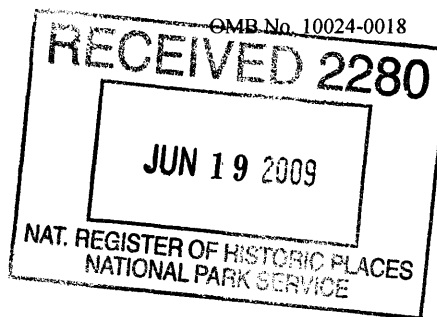


580



**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 Farnham, Fred and Lucia, House

other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 553 West James Street

city or town Columbus

state Wisconsin

code WI

county

Columbia

N/A

not for publication

N/A

vicinity

code 021

zip code 53925

**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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

6/15/09

Date

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

Farnham, Fred and Lucia. House

Columbia

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:)

*Edouard H. Beall*

7-30-09

*[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 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)

Italianate

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Metal

other Wood

**Narrative Description**

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

Farnham, Fred and Lucia, House  
Name of Property

Columbia  
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  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1867  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Vanaken, Richard D.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance**  
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Farnham, Fred and Lucia, 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:**

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

Name of repository:

### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreege of Property**     Less than One Acre

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

1    16      336260      4800500  
      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

<b>name/title</b>	Timothy F. Heggland	<b>Date</b>	October 15, 2008
<b>organization</b>		<b>Telephone</b>	(608) 795-2650
<b>street &amp; number</b>	6391 Hillsandwood Rd.	<b>zip code</b>	53560
<b>city or town</b>	Mazomanie	<b>state</b>	WI

Farnham, Fred and Lucia, House

Columbia

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

### 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>	Henry J. & Elizabeth Altschwager	<b>date</b>	October 15, 2008
<b>organization</b>		<b>telephone</b>	(920) 623-2306
<b>street &amp; number</b>	553 W. James St.	<b>zip code</b>	53925
<b>city or town</b>	Columbus	<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

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**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Farnham, Fred and Lucia, House  
Columbus, Columbia County, WI

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**Description:**

The very fine and very intact Italianate Style Fred and Lucia Farnham house was built in 1867. It was constructed by Richard D. Vanaken, Columbus's most prominent nineteenth century carpentry contractor. The design is an excellent example of the "Centered Gable" subtype of the Italianate Style that was identified by Virginia and Lee McAlester.<sup>1</sup> In this instance the design consists of a 36-foot-wide by 59-foot-deep, two-story-tall, cruciform plan main block whose narrow, symmetrical main façade faces northeast onto W. James St. This block rests on stone foundation walls faced with brick and they enclose a full basement story. The exterior walls that rest on this foundation are fashioned from cream brick and these walls are sheltered by the very broad overhanging open eaves of the block's very shallow-pitched cross-gable roof, which is covered in standing seam metal cladding. In addition, there is also a shorter two-story 15-foot-wide by 22-feet-deep cream brick-clad, gable-roofed, rectilinear plan service wing attached to the rear of the main block. This house remained in the Farnham family until 1909. After passing through other owners, the house became the property of the Henry J. Altschwager family in the 1920s, and his descendants have continued to occupy it ever since.

The Farnham house is situated in one of Columbus's several historic period residential neighborhoods and its main façade faces northeast onto W. James St., which is one of the main thoroughfares in the city of Columbus. The very slightly sloping parcel associated with the house occupies the south corner of a block that is encircled by W. James, W. Harrison, S. Lewis, and S. Birdsey streets. This multi-lot corner parcel fronts onto both the northwest-southeast-running W. James St. and also onto the southwest-northeast-running S. Lewis St. The house is surrounded by other historic period single family residences that are located on both sides of W. James St. and next door on the southeast side of S. Lewis street.<sup>2</sup> The house is surrounded by mown lawn, trimmed shrubs, and mature shade trees. The W. James St. and S. Lewis St. edges of the parcel are bordered by concrete curb and gutter, wide mown grass terraces, and concrete sidewalks. In addition, a curving concrete path leads up to the main entrance to the house from the W. James St. sidewalk.

In addition to the house there is also a modern gable-roofed two-car garage located behind the house that also has cream-brick exterior walls. The garage doors of this building face northwest onto S. Lewis St. and they are accessed by a short concrete driveway that cuts across the S. Lewis St. terrace.

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<sup>1</sup> McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Knopf, 1984, pp. 211, 220-221.

<sup>2</sup> Facing the Farnham house across S. Lewis St. is the former St. Mary's R.C. Hospital Building, which has now been remodeled into an apartment building.

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Farnham, Fred and Lucia, House  
Columbus, Columbia County, WI

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**Exterior**

As noted previously, the Farnham house consists of a cruciform plan, two-story-tall main block to whose rear elevation is attached a shorter, two-story, rectilinear plan service wing. The entire house rests on stone foundation walls that enclose a full basement story, but that portion of the foundation that is visible above ground is completely clad in cream brick. A corbelled, single course, cream brick water table is located at the top of these foundation walls and the exterior walls above are clad in cream brick as well. These walls rise up to a plain wooden frieze board that is located just below the very wide overhanging open eaves that encircle the entire house. These eaves have board soffits but they are not supported by wood brackets of the kind that are commonly used to ornament Italianate Style houses.

The main block has four wings, the northeast (front) and southwest (rear)-facing wings being longer than the northwest and southeast facing side wings. The exterior walls of the main block of the house are sheltered by the very shallow-pitched, standing seam metal-covered cross-gable roof that covers the attic story of the block. While the exterior walls of the service wing are sheltered by this wing's own shallow-pitched asphalt shingle-covered gable roof. All of the house's first story windows and doors have semi-circular-arched openings and most of the main block's second story windows have semi-circular-arched openings as well. A few of this block's second story window openings have a basket-handle-arched shape, as do all of the rear service wing's second story window openings. All of these openings have dressed stone sills and are crowned with corbelled brick hood molds whose design corresponds to the shape of the opening. In addition, all of the house's original two-over-two-light double hung wood sash windows, complete with their arched upper sashes, are still intact and so are the house's original entrance doors.

