identical detailing. A cornice shaped lintel is present at the top of the windows and doors. The (5 1/2") surround moldings are grooved. Corner blocks containing circular indentations are found at the left and right edges of the top surround moldings. Lace-like ornamentation is applied to the surround, present between the corner



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blocks. Resting on the sill are 11 ½" high plinth blocks that project further than the surround moldings. The plinths have a many-petaled flower design embossed into the wood. The plinths and grooved surrounds supported by the plinths create the suggestion of pilasters.

The entire house, addition and garage are covered in clapboard painted a light taupe color. Architectural details are accented with cream and cranberry colored paint. Grooved corner boards (6" in width) are present on all outside corners of the house. Smaller (3") corner boards are present on all inside corners. The asphalt covered hipped roof has one brick chimney on the east facing façade. Several lightning rods are present on the roof ridge.

The interior of the George W. Trogner house has been handsomely detailed. The first floor is divided into four main rooms: sitting room, parlor, bedroom, and kitchen. An original bathroom is entered from the bedroom, and a small office, once used as a pantry, is entered from the kitchen. An enclosed stairwell, between the kitchen and bedroom, ascends to the second floor. Each of the first floor rooms is finished in a different type of wood. George W. Trogner utilized his experience as a wood worker, and created different embossed window and door surrounds, and decorative corner blocks for each room.

The sitting room is entered from the east facing front porch through a stately (36") entry door, which contains one large light. This room is finished in red birch. A very ornate wood ball and stick spindled grille is located at the ceiling of the opening of the south facing projecting bay. The (5 ½") door and window surrounds have an embossed scroll design pressed into the surface. Each (5 ½" x 5 ½") corner blocks is spoon carved with a fern design. Above each corner block is an ear that droops to the right. Each of these ears is spoon carved with a plant design. All of the doors that open onto the sitting room have beaded molding present on every inner edge.

The parlor is entered through a (5') pocket door entry located at the north end of the sitting room. The parlor is finished in black walnut. The focus of the parlor is the (3'8") wainscoting present on all walls of the parlor including the angled projecting bay. The wainscoting is divided into two levels of coffered rectangles. The banding between each rectangle is embossed with the same many petaled flower present on the interior and exterior plinths. The parlor door and window surrounds are not embossed. They are shaped with flat areas and are intersected at the vertical midway point by a section of grooved molding set on its side. The corner blocks have a circular motif of a lighter colored wood than the background of the block. The corner blocks are topped with a molding shaped like a crown. The plinths in the parlor are void of the many petaled flower design. When the house was completed a corner fireplace was present in the southwest corner of the parlor.

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The bedroom is finished in white ash. The window and door surrounds are embossed with a vertical tree trunk design, which has leafed vines encircling the trunk. The corner blocks contain a flower design carved into wood. The original bathroom is entered from the bedroom. The bathroom door and window surrounds are the same as the bedroom. The corner blocks contain an embossed German Cross and are topped with a plain molding. Wainscoting is located on each wall of the bathroom. The wainscoting consists of one plain board followed by a board embossed with a scroll design and then a board embossed with a herringbone design. This pattern repeats itself around the perimeter of the room. The original footed bathtub is still being used.

The kitchen is entered from the sitting room and from the south-facing porch. The kitchen and pantry are finished in black ash. The floor is red birch. The door and window surrounds, the wainscoting that is found on two walls, and the corner blocks are identical to the bedroom and bathroom.

The ceilings on the first floor are 10' in height and give the first floor rooms a feeling of spaciousness.

On the second floor there are four bedrooms that open onto a small hallway. The bathroom located off the southeast bedroom was added at a later date. All of the bedrooms are finished in Georgia and Norway pine with pine floors. The door and window surrounds are all the same throughout and consisted of a (5 1/2") molding that is shaped with flat areas. The corner blocks contain a spoon carved flower designed that is topped with a molding shaped like a crown. The northeast, northwest, and southeast bedrooms have large closets. The ceilings on the second floor are (8'7") in height.

