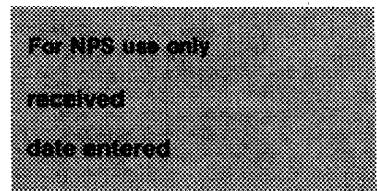


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IX. DESCRIPTION OF RIDGE AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Ridge Avenue Historic District includes a three-block stretch of Ridge Avenue which features a concentration of Galesville's finest later nineteenth century residences and a church. This district was built through the turn of the century when Galesville was experiencing a peak development period. The residences were built by Galesville's prominent turn-of-the-century professionals and reflect their status in the community. The structures are adorned with various combinations of channel bays, octagonal bays, spindle porches, wrap-around porches, gables, dormers, turrets, and other features of the Italianate, Stick, and Queen Anne styles. Like most of the houses in Galesville, the district's residences are two-story, pitched-roofed frame or brick structures. Except for the church, which fills most of its corner lot, the buildings are set back from the sidewalk about 30 feet and have side yards of approximately 20 feet. The wide yards, open spaces, and nearby park give this residential district an elegant appearance which has not changed significantly since its turn-of-the-century beginnings. Buildings in the district were grouped into pivotal and contributing categories. There are no non-contributing buildings of significance in the district (only small garages). Pivotal buildings were determined to be the best and most elaborate examples of the Queen Anne style in the district. Contributing buildings were determined to be the less elaborate examples of the styles, or the more modest buildings in the district. These groups will be discussed in detail.

Pivotal Buildings

Three buildings stand out as the finest examples of the Queen Anne style in the district. The first is the W. S. Wadleigh House, 625 W. Ridge Ave. Built in 1908 it is a two-story asymmetrical structure with two octagonal bay windows, a round turret with a conical roof and a ballustraded porch that wraps the northwest corner of the house. It is stuccoed and has a hipped roof with dormers. The main entrance to the house has concrete steps leading to a heavy-looking arched "portal" featuring a steeply-pitched decorative gable flanked by two large piers. The house retains its original windows which are mostly large sash-type. The building sits on a cut stone foundation and has a belt course and lattice-like porch skirt. The house was constructed for W. S. Wadleigh, a locally prominent attorney and nine-times mayor of Galesville.

The second pivotal building in the district is the Ole F. Myhre House, 612 W. Ridge Ave. This two and one-half story structure is clapboard-sided and sits on an ashlar foundation. Its asymmetrical roofline is hipped and gabled and features a corner turret with a conical roof. The gable ends are decorated with paneled bargeboards, lattice-peak trim and fish-scale shingles. The house has a shingled roof and a large veranda with columns and a spindle balustrade. The front and side entrances have wooden steps and decorative stick-work screen doors. The original windows have been covered with aluminum storm windows and are of various sizes throughout the house. A large screened porch sits at the back of the building behind which sits a carriage house/garage which is decorated with bargeboard and trim similar to that of the main house. The carriage house is considered pivotal along with the main house. This building was built for Ole F. Myhre, co-founder of the successful Gilbertson-Myhre department store in the Downtown Historic District.

Roughly Ridge Ave. from 4th to 6th Sts.

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DESCRIPTION OF RIDGE AVENUE HISTOIC DISTRICT (continued)

The final pivotal building in the district is the John A. Berg House, 524 W. Ridge Ave. Built in 1914, this building is an example of the later Queen Anne-eclectic style with its Craftsman and Jacobean references. The building is two and one-half stories, of red brick with a roof intersected by shouldered gables. The house features angular porches roofed with brick cornices supported by large brick piers. It has an octagonal corner tower with a crenellated parapet. There are stone belt courses and cartouches trimming the piers framing entrances throughout the house. The tower engulfs a shingled corner gable with a pointed arch window. Sitting on a stone foundation, the house has a heavy, massive quality; and with its varied style elements, is a unique house form in Galesville. The house was built for John A. Berg, founder of the Galesville Building and Realty Company, Director of the Farmer's and Merchant's Bank, local politician, and one-time president of the Gale College Board of Trustees. The garage is non-contributing.