Northeast-Facing Main Facade

The 36-foot-wide northeast-facing main facade of the house is also the main elevation of the cruciform plan main block. It is symmetrical in design and is dominated by the projecting, centrally placed, 20-foot-wide gable-roofed front wing. Centered on the first story of this wing is a three-sided polygonal bay window that measures three-feet-deep by seven-feet-wide. This flat-roofed bay window provides light to the house's front parlor and it sits on a cream brick base, it is clad in wood, and each of its sides contains a single, tall, semi-circular-arched eight-light window. The second story above this bay window is two-bays-wide and each of these bays contains a single semi-circular-arched window opening that contains a two-over-two-light double hung window.

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Farnham, Fred and Lucia, House  
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The remainder of this façade is comprised of the northeast-facing side walls of the main block's northwest and southeast-facing side wings. These two wall surfaces are placed on either side of the northeast-facing front wing. The one on the left is nine-feet-wide and contains a single semi-circular-arched window opening in its first story and a single basket-handle-arched window opening in the second story. The wall surface on the right-hand side of the northeast-facing front wing is only seven feet-wide but it is otherwise nearly identical; its second story contains another single basket-handle-arched window opening as well. Its first story, however, contains the main entrance of the house. This semi-circular-arched opening is nearly identical in size to the first story window opening on the left-hand side and it still contains the house's original, very elaborate paneled six-light wooden door, which is crowned by its original semi-circular-arched three-light transom.

Northwest-Facing Side Elevation

The asymmetrical 81-foot-wide northwest-facing side elevation of the house is composed of the two-story-tall, 59-foot-wide northwest facing side elevation of the main block on the left and the 22-foot-wide, two-story-tall northwest facing side elevation of the service wing on the right.

The 59-foot-wide northwest-facing elevation of the main block is itself composed of three separate elements: the 19-foot-wide side elevation of the northeast-facing front wing; the 22-foot-wide northeast-facing elevation of the northeast-facing side wing; and the 18-foot-wide northeast-facing side elevation of the southwest-facing rear wing. The 19-foot-wide side elevation of the northeast-facing front wing contains no openings of any kind and its first story is sheltered by a nearly full-width arcaded entrance porch whose very shallow-pitched hip roof is supported by single, paired, and tripled, square plan, chamfered, wood columns. These columns support two northwest-facing arches and one northeast-facing one and they rest on the porch's raised wood board floor, which is itself supported by cream brick pedestals, with the spaces between the pedestals being filled by wooden lattice work.

The 22-foot-wide northwest-facing elevation of the gable-roofed northwest-facing side wing is two-bays-wide and each story of these bays contains a single semi-circular-arched window opening. The openings of the right-hand bay both contain a two-over-two-light double hung window, but both the openings of the left-hand bay are blind and are filled with cream brick, which reflects the fact that the house's main staircase is located behind them.

The first story of the 18-foot-wide northeast-facing side elevation of the southwest-facing rear wing contains no openings and its right half is covered over by a cream brick-clad, hip-roofed seven-foot-wide by six-foot-deep bay that houses the entrance hall of a secondary staircase. The second story of



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this elevation contains a single centered basket-handle-arched window opening and it too contains its original two-over-two-light window.

The two-story-tall service wing is shorter than the two-story-tall wings of the main block and its 22-foot-wide northwest facing side elevation is two-bays-wide. Each bay contains a single semi-circular-arched window opening in its first story and a single basket-handle-arched window opening in its second story. All of the openings retain their original two-over-two-light windows.

Southwest-Facing Rear Elevation

The 36-foot-wide rear elevation of the house consists of the southwest-facing elevation of the main block and the superimposed southwest-facing elevation of the service wing. The rear elevation of the main block is itself composed of two separate elements: the centered 18-foot-wide rear elevation of the southwest-facing rear wing of the main block, and the two nine-foot-wide, southwest-facing side walls of the main block's northwest and southeast-facing side wings.

Most of the 18-foot-wide rear elevation of the main block's southwest-facing wing is covered over by the slightly less wide and shorter, 15-foot-wide, southwest-facing service wing and neither of these wing's rear elevations have any openings in them. The remainder of the house's overall southwest-facing rear elevation is comprised of the southwest-facing side walls of the main block's northwest and southeast-facing side wings. These two wall surfaces are placed on either side of the main block's southwest-facing rear wing and the one on the left is nine-feet-wide, its second story has no openings, and its first story is mostly covered over by the cream brick-clad, hip-roofed 7-foot-wide by 6-foot-deep bay that houses the entrance hall of the house's secondary staircase. A rectilinear door opening that is surmounted by a dressed stone lintel is placed to the left on the bay's wall surface. To its right is located a tall, very thin, semi-circular-arched window opening that contains a four-light window that provides light to the staircase inside. The wall surface on the right-hand side of the southwest-facing rear wing is also nine feet-wide and its second story also contains no openings. Its first story, however, contains a rectilinear side door opening that still contains its original, very elaborate, four-light paneled wooden door. This door is sheltered by a screened porch that will be described as part of the southeast-facing side elevation of the house.

Southeast-Facing Side Elevation

The asymmetrical 81-foot-wide, southeast-facing side elevation of the house is composed of the 22-foot-wide, two-story-tall southeast facing side elevation of the service wing on the left and the two-story-tall, 59-foot-wide southeast facing side elevation of the main block on the right.

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Farnham, Fred and Lucia, House  
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The southeast facing side elevation of the service wing is three-bays-wide and both the left and right-hand bays each contain a single semi-circular-arched window opening in their first story and a single basket-handle-arched window opening in their second story; all four openings contain their original two-over-two-light windows. The first story of the middle bay, however, contains a rectilinear door opening that provides access to the house's kitchen and it is reached by ascending a flight of concrete steps that are of a later date than the house. Also of more recent date is a wooden exterior staircase and balcony that has been added across the width of this elevation in order to provide an emergency exit from the second story. This staircase ascends from the ground across the right-hand bay's first story window to a balcony that is located just above the first story of the middle and the right-hand bays. This is the only modern alteration that has been made to the exterior of the house.

The 59-foot-wide southeast-facing elevation of the main block is composed of three separate elements: the 18-foot-wide southeast-facing side elevation of the southwest-facing rear wing; the 22-foot-wide southeast-facing elevation of the southeast-facing side wing; and the 19-foot-wide side elevation of the northeast-facing front wing. The first story of the 18-foot-wide southeast-facing side elevation of the rear wing is three-bays-wide and its left and right-hand bays both contain single semi-circular-arched window openings that still contain their original two-over-two-light windows. The center bay contains a rectilinear door opening. All three of these openings have historically been sheltered by the flat roof of a wood frame screen porch that covered almost the entire width of this elevation. This porch is still extant today, although its roof is now edged by a modern wood balustrade that was added so that the roof of the porch could be used as an emergency exit for the house's second story. The second story of this elevation contains a single basket-handle-arched window opening above each of the first story's window openings and these two window openings still contain their original two-over-two-light windows.

