

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 29 1977
DATE ENTERED DEC 7 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Granville D. Jones House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

915 Grant Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Wausau

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Seventh

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE

55

COUNTY

Marathon

CODE

073

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Rose F. Gillett

STREET & NUMBER

915 Grant Street

CITY, TOWN

Wausau

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 54401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Marathon County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Forest Street

CITY, TOWN

Wausau

STATE

Wisconsin 54401

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1973

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Granville D. Jones house is sited on the west slope of the hill rising on the east of the city of Wausau. From its location, the house overlooks a broad lawn and grounds falling away from the west, or main, facade of the house.

The house presents a heavy mass capped by a hipped roof with broad overhangs and asphalt shingle covering (probably wood shingles originally). The walls are of a cement stucco covering on wood framing, and presently a buff (with pinkish tones) color. The house sits on a base of painted brick, with a watertable that in some places is of cast stone, and in others, is matched in wood. Doors and windows, including trim, are of painted wood. The soffit of the roof overhang is also constructed of wood, and is painted.

The main facade of the house is symmetrical at the second floor level, but other compositional elements destroy a complete symmetry on the first floor. A central advancing pavilion contains the front, or main, entrance. The door and sidelights are flanked by pilasters supporting an entablature, all of modest scale. Rising above the entrance entablature is a composition of windows admitting light to the stairs inside. This consists of three tall arched windows, separated by slender engaged columns, and originally glazed with decorative leaded glass.

A porch is located on the north side of the house, or Grant Street side, and a side entrance, now most frequently used as the house entrance, enters from here. Adjoining on the east is a porte-cochere allowing for a covered access from vehicles in inclement weather. Another porch is on the south side accessible from the living room, and this has since been enclosed as a sun room.

The major alteration has been the removal of a large picture window, flanked by smaller "art glass" (leaded glass window patterns) panes in the living room and its replacement with a bay window, incongruous with the original design of the building. Leaded glass panes in the arched window openings over the main entrance have also been removed, although they still exist. The total exterior alteration of the building, while not substantial, has deleted several important design characteristics used by George W. Maher. The coordination of his designs through his "motive-rhythm" theory was expressed in the Granville D. Jones house with the use of the leaded glass window design, in this case the water lily, in the previously mentioned windows, plus some interior wood and glass designs. The balance of the exterior design remains, with large 1/1 wood double hung windows, not unlike those used by Frank Lloyd Wright in his Winslow house of River Forest, Illinois and in the semi-circular dormers.

The interior of the building has been altered, as most of the natural finished wood trim has been removed or painted in a past remodeling attempt to give a "Georgian feeling" to the house. Fortunately, the study remains as originally built with carved wood trim, probably cherry, echoing the lily pattern and with cabinet cases of leaded glass.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

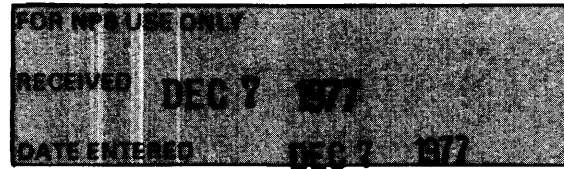
PAGE 1

Jones, Granville D., House
915 Grant Street
Wausau, Wisconsin

Additional photographs furnished as requested.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Jones, Granville D., House
915 Grant Street
Wausau, Wisconsin

Photograph of garage, contemporary with house, furnished to supplement photographic documentation already submitted.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1904¹ BUILDER/ARCHITECT George W. Maher, Architect¹

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Granville D. Jones house is significant as the work of an architect, a master of the period, George W. Maher, and it possesses high artistic merit as a representative work of the Prairie School of architecture. It is associated with the life of Granville D. Jones, a man of importance in the development of public education in Wausau, in the business community developing the "Wausau spirit" and in statewide education as a regent of the University of Wisconsin.

Architecture:

George W. Maher (1864-1926) has been cited by H. Allen Brooks as one of the most significant architects of his time, perhaps as influential as Frank Lloyd Wright.² Maher established his own practice in Chicago in 1888, a time when Wright was still with Louis H. Sullivan. Maher, Wright, and Elmslie had all worked in the office of Joseph Lyman Silsbee, also in Chicago, prior to moving into Sullivan's office, or in Maher's case, establishing his own architectural practice. Maher was remarkable in that his formal education only extended to the 8th grade, yet he developed into a capable practitioner and a frequent contributor to the Western Architect. His published articles were not self-laudatory discussions of his own work, but rather impassioned pleas for his colleagues to abandon architectural forms that were mimics of the past, and instead to seek new forms representative of a "democratic" nation. In this way his voice was similar to that of Sullivan's writings in such important essays as his Kindergarten Chats.