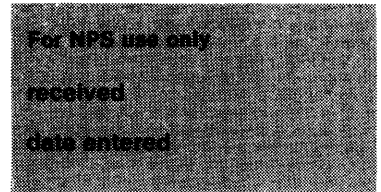
Contributing Buildings

The contributing buildings in this district are smaller scale, less elaborate structures than their pivotal neighbors, yet they share many of the same details and contribute to the overall character of the district. The original section of the Presbyterian Church (519 W. Ridge) is a good example of the Queen Anne style as interpreted for a small church. The clapboard-sided corner bell tower, assymetrical roofline, steeply pitched gables and entry porch helps the building blend in with its similarly decorated neighbors. The non-contributing addition to the church (built in 1960) detracts from the original section of the building, but is not altogether unsympathetic in scale and design. The residence at 624 Ridge Ave. is a more symmetrical building that is more indicative of the later Queen Anne form. Yet it has the massing and veranda typical of the style and contributes to the overall character of the district. The small, frame house at 518 W. Ridge is not on the large scale of the pivotal buildings in the district, yet its two-story bay window, gable decoration and barge-board are similar to other houses in the district. The house at 107 Fourth St. features a bay window, porches with columns and gable ends with fish-scale shingles extending from a hipped roof. Its scale and materials blend in well with three other brick houses next door and across the street. One of these houses is at 431 W. Ridge, a well-maintained house with an intersecting gable roof, dormers, decorative bargeboard and cross-pieces in the gable ends, segmental arch windows, and spool and spindle porches. It is across the street from 430 W. Ridge, a plain but well-constructed brick house with an intersecting clipped gable roof, enclosed porch with large piers, bay window, and segmental arch windows. The last brick house in this group, 425 W. Ridge was constructed around 1930 with a hipped, "spanish"-type tiled roof. This house, although newer, contributes to the district by its use of compatible materials and its scale. The oldest house in the district, 613 W. Ridge Ave. was constructed in two sections. The front section was once a simple frame structure with Italianate details. Although it has been significantly altered, it too is of a compatible scale and design which contributes to the district. These houses were also the residences of Galesville's prominent turn-of-the-century professionals.

Both the pivotal and contributing buildings of this district have a high level of integrity and preservation. Of the 11 structures in the district, 3 (27%) are pivotal, 8 (73%) are contributing, and none are non-contributing. The district is shown on the district map accompanying this nomination.

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X. BOUNDARY OF THE RIDGE AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT

The boundary of the Ridge Avenue Historic District is formed in the following manner: Commencing at the intersection of the center line of W. Ridge Ave. with the east lot line (as extended) of 425 W. Ridge Ave., thence south along such lot line to the south lot line of said property, thence west along said line (as extended along the south lot lines of intervening properties) to the centerline of Sixth Street, thence north along said center line to the north lot line of 624 W. Ridge Ave., thence east along said line (as extended along the north lot lines of intervening properties) to the east lot line of 430 W. Ridge Ave., thence south along said line to the center line of W. Ridge Ave., thence east to the point of beginning. The area thus enclosed is equal to approximately 5 acres.

XI. JUSTIFICATION OF RIDGE AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY

The boundary was selected on the basis of the following factors: 1) the concentration of later Victorian styles is greater inside the district than outside of it; and 2) the architectural quality of the structures within the district is higher than that of buildings outside of it.

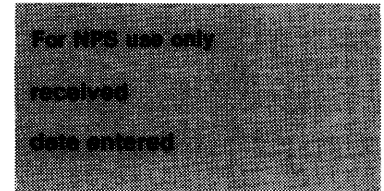
XII. INVENTORY OF RIDGE AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPERTY OWNERS

| <u>ADDRESS</u> | <u>OWNER</u> | <u>LEGAL DESCRIPTION</u> |
|--|--|---|
| 425 W. Ridge Ave. | -Arne B. Thomsen 425 W. Ridge Ave. Galesville, WI 54630 | Assessor's Plat #2, Block 2, Lot 3 |
| 430 W. Ridge Ave. | -Ronald Winn 430 W. Ridge Ave. Galesville, WI 54630 | Hammer & Sagen Add., Block 1, Lot 1/ |
| 431 W. Ridge Ave. | -William E. Pemberton 431 W. Ridge Ave. Galesville, WI 54630 | Assessor's Plat #2, Blk 2, Lot 2 |
| 518 W. Ridge Ave. | -Scott Kronn W7530 McHugh Rd. Holman, WI 54636 | Original Plat, Block 12, Lot 7 |
| Presbyterian Church 519 W. Ridge Ave. | -Congregation 519 W. Ridge Ave. Galesville, WI 54630 | Assessor's Plat #2, Lot 7, Block 1, Lot 1, Block 2 |
| 524 W. Ridge Ave. | -Ruth Anderson 524 W. Ridge Ave. Galesville, WI 54630 | Original Plat, Lot 8, Block 12, less N 25' |
| 612 W. Ridge Ave. | -Ralph Myhre 612 W. Ridge Ave. Galesville, WI 54630 | Original Plat, Block 13, Lots 9/10 |
| 613 W. Ridge Ave. | -Herman Lehman 613 W. Ridge Ave. Galesville, WI 54630 | Gale's 1st Add., Block 19, Lots 1-2 |
| 624 W. Ridge Ave. | -Edward Henseling 624 W. Ridge Ave. Galesville, WI 54630 | Gale's Original Plat, Block 13, Lots 11-12 |
| 625 W. Ridge Ave. | -Hazel Wadleigh 625 W. Ridge Ave. Galesville, WI 54630 | Gale's First Add., Block 19 Lots 3 & 4 |
| 107 N. Fourth St. | -George Crawford 260 Sanborn St. Winona, MN 55987 | Original Plat, Block 12, Lot 5 less N50', Lot 6 less E 1/2 of N 50' |