Centered on the first story of the 22-foot-wide southeast-facing elevation of the gable-roofed southeast-facing wing is a three-sided polygonal bay window that measures three-feet-deep by seven-feet-wide. This flat-roofed bay window is identical to the one on the main façade and it sits on a cream brick base, it is clad in wood, and each of its sides contains a single tall, semi-circular-arched, eight-light window. The second story above this bay window is two-bays-wide and each of these bays contains a single semi-circular-arched window opening that contains an original two-over-two-light double hung window.

The 19-foot-wide side elevation of the northeast-facing front wing contains a single centered semi-circular-arched window opening. It is sheltered by a nearly full-width arcaded entrance porch that is identical to the one on the opposite side of the house and its very shallow-pitched hip roof is also

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supported by single, paired, and tripled, square plan, chamfered, wood columns. These columns support two southeast-facing arches and one northeast-facing one and they rest on the porch's raised wood board floor, which is itself supported by cream brick pedestals, with the spaces between the pedestals being filled by wooden lattice work. Located in the second story above the first story's centered window opening is a second window opening. This one of which has a basket-handle-arched window opening that, like the one below, still contains its original two-over-two-light window.

**Interior**

The interior of the Farnham House is at least as intact as the exterior and it is a superb example of what Italianate Style interiors of this period looked like. The original arrangement of the principal rooms is still largely intact and these rooms possess an exceptionally high degree of integrity. All the house's first story floors are of narrow tongue-and-groove oak boards, all of the house's walls and ceilings are plastered, and almost all of house's original doors, windows, and elaborate trim sets are still intact.<sup>3</sup>

One enters the house via the original six-light main entrance door, which is located on the house's northeast-facing main façade. This varnished oak door has two circular lights at the top, two square lights near the base, and two tall, thin, semi-circular-arched lights in the center. The door retains its original mail slot and original circular, spring-loaded brass doorbell as well.<sup>4</sup> Passing through the main entrance door one enters into the tall, narrow, 17-foot-wide by 11-foot-deep rectilinear plan entrance hall that occupies the northeast half of the house's northwest-facing side wing. The house's geometrical semi-circular-end main staircase lies directly opposite the door and it ascends up the hall's southwest wall and makes a 180 degree turn before reaching the second story.<sup>5</sup> This staircase retains its elaborate varnished wooden balustrade and newel post. The hall also retains its original heavy, elaborate crown molding and its tall molded baseboards, and the three doors that open into the hall still retain their elaborate, very wide, molded and eared trim sets as well.

A semi-circular-arched door opening in the northeast wall of the entrance hall, that is located just to the right of the main entrance door, opens into the front drawing room that occupies the entire first story of the northeast wing of the main block. An equally large rectilinear door opening with an eared surround in the southeast wall of the entrance hall opens into the adjacent parlor that occupies the southeast wing of the main block.

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<sup>3</sup> Today, the Farnham house is heated by a central furnace but circular openings located high up on the walls of the house's principal rooms testify to the fact that the house was originally heated by a number of non-extant wood stoves, as well as by its two still extant fireplaces.

<sup>4</sup> This door is the only one of the first story's doors, windows, and trim that is varnished. All of the rest are painted.

<sup>5</sup> Not only does the staircase curve 180 degrees as it climbs, but the northwest end of the hall itself curves as well.

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Farnham, Fred and Lucia, House  
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The 20-foot-wide by 19-foot-deep rectilinear plan front drawing room can be accessed directly from the entrance hall via the semi-circular-arched door set into its northeast wall. It can also be accessed via a pair of sliding paneled doors whose broad semi-elliptical-arched opening is set into the northeast wall of the parlor. Natural light enters this room via a single window set into its southeast-facing wall and from the bay window that is centered on the room's northeast wall, the sides and ceiling of which are paneled. The front drawing room is further enriched by its tall original baseboards, by its massive eared door and window trim sets, by its heavy crown molding, and by molding that is placed on its ceiling.

The 19-foot-wide by 22-foot-deep rectilinear plan parlor occupies the entire southeast wing of the first story of the main block of the house. One can enter this room from five separate doorways, one of which is the semi-elliptical-arched double door opening located on the room's northeast wall that opens into the front parlor. Two more rectilinear door openings are located on the room's northwest-facing wall and the right-hand one opens into the entrance hall. These openings are placed on either side of the parlor's beautifully carved marble fireplace, which has a curved mantelshelf and paneled spandrels flanking a semi-circular-shaped opening that contains its original cast iron fire basket. Two more rectilinear door openings are located on the room's southwest-facing wall. The right-hand one opens into the dining room while the left-hand one opens out onto the screen porch that is located alongside the dining room and it, like the main entrance door, has two circular lights at the top, two square lights near the base, and two tall, thin, semi-circular-arched lights in the center. Natural light enters this room via a single rectilinear window opening that is set into its northeast-facing wall to the right of the double door opening and also from the bay window that is centered on the room's southeast wall, the sides and ceiling of which are paneled. The parlor is further enriched by its tall original baseboards, by its massive eared door and window trim sets, by its heavy crown molding, and by a centered circular ceiling medallion that encircles the room's non-original brass chandelier.

The southeast half of the southwest-facing rear wing of the main block contains the house's rectilinear plan dining room, which is accessed via four rectilinear door openings. One of these openings is located on the dining room's northeast wall and opens into the parlor, another is located on its southwest wall and opens into the kitchen that occupies the first story of the service wing, the third is centered on its southeast wall and opens onto the screen porch outside, and the fourth is located on the right end of the room's northwest wall and opens into a rear entrance hall. Natural light enters the dining room via two rectilinear window openings that are set on either side of the entrance door on the room's southeast-facing wall and additional light comes from the three-light chandelier that is centered in a plaster medallion on the ceiling.