Doors with five horizontal panels are present throughout the house. The baseboards are 11" in height and are uniform throughout the house. Except for one of the bedrooms, the woodwork maintains its original finish. The basement is accessed by a door in the pantry. The attic is reached by an extremely steep stairway accessed from a door on the second floor. The interior is marked by a high degree of quality and historic integrity and has experienced only minor alterations over time.

#### ALTERATIONS

In 1908, O.C.Hanson<sup>2</sup> remodeled the east-facing main façade porch. A Colonial Revival influenced update was installed. American architects were strongly influenced by the Philadelphia Centennial, in 1876, and began to incorporate Colonial motifs into their building designs.<sup>3</sup> Colonial motifs include

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<sup>2</sup> Wooden Plaque found during restoration of the east-facing porch.

<sup>3</sup> Wyatt, Barbara, Cultural Resource Management Vol. 2, 1986 Wisconsin Historical Society

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broad classical porches, gables, decorative swags, festoons and pediments.<sup>4</sup> The turned posts were removed and replaced with four columns. The Eastlake detailing was removed from the porch frieze, as well as the fan brackets and the curved brackets with projecting finials. The ornamental screening concealing the foundation was also removed. The porch was enclosed from the railing to the ground and clad in clapboard siding. The stairway sides were also enclosed. The photo from the catalog of the Security Lightning Rod Company not only illustrates the 1906 porch update, but also aids in the reinforcement of the condition, integrity and originality of this structure that remains to this day.<sup>5</sup>

In 2004 the Jenkins removed the 1906 update and restored the east-facing porch to its original 1897 splendor. The architectural details from the south-facing porch were used to duplicate porch posts, brackets, the Eastlake frieze decoration, and the ornamental foundation screening. This attention to authenticity created a quality restoration.

One of the original chimneys has been removed with the remaining chimney having been reconstructed.

The interior exhibits few changes. The original embossed window and door surrounds, decorative corner blocks, baseboards, wainscoting, flooring and interior doors remain on both the first and second floors of the house. The kitchen has been modified over the years and a bathroom was added to the second floor. The house was built with a corner fireplace, located in the parlor, which has been removed.

#### ADDITIONS

In 1976, an (24' by 20') addition was added to the west wall of the one story hipped roof wing. The addition is set at an angle and maintains a hipped asphalt shingled roof. The northwest gable end has a exposed brick fireplace and chimney. The windows on the northeast fenestration of the addition are one-over-one double hung sashes trimmed in the same fashion as the windows of the house.

The southwest-facing wall has a projecting bay with large single pane fixed windows on each of the bays three sides. Coffered panels under these windows are identical to the coffered panels found on the bays of the original house. An entry door containing two lights opens onto a large deck area. A narrow light of equal height flanks the door.

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<sup>4</sup> Wyatt, Barbara, Cultural Resource Management Vol. 2, 1986 Wisconsin Historical Society

<sup>5</sup> The Security Lightning Rod Company, Burlington, Wisconsin Catalogue No. 68

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The addition is clad in clapboard siding and is painted identical to the original house. Many of the architectural details found on the original house are repeated on the 1976 addition.

A concrete driveway approaches a (32'6' by 24') garage, which is situated directly to the south of the main house. The east-facing facade contains three overhead garage doors. The building has a hipped shingle roof and is painted identical to the original house. This garage is noncontributing.

\_\_\_\_ End of Description of Physical Appearance

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Section 8 Page 1

Trogner, George W. and Sarah, House  
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin

       Insert Statement of Significance

The George and Sarah Trogner House is significant at the local level as a highly intact example of the Queen Anne style with elements of Eastlake design applied as ornamentation. The period of significance corresponds to the date of construction -1897.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: SUMMARY