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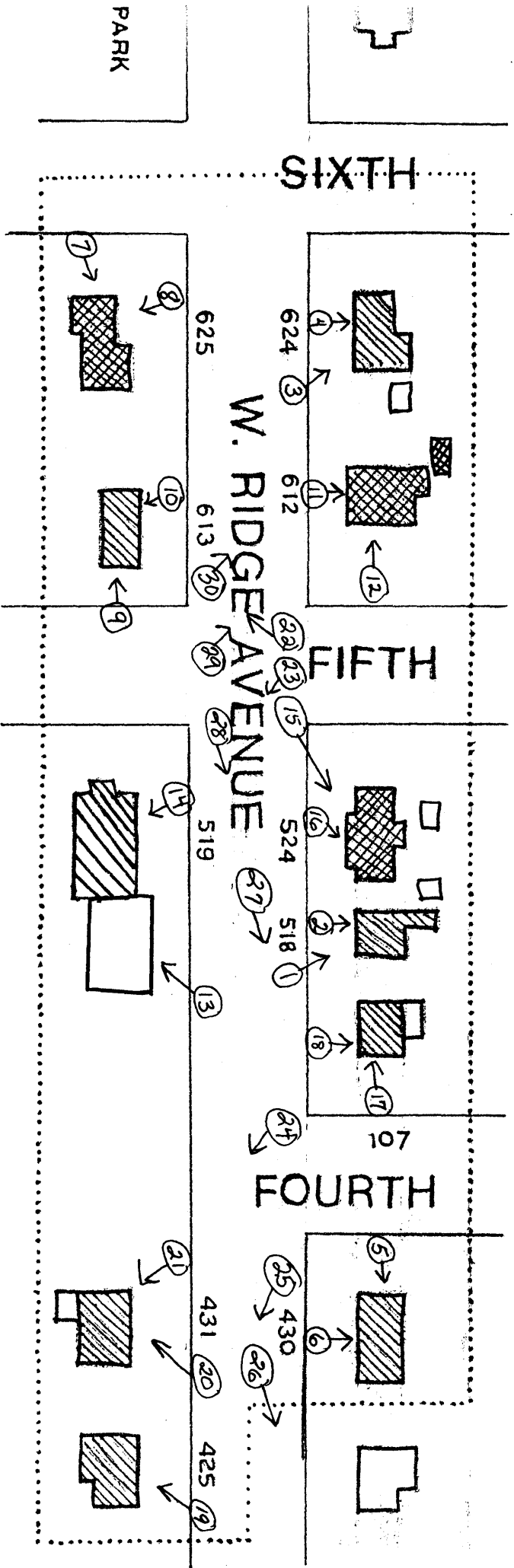
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SIGNIFICANCE OF HISTORIC DISTRICTS:

Ridge Avenue Historic District (Period of Significance: 1875-1934)

The most architecturally significant residences in Galesville are located in the Ridge Avenue Historic District. Built by some of Galesville's most prominent citizens around the turn of the century, the residences reflect the community's prosperity during this era. The Ridge Avenue Historic District is a compact group of buildings which include examples of the Queen Anne, Italianate, and Stick styles, as they were interpreted in a small community. The Queen Anne style is particularly evident in the residence at 625 W. Ridge Ave., 612 W. Ridge Ave., and the original section of the Galesville Presbyterian Church at 519 W. Ridge Ave. The residence at 524 W. Ridge Ave. exhibits an eclectic late Queen Anne form but also includes details from both the Craftsman and Jacobean styles. Because of its unique characteristics, it is one of the most architecturally significant buildings in the community. The contributing buildings in the district possess less elaborate detail, but they contribute to the district with their elements of Italianate, Stick, and Queen Anne details. Because of this district's high level of integrity and preservation, and its picturesque, turn-of-the-century quality, it is a good example of a small community's attempt at a "showplace" neighborhood during a peak period of a community's development.





The Ridge Avenue Historic District is also significant because it has associations with locally significant persons. This district was built by prominent turn-of-the-century professionals who left their mark on the development of Galesville. In part, these citizens were responsible for the growth of Galesville during the late nineteenth century and the stability of Galesville during the twentieth century. It is significant that these locally important persons lived in the more elaborate residences in this area in close proximity to each other. Persons living in this district during its period of significance include Eugene Clark (624 W. Ridge Ave.), banker, local politician, and two-term State Senator; banker and significant realtor, John A. Berg (524 W. Ridge Ave.); W. S. Wadleigh (625 W. Ridge Ave.), attorney and nine-times Galesville mayor; Ole F. Myhre (612 W. Ridge Ave.), retail businessman; G. O. Gilbertson (631 W. Ridge Ave.), significant local businessman; and Peter Enhagen (431 W. Ridge Ave.), retail businessman.



RIDGE AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT

GALESVILLE, WISCONSIN

LEVELS OF ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

-  pivotal
-  contributing
-  non-contributing
-  district boundary

Numbers correspond to black/white photo codes and indicate photo orientation