

City, Village or Town: 1 Eau Claire ✓		County: Eau Claire ✓	Surveyor: M. Taylor	Date: 10-8-81
Street Address: ✓ 221 Washington Street		Legal Description: E½ of lot 2, ex. E 20½ ft., Lot 3 Blk 2 Chapman & Thorpe		Acreage: less than one acre
Current Name & Use: Private residence and studio		Current Owner: 4th Add. Roland Krause		
Film Roll No. EC 2P	Current Owner's Address: 221 Washington Street		Special Features Not Visible In Photographs: UTM: zone 15 Easting: 619230 Northing: 4962070 USGS Eau Claire East Quadrangle 1:24,000 Interior visited? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Negative No. 30	[Redacted]			
Facade Orient. N	[Redacted]			

Original Name & Use:	Source	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source
2 Martin Van Buren, Barron, House (EC MEA)	A				
Dates of Construction / Alteration 1871	Source B				
Architect and/or Builder: Bangs and Fish, builders	Source B				

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: _____

None

Architectural Statement:

See continuation sheet.

Historical Statement:

See continuation sheet.

- 5** Sources of Information (Reference to Above)
- A** Eau Claire Landmarks Commission nomination form
 - B** Barland, L. 1965. The Rivers Flow On., p. 40
 - C** Historical and Biographical Album of the Chippewa Valley, 1891-92, p. 496.
 - D** Eau Claire Telegram, March 4, 1947.
 - E**
 - F**

6 Representation in Previous Surveys

HABS NAER WIHP NRHP landmark

other:

7 Condition

excellent good fair poor ruins

8 District: _____

pivotal contributing non-contributing

initials: _____ date: _____

9 Opinion of National Register Eligibility

eligible not eligible unknown

national state local initials: mt

MARTIN VAN BUREN BARRON HOUSE (221 Washington Street)
Intensive Survey Form - Continuation sheet (1)

ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT:

Description: Lacy bargeboards dramatically outline the steeply pitched gables that characterize the Martin Van Buren Barron residence. The three gables - cross gables and a main gable facing the street - are also emphasized by finials which add to the vertical orientation of the one and a half story dwelling. The walls are clapboard sided and free of ornamentation. The main entrance, framed by side-lights, is centrally located on the gabled projection which is enclosed by a classically inspired veranda that contrasts with picturesque and romantic image evoked by the bargeboards. Paired Tuscan columns and a balustrade on both the lower level and veranda roof are featured. Above the entry are two roundheaded openings emphasized by a semi-circular window frame that joins them. A similar fenestration pattern appears on the cross gables. A bay window containing three segmentally arched 4/4 sash windows is located on the first floor, while on the second, is a pair of segmentally arched openings included within a segmentally arched frame. The same arched windows also distinguish the lower portion of the cross gables that forms the main facade. The 4/4 sash windows are over-sized and, like all the openings, flanked by wood shutters.

(1981 photo - 38/11)

Significance: The Martin Van Buren Barron house, a picturesque creation featuring steeply pitched gables outlined by emphatic curvilinear bargeboards, is the best local example of Late Carpenter's Gothic architecture. Constructed by Eau Claire builders, Bangs and Fish in 1871, the residence is one of the few remnants of Eau Claire's early decades. It was designated an Eau Claire Landmark in 1980.

The building firm of Bangs and Fish was established in Eau Claire in 1867. The partnership operated a sash, door, and blind factory that supplied these articles and other woodwork for many of the city's buildings. In the case of the Barron house, Bangs and Fish did the actual construction (D).

HISTORICAL STATEMENT:

The home's original owner, Martin Van Buren Barron, was born in New Hampshire in 1834 and settled in Eau Claire in 1865. Initially, Barron, in partnership with his brother, operated a flour and feed store. Abandoning this endeavor in favor of lumbering, he and another brother built a mill on the Chippewa River. In the next years he became associated with a number of lumber enterprises, including rafting and selling lumber for the Eau Claire Lumber Company and logging for himself and in partnership with Peter Truax. From 1878 until his death in 1891 Barron was employed by the Rust-Owen Lumber Company and engaged in "buying lumber and logs at Boyd, Cadott, Bloomer, Chetek, Barron, Cameron and various other points on the Omaha and Wisconsin Central lines" (C).

Today, the home contains an office and a dwelling area.