NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)	OMB NO. 10024-0018
United States Department of Interior National Park Service	
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form	NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register* of *Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name	<u>Alqoma</u>	Boulevard	Historic	District	
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other names/site number <u>N/A</u>

# 2. Location

street & number <u>See Inventory</u> <u>N/A</u> not for publication

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ Oshkosh \_\_\_\_\_ N/A vicinity

state <u>Wisconsin</u> code <u>WI</u> county <u>Winnebago</u> code <u>139</u> zip code <u>54901</u>

# 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this <u>x</u> nomination <u>request for determination of eligibility</u> meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property <u>x</u> meets <u>does not meet the National</u> Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally <u>x</u> statewide <u>x</u> locally. (<u>See continuation sheet for additional</u> comments.)

certifying official/Title Signature of

State Historic Preservation Officer - WI State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

### Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

1200

Algoma Boulevard Historic District Name of Property

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Winnebago County, Wisconsin County and State

4. National Park Service Certi	fication
<pre>4. Netional raik service certi- I hereby certify that the property i </pre>	s: Dignature of the Keeper Date of Action er. Caron H. Beall 12.1.94
	_
5. Classification Ownership of Category of Property (check Property (Check as many boxes as only one box) apply)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include listed resources within the count)
<pre>_x private building(s) _x public-local district  public-state site  public-federal structure  object</pre>	ContributingNoncontributing385buildings00sites00structures00objects385Total
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)	Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
N/A	10
6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC: Single dwelling	DOMESTIC: Single dwelling
EDUCATION: School RELIGION: Religious facility	EDUCATION: School RELIGION: Religious facility
7. Description	
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) Queen Anne Tudor Revival	Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation <u>STONE</u> walls <u>WOOD: Weatherboard</u>
	roof ASPHALT other WOOD STONE
Narrative Description (Describe the historic and curren continuation sheets.)	t condition of the property on one or more

Algoma Boulevard Historic District Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- <u>x</u> A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- X B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- <u>x</u> C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- \_\_\_\_ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- \_\_\_\_ B remòved from its original location.
- \_\_\_\_ C a birthplace or grave.
- \_\_\_\_ D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- \_\_\_\_ F a commemorative property.
- \_\_\_\_ G less than 50 years of age achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

### 9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Winnebago County, Wisconsin County and State

> Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Architecture Social History Politics/Government

Period of Significance

c1857-1941

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Hooper, Jessie (Jack) and

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Various (see continuation)

	Winnebago County, Wisconsin County and State
<pre>Previous Documentation on File (NPS):</pre>	
10. Geographical Data	

Acreage of Property 42 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1/6	3/7/5/0/1/0	4/8/7/7/0/6/0	3	1/6	3/7/5/5/1/0	4/8/7/6/2/6/0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

2 <u>1/6</u> <u>3/7/5/1/2/0</u> <u>4/8/7/7/0/6/0</u> 4 <u>1/6</u> <u>3/7/5/4/5/0</u> <u>4/8/7/6/0/1/0</u> Zone Easting Northing <u>\_x</u> see continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth L. Miller, Consultant (608-233-5942) for organization Oshkosh Volunteers for Preservation date 7-20-1993 street & number P.O. Box 2034 telephone 414-231-6950 city or town Oshkosh state WI zip code 54903-2034

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Algoma Boulevard Historic District Oshkosh, Winnebago County, WI

UTM References (continued)

