

PH0661775

PHOTO SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 31 1978
DATE ENTERED JUL 17 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Hamilton Richardson House

AND/OR COMMON

Butler-Kimball House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

429 Prospect Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Janesville

VICINITY OF

First

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Wisconsin 53545

CODE

55

COUNTY

Rock

CODE

105 ✓

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

~~Bob Kimball, Inc.~~

see letter 3/28/78

STREET & NUMBER

~~917 South Randall Avenue~~

THOMAS + JUDY BERG

429 PROSPECT AVE

CITY, TOWN

Janesville

JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN 53545

STATE

VICINITY OF

Wisconsin 53545

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Rock County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

51 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Janesville

STATE

Wisconsin 53545

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Rock County Historic Survey

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Rock County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Janesville

STATE

Wisconsin

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hamilton Richardson house is an exceptionally fine cream brick structure with relatively little alteration to its extravagantly detailed exterior. Two stories in height, with bullseye-windowed attics, the intersecting masses of its multiple wings are those of an Italian villa, with ovoid openings played against quadrangular blocks. A glass-covered skylight remains near the center of the house; it is visible from a second story landing on the east side.

The front and rear block roofs are hipped, while the projecting wings have gabled roofs, ending in broken pediments. These gables cover a block which projects slightly as an extension on the right side of the entrance block, and also a wing projecting to the left, or west, of the entrance.

Three-sided one-story bays project from both gable-fronted faces of the building, to the left and right of the veranda and entrance porch. The handsome arched and bracketed one-story veranda, supported on slender wooden piers, nestles across the left front. Its spandrels are pierced with intricate jigsaw patterns. The entrance is fronted with a fantastic porch which is framed by a pair of foliated wooden "C" scrolls which descend all the way to the porch floor. These are terminated above by acorn pendants and end in curled carved scrolls. The porch protects a round-arched double door, ornately moulded with round ovoid panels and with teardrop-shaped lights. The door is framed by a multi-banded archivolt and pilasters.

Round- and elliptically-arched windows are used throughout the house, including most of the basement windows (except for a few smaller windows at the rear, a few later bathroom windows, and four windows on the second story of the east side, which were added or altered when the building was converted to apartments). The arched windows are framed by brick mouldings. Keystones and sills are of cut stone. Foundations also are of cut limestone. The full basement is divided by brick walls into several rooms; some of the brick walls may continue through the upper stories of the house. In the laundry room there are still "Eclipse" gas burners made in Rockford, Illinois, and porcelain wash tubs, with wooden stanchions.

The basic structure of the interior is still visible including the high (about eleven feet) parlor and hall ceilings, which have been replastered. Still intact are fine woodwork and paneled doors, some with etched glass; several marble grates; a fine balustrade; and the skylight with a colored glass five-sided star. Ceilings have been lowered in the rear bedroom and kitchen on the ground story, and these rooms are greatly altered.

Wooden balustrades have been removed from the roofs of the entrance porch, the one-storied bays, and the front central portion of the roof. Possibly a tower, or some portion of a tower, was removed from over the skylight.

A two-story addition about ten feet deep was added to the rear, over rock-textured concrete blocks, presumably about 1910. This created additional kitchen and storage space on the first floor and a porch on the second story. The more recent change to apartments necessitated an outside stairway to the second story on the east side,

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Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

1977

State

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Madison

Wisconsin 53706

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and window alterations (see above). These changes and additions do not materially detract from the high quality of the house.

The building is basically sound, although maintenance has been neglected in recent years. The fine woodwork of the entrance porch is deteriorating due to patchy paint; downspouts are not in place, so water leaks down the brick walls and seeps into the edges of the basement; and the wooden eaves need repainting.

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in 1856 as a hardware dealer, boarding at the Hyatt House. In 1858 he married Caroline Pease (d. 1912), sister of John Pease, an early Janesville landowner and speculator (who had established Pease's Addition, in which the house was built). The couple left for Europe, and "after returning from their extensive honeymoon, the husband erected the elegant mansion now their home."³ A polygonal lot was purchased in January 1861 from James Crosby.⁴ It consisted of a full block bordered by the present Prospect Street, then called Second Street (313.5 feet wide), by Cornelia Street (418.5 feet wide), Caroline Street (307 feet wide), and by the present Centerway Avenue, then called Ann and later Fourth Street (264 feet wide). Even now the present lot on which the house is situated fronts the full width of Prospect and extends 343.3 feet north on Caroline. (Caroline Street may have been named after Caroline Pease Richardson.)

The house, however, apparently was not built immediately, but after the couple's second European trip in 1873. Richardson was elected to the State Legislature in 1864 and during the Civil War years was listed as residing at the southwest corner of Franklin and Van Buren (School) Streets.⁵ After becoming a county commissioner in 1868, he resided at 43 Court Street.⁶ By the time that the family was listed as living in the present house, 1874, Richardson was secretary and treasurer as well as the largest stockholder of Doty Mfg. Company, manufacturer of "Doty Punching and Shearing Machinery, Badger State Grain Drills and Broadcast Seeders," and other machinery and castings.⁷

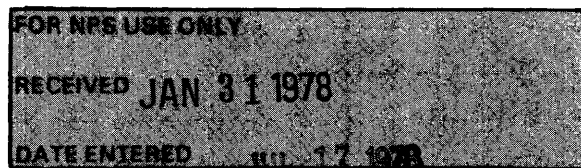
A state senator from 1876 to 1882, Richardson promoted humane care for the insane, as chairman of the committee on Charitable and Penal Institutions in Wisconsin.⁸ From 1883-1888 he served as Janesville's postmaster.