The Queen Anne style of architecture dominated domestic building in the United States during the period from 1880 to 1910. It replaced the Second Empire and the Gothic Revival styles, becoming the most popular style of the times.<sup>6</sup> The Queen Anne style is sometime referred to as Neo-Jacobean or Free Classic in England and was initiated there by British architect Richard Norman Shaw (1831-1912).<sup>7</sup> His buildings, although entirely free from archaeological pedantry, were the outcome of much enthusiastic and intelligent study of old examples, and were based directly on old methods and traditions.<sup>8</sup> The Queen Anne style received its first major exposure in America at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, where the British government constructed several buildings in the Queen Anne style.<sup>9</sup>

The first Queen Anne building constructed in the United States was the Watts-Sherman house built at Newport, Rhode Island in 1874. Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886) was the architect. Richardson's Sherman house was a large two-and-one-half story house with a basically rectangular, but somewhat irregular plan. Asymmetrical in composition, the exterior of the house was clad in stone, half-timbering, and shingles. Historians have speculated on the influence Stanford White (1853-1906), an architect in Richardson's employ, had on this structure. The mass conception and overall planning of the Sherman house was done by Richardson; however, much of the credit for the detailing goes to White.<sup>10</sup> Richardson returned to Europe in the summer of 1882. Richardson found the Queen Anne style had morphed into what he considered to be lacking in "interest and individuality."<sup>11</sup> Neocolonial detailing displayed on the American Queen Anne distinguishes it from those found in Britain.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>6</sup> <http://ah.bfn.org/a/archsty/queen/>

<sup>7</sup> Wyatt, Barbara, Cultural Resource Management In Wisconsin: Vol. 2, Wisconsin Historical Society 1986

<sup>8</sup> <http://59.1911encyclopedia.org/S/SH/SHAW-RICHARD-NORMAN.htm>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.uvm.edu/~vhnet/histarch/haas06.html>

<sup>10</sup> Ochsner, Jeffrey Karl, H.H. Richardson Complete Architectural Works, M.I.T. Press 1982 pgs 133,134

<sup>11</sup> Hitchcock, Henry Russell, The Architecture of H.H. Richardson and His Times, M.I.T. Press 1981 pg 245

<sup>12</sup> Wyatt, Barbara, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin Vol. 2 Wisconsin Historical Society 1986 pg 2-15

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The earliest American examples followed Shaw's early, half-timbered designs. However, during the 1880's the inventive American spindlework interpretation became the most prevalent. The type of decoration found in the Queen Anne style is often called Eastlake because it resembles the work of the English furniture designer, Charles Eastlake.

The industrial revolution was beginning. America was caught up in the excitement of new technologies. The Queen Anne style spread throughout the country through the availability of pattern books and the publishing of the first architectural magazine, "The American Architect and Building News." Factory made, precut architectural parts such as porch posts, moldings, and other trim were shuttled across the country on a rapidly expanding train network. Exuberant builders combined these decorative details to create innovative and sometimes excessive homes.<sup>13</sup> The Queen Anne satisfied the rising middle class's desire for showing off their new -found success.

Another technological development that helped to further the construction of the Queen Anne home was the advent of balloon framing, whereby the framework of a house could be made out of uniform lumber. The framing system comprised inexpensive two-by-four-inch boards, combined as upright studs and cross-members that were held together by cheap, mass-produced nails. This technique replaced the traditional hewn timber construction and simplified the construction of architectural features, such as overhangs, bay windows and towers.<sup>14</sup>

The Queen Anne style of architecture reached Wisconsin in the 1880s. Colorful, individualistic and exuberant describes the Queen Anne style, which was the culmination of the elaborate architectural styles of the late 19th century. American Queen Anne houses are characterized by an irregularity and unpredictability of floor plan and asymmetrical massing. These houses exhibit a variety of surface textures, roofs, wall projections, and three sided bays. The facades are asymmetrical in nature, with spacious wrap-around porches, which exhibit elaborately turned posts and balusters. Skirts enclosing the area below porch floors are made of latticework or vertical slats with fanciful cutout designs. Roofs are steeply pitched, usually with a dominant front-facing gable. The American expression of the Queen Anne was most often clad in wood rather than brick. The overall effect of complexity and irregularity distinguishes the Queen Anne from all preceding American styles.<sup>15</sup> The elements and