5. 16/375080/4876640

6. 16/375190/4876640

Verbal Boundary Description

The Algoma Boulevard Historic District includes all or part of the following parcels in the City of Oshkosh, Winnebago County, Wisconsin: Kahler's Replat, Block D, Kellogg's Addition; Lot 8, Block 109, Manny's Addition; Lots 1 through 10, Block A, Kellogg's Addition; Lots 1-3, 6, 9, 10, 12, 14-16, 18, 19, 23-25, 32 and 33, Block 110, Leach's Map; Lost 7-9, Block 110, J. & R.E. Day's Addition; Lots 19-24, L. Kellogg's Subdivision of Lot 15, Block 110; Block 106, Leach's Map; Lots 1-7, E.W. Paine's Replat; Lots 1, 2, 30-32, Faust's Addition; Lot 1, Lange's Subdivision of Lot 12, Block 107; Lots 1 and 8, Sawyer's Subdivision of Part of Block 107; Lots 1-10, E.R. Hicks Subdivision; and Replat of Winnebago, Blocks 118 and 121.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Algoma Boulevard Historic District encompass a cohesive residential neighborhood of large two story houses built between about 1857 and 1941. The boundaries were drawn to exclude areas not in residential use or of a different character or time period. The modern buildings of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh form the southeastern boundary. Residential areas north, northeast, south and west of the district are different in street pattern or time of development (north and west), or in lot and building size and character (northeast and south). Algoma Boulevard Historic District Name of Property Winnebago County, Wisconsin County and State

#### Property Owner

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Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name <u>Various</u>	(see list a	attached)		
street & numb	er			telephone
city or town	Oshkosh	state	WI	zip code 54901

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 <u>et seq</u>.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Algoma Boulevard Historic District Oshkosh, Winnebago County, WI

#### DESCRIPTION

#### SUMMARY

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The Algoma Boulevard Historic District is located in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. It is composed primarily of those properties facing Algoma Boulevard along the five blocks beginning just south of Vine Avenue and running north-northwest to just south of Hollister Avenue. The Algoma Boulevard Historic District has a high concentration of architect designed high style Queen Anne and Period Revival homes. The district consists primarily of large two-story residences built between about 1857 and 1941. Of the 53 properties in the district, 48 are contributing and 5 are noncontributing (10 of the contributing buildings are previously listed and therefore not included in the number of resources within the property).

SETTING

Boulevard Historic District is a residential The Algoma neighborhood northwest of downtown Oshkosh. Northeast of the district, the homes are smaller, and set closer together on smaller There are few houses with an identifiable architectural lots. style to the northeast: most are frame vernacular. Southwest of the district, along High Avenue, are smaller, less distinguished houses, mixed with post World War II apartment buildings. An industrial area lies southwest of High Avenue, where giant lumber yards, and sash, door and blind factories were located in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The offices of the "offhighway products and drive-line division" of Rockwell International Corporation are located there now. Northwest of Congress Avenue, houses built in the 1940s and 1950s line the west side of Algoma Boulevard, and make up the area west of the district. The campus of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh lies just southeast of the district, and is encroaching on it. Several homes that would have been part of the Algoma Boulevard Historic District have been lost to University expansion.

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### PRESENT APPEARANCE

The Algoma Boulevard Historic District consists of seven partial blocks. All but one was platted before 1858. The block north of West Bent Avenue was platted between 1862 and 1877.<sup>1</sup>

The district is primarily made up of large, two story single family residences on large lots. There are also 3 churches and an elementary school. Nearly all the homes in the district are owneroccupied. Half (24) of the contributing buildings were built between 1888 and 1909. Thirty percent (14) were built between 1910 and 1930. Nineteen percent (9) were built before 1885. Historically, the neighborhood was home to Oshkosh's wealthiest residents. Many were founders, officers and managers in the lumber industry or allied wood products businesses such the as manufacturing of sash, doors and blinds; furniture; and woodworking machinery. The residences are generally wood frame on stone foundations, finished with weatherboards and/or shingles. Some are structural clay tile with stone or brick veneer. The homes in the Algoma Boulevard Historic District vary in form and style. Queen Anne and Period Revival styles predominate. Of the 48 contributing buildings in the district, 4 are Queen Anne. Three represent Stick or Shingle style, variants of Queen Anne. Another 5 combine Queen Anne and Colonial Revival elements. There are also 4 frame vernacular structures which show some Queen Anne influence in massing, proportion or detail. Among the Period Revival styles, Tudor is most heavily represented, with 8 examples. Four of these are outbuildings on the grounds of either the Paine Art Center or the Oshkosh Public Museum. Two of these outbuildings are more elaborate than many homes in the district. Other Period Revival buildings in the district include 2 Colonial, 1 Dutch Colonial, 1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup><u>Map of the City of Oshkosh, Winnebago County</u>, (Pittsburgh: George Harrison, 1858); G.A. Randall, <u>Map of Winnebago County</u>, (Chicago: G.A. Randall and J.A. Bogert), 1862; and C. Palmer and E.M. Harney, <u>Map of Oshkosh, Wisconsin</u>, (Milwaukee: Milwaukee Lithographing and Engraving Company, 1877).