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Farnham, Fred and Lucia, House  
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Located immediately to the right of the kitchen door in the dining room's southwest wall is a large built-in china cupboard that has two single-light glass-fronted doors placed above four drawers. Both this built-in and the adjacent kitchen door are enframed by the same molded wood trim set. Additional built-in storage is located on the dining room's northwest wall, and positioned next to it on the right are two additional rectilinear door openings, the center one of which opens onto a narrow service staircase that ascends to the second story above while the one to the right opens onto another staircase that descends down to the basement. All three of these elements are enframed by a single molded trim set. The room is encircled by a chair rail and by wood board wainscoting.

The second story of the house has plastered walls and ceilings and narrow board wood floors. It contains a bathroom and four bedrooms, and the bedroom above the parlor in the house's southeast wing has a fine marble fireplace.

The significance of both the interior and exterior of the Farnham House has been greatly enhanced by the high standard of maintenance the house has received over the years.

**Garage (NC)**

In addition to the house, a detached two-car garage is now located close to the rear of the house. This rectilinear plan, gable-roofed building is of recent date and it is a non-contributing resource, but care has been exercised in its construction to ensure that the building would be a good neighbor for the house. The two individual garage door openings face northwest onto S. Lewis St., they contain paneled overhead garage doors, and the wall surface that surrounds them is clad in cream brick, while the end and rear walls of the building are clad in narrow gauge vinyl siding.

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**Significance**

The Fred and Lucia Farnham House was identified by the City of Columbus Intensive Survey in 1997 as being potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for its local significance under National Register (NR) Criterion C (Architecture).<sup>6</sup> The Farnham House is believed to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) because it is one of the finest and most intact examples of the Italianate Style to be found in the city of Columbus, a community that is especially rich in examples of this style.

Research designed to assess the house's potential for eligibility was undertaken using the NR significance area of Architecture, a theme that is also identified in the State of Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP). This research centered on evaluating the house utilizing the Italianate Style subsection of the Architectural Styles study unit of the CRMP.<sup>7</sup> The results of this research are detailed below and demonstrate that the cream brick-clad Farnham House is locally significant under NR Criterion C as a very fine and exceptionally intact example of Italianate Style residential design.

The Farnham house has an asymmetrical, two-story-tall, hip-roofed, cruciform plan main block to which is attached a shorter two-story kitchen wing. Columbus carpentry contractor Richard D. Vanaken built the house in 1867. The period of significance corresponds with the date of construction.

The original owner, Frederick F. Farnham, was born in 1821 in the town of Pembroke, Genesee County, in New York State. Farnham's father was a stone cutter and Farnham learned this trade as well, but he also clerked at a general store for several years and it was this trade that he would practice upon moving west to Wisconsin in 1846, at the age of 25. At first, Farnham lived with one of his sisters and her husband in Dodge County, but in 1847 he moved to Columbus and became a clerk in a store there. Soon thereafter he built a brick store building of his own in Columbus, and in 1850 he returned to New York State and married Lucia Marsh. After the couple returned to Columbus, Farnham went into partnership with James Allen, who was the husband of his wife's sister, in the firm of Farnham, Allen & Co. The new firm dealt successfully in all manner of merchandise and produce and when the railroad came to Columbus in 1856, the partners built a new warehouse down by the depot that enabled them to do business on a still larger scale. A year later, Farnham built the three-story

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<sup>6</sup> Heggland, Timothy F. *City of Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin : Intensive Survey Report*. Columbus: City of Columbus Historic Landmarks and Preservation Commission, 1997, p.85.

<sup>7</sup> Wyatt, Barbara (ed.). *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Division of Historic Preservation, 1986, Vol. 2, p. 2-6 (Architecture).

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Farnham Block at 111 E. James St. (extant) to house the firm's retail arm. In the years that followed, the partners built a grain elevator next to their warehouse and they also purchased a lumberyard in Columbus. In 1867, Farnham's success at these different ventures made it possible for him to build his wife and family the fine new Italianate Style house that is the subject of this nomination, after which he gradually disengaged himself from active participation in the firm and turned his attention to the purchase and sale of timber lands in northern Wisconsin. This latter activity made him a wealthy man and by the time of his death in 1877 he had amassed an estate valued at \$100,000. Lucie Farnham continued to live in their house on W. James St. until her own death in 1909. In the 1920s the Altschwager family acquired the house; family members still own and occupy the house today.

### **History**

The 821-page collected local newspaper columns of Frederic A. Stare<sup>8</sup> provide an excellent general history of the city of Columbus up to World War II and a detailed history of the city and its built resources are also embodied in the City of Columbus Intensive Survey Report, printed in 1997.<sup>9</sup> Consequently, the history that follows deals primarily with the history of the Farnham house itself and also with the evolution of the city during the time of its construction.

Today, Columbus is located in Columbia County and has a population of 4443. In 1839, though, when Major Elbert Dickason, the first settler of the land that was to become the city of Columbus arrived, all this land was included within the boundaries of the larger and as yet undivided Portage County and was then without formal governmental organization. Dickason, a veteran of the Blackhawk wars, had contracted with Lewis Ludington (1786-1857), the non-resident purchaser of a 1300 acre tract of land straddling the Crawfish River in that county, to manage and improve the property for their mutual benefit. Arriving at the site in the spring of 1839, Dickason's first act was to build himself a log cabin (non-extant) on the banks of the Crawfish at a spot close to where the railroad depots are located today. Dickason, like so many other town founders of that time, settled along a river because it provided both a reliable source of water and the only readily available means of generating power for industrial purposes. This power source was put to good use the following year when Dickason, with additional financial assistance from Ludington, constructed a saw and grist mill (non-extant) on the river bank. Building such a mill was usually the first step in building up a town in the days before the coming of the railroads because the locale surrounding a mill was a natural gathering place for area farmers and was thus a logical

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<sup>8</sup> These clippings are available at the Columbus Public Library and on microfilm at the Wisconsin Historical Society.

<sup>9</sup> Heggland, Timothy F. *City of Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin: Intensive Survey Report*. Columbus: City of Columbus Historic Landmarks and Preservation Commission, 1997.

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place around which to build a trading center. This held true in this place as well. With Dickason's mill in place, which was among the first in this section of the state, the rich gently rolling prairie that surrounded it became especially attractive to settlers wishing to engage in agricultural pursuits. However, the settlers did not arrive in sufficient numbers to save Dickason, who was unable to generate enough income to meet his financial obligations to Ludington and to the other owners of the land. Consequently, Ludington replaced him with Col. Jeremiah Drake (1784-1868), who arrived at the site in 1842 and promptly set about enlarging the mill and building the first frame dwelling in the place for himself.