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<sup>13</sup> McAlester, Virginia & Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses, Alfred A. Knopf Inc. 1997 pg268

<sup>14</sup> <http://ah.bfn.org/a/archsty/queen/>

<sup>15</sup> Ibid

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forms from many styles are manipulated into an exuberant visual display in the American Queen Anne.<sup>16</sup>

### HISTORY OF NEILLSVILLE

Clark County was created from territory taken from Jackson County by legislation approved on July 6, 1853<sup>17</sup>. The Black River runs north to south and divides the county into two nearly equal parts. Abundant pine forests lined the Black River, which was the perfect highway to the mills of Onalaska and La Crosse.

Neillsville, located in southern Clark County, is situated at the junction of O'Neill Creek and the Black River. Neillsville was first settled in June of 1845 when James and Henry O'Neill cut the first road into Clark County, arriving from Black River Falls. The loggers that continued to arrive came from many different ethnic backgrounds. By 1850, 50 acres had been cleared by James O'Neill. O'Neill appropriated four acres for the village proper and had the village platted by surveyor Allen Boardman in April of 1855. Neillsville was the first village to be laid out in the county. It was replatted in 1921 by C. Stockwell. The City of Neillsville was duly incorporated on March 28, 1882.<sup>18</sup>

In 1860, the population in the village of Neillsville was less than 250 people. James Hewett erected the first brick building in Clark County in 1872 at the corner of 5th and Hewett. James Hewett and O.S. Woods operated a mercantile at this location for many years, known to Neillsville as the "Brick Store". Additional brick commercial structures continued to be built each year. The last high style brick commercial building, the C.C. Snitman Drug Store, was constructed in 1895. This building completed the facades of the west side of Hewett Street from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> street. These facades are now part of a Downtown Historic District, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1999.

By 1891, one hundred and forty million board feet of lumber was being harvested each year in Clark County. Neillsville was prospering, being driven by the logging industry.<sup>19</sup> The population of Neillsville grew to 1,936 people in 1890.<sup>20</sup> Hotels, boarding houses, saloons, banks, dry goods stores, hardware stores, grocers, livery stables, grist mills, planning mills, druggists, dressmakers and tailors,

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<sup>16</sup> Blumenson, John Identifying American Architecture, W.W. Norton and Co. 1981

<sup>17</sup> Andreas, A.T., History of Northern Wisconsin, Western Historical Co. 1881

<sup>18</sup> Ibid

<sup>19</sup> Ibid

<sup>20</sup> Clark County Press July 1, 1982 Keepsake Centennial Edition

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bakers, newspapers, shoemakers, brewer, blacksmiths, wagon and carriage makers, photographers, milliners, furniture stores, tanners and glove makers, gun dealers, harness makers, tanners, jewelers, churches and attorneys all prospered supporting the infrastructure of the logging industry.<sup>21</sup> Lumber barons such as James Hewett, Richard Dewhurst, George Lloyd, and J. L. Gates and successful businessmen such as George W. Trogner, Charles Cornelius, Emery Bruley, were building wonderful Victorian homes.

George W. Trogner was born in St. Lawrence County, New York August 13, 1846. Trogner's parents, Joseph and Elizabeth, were born in the United States of German immigrants. Joseph, Trogner's father, brought the family to Monroe in Green County, Wisconsin in 1848, homesteading land for the family farm.<sup>22</sup>

George W. Trogner enlisted in Company H, 38<sup>th</sup> Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers in 1863, at the age of eighteen. The 38<sup>th</sup> regiment joined the Army of the Potomac and fought at Petersburg, Poplar Grove Church and Richmond and was present for the surrender of Lee's Army. Trogner was mustered out at Madison, Wisconsin on July 25<sup>th</sup> 1865.<sup>23</sup>

George W. Trogner arrived in Neillsville in the fall of 1865 and began working in the sawmill of Hewett & Blakeslee, prominent lumbermen.<sup>24</sup> Two years later Trogner was placed in charge of the mill. He began his own carpenter business in 1867 by opening the first wagon shop in the village of Neillsville. Trogner is credited with building the first wagon and the first buggy manufactured in Clark County.<sup>25</sup>