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Algoma Boulevard Historic District Oshkosh, Winnebago County, WI

NeoClassical and 4 Mediterranean Revival. There are also examples of the Greek Revival (1), Italianate (4), High Victorian Italianate (1), Romanesque Revival (2), Bungalow (2), Prairie (2), and Foursquare (2) styles. Most of the buildings were designed by Oshkosh architects, such as William Waters, Levi Hicks, William Klapproth, and the firm of Auler, Jensen and Brown. One was designed by Bryant Fleming, of Ithaca, New York. Another was the work of internationally prominent architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The Algoma Boulevard Historic District retains a high degree of historic integrity in setting, materials, feeling, association and design, as evidenced by the fact that 91 percent of the structures in the district are contributing.

The earliest buildings in the district were in the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. They were built between about 1857 and 1885. There is one Greek Revival residence in the Algoma Boulevard Historic District. The Kohlmann House at 1224 Algoma Boulevard was built about 1857. Greek Revival buildings are generally rectangular in plan with a three bay front facade, a low-pitched gable roof with returned eaves, and an asymmetrically placed main entrance with sidelights. In Wisconsin, Greek Revival was the first national style to appear, and was built between 1830 and 1870.<sup>2</sup> The Kohlmann House is front gabled. The closed gable forms a pediment, with wide bands of trim inside and below the gable suggesting an entablature. The Kohlmann House features a wrap around porch with incised square posts, and corner boards that match the porch posts. The Kohlmann House has retained its original windows, and otherwise shows excellent integrity.

There are 4 examples of the <u>Italianate</u> style in the district. Built between about 1855 and 1885, Italianate residences are generally two story frame buildings with a rectangular plan and a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Virginia and Lee McAlester, <u>A Field Guide to American Houses</u>, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985), pp. 178-184; and Barbara L. Wyatt, ed., <u>Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin</u>, three volumes, (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), II:2-3. Sources for the dates of construction include maps, tax rolls, city directories and newspaper articles. These are listed in the bibliography.

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wide-eaved flat or low-pitched hip roof. Brackets are typical. The windows are often tall and narrow, and may be round arched, paired or have hood moldings.<sup>3</sup> The Anthes House at 1531 West New York Avenue (c.1868) is an interesting example, although its integrity is somewhat compromised by the modern addition on the north facade. The Anthes House is sited on the diagonal, facing the intersection of West New York and High Avenues, rather than either street. It is a two story frame building with polygonal bays and a pair of double front doors. A tower with cresting rises above the roof in line with the doors. The Anthes House also features a wrap around porch with Doric columns, and decorative woodwork including brackets with spokes and pendants. Read School (photo 4, NRHP) at 1120 Algoma Boulevard (1879) represents the High <u>Victorian Italianate</u> style. Built in Wisconsin during the 1870s and 1880s, this very rare style is characterized by gable and hip roofs, the use of round and segmental arches decorated with highly articulated moldings; and pilasters, belt courses and corbel tables.<sup>4</sup> Read School, designed by William Waters, has many of these features, and also incorporates Romanesque Revival brickwork.

was one of the predominant styles in the Algoma Queen Anne Boulevard Historic District. These residences were built between 1885 and 1900 and are large, two story frame houses with an asymmetrical composition and an irregular roofline. Towers, and bays are common. The exterior turrets is generally weatherboard but may include shingles above the first floor or in gable ends. Typically, a one story porch extends across, or wraps around, the front facade.<sup>5</sup> The Waterman House at 1141 Algoma Boulevard (photo 1, 1889, NRHP) is an excellent example. This two story home has an irregular plan, gabled polygonal and square bays, bargeboards, and an entrance porch with a spindle frieze and Eastlake posts. A two story frame carriage house with bargeboards in the gable end stands to the rear. The Wagstaff House at 1133

<sup>3</sup>McAlester, pp. 210-14.