By 1843, farmers were coming from as far as Madison and Stevens Point to have their grain milled at the place that Dickason had christened Columbus and the farms of these new arrivals were beginning to dot the countryside surrounding it. In the same year, Henry A. Whitney (1819-1880) built the first store (and tavern) in Columbus and the long lines of farmers waiting their turn at the mill persuaded him to build the first hotel in the new community in the following year at the corner of James and Ludington streets, where its 1857 replacement now stands (101 S. Ludington St.). Also in 1844, Lewis Ludington, the town proprietor, recorded the first plat of the future city, which was known as Ludington's Plat (or the original Plat) and comprised a nine-block area (blocks 1-9) bounded by Mill, Spring, Prairie, and Water streets. In 1845, the second store in the community was constructed for Josiah E. Arnold and Daniel E. Bassett, and the first doctor, James C. Axtell, and the first lawyer (future Wisconsin Civil War governor James T. Lewis) also set up office in that year.

By 1846, population in the region had grown to a point where it made sense to set Columbia County off from Portage County. Most of Columbia County's earliest settlers were transplanted Yankees and persons of English descent, and among them was Frederick F. Farnham (1821-1877), one of the five children of F. C. Farnham. Fred Farnham was educated in the local schools and he was also taught stone-cutting as well and for a number of years he followed this trade in the summer months while working as a clerk in a local store in the winter. In 1846, at the age of 25, Farnham moved to the town of Elba in Dodge County, Wisconsin and for the rest of the year he lived with his sister, Albina, and her husband, John Hasey, Jr., and there began the merchandising career that would occupy him for the remainder of his life.

Mr. Farnham arrived at the spot in the dense woods, where the Hasey cabin stood near the bank of a stream, with no money, the trip having exhausted his resources, except for a promissory note for \$50.00 he still had in his pocket. He went to Milwaukee where he traded the note for merchandise which he then took to Waupun, a small settlement on the Rock River which was started in 1839, the same year Major Dickason built the first cabin in what was to become Columbus.



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Remaining there only about two months he brought the remainder of his goods to the Hasey cabins, and set up a display of merchandise in the front part of the cabin of John Hasey, Jr. During the winter of 1846 he traded merchandise for logs, which were sawed into lumber at the Burnham and Hasey saw mill.

In the fall of 1847 he came to Columbus to become a clerk in the store of Arnold and Bassett, in a little frame building [that was] the only frame building on the north side of James St. at that time.<sup>10</sup>

Farnham's arrival in Columbus came at a propitious time for a man seeking to embark on a career in merchandising because Columbus was then enjoying its first real burst of growth. By 1848, the first of what would prove to be a large number of immigrants from Germany were beginning to arrive in Columbus and, not coincidentally, that year also saw the construction of the first brewery (non-extant) in Columbus on the banks of the Crawfish at its intersection with N. Ludington St. In 1849, Lewis Ludington platted a four-block addition (Ludington's Addition) to his original plat (blocks 10-13) that was bounded by Water, Prairie, Spring, and School streets and a year later he platted a second six-block addition (blocks 14-19) that was bounded by Mill, Spring, Newcomb, and Water streets (the First Addition to the Original Plat). These nineteen blocks now comprise the historic commercial core of Columbus, which quickly spread outward from the Ludington Street/James Street intersection and Whitney's first hotel to encompass the area now listed in the NRHP as the Columbus Downtown Historic District (NRHP listed 3-5-1992).

During this period Farnham continued to work as clerk in Arnold and Bassett's store.

While with this firm, he was elected County Registrar of Deeds, the county seat then being in Columbus, holding office for one term. He was also a justice of the peace which he continued for several years, but he had no political ambitions and never sought office.

Soon after the expiration of his term, he built a store building long known as the old red brick store, which was located at the corner of James and Ludington sts., where 101 E. James now is.<sup>11</sup>

In 1850, Farnham was confident about his future and returned to Alexander, New York where he married Lucia Marsh. The new couple then returned to Columbus, and shortly thereafter, Lucia Farnham's sister

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<sup>10</sup> Stare, Frederick A. *The Story of Columbus*. Columbus: Columbus Journal-Republican, 1951-1963. Installment No. 148 (April 1, 1954). Elba was located about three miles east of Columbus, which city straddles the Columbia County-Dodge County line, and the Burnham and Hasey saw mill was located close by on the Crawfish River near Danville.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

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and her husband, James F. Allen, also moved to Columbus. Farnham took Allen in as a partner in his general merchandising firm, which was renamed Farnham, Allen & Co. The new firm was apparently a profitable one from the start but in the first years of its existence, profits were sometimes counted in a different way than they are today.

Because of the limited amount of money in circulation, money was very scarce, and all merchants had to do business by barter, or trade their merchandise for produce, eggs, hay, grain, wood, pork, saw logs, live stock, or anything of value, as well as to extend credit to customers, and the latter caused many business failures.<sup>12</sup>

Besides their retail store on James Street, Farnham, Allen & Co. also had a warehouse for the storage of grain, produce, salt, and supplies and their firm gradually grew up with the village. By 1855, Columbus had a population of approximately 800 and a well-established business core centered on the intersection of Ludington and James streets. The core was surrounded by residential plats to the northwest and northeast. All this development was concentrated for the most part to the northwest of Water Street, which is not surprising. As its name suggests, Water Street was bordered to the southeast by the Crawfish River and by the mill pond created by the dam of the mill (which was located where today's Udey Street intersects with the river). Since land to the northwest of Water Street was higher than the river and since it increased in elevation as one traveled northwest, it was therefore safe from flooding, which circumstance naturally favored development in that area of the city. In February of 1855, the first issue of the *Republican Journal* stated that at that time the village:

Had already seven stores with two or three more to be opened in the spring. There was a drugstore, a good flouring-mill, a saw-mill, two wagon-shops, one of which had made a hundred wagons, and the other fifty, during the year previous; three groceries and provision stores, two hotels, four blacksmith shops, three boot and shoe stores, three tailor shops, one jewelry store and one harness shop. The Congregational Church was building, and it was thought the coming spring would lay the foundations of Methodist and Universalist houses of worship.

To these were added the first bank in Columbus, which was established the following year by William L. Lewis. But the most momentous news of 1856 was the eagerly anticipated arrival of the Milwaukee & Watertown Railroad, the first railroad to reach Columbus. This all-important event all but guaranteed that Columbus would be able to hold on to its existing trading advantage in the area. Well before the railroad reached Columbus, the April 17, 1856 issue of the *Republican Journal* was busy making sure that

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<sup>12</sup> Stare, Frederick A. Op. Cit.

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everyone understood its importance. Under the headline "The Prospects of Columbus" were the following comments:

Never before have the prospects of our village been as bright as at present. The certain completion of the Milwaukee & Watertown railroad to this place early next fall and also that of the Wisconsin Central road within one year from next fall, has put an impetus into the business of this place that surpasses that of any previous year. We were surprised last year to see so many buildings going up. Some thought the village was growing too fast, that it would be a long while before those buildings that were being erected would find occupants, but here we are, at the commencement of another spring and not a building to rent. If there were fifty buildings now ready for occupants, they could all be rented before the end of another week.

Farnham also took advantage of the population boom that the coming of the railroad was creating by using the occasion to plat some land that he owned near the village.

Mr. Farnham had acquired some land between Waterloo Road and the Madison Road, and in 1856 he laid out Farnham's Addition to Columbus, consisting of three blocks of lots, Block 1 being 13 lots west of Farnham St., Block 2, 11 lots east, and Block 3, 7 lots east of Farnham St. ... leaving some land east and west of Farnham St. unplatted.<sup>13</sup>

Farnham's firm moved to take advantage of the boom. Once the location of the railroad's new depot was announced, Farnham, Allen & Co. built themselves a new and larger warehouse along the line next to the depot, it was one of seven new warehouses built in the vicinity of the depot at this time.<sup>14</sup> In addition, Farnham's sister, Albina, and his brother-in-law, John Hasey, Jr., both moved into Columbus in 1856, and Hasey and Andrew O. Sexton, another Farnham brother-in-law who had been buying and selling grain by himself, both joined the firm and were placed in charge of buying produce and grain at the depot.<sup>15</sup>

By the time the lots in Farnham's Addition were offered for sale, the impact that the railroad (which would finally arrive on May 25, 1857) would have on the community was obvious. Between 1856 and 1857, the population of the village more than doubled and even when one allows for a large degree of boosterism on the part of the *Republican Journal*, just the bare bones of the description of Columbus that it reprinted from another Wisconsin paper in its March 24, 1857 issue represented a record of quite

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<sup>13</sup> Stare, Frederick A. Op. Cit.

<sup>14</sup> The location of this railroad depot was in a pasture owned by Adolph Ingalsbe that was located on the west side of the village just to the south of Ingalsbe's house. Neither the depot nor any of these warehouses is now extant.

<sup>15</sup> Fred Farnham had four sisters, all of whom married and wound up living in Columbus.

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extraordinary community growth for one year.

Columbus contains about 2000 inhabitants. Its places of business include four hotels, 12 dry goods stores; 4 saloons; 2 drugstores; 7 grocery stores; 3 hardware stores; two bookstores.

A more complete tally of Columbus business interests that was published in the April 14, 1858 issue of the *Republican Journal*, showed that growth was continuing unabated, a situation that was all the more impressive because of the nationwide financial panic of 1857, which had put a damper on growth in many places that would last up until the beginning of the Civil War.

Perhaps there is not a village in the State with a better prospect of becoming a rich business place than Columbus. The growth of the village, to be sure, has not been as rapid as some others, but it has been steady and healthy, no mushroom concern. We venture to say that there were fewer failures here than in any other place doing the same amount of business in the west, or perhaps the east either, and the crisis being now passed no more are apprehended. The population of the village is now between two and three thousand and steadily increasing.

There are six dry goods stores, two clothing stores, two grocery, fruit and provisions stores, three hardware stores, two drug stores, one book store, seven warehouses, and four lumber yards in the village. There is also one of the best grist mills in the country running day and night; also a sawmill.

Of manufactories and workshops there are two wagon factory, one plow factory, one door and sash factory, three cabinet shops, two upholsterers, four blacksmith shops, two saddle and harness shops, two tailor shops, two jewelers and watchmakers, four boot and shoe makers, two milliners shops, one brick yard, one brewery, and one barber shop. There are three doctor's offices, three lawyer's offices, four insurance agencies, two banking and exchange offices, one land agency, one dentist, one express agency, one printing office, post office, and railroad office. There are six hotels, two of which are large first class houses, also a livery stable with first rate horses and all the vehicles and accouterments belonging to such an establishment. There are two eating saloons, one billiard and one bowling saloon, besides a number of lager beer saloons and groceries.

There are six religious societies, two of which have churches completed and three more are commenced. The Methodists have their church nearly completed. There are lodges of the Free masons, Odd Fellows and Good Templars, and a Division of the Sons of Temperance here, all in flourishing condition.

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Columbus is the present terminus of the Milwaukee and Watertown railroad and also of the Land Grant Road, which [when completed] leads to lake Superior and will connect with roads running into Minnesota hundreds of miles.

By 1859, Farnham, Allen & Co.'s success had enabled Farnham to build a new and much larger three-story brick building to house his retail operations. This Italianate Style building, known as the Farnham Block, is still extant and is located at 111 E. James St. in the Columbus Downtown Historic District (NRHP listed 3-5-1992).

Meanwhile, Columbus had experienced sufficient population growth during this period to justify its being officially incorporated as the Village of Columbus in 1864. The newly minted village was even big enough now to be divided into three wards and to have areas located across the Crawfish River from the main portion that were known locally as "Mexico" and "Lowville." This growth could not be sustained indefinitely. Part of the growth that the community had experienced up until then had been based on the fact that for a short time Columbus was the actual terminus of the Milwaukee & Watertown road. This was just a momentary advantage. In reality many of the persons who gave the city a short term population in the mid 2000 range intended to locate there for just a short time before moving into the surrounding countryside or to points beyond Columbus. Also, other communities in the area that were already well established, like Portage located on the Wisconsin River, or had access to more than one railroad, like Watertown, eventually outstripped Columbus because of these advantages.

Shortly after the village was incorporated in 1864, the Milwaukee & Watertown Railroad was absorbed into the Milwaukee Road and the new owners decided to relocate the railroad's entrance into Columbus. As a result, a new brick depot and brick freight house were built (both non-extant) at the present depot's current location just north of the point where the tracks intersect with N. Dickason Blvd. Not surprisingly, village businesses were quick to follow and by the end of the year a whole new warehouse district was arrayed along the relocated tracks, and among them was another new warehouse built for Farnham, Allen & Co.