Later, Trogner entered into carpentry work as a contractor. Trogner is credited with building many substantial homes, as well as many of Neillsville's commercial structures. Buildings known to have been built by G. W. Trogner are: First National Bank, North Side School, Clark County Bank, 1878 IOOF building, Neillsville Bank, Neillsville Furniture Factory, Cornelius House, Lloyd House (Meier), Dickinson House (Hoesly), George W. Trogner House (Jenkins), Gus Hosley House, Will Marsh House, and the Congregational Church. For 14 years Trogner owned and operated the large Neillsville saw, planing and shingle mill. During this time Trogner added a woodworking and cabinet shop.

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<sup>21</sup> The American Sketch Book

<sup>22</sup> Cooper, H.C. & Jr., History of Clark County, Chicago: 1918 pgs 303, 304

<sup>23</sup> Neillsville Press, October 30, 1924

<sup>24</sup> Andreas, A.T. History of Northern Wisconsin, The Western Historical Co., 1881pg 244

<sup>25</sup> Cooper, H. C. & Jr., History of Clark County, Chicago: 1918 pgs 303, 304



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Both of these businesses were located on Grand Avenue between Fourth and Fifth streets.<sup>26</sup> Trogner's skill in producing quality decorative woodwork and cabinets had him doing the finish carpentry work in the Bruley House and Christian Science Church, as well as creating the carved and embossed woodwork used in his own home.

George W. Trogner married Hannah (also known as Sarah) M. Smith of Black River Falls, Wisconsin on February 14, 1868.<sup>27</sup> Hannah passed away leaving Trogner with four children: Charles, George, Minnie, and Kate. George and Minnie preceded Trogner in death. Later Trogner married Sarah Perry, who by her first husband Edward had one child, Maude. George and Sarah produced one son Walter.<sup>28</sup>

George W. Trogner served eight years as alderman for the Third Ward in the City of Neillsville.<sup>29</sup> He was a member of the G.A.R., Lodge No. 198, I.O.O.F., member of the Grand Encampment, and a member of Modern Woodmen of American.

George W. Trogner died October 22, 1924.<sup>30</sup>

George W. Trogner began construction of his home on Grand Avenue in August of 1897.<sup>31</sup> A wonderful newspaper article printed in the October 20<sup>th</sup> 1898 *Republican and Press* described details of the Trogner home:

The foundation is composed of a two foot stone wall; seven 1 ½ inch rods run from the bottom of the basement wall to the top of the sill. Studding (2x6) is dovetailed into the sills. The outside is sealed with matched lumber that has been covered with tarred felt on top of which is placed 4-inch siding. The inside is finished with matched lumber, tarred felt and lath, and plastered with adamant with a float finish. It is a two-story, ten room house, fronting on Grand Avenue. The parlor is finished in black walnut, the sitting room is finished in red birch, the bedroom is white ash, the kitchen is finished in black ash with a red birch floor, and the bathroom is finished in white ash. The four rooms upstairs are finished in Georgia and Norway pine. The inside of the house has not seen the touch of a paintbrush, being in natural wood finish. The doors are

<sup>26</sup> Clark County Press July 1, 1982 "Neillsville Centennial Keepsake Edition"

<sup>27</sup> Andreas, A.T., History of Northern Wisconsin, Western Historical Co., 1881pg 244

<sup>28</sup> Cooper, H.C. & Jr., History of Clark County, Chicago: 1918 pg 303, 304

<sup>29</sup> The Neillsville Times January 4, 1906 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue

<sup>30</sup> The Neillsville Press October 30, 1924

<sup>31</sup> The Neillsville Times August 12, 1897

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veneered. Each room corners and contains not less than two windows. The trimmings throughout are of solid bronze.