The Granville D. Jones house, in spite of some exterior alterations, retains the solid massing and cubic characteristics of Maher's Chicago area designs, such as the Edgar G. Barrett house in Kenilworth, Illinois (1896) or the John Farson house, Oak Park, Illinois (1897).

Originally the building exhibited his "motive-rhythm" theory by a repeated use of the water lily design in exterior leaded glass windows. These have been removed, although they remain in the hands of the owner intact. The design is retained, too, in the carved woodwork of the study. The dominant semi-circular dormer of the attic is common in other Maher residential designs.

This building, along with the Stewart and Woodson houses of Wausau and the Elliott house of Madison (evidence strongly supports this as a George W. Maher design) remain as fine examples of Maher's work in Wisconsin.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 1.10 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6
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2	9	3	6	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	9	8	1	8	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Boundary lines of Gillett property.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gordon D. Orr, Jr., AIA, Architect

ORGANIZATION

The American Institute of Architects

DATE

February 14, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

2729 Mason Street

TELEPHONE

608 / 238-1683

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53705

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Richard Remy

TITLE

Acting Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

4/25/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]

DATE

12/7/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1-5-77

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE - Continued

History

Granville D. Jones was born in Harrisburg, New York, September 1856, and died at the Koehler Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, September 1924.² He moved to Wisconsin at age thirteen, graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1882 after having taught in Fond du Lac County, and then returned to teaching, becoming principal of the high school in Wisconsin Rapids (then Grand Rapids). In 1884 Jones began reading the law in a Wausau law firm and was admitted to the bar in 1886 and continued active in the legal profession until his death.

He was founder of the Wausau Telephone Company, and of the G. D. Jones Land Company, which for twenty-four years managed land holdings in Marathon County. He maintained other business directorships and offices attesting to his business acumen and respect within the business community of Wausau. Jones was successful in inducing many of the businessmen of Wausau to invest together in new enterprises. This working together for common benefits was called the "Wausau spirit."³

His early years as an educator prompted him to continue his active support of public education. He served public education in Wausau on the school board for some twenty years, and seventeen of these as president of the Wausau public schools. He encouraged young people of his community to seek higher education, using his own life as an example, as he had earned his own way through the university. He served two terms as a regent of the University of Wisconsin, including its presidency.

His years on the Board of Regents, however, were not ones of quiet support but of an often dissenting voice of conservatism. Jones was important in his efforts to restrict academic freedom, a battle which was made famous in 1894 by the Ely case which resulted in the remarkable "sifting and winnowing" statement (for a discussion of the importance of this case, please see the 10-300 form for the Richard Ely house, Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin). Although Ely won his battle for academic freedom, the fight resumed in 1910 with equally heated incidents in which Jones became involved. Jones and another regent represented private exploitation of water power when they censured Professor Eugene A. Gilmore for his research on the right of the state to control its water powers. This was followed by a move by the regents, led by Jones, to reprimand Eugene A. Ross for allowing Emma Goldman, an anarchist, to address his sociology class. This censure with the goal of removal was successfully fought by President Charles Van Hise, and Ross remained at the university.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

From 1910 on, Jones repeatedly fought to prevent the placement of a plaque of the "sifting and winnowing" statement on the walls of Bascom Hall. However, once he accepted the inevitable in 1915, he made the motion for the regents to accept the plaque and place it in a suitable location. Defeated as the antagonist in the fight for academic freedom at the University of Wisconsin, Jones nonetheless remains a figure whose influence was felt statewide.

¹Signed and dated drawings in possession of the owner.

²H. Allen Brooks, The Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright and his Midwest Contemporaries, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1972, p. 330:
"His influence on the Midwest was profound and prolonged and, in its time, was certainly as great as Wright's."

³Louis Marchetti, History of Marathon County, Wisconsin, and Representative Citizens, Chicago: 1913, pp. 625-627.

⁴Ibid., p. 625

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brooks, H. Allen, The Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright and his Midwest Contemporaries, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1972.

Herfurth, Theodore, Sifting and Winnowing: A Chapter in the History of Academic Freedom at the University of Wisconsin, Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1949.

Marchetti, Louis, History of Marathon County, Wisconsin, and Representative Citizens, Chicago: 1913.

Obituaries of Granville D. Jones in the Wausau Daily Record-Herald, September 13, 1924; the Wausau Pilot, September 18, 1924; the Journal and Republican Lowville Times, Lowville, New York. Editorials also appeared in both Wausau papers.