

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 CLARK, WILLIAM, HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 320 Walnut Street not for publication

city, town Baraboo vicinity of congressional district Second

state Wisconsin code 55 county Sauk code 111

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Michael Alexander

street & number

city, town Plain vicinity of state Wisconsin 53577

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sauk County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Baraboo state Wisconsin 53913

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of has this property been determined eligible? yes no

Historic Places

date 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 William Clark house is located at the crest of a hill overlooking downtown Baraboo. At the time that the Clark house was constructed the neighborhood surrounding it was known as South Baraboo -- the working-class residential area near Baraboo's rail corridor and river valley industries. Its Victorian stateliness and elaborate detail stand out in a neighborhood of smaller frame vernacular dwellings.

The Clark house is a one-story brick house with a high basement, and with a full attic story behind a steeply-pitched mansard roof. In plan it is nearly square with a projecting entrance pavilion on the east side facing Walnut Street. A polygonal bay projects to the north toward the river valley and a wide porch extends across the back (west side) of the house.

A wide flight of stairs and a wood frame porch lead to the entrance pavilion, which dominates the main facade. The porch features carved woodwork in typical Victorian designs -- thin fluted wooden posts, single eave brackets intricately carved, dentils, a wide cornice, and scalloped soffits. The railings consist of two rows of pierced floral designs (part of the south railing is missing). According to the builder's ink-on-linen drawing in possession of the owner, a mansard roof once crowned the porch roof, which is now flat. The second story of this pavilion is of frame construction. A pedimented gable with a decorative bargeboard and bracket supports shelters a polygonal bay sided in shingles. A small railing trims the northeast corner window but is missing from the southeast corner.

On each side of the pavilion on the first floor level is a pair of two-over-two double-hung windows with stilted segmental arches. At the second level a pedimented dormer with shingled sides projects from the steeply pitched metal mansard roof.

Each side of the house features similar dormers and stilted segmental arch windows. A wide cornice embellished with dentils and doubled brackets encircles the house. One chimney projects from the north face of the roof. A twin, which was originally located on the south face, has been removed and blocked at the roofline. The builder's drawing shows wood consoles decorating each dormer, and a heavy wooden cresting at the peak of the roof. It is unknown whether these details were actually executed.

The interior has less elaborate detail than the exterior. Woodwork throughout is painted pine. The floors are of hardwood added in the twentieth century. The entrance vestibule created by the projecting pavilion leads to two doors, one for the parlor (13' x 12') in the southeast corner of the house, the other for the sitting room (13' x 18').

Sliding doors in a wide archway separate the two front rooms. Behind the parlor is a bedroom (10' x 10'). Behind the sitting room is the original dining room (17' x 11') with a simple built-in corner china closet. The stairway to the upstairs is located between the sitting room and the dining room. It is enclosed by walls and is undecorated. The stairway to the basement is under these stairs and opens into the dining room. The dining room has been refitted as a kitchen, but the layout of the house seems to indicate that the kitchen was originally in the basement.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Clark, William, House, Baraboo, Wisconsin

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DATE ENTERED	APR 8 1980

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Upstairs, a large bedroom extends across the front of the house. The back half contains two other bedrooms, the northernmost of which has been converted into a bathroom.

According to the 1913 Sanborn-Perris map, two frame structures were at one time located at the back of the house. A previous owner states that these were a summer kitchen and a "huge woodshed" and were removed shortly after 1913.¹

¹Letter from Irene Rich to Clark Wilkinson, July 10, 1978, in the possession of the owner.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates mid-1880s¹

Builder/Architect J. McVea²

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The William Clark house is significant as a fine local example of the French Second Empire Style as interpreted for a middle class family. The house was built in the mid-1880s, probably between 1883, when William Clark and his wife took out a substantial mortgage, and 1886, the year in which the mortgage was paid off and a tenant moved into the Clarks' former residence.³

The Clarks owned the property from 1882 to 1897. William Clark was born in 1855 in Manchester, New Hampshire. He moved to Baraboo in 1875. He had begun working for the Chicago and North Western Railroad in 1869 and continued with that company as an engineer until 1922, two years before his death.⁴ The proximity to the railroad and the high number of fellow railroad workers living in the neighborhood probably figured greatly in Clark's selection of the site at 320 Walnut Street for his residence. Clark chose J. McVea, a Baraboo carpenter, to design his house.⁵ The mastery of the French Second Empire style, the fine High Victorian detail, and the pleasing proportions of the house lead one to speculate that the exterior design was probably derived from a pattern book.

The house is beyond a doubt the finest remaining of its style in Baraboo, and one of the best examples of 19th century domestic design in the city. Baraboo retains six French Second Empire houses, many more, proportionately, than one would find in most small cities in Wisconsin. All French Second Empire houses in Baraboo are diminutive in size. The Clark house has suffered fewer exterior alterations than the others and displays by far the finest design details of the group.

The new owners intend to restore the house as faithfully as possible and hope to take advantage of the Tax Reform Act benefits for their preservation effort.

¹ Abstract of title, Sauk County Abstract Office, Baraboo, Wisconsin.

² Ink-on-linen drawing in the possession of the owner.

³ Baraboo Republic, October 6, 1886.

⁴ "Veteran Engineer Dies in Baraboo," Wisconsin State Journal, June 7, 1924.

⁵ Town and County Business Directory, Sauk Co., Wis., Baraboo: Woodman and Powers, 1881.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property Less than 0.5

Quadrangle name Baraboo, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	2	7	8	2	7	0	4	8	1	5	7	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

South half of lots 11 and 12, block 13, Baraboo original plat.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Katherine H. Rankin

organization

date 1/2/80

street & number 1109 Sherman Avenue

telephone 608/256-2904

city or town Madison

state Wisconsin 53703

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Richard Murray

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

date 2/20/80

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

W. Ray Lane

date 4/8/80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Kristin J.O. Connell*

date 4/3/80

Chief of Registration

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Baraboo Republic, October 6, 1886.

Ink-on-linen drawing in the possession of the owner.

Letter from Irene Rich to Clark Wilkinson, July 10, 1978 in the
possession of the owner.

Sanborn-Perris Maps for the City of Baraboo, 1913 and 1927.

Town and County Business Directory, Sauk County, Wisconsin,

Baraboo: Woodman and Powers, 1881.

"Veteran Engineer Dies in Baraboo," Wisconsin State Journal,
June 7, 1924.