<sup>4</sup>Landscape Research, <u>Built in Milwaukee: An Architectural View</u> of the City, (Milwaukee: City of Milwaukee, 1980), pp. 40 and 78.

<sup>5</sup>McAlester, pp. 262-68.

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Algoma Boulevard (photo 1, 1891) and the Wood House at 1540 Algoma Boulevard (c.1888) both feature multiple roofs and a tower rising above the roofline on the front facade. The Wagstaff House has a Colonial Revival full facade porch. The Wood House may have been designed by Ephraim E. Stevens. The tower with domical roof is thought to be a signature feature of his work. This house also has a patterned brick chimney and a two story front porch with Eastlake posts.

The McMillen House at 1107 Algoma Boulevard (photo 3, c.1885) is an excellent example of the <u>Stick</u> style. This style is generally regarded either as a variant of Queen Anne or a transitional style linking Queen Anne with the earlier Gothic Revival. All are derived from medieval English building traditions. The Stick style is identified by a steeply pitched gable roof, often with a cross gable. Multi-textured wall surfaces and gable ends with stickwork mimic the exposed structural members of medieval half-timbered houses. There is usually a wide porch on the front facade. The Stick style was built between 1870 and 1890, and is rare in The McMillen House was designed by Levi Hicks, who Wisconsin. remodeled the Bell-Semple House at 639 Wisconsin Street in the Irving Church Historic District (NRHP) in the Stick style in 1888.<sup>6</sup> The McMillen House features a multigabled roofline. The gable ends are enriched with latticework, diagonal siding and bargeboards. A cutaway porch is inset in each of the east and southeast gables, framed with checkerboard and sunburst bargeboards. There is an elaborate gabled porte cochere on the south facade of the house, joined to a side porch. Both have heavy turned posts.

There are two excellent examples of the <u>Shingle</u> style in the district. Both were designed by William Waters. The Shingle style is often seen as a variant of Queen Anne, from which it borrowed asymmetrical form, full facade or wrap around porches, and shingles as an exterior finish. Colonial Revival elements such as classical columns and Palladian windows were incorporated into the Shingle style. Richardsonian Romanesque provided a third influence. Named for Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson, a leading

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., pp. 254-256; Wyatt, II:2-14; and <u>Oshkosh Weekly</u> <u>Northwestern</u> (<u>OWN</u>), May 24, 1888.

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practitioner of the Shingle style, Richardsonian Romanesque featured large Romanesque arches, squat round towers and a rusticated stone exterior. The Shingle style emphasized volume and horizontality, and was mostly built between 1880 and 1900. It is uncommon outside of coastal New England.<sup>7</sup> The Hooper House at 1149 Algoma Boulevard (photo 6, 1888, NRHP) is one of the state's best examples of the style. It has strong horizontal lines, shingles on all three stories, broad gable ends and an eyebrow dormer. Part of the ground story of the Ideson-Osborn House at 1304 Algoma Boulevard (1897) is of rusticated stone, including the supports, closed rail and Romanesque arch of the front porch. The blending of the roofline of the bulging tower into that of the front facade gable is characteristic of the Shingle style.

Five homes in the district combine Queen Anne and Colonial Revival elements. All were built between 1897 and 1905. One of these is the Waite House at 1106 Algoma Boulevard (photo 2), built in 1900. Designed by William Klapproth, this house combines Colonial Revival rectangular plan and classical columned front porch with Queen Anne polygonal bay, patterned chimney, round tower and irregular roof The shingled posts with ball finials which frame the front line. qable are unusual. The Raymond Hollister House at 1552 Algoma Boulevard (1902) is more typical of the Queen Anne/Colonial Revival transition period. It was probably architect designed, although the architect has not been identified. The Hollister House's two story round tower, wrap around porch with stone closed rail, and lattice patterned windows are derived from the Queen Anne style. Colonial Revival elements include the hip roof, Doric porch columns and the front dormer with returned eaves. The Goss House (1897) at 1446 West New York Avenue, designed by William Waters, is almost Foursquare in plan and appearance. The wrap around porch is Queen Anne, but the columns and porch supports are Colonial Revival. The hip dormer combines Colonial Revival form and classical columns with Queen Anne curving shingled walls. The Bouck House at 1600 Algoma Boulevard (1905) is another fine example of the Queen Anne/Colonial Revival transition.