The reporter goes on to say, "The structure is of modern architecture and is finished the best of any residence in this part of the state, barring none. Nothing but the best of material and workmanship was used in the construction, and the cost of erecting it will be of no little sum. Mr. Trogner drew his own plans and designs and now has a residence unlike in every respect to any yet built."<sup>32</sup>

#### ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The George W. Trogner house is architecturally significant under Criterion C and is a significant local representation of the Queen Anne style. The Queen Anne style of architecture dominated domestic building in the United States from 1880 to 1910. The Queen Anne satisfied the rising middle class's desire during the expanding Industrial Age to show off their new-found wealth and success. Neillsville was no exception. Successful merchants and lumber barons fancied the opulence that the Queen Anne style portrayed. Lumber was of no shortage in Neillsville. The new balloon framing techniques made the construction of the intricate wall variances of the Queen Anne a simple process.

According to the Cultural Resource Management, the Queen Anne style is characterized by an irregularity of plan and asymmetrical massing. Devices such as projecting bays and projecting flat-hipped roofed porches provide changes in the horizontal continuity of wall planes. The style often displays an asymmetrical front façade with a dominant front-facing gable roof, a variety of wall surfaces, hipped roofs with lower cross gables, and decorative ornamentation located in gable ends, porch friezes and under the eaves of the projecting bays.<sup>33</sup> The overall effect of complexity and irregularity distinguishes the Queen Anne from all preceding American styles.<sup>34</sup>

The George W. Trogner house beautifully exhibits these characteristics. An irregularity of form is created through the varied roof forms. The projecting bays, cross gabling and porches provide changes in the wall planes. The east facing front gable is asymmetrically placed but is balanced by the one-story hipped roof porch. The raised foundation contributes to the vertical impression and distinguishes this house from its neighbors. The building exhibits beautiful Eastlake inspired detailing on the porch friezes and within the peaks of the cross gables. The eye cannot help from wandering upward from the clapboard siding, to the fishscale wood-shingling present in the gable end. As the eye continues

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<sup>32</sup> Republican and Press October 20, 1898

<sup>33</sup> Mc Alester, Virginia & Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses, Alfred A. Knopf, New York 1997

<sup>34</sup> Wyatt, Barbara, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin Vol. 2, Wisconsin Historical Society 1986

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upward toward the Eastlake detailing at the peak of the gable, it stops for a moment to admire the Queen Anne window, with its colored glass squares, which is located within the peak of each gable end.

Besides being a contractor, Trogner also owned and operated a planning and woodworking mill. Trogner at his mill created the most distinctive exterior and interior architectural features. Whatever Trogner could not produce, he could have easily brought to Neillsville by rail.

Many Queen Anne houses were built in Neillsville. All but a few have been altered by the addition of modern siding and the removal of architectural details. The George W. Trogner house is clearly among the best examples of the Queen Anne style of architecture remaining in Neillsville. A historic survey of Neillsville was completed in 2004. Fourteen buildings were found to be potentially eligible for listing in the State and National Register of Historic Places by the Wisconsin Historical Society. Four of those buildings listed as potentially eligible are Queen Anne houses. George W. Trogner built three of these Queen Anne houses and the fourth is a strong possibility. The George W. Trogner house is a fine representation of an Eastlake influenced Queen Anne. It is distinguished by the high degree of architectural integrity that remains on both the interior and the exterior. The George W. Trogner house fulfills all expectations of a Victorian Queen Anne building.

\_\_\_ End of Statement of Significance

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\_\_\_\_ Insert

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*The Neillsville Press*, October 30, 1924.

