


City, Village or Town: Eau Claire		County: Eau Claire	Surveyor: M. Taylor	Date: 11/17/81	
Street Address: 526 Menomonie Street		Legal Description: Lots 18-20 Blk 29 A. Randall 1st add.		Acreage: less than one acre	
Current Name & Use: Private residence		Current Owner: Helen Farrell			
Film Roll No. EC 7L			Current Owner's Address: 526 Menomonie Street		
Negative No. 5			Special Features Not Visible In Photographs: UTM: zone 15 Easting: 617790 Northing: 4961760 USGS Eau Claire West Quadrangle 1:24,000 Interior visited? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No		
Facade Orient. S					

Menomonie Street 526

2 Original Name & Use: Preferred Adin, Randall, House (ECMRA)	Source A	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source
	Source B				
	Source				
Dates of Construction/Alteration c. 1862 (period of historical significance - c. 1862-1868)	Source B				
Architect and/or Builder: Unknown	Source				

3 Architectural Significance

Represents work of a master
 Possesses high artistic values
 Represents a type, period, or method of construction
 Is a visual landmark in the area
 Other: **None**

4 Historical Significance

Assoc. with lives of significant persons
 Assoc. with significant historical events
 Assoc. with development of a locality
 Other: _____
 None

Architectural Statement:

See continuation sheet.

Historical Statement:

See continuation sheet.

Plat Map #7

5 Sources of Information (Reference to Above)

A Eau Claire Landmarks Commission. 1977. Self Guided Tour of the Sawdust City. "Adin Randall" manuscript at Chippewa Valley Museum believed to have been written by Marshall Cousins (no date) contains a reference indicating that Randall moved to the west side in 1862.

B C. History of Eau Claire County, 1914, pp. 819-842.

D Twining, C. 1975. Downriver, pp. 25-26, 45.

6 Representation in Previous Surveys

HABS NAER WIHP NRHP landmark other:

7 Condition

excellent good fair poor ruins

8 District: _____

pivotal contributing non-contributing

initials: _____ date: _____

map 7L/5

9 Opinion of National Register Eligibility

eligible not eligible unknown
 national state local initials: net

ADIN RANDALL HOUSE (526 Menomonie Street)
Intensive Survey Form - Continuation sheet (1)

ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT:

The Randall house, located on the Chippewa River, not far from where Randall constructed his mill, is a simple frame structure composed of a one and a half story section and a one story wing. Gable roofs cover both parts of the home which is sided with clapboards. A veranda supported by Tuscan columns stretches across the main section, while an inset porch characterizes the wing. The building is in excellent condition.

(1981 photo - 37-24)

HISTORICAL STATEMENT:

Associated with the life of a significant person: The Adin Randall house is historically significant because of its association with Adin Randall, one of Eau Claire's original settlers and its first "booster", who actively and enthusiastically promoted the community's natural advantages as a lumber center. He platted a large portion of the city's west side and was instrumental in convincing a number of eastern lumbermen to relocate at the river junction. Randall himself was involved in a number of commercial ventures, including the operation of a small planing mill and the ferry across the Chippewa River. Randall also served as Eau Claire county's first treasurer (C).

Within Eau Claire, Randall is memorialized by a school, a park, and a statue. Although these structures/sites are fine tributes to an early pioneer, Randall's contribution to the city's history is best represented by his home.

Born in Clarksville, New York, in 1829, Adin Randall came to Wisconsin in 1854, settling in its capital city, where he worked as a builder and contractor. A year later he moved to Eau Claire and undertook the construction of a hotel, the Eau Claire House, which he completed in 1856. Also in 1856 Randall platted a large area on the west side of the Chippewa River and named it Eau Claire City. Within the plat he included land for a park (named Randall Park in 1876) and a cemetery. He later donated land to the First Congregational Church (see Randall Park Historic District).

At the same time the energetic Randall persuaded easterners Daniel Shaw and Alexander Dole, the financial partner of O.H. Ingram (the Dole and Ingram partnership was the forerunner of the Empire Lumber Company), to invest in the new region with its seemingly limitless timber resources. A further inducement was the natural log storage facility available in Half Moon Lake, a former ox bow of the Chippewa River bordering Randall's plat and other lands he owned on the river. Shaw established his company at the lake's outlet and Dole and Ingram purchased land from Randall and set up operations between Half Moon Lake and the Chippewa River. Randall's own sawmill was located east of Dole and Ingram's land at the foot of what is today Ninth Avenue (D).

To take advantage of Half Moon Lake's potential, Daniel Shaw, Randall, and Jotham Clark, another early lumberman, contracted to dig canals from the river to the lake (this canal would be located near Randall's mill) and from the outlet of the lake to the river (Shaw's property, as noted above, was located

ADIN RANDALL HOUSE (526 Menomonie Street)
Intensive Survey Form - Continuation sheet (2)

at the outlet). The first canal was completed in 1857-58 but lacking additional capital for the second canal, Shaw, Randall, and Shaw's brother-in-law, C.A. Bullen (he replaced Clark), incorporated the Half Moon Lake Canal Company in 1859. Using the investments of other lumbermen, who, in return, would have access to the lake, the entire project was completed within ten years at a cost of nearly \$35,000 (E).

Despite this picture of progress, Randall's ambitious plans suffered a number of setbacks. First, the land he had sold to Dole and Ingram and to other had a mortgage on it. Quite reasonably, the purchasers were angry and many, including Ingram, Dole, and their third partner, Kennedy, stayed clear of the enterprising real estate promoter (D). Even more devastating was the Panic of 1857. Randall, overextended in a number of areas, sold his mill in 1860 and, hoping for better luck, established mills in Chippewa Falls, Jim Falls, and Reed's Landing on the Mississippi. Randall died at Reed's Landing in 1868 at the age of 39.

Thomas E. Randall, a Chippewa Valley historian, provided an interesting description of Eau Claire's first "booster".

A strange composition of reckless energy, of daring and enterprise, with a want of punctuality and an adaptation of means to ends, was this same Adin Randall; with many good business traits he lacked some element of success that made him always unsafe, and lost to him the confidence of the business community (F).

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (cont.):

- E. Reynolds, A.R. 1957. The Daniel Shaw Lumber Company. pp. 79-80.
- F. Randall, T. 1875. History of the Chippewa Valley. pp. 55-56.