<sup>7</sup>McAlester, pp. 289-90; and Wyatt, II:2-16.

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There are two examples of <u>Romanesque Revival</u> in the district. Romanesque Revival was contemporaneous with Queen Anne, but was not as popular. Characteristics of the style include massive rockfaced masonry exterior, wide round arched openings, towers, and gables with parapets.<sup>8</sup> The Algoma Boulevard Methodist Church at gables with parapets.8 1174 Algoma Boulevard (1890-92, NRHP, photo 8) is an excellent example of Romanesque Revival. Designed by William Waters, the church features cross gables with parapets, a massive corner tower, deep set windows, and stone bands separating windows from transoms. The other Romanesque Revival building in the district is the Moses Hooper House at 1057 Algoma Boulevard. This house is thought to have been designed by William Waters, and was either built, or remodeled int its presence appearance, in 1911-12. The Moses Hooper House ...as a parapeted gabled projecting entrance pavilion, rock-faced stone exterior, wide round arched entrance and deeply recessed windows. Interestingly, the house also has a tile roof and Craftsman style exposed rafters.

The Chicago World Columbian Exposition of 1893 inspired residential designs that were loosely based on Classical and Colonial American building traditions, such as NeoClassical, Colonial and Dutch Colonial Revival. Following World War I, residential architecture more accurately patterned after historical Colonial American and European precedents, such as Colonial, Tudor and Mediterranean Revival, became especially popular.<sup>9</sup>

There is one <u>NeoClassical Revival</u> residence in the district. NeoClassical Revival is primarily based on the Greek architectural orders, using Ionic or Corinthian columns, and was built in Wisconsin between 1895 and 1935. The main facade is usually symmetrical and dominated by a portico that rises the full height of the building.<sup>10</sup> The Findeisen House at 1435 Congress Avenue (1904) is a good example of NeoClassical Revival. It is a two story frame house with narrow clapboards. The main feature of the

<sup>8</sup>McAlester, pp. 300-302.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid., p. 320.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid., pp. 342-46; and Wyatt, II:2-18.

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Findeisen House is the two story pedimented portico, with fluted Ionic columns. Within the pediment are swags, a raking cornice and a bull's-eye window.

There are 3 examples of <u>Colonial Revival</u> homes in the district. This style was built before and after World War I, and is still popular in some form today. Colonial Revival homes are usually two story frame side-gabled buildings with a symmetrical main facade. The front entrance is usually set in the center, and is accented with a hood or a one story entrance porch. The Schriber House at 1428 Algoma Boulevard, designed by William Waters in 1911, is an outstanding example of the Colonial Revival subtype called Georgian Revival. Brick is the more common exterior finish in Georgian Revival.<sup>11</sup> Other characteristics include dormers, a denticulated cornice and a pedimented entry. The Schriber House incorporates all these features. Fluted Doric columns support the pedimented entry. A post-World War I era Colonial Revival House in the district is the Starr Clark House at 1622 Algoma Boulevard (1941).

<u>Dutch Colonial Revival</u> houses were also built both before and after World War I. Generally two story frame residences with a symmetrical facade, the identifying feature of this style is the gambrel roof.<sup>12</sup> The only example of this style in the Algoma Boulevard Historic District is the Ideson-Osborn carriage house at 1304 Algoma Boulevard. The carriage house has a flaring gambrel roof with wide eaves, Craftsman style brackets and a shed roofed dormer. There are shingles in the gambrel end, and windows with Queen Anne sashes.

The <u>Tudor Revival</u>, as the name implies, was based on sixteenth century English cottages and manor houses. Usually these designs are picturesque, with steeply pitched gables, stone or brick veneer and often, stucce with ornamental half-timbering in the upper story. In Wisconsin, this style was built between 1900 and 1940.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>11</sup>McAlester, pp. 320-22.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid., pp. 354-58; and Wyatt, II:30.