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<http://www.uvm.edu/~vhnet/histarch/haas06.html>

The Security Lightning Rod Company, Burlington, Wisconsin Catalogue No. 68

Wooden Plaque found during restoration of the east-facing porch

\_\_\_ End

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

Property described as: Lots 2 and 3 of Block 2 of Bacon's Subdivision of Outlots 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, and 93 of Hewett's Addition of Outlots to the Village (now city) of Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin, as surveyed by C. S. Stockwell and shown on his Replat of 1921 for assessment purposes on file in the office of the Register of Deeds for Clark County, Wisconsin, being assessment Lots 628 and 629 except the north 66 feet of said lot 3 heretofore conveyed to Adolph Unger, and subject to an easement for driveway purposes contained in the deed from George W. Trogner to Adolph Unger, recorded in Volume 103 Deeds, on page 233, of the records of the Register of Deeds for Clark County, Wisconsin, said driveway being 7 feet wide, the center line of which is the south line of the said 66 feet conveyed to said Adolph Unger, and except a strip of land 3 rods wide off the West side of said Lots 2 and 3 of Block 2, being the homestead of George W. Trogner, deceased, and according to the C. S. Stockwell Replat for Assessment purposes of 1921, 125.14 feet wide and 214.5 feet long.

**Boundary Justification:**

The nominated parcel corresponds with the historic parcel for the property.

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     Insert

Photo 1 of 12  
George W. Trogner House  
Photo by Pat Lacey  
October 2004  
Negative on file at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin  
View looking west  
Front Elevation

The information for the following photos is the same as the above, except as noted.

Photo 2 of 12  
View looking northwest

Photo 3 of 12  
View looking southwest

Photo 4 of 12  
View looking southeast

Photo 5 of 12  
View looking east  
1976 addition attached to the one story hipped roof wing

Photo 6 of 12  
View looking west  
One of three identical gable ends

Photo 7 of 12  
View looking northwest  
Shows fan brackets, curved brackets with projecting finials, East Lake ornamentation  
Applied to the frieze.

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Photo 8 of 12  
View looking west  
Foundation screening

Photo 9 of 12  
View looking southeast  
Sitting room spindled grille  
Parlor pocket door with corner block containing circular design

Photo 10 of 12  
View looking west  
First floor bedroom

Photo 11 of 12  
View looking northwest  
Sitting room, stairway to second floor

Photo 12 of 12  
View looking west

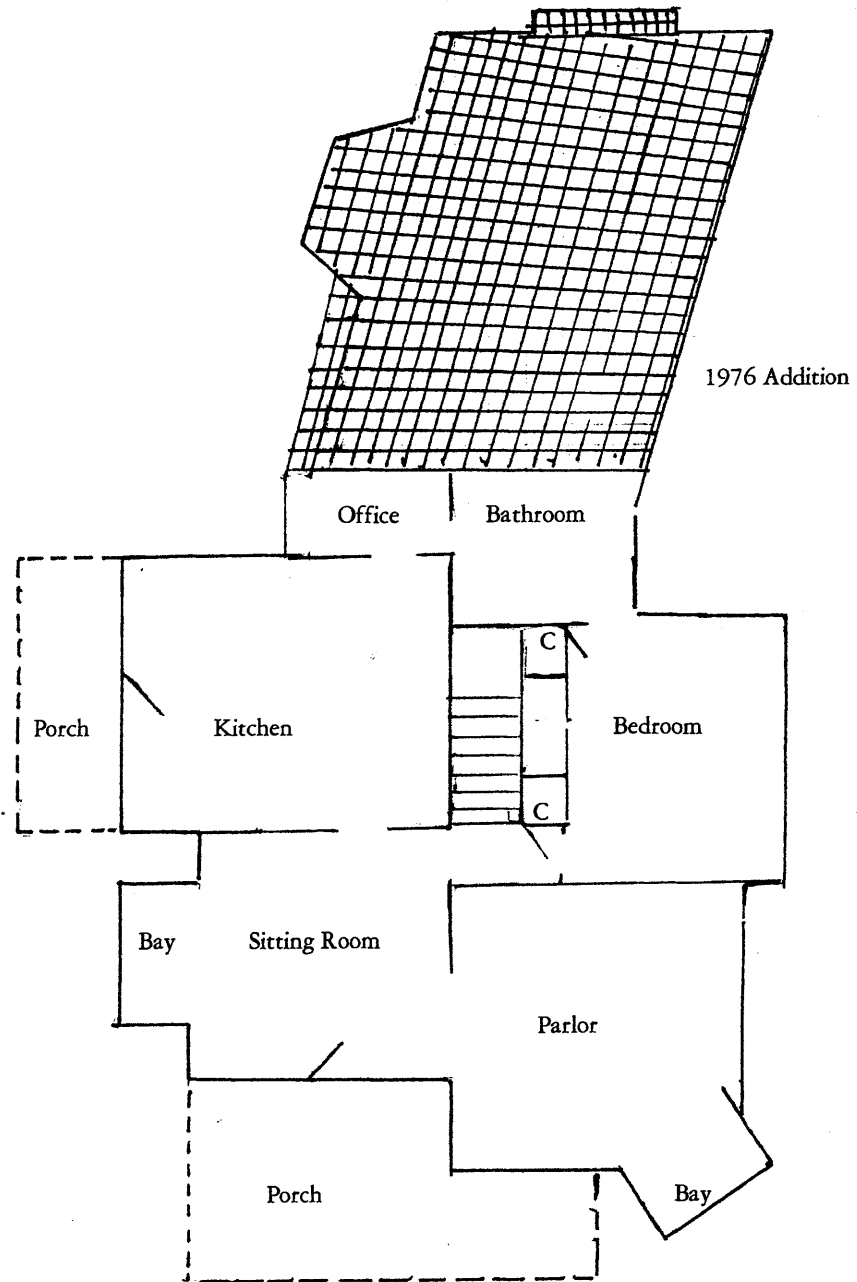
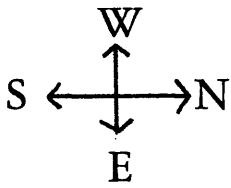
\_\_\_ End of Photo Descriptions