By the end of the Civil War, immigrants of German origin were the most numerous of the newcomers to the village. One of the new settlers was Henry Kurth, who established a second brewery in Columbus on S. Ludington Street (Park Ave.). It would grow to become one of the community's largest business enterprises. Another important new institution was also commenced in 1865, when Farnham, Allen & Co. built a grain storage elevator along the railroad tracks next to the new warehouse they had constructed the year before. These were both significant events since they provided additional services and markets for the agricultural community that surrounded Columbus.

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In 1867, Farnham decided to remove himself from active day-to-day participation in his firm and he also used this occasion to build a new house for himself and his family, this being the same one that is the subject of this nomination. Unfortunately, no newspaper account of the construction of the house has come down to us because Columbus was without a newspaper in 1867. The following year, however, a wrap-up of building activity published in the new *Columbus Democrat* contained the following mention of Farnham's house.

We believe no village in the state has exceeded Columbus in its growth during the past two years. In addition to the buildings we have mentioned, such new residences as F. F. Farnham's, those of J. S. Memling, D. S. Fuller, E. E. Chapin, the Sawyers, and D. F. Newcomb, and such structures as the Presbyterian church, have made Columbus a different village from that of the time alluded to.<sup>16</sup>

Fred Farnham would enjoy his new house for ten more years. During this period the village's population reached the point where another advance in its governmental status was deemed necessary, so in 1874, application was made and permission was given to reincorporate Columbus as a city. Farnham, meanwhile, continued to look after his family and his business interests.

In the last ten years of his life Mr. Farnham left the management of his firm largely to Mr. Allen, and devoted his time to traveling for pleasure, and to the enjoyment of leisure in his fine home, in which he had great pride. He also engaged in buying a selling pine timber lands in Marathon and other northern counties in which he is said to have made handsome profits, which made him a wealthy man.<sup>17</sup>

Farnham was still living in his fine house when he died there in March 1877, at the age of 56.

When Mr. Farnham's will was probated an estate valued at about \$100,000.00 was disclosed. After making provisions for the support of his parents, one half was to go to his widow, the other half to be equally divided between his two daughters.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> "Columbus Improvements." *Columbus Democrat*. November 19, 1868, p. 1.

<sup>17</sup> Stare, Frederick A. Op. Cit. Installment No. 149. April 8, 1954.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

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Lucia Farnham continued to live in her home until her own death on March 26, 1909. Subsequently, the house was sold and for the last 70 years it has been in the possession of successive generations of the Altschwager family.

**Architecture**

The Fred and Lucia Farnham House is believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP for its architectural significance because it is an excellent representative example of the Italianate Style residences that were built in Wisconsin's cities between 1850 and 1880, and this significance is greatly enhanced by the high degree of integrity that is still present in the exterior fabric of the Farnham house today.

According to the CRMP, typical hallmarks of Italianate Style residences in Wisconsin are wide eaves, often with brackets, low-pitched hipped or gabled roofs, and often a polygonal or square cupola placed on the roof. These buildings are usually either "L" shaped or square in plan, they frequently have smaller ells attached to the main block, and they have boxy proportions. Other common characteristics include verandas or loggias, bay windows, and tall windows with hoodmolds or pediments. In addition, Italianate Style residences usually have clapboard, ashlar, or brick walls, or, less frequently, ones made out of stone.<sup>19</sup> Almost all of these features are present in the design of the Farnham house, which is a very fine, asymmetrical, cream brick-clad, cruciform plan example of the style.

The Farnham house is also an excellent example of the "centered gable" subtype of the Italianate style that was identified by Virginia and Lee McAlester in their important work *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Such houses were described by the McAlesters as follows.

These are houses of both simple and compound plan having a front-facing centered gable. The usually rather small gable projects from a low-pitched hipped or side-gabled roof. Frequently the front wall beneath the gable extends forward as a prominent central extension. About 15 percent [of Italianate style houses] are of this type.<sup>20</sup>

The way the Farnham house relates to its long, narrow corner parcel is also notable. In order to obtain the maximum amount of living space from the site, the house itself is long and narrow. The cruciform plan main block has side wings that are relatively short in relationship to the much longer front and rear wings that they are attached to, and the length of the house is further extended by the addition of its two-story rear service wing.

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<sup>19</sup> Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). *Op. Cit.* Vol. 2, p. 2-6 (Architecture).

<sup>20</sup> McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *Op. Cit.*, p. 211.

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**Builder**

The name of the architect, who designed the Farnham house, if in fact there *was* an architect, is unknown, but the carpentry contractor who built it was Richard D. Vanaken. Richard D. Vanaken Sr. (1830-1918) was the best known and most prolific carpentry contractor in Columbus in the nineteenth century, so much so, in fact, that in his obituary it was stated with only slight exaggeration that: "It is said that nearly half of the buildings now [1918] in the city, both residences and business places, were built by him."<sup>21</sup> Vanaken was born in Ulster Co., New York, in 1830. He apprenticed as a carpenter in Kingston, New York, in 1845, and practiced there until moving to Columbus in 1856. Subsequently, Vanaken acted both as a builder and, as was the fashion of the times, occasionally as an architect as well when clients did not have plans from any other source. By 1880, a biographical entry in the *History of Columbia County* was calling him an architect and builder and it credited him with the construction of 260 buildings in and near Columbus, including his house for the Farnhams.

[Vanaken] has had the contracts for the erection of many of the most prominent buildings of this city [Columbus] and surrounding country; among them are the Lutheran Episcopal and Universalist churches, three store buildings for Lueders & Krause, two for John Topp & Bro., two for C. Leitch, one for H. Brown, the Union Bank; among the dwellings are those of F. Farnham, A. Sexton, L. Fuller, - Fay, Allen, Mr. Erhart, Mr. Brinkers and many others of the city, several fine farm residences of the town of Columbus—not less than two hundred and sixty in all.<sup>22</sup>

In all of these buildings Vanaken acted as the carpentry contractor and sometimes as the general contractor, but the extent of his role in their design is unknown. He was clearly conversant with the work of the architects of his day, and at least five of the buildings in Columbus for which he was the contractor were designed by the very prominent Milwaukee architect Edward Townsend Mix. These included Vanaken's own house (non-extant), which was located on S. Ludington St., and the superb Stick Style house he built in 1877-78 at 443 W. Prairie St. for Andrew Sexton, Fred Farnham's

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<sup>21</sup> Stare, Frederick Arthur. "The Story of Columbus." Columbus: Columbus Journal-Republican, 1951-1963. Installment no. 86, p. 132. This installment is devoted to Vanaken.