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There are 8 examples of Tudor Revival in the district. The Phil H. Sawyer House at 1301 Algoma Boulevard (photo 9) and the garage behind the Edgar Sawyer House (1331 Algoma Boulevard, photo 11), both designed by William Waters and built in 1908, have brick veneer on the first story, stucco with half timbering on the second, grouped windows, stone trim and massive chimneys. The Edgar Sawyer House (Oshkosh Public Museum) at 1331 Algoma Boulevard (photo 10), also designed by Waters in 1908, is an excellent example of the more formal masonry subtype of Tudor called Elizabethan Revival. Elizabethan Revival is usually side-gabled, with parapets, shaped Flemish gables, and parapeted bays. The Edgar Sawyer House, built of structural clay tile faced with brick, has all these features, as well as stone trim, massive patterned chimneys, and an ornate stone porte cochere and porch. The Paine House (Paine Art Center, NRHP) at 1410 Algoma Boulevard is an outstanding stone veneer example of Elizabethan Revival. The Paine House has parapeted bays, windows with tinted leaded glass in traceried Tudor arched openings with label hood molds, circular chimneys with rope moldings, and a massive paneled Tudor arched front door. This elaborate mansion was designed by architect Bryant Fleming of Ithaca, New York. The exterior was built 1927-29; the interior was finished in 1948. The three outbuildings on the Paine property are also Tudor Revival in style. The Meyer House at 1219 Algoma Boulevard (1926) represents yet another variation of Tudor Revival, the English Cottage. The key feature of the English Cottage is the picturesque "thatch" roof, created by layering composition roofing and wrapping it around eaves and rakes. The Meyer House is veneered with rock-faced coursed ashlar and has an eyebrow dormer, round arched entrance and stone chimney.

There are 4 examples of <u>Mediterranean Revival</u> design in the district. Built primarily in the 1920s and 1930s, the inspiration for this style was drawn from Italy, Spain, Morocco and the Spanish colonies.<sup>14</sup> The Converse House at 1212 Algoma Boulevard (1926) shows characteristics of the <u>Italian Renaissance</u> subtype of Mediterranean Revival. The Italian Renaissance typically featured a low-pitched hip roof clad with ceramic tile, moderately wide eaves with decorative brackets, bands of windows, a symmetrical

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup>McAlester, pp. 397-410.

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facade and a mix of round arched and rectangular openings. The Converse House, designed by Auler, Jensen and Brown, incorporates most of these elements, as well as an entry accented with classical columns. The Stein House at 1027 Algoma Boulevard (1930) and the Foute House at 1049 Algoma Boulevard (1916) are both Mediterranean Revival in style. The Stein House shows characteristics of the Italian Renaissance. The shed dormer and hipped rectangular bay on the Foute House evoke the Bungalow style. The garage (c.1920) behind Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church at 1526 Algoma Boulevard is a modest example of the <u>Mission</u> style subtype of the Mediterranean Revival. It features a flat roof with parapet, stucco exterior, segmental arched openings, and a red tiled pent roof with brackets and knee braces.

The Bungalow and Prairie styles were part of the Craftsman movement. This was an outgrowth of the English Arts and Crafts movement, which rejected the industrial age and machines in favor of hand crafted building traditions using natural materials.<sup>15</sup>

There are 2 <u>Bungalows</u> in the Algoma Boulevard Historic District. Built between about 1910 and 1925, these homes feature low-pitched gable or hip roofs, dormers, bay windows, exposed rafters, and brackets with knee braces.<sup>16</sup> The Carl Hollister House at 1630 Algoma Boulevard (1914) is side gabled with a shed dormer, stucco and applied half-timbering in the gable end, and exposed rafters. The Elmer Johnson House at 1161 Algoma Boulevard (1925) features a shed dormer, shed bay, exposed rafters and a classic Bungalow porch. The gabled roof flares to shelter a cutaway closed rail porch. The battered piers are clad with narrow clapboards.