GEORGE W. AND SARAH TROGNER HOUSE  
NEILLSVILLE, CLARK COUNTY  
WISCONSIN

NO SCALE

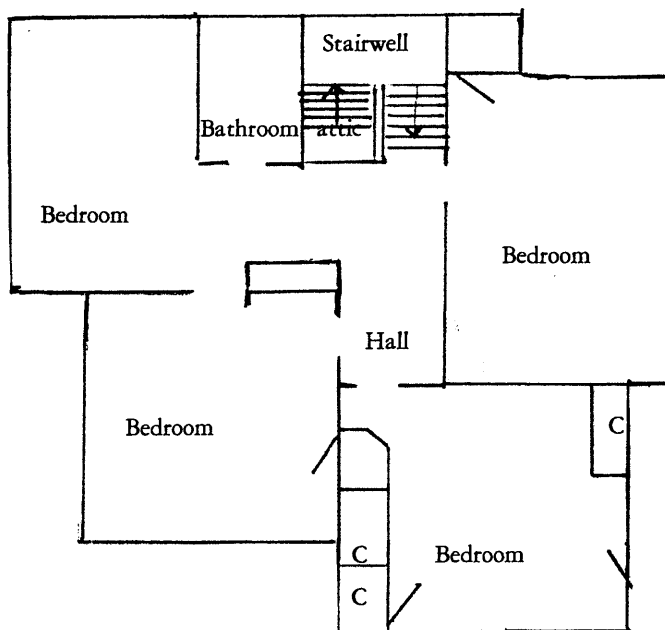
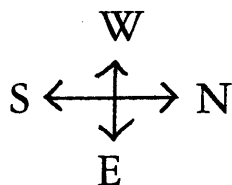
First Floor Elevation



GEORGE W. AND SARAH TROGNER HOUSE  
NEILLSVILLE, CLARK COUNTY  
WISCONSIN

NO SCALE

2nd Floor Elevation



Map showing the location of that portion of  
 Lots 2 and 3, Block 2, Bacon's Subdivision,  
 Neillville, also known as Lot 629 of the C.S.  
 Stockwell's Assessment Plat of the City of  
 Neillville, Clark County, Wisconsin. The  
 measurements are taken from said Assessment  
 Plat.

GEORGE W. AND SARAH TROGNER HOUSE  
 NEILLVILLE, CLARK COUNTY  
 WISCONSIN

NO SCALE