<sup>22</sup> Butterfield, Consul W. Op. Cit., pp. 979-980. Two of these houses were built for Fred Farnham's brothers-in-law and partners: James Allen, and Andrew Sexton.



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brother-in-law and partner.<sup>23</sup> In addition, he also built the very fine but now greatly altered Italianate Style house that belonged to Farnham's principal partner, James Allen, which is located at 248 S. Ludington St.

The Fred and Lucia Farnham House is thus believed to be locally significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent, largely intact, and representative example of the Italianate Style houses that are an especially important part of Columbus's architectural heritage. Columbus is unusually rich in fine examples of Italianate Style buildings but even in this company the Farnham House stands out as one of the finest and earliest examples. At the time of the community survey in 1997, the Farnham house was one of three Italianate examples noted for its high architectural merit and recommended for listing. The house is also one of Columbus's most characteristic examples of the Italianate Style. The house has such hallmark features as masonry cladding, wide overhanging eaves, loggias, bay windows, and tall windows with hoodmolds. The significance of the house is also greatly enhanced by its very high degree of integrity and by its exceptionally intact and very fine interior.

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<sup>23</sup> The Sexton house is listed in the NRHP as a contributing resource in the Prairie Street Historic District.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

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**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

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Farnham, Fred and Lucia, House  
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**Verbal Boundary Description**

City of Columbus: Newcomb Addition, Block 1: Lot 1; NW½ Lot 2; NE 4/15 of Lots 9 & 10.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries enclose all the land that has historically been associated with the Farnham House.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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**Continuation Sheet**

Farnham, Fred and Lucia, House  
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Section photos Page 1

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**Items a - d are the same for photos 1 - 9.**

Photo 1

- a) Farnham, Fred and Lucia, House
- b) Columbus, Columbia County, WI
- c) Timothy F. Heggland, March 2008
- d) Wisconsin Historical Society
- e) General View of House, View looking W
- f) Photo 1 of 9

Photo 2

- e) General View of House, View looking S
- f) Photo 2 of 9

Photo 3

- e) General View of House, View looking SE
- f) Photo 3 of 9

Photo 4

- e) General View of House, View looking NE
- f) Photo 4 of 9

Photo 5

- e) General View of House, View looking N
- f) Photo 5 of 9

Photo 6

- e) Detail of SE-Facing Elevation, View looking N
- f) Photo 6 of 9

Photo 7

- e) Entrance Hall, View looking N
- f) Photo 7 of 9

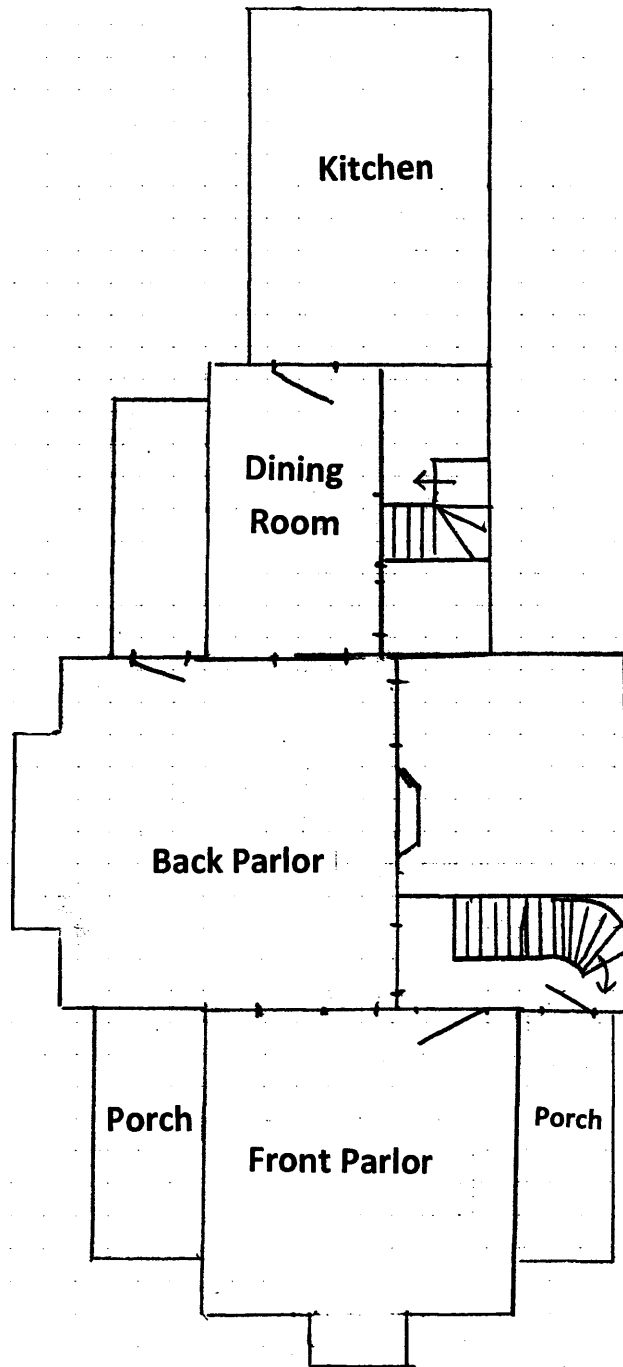
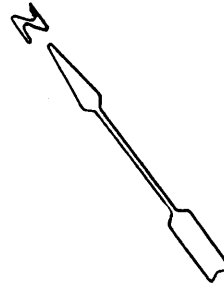
Photo 8

- e) Parlor, View looking NE
- f) Photo 8 of 9

Photo 9

- e) Parlor, View looking N
- f) Photo 9 of 9

**FIGURE #1:**  
**FARNHAM, FRED AND LUCIA, HOUSE**  
**COLUMBUS, COLUMBIA COUNTY,**  
**WISCONSIN**



**Not to Scale**