Of his six children who grew up in the house, the most famous locally were Victor Pease Richardson (1859-ca.1940), who became president of New Doty Mfg. and twice mayor of Janesville (1900, 1904), and Lorrain Richardson (1871-1930), a West Point graduate and colonel in the U.S. Army during World War I, twice decorated for bravery.

Janesville was the second largest city in Wisconsin shortly before the Civil War and retains what may be the largest concentration of mid-nineteenth-century buildings in the state. Hamilton Richardson's house is located at the periphery of one of several large potential National Register districts in Janesville. The architectural reputation of the house has been overshadowed by other better-known and more visible landmarks, including the Tallman House.

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The Richardson house is vulnerable to redevelopment because of the large size of the property and its convenient proximity to center-city Janesville (two large new apartment projects have recently been proposed within a three-block radius). It is hoped that National Register status will encourage the upgrading of the present house and its neighbors and encourage potential redevelopment of the vacant land (if necessary) in a manner which will not materially detract from the Richardson house itself.

1. Janesville City Directory, 1874-5, p. 120.
2. Janesville City Directory, 1878-9. p. 111.
3. Portrait and Biographical Album of Rock County, 1889, p. 949.
4. Rock County Register of Deeds Office.
5. Rock County Directory, 1862, p. 52; Janesville Directory, 1866, p. 105.
On that corner, now 202 South Franklin, is a simple cream brick Italianate house.
6. Janesville Directory, 1870-1, p. 121.
7. Atlas, 1873, p. 77.
8. Portrait and Biographical Album of Rock County, 1889, p. 949.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES -- Item 9, page 1.

Rock River Valley, Chicago, 1926, Vol. II, pp. 405-08.

Douglas & Hartung, Rock County Historic Sites and Buildings, Janesville, 1976, pp. 40, 47, 208, 209, 217.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Association with locally prominent family.
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Lot bought 1861;
 built ca. 1873¹ BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Hamilton Richardson house lies primarily in its architectural quality as one of Janesville's outstanding Italianate houses and secondarily in the locally historic importance of its builder, a prominent Janesville businessman, county commissioner, and state senator.

Architecture:

The house is an elegant cream brick Italianate mansion with relatively little alteration to its exterior and with interior remodeling which retains much of the basic proportions and woodwork. It is one of Janesville's finest Italianate houses, and the latest in that style. Its ornate front entrance porch, framed with "C" shaped scrolls, is unique in southern Wisconsin.

The ornateness of the wood detailing has given rise to speculation that the builder, or at least the master craftsman responsible for the woodwork, was Ellis Shopbell. Shopbell was listed by 1870 as a carpenter, contractor and builder. By 1876 he had formed a partnership with Sutton Norris as "Shopbell and Norris, Contractors and Builders, doors, blinds, mouldings, brackets, etc."²

These were the years in which the Richardson house presumably was constructed. In 1869 Shopbell had acquired the house now known as 252 South Franklin, and took out a mortgage for over \$3,000.00. It is believed that his Franklin Street house then took its present form, including elaborate foliated window mouldings, saw-tooth porch detailing and the only other recorded pair of "tear-drop" double door windows in Janesville.

The Richardson house was built on an entire city block, which it still dominates and whose front portion with its trees and bushes and rare brick driveway is still unadulterated by later houses.

History:

Hamilton Richardson (1820-1906), the builder of the house, was born in Genesee County, New York, of Scottish, English and "Mohawk Holland" ancestry. His paternal grandfather, William Richardson, was aide-de-camp to General Putnam in the American Revolution.

In 1842 Richardson came to Milwaukee, then to Racine in 1844 and finally to Janesville in 1846. Here he was a co-erector of the Excelsior Mills in 1850, which was later destroyed by fire and flood. After a stint in California (1851) as a supplier of mountain traders and as a secretary with a river steamer firm, he returned to Janesville

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Janesville, Wisconsin. Directories: 1857-58, p. 170; 1859-60, p. 94; 1866, p. 105; 1870-71, p. 121; 1874-75, p. 120.
History of Rock County, Chicago, 1879, pp. 719-20.
 Wise, George. Picturesque Janesville Illustrated, Janesville, 1888, illus.
Portrait and Biographical Album of Rock County, Chicago, 1889, pp. 948-50.
 Brown, Wm., ed., Rock County, Chicago, 1908, Vol. II, pp. 919-23.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	3,3,4,4,9,0	4,7,2,7,8,5,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Pease's Addition, Lot 2
 exc. E 100' N 144 and
 exc. W 100' N 128 and
 exc. W 48' E 156' N 112'

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

Nancy Belle S. Douglas, Preservation Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Rock County Historical Society

DATE

September 8, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 896

TELEPHONE

608/756-4509

CITY OR TOWN

Janesville

STATE

Wisconsin 53545

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Richard Steiner

TITLE

Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

1/25/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles Adams
Walter Cole

DATE

7-17-78

DATE

6-29-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER