



Norman Brokaw House

House at 714 Grignon Street  
Intensive Survey Form - Continuation Sheet (1)

Architectural Statement:

Description: The two-story frame house with cross gable roofs is situated on a hill that sweeps down to the Fox River. It retains many of its original features including its exterior siding, doors and windows, interior plan, corbelled chimney, and large front veranda with lattice work that encircles the southern portion of the house. Although it is in need of repair, the current owners are in the process of restoring the house.

Historical Statement:

Associated with the life of a significant person: This was the home of Norman Brokaw from the time he built it in 1885 until his death in 1900. Brokaw was a pioneer papermaker of regional importance, a founder of the Methodist Church in north Kaukauna, and a trustee and patron of Lawrence University in Appleton. Norman Brokaw (1857-1900) was born in Michigan where he received a B.S. and law degree. During vacations from college he worked in a straw pulp mill in Three Rivers, Michigan, and became superintendent of the mill after graduation. In 1881 he became manager of the Marinette and Menominee Paper Company and superintended the erection of two paper mills. After working in Marinette for three years he organized the Falls Manufacturing Company at Oconto Falls, building a ground wood pulp mill, a sulphite plant, and a paper mill employing 120 men.<sup>(B)</sup>

In 1885 Brokaw bought an interest in Bradner, Smith & Company pulp mill, better known as Little Badger, and moved to Kaukauna. He operated the mill for four years until it was sold to Badger Paper Company. He then organized the Kaukauna Fibre Company, becoming its Secretary-Treasurer, and building its mill in the summer of 1889. When the mill burned in 1893, Brokaw supervised the construction of a new mill.<sup>(B)</sup> Brokaw's Kaukauna Fibre Mill was the first exclusively sulphite mill in the Fox Valley.<sup>(C)</sup> Brokaw was noted in his own lifetime for having designed and superintended construction of all the paper and pulp mills built by his companies.<sup>(C)</sup> Brokaw was Vice-President of the General Paper conglomerate, president of Wausau Paper Mills at Brokaw, WI, and officer of the local bank. Norman Brokaw was also a founder and trustee of the Methodist Church in Kaukauna, and from the time of its organization in 1885 until his death he served as superintendent of the Sunday School.<sup>(D)</sup> Brokaw built the Epworth Home for \$3,800 and presented it to the Church in 1891. After his death in 1900, the Church was renamed Brokaw Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church in his memory.<sup>(E)</sup>

Brokaw was also a trustee and patron of Lawrence University of Appleton, where Brokaw Hall was named in his memory.<sup>(D)</sup>

The Brokaw house in Kaukauna is the surviving hub of the many buildings associated with the varied activities of this creative person.

USGS Quad and UTM Reference:

UTM: Zone 16  
Easting: 399.320  
Northing: 4903.880  
USGS Kaukauna Quadrangle  
1:24,000