


City, Village or Town: 1 Eau Claire		County: Eau Claire	Surveyor: M. Taylor	Date: 11-5-81
Street Address: 1004 Menomonie Street		Legal Description: see continuation sheet	Acreage: less than one acre	
Current Name & Use: Headquarters of the Sundowners Drum & Bugle Corps		Current Owner: Eau Claire Boys Drum & Bugle Corps		
Film Roll No. EC 23		Current Owner's Address: Inc. 1004 Menomonie Street		
Negative No. 29		Special Features Not Visible In Photographs: UTM: zone 15 Easting: 617060 Northing: 4961730 USGS Eau Claire West Quadrangle 1:24,000 Interior visited? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No		
Facade Orient. S				

Original Name & Use: 2 Kaiser Lumber Company Office (ECMA) A	Source	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source
	Dates of Construction / Alteration (period of Historical Significance - 1905-1924) c. 1905	Source			
	Architect and/or Builder: Unknown	Source			

3 Architectural Significance

Represents work of a master

Possesses high artistic values

Represents a type, period, or method of construction

Is a visual landmark in the area

Other: _____ None

4 Historical Significance

Assoc. with lives of significant persons

Assoc. with significant historical events

Assoc. with development of a locality

Other: **Industry**

None

Architectural Statement:

See continuation sheet.

Historical Statement:

See continuation sheet.

- 5 Sources of Information (Reference to Above)**
- A** 1910 Eau Claire County Atlas
- B** The Kaiser Lumber Company was established in 1905.
- C** Kaiser, B. 1959. "Logs and Boxes: The John H. Kaiser Lumber Company of Eau Claire. Thirtieth Star. Vol. 4, p. 337.
- D** Barland, L. 1965. The Rivers Flow On p. 337.
- E** Smith, J.B. 1967. "The Movements for Diversified Industry in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, 1879-1907". MA, UW-Madison, p. 170.

6 Representation in Previous Surveys

HABS NAER WIHP NRHP landmark

other: _____

7 Condition

excellent good fair poor ruins

8 District: _____

pivotal contributing non-contributing

9 Opinion of National Register Eligibility

eligible not eligible unknown

national state local initials: **met**

KAISER LUMBER COMPANY OFFICE (1004 Menomonie Street)
Intensive Survey Form - Continuation Sheet (1)

ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT:

The Kaiser Lumber Company Office is situated on the northwest corner of Menomonie Street and Tenth Avenue. This location, south of Half Moon Lake and west of the Water Street commercial district, was the site of lumber activity since the mid-1850's.

The former office building, constructed in the early years of the twentieth century, is a one story brick structure which reflects a Queen Anne influence. Resting on a cut stone foundation, the building is covered by a hip roof featuring four shingle-covered dormers capped by broad gable roofs. The entrance is centrally located on the main facade and flanked by four segmental arch windows. Similar window openings mark the building's other facades. The entry itself is contained within a segmental arch including the door and a transom window above.

Currently the building is used by the Eau Claire Boys Drum and Bugle Corps.

HISTORICAL STATEMENT:

Associated with industry: The Kaiser Lumber Company Office is historically significant for its association with the growth of the city's lumber industry. The primary force in the establishment of Eau Claire, the lumber industry was the reigning economic activity in the community during the years 1860 to 1910. Despite this prominence, few intact remnants of the industry survive. Most significantly absent are any structures relating to the actual production of lumber. Within the city the Kaiser Lumber Company Office is recognized as a lumber-related site, although the relationship between the building and the structures which originally comprised the entire complex no longer exists. (Still standing on the property are one of the company's box factories and the adjoining planing mill. These buildings have been substantially altered and today are not visually identified with the office structure.) The office building was the focal point of the Kaiser Lumber Company which was organized in 1905, the last lumber firm to be established in the city. Headed by John Kaiser, a successful lumberman who had mills and factories in Muscatine, Iowa, and Stillwater, Minnesota, the Kaiser Company combined lumber and box-making in an effort to make full use of the remaining timber resource. Ceasing all production in 1939, the Kaiser Lumber Company represents the final phase of the industry in Eau Claire.

Established in 1905, the Kaiser Lumber Company occupied nearly forty six acres in the lumber district at the foot of Half Moon Lake, the former site of the Valley Lumber Company, an early and prominent lumber producer. The company, founded by John Kaiser, who emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1871, was brought to Eau Claire through the efforts of the city's Commercial Association, a booster organization

KAISER LUMBER COMPANY OFFICE (1004 Menomonie Street)
Intensive Survey Form - Continuation sheet (2)

that encouraged the community's continued economic growth. The new enterprise received a twenty five per cent tax rebate on its city taxes and a \$4000 private subscription for the purchase of the site (E).

The Kaiser Company property included the office, sawmills, a box factory, dry kiln, lath mill, planing mill, power plant, and yards. It was supplied with logs, generally hemlock and hardwood, cut from the company's extensive timber holdings in Sawyer county. According to one source, the lumber concern owned 16,700 acres and held the timber rights to another 21,200 acres (C). In 1911 the Kaiser Company was shipping twenty railroad cars of lumber per day and in 1913 purchased the Daniel Shaw Lumber Company mill located west of the Kaiser site at the outlet of Half Moon Lake. The Shaw Company organized in 1874 closed in October, 1912, leaving only the Kaiser and New Dells Lumber Company operating in the city. Following the expansion, the growing company employed approximately 350 men and sawed between 150,000 and 175,000 feet of lumber daily (D).

Accompanying the production of lumber was the making of boxes which by 1917 dominated the company's operations. A new box factory, constructed in 1917 and organized separately as the Eau Claire Box and Crating Company, used the timber that could not be utilized for building purposes. Boxes were sold to large meat packing houses that shipped their products regionally and to manufacturing concerns such as the Kohler Company of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, and the Maytag Company of Newton, Iowa. Until 1924, when a fire destroyed the factory, it employed more than 200 men year round. Following the fire, the company resumed operations at their old box factory located on Tenth Avenue. In 1931 the business was sold but two years later with repeal of Prohibition and the subsequent demand for beverage cases, John Kaiser reopened his factory and produced boxes on a limited scale until his death in 1939.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

A piece of land in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 19, Town 27 North, Range 9 East, described as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the north line of Menomonie Street with the west line of Tenth Avenue; thence west on the north line of Menomonie Street 100 feet; thence north parallel to Tenth Avenue 100 feet; thence east parallel to the north line of Menomonie Street 100 feet to the west line of Tenth Avenue; then south along the west line of Tenth Avenue 100 feet to point of beginning.