There are 2 <u>Prairie</u> style homes in the district. The Prairie style, primarily built between 1900 and 1920, was not only a part of the Craftsman movement, but also developed as a rejection of NeoClassical and Beaux Arts design popularized by the Chicago World Columbian Exposition of 1893. It was also a regional style, developed in Chicago, and confined to residential architecture.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup>Ibid., pp. 452-54.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup>Ibid., pp. 452-54.

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Prairie style homes were usually two story, frame with stucco or brick veneer, and a low pitched hip roof. Horizontal lines were emphasized through the use of belt courses or other details.<sup>17</sup> Frank Lloyd Wright was the greatest practitioner of the Prairie style. He designed the Hunt House at 1165 Algoma Boulevard (photo 7, 1917). A monumental chimney rises from the house's intersecting hip roofs. The Hunt House is one story, of frame construction with a stucco finish. The Morris House at 1183 Algoma Boulevard (c.1910) was designed by Henry Auler. It is a two story brick structure with a tiled hip roof, wide eaves, a high-waisted stringcourse and a one story portico with a tiled hip roof and brick piers.

There are two examples of <u>Gothic Revival</u> in the district. The B'Nai Israel Temple at 1121 Algoma Boulevard (1949, photo 5) and Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church at 1526 Algoma Boulevard (1959) are both non-contributing.

## ALTERATIONS

Exterior alterations to individual structures consist primarily of replacement windows. There are a few examples of later porches and aluminum siding.

## NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

There are 5 non-contributing resources in the Algoma Boulevard Historic District. The duplex at 1035-37 Algoma Boulevard was built c.1948. B'nai Israel Temple at 1121 Algoma Boulevard was constructed in 1949. Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church at 1526 Algoma Boulevard was built in 1959. The Algoma Boulevard Methodist Church Annex at 1160 Algoma Boulevard was erected in 1965. There is also a replica Firebarn and Depot on the grounds of the Oshkosh Public Museum at 1331 Algoma Boulevard. With the possible exception of the latter two, the non-contributing buildings blend well into the district. None of the buildings that predate 1943 have been so altered as to become non-contributing.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid., pp. 438-40.

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### CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

Address Site name

Date built

Algoma Boulevard

1027 1039 1049 1057 1106 1107 1120 1129 1133 1141	William & Bertha Wagstaff House S.H. Waterman House (NRHP)	1916 1911-12 1900 c.1885 1879 c.1860 1891
1149	and carriage house Benjamin & Jesse Hooper Hs (NRHP)	1889
1155 1161 1165 1174 1183 1202 1212	and carriage house Ann McCone House Elmer Johnson House Stephen Hunt House Algoma Blvd Methodist Church (NRHP) J.G. & Edith Morris House George & Florence Buckstaff House Glen & Emma Converse House Harry & Hazel Meyer House Harry & Martha Hart House Charles Kohlmann House	c.1910 1897
1219 1220	Harry & Hazel Meyer House	1926
1220	Charles Kohlmann House	c.1857
1236 1301 1304	Stephen Radford Jr. House Phil H. & Caroline Sawyer House A.B. Ideson-Albert Osborn House and carriage house	1897
1312	Allen Kirkpaciick House	1907
1331	Edgar Sawyer House/Oshkosh Public Museum and carriage house	1908 c.1908
1410	Nathan Paine House/Paine Art Center and three outbuildings (NRHP)	1927-48
1428	Louis & Floretta Schriber House	1911
1526	Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church garage	c.1920

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1540	Charles Wood House	c.1888		
1552	Raymond Hollister House	1902		
1600	William Bouck House	1905		
1608	Starr Clark House	1941		
1622	Seymour Hollister House	1883		
	and carriage house	c.1883		
1630	Carl Hollister House	1914		
West Bent Avenue				

1539 Charles Hopper House 1895

Congress Avenue

04
2

West New York Avenue

1446 J	udge Arthur H. Goss House	1897
1454 F	rank Challoner House	1895
1531 н	enry Anthes House	c.1868

# NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

# Algoma Boulevard

1035-37	duplex	c.1948
1121	B'nai Israel Temple	1949
1160	Algoma Methodist Church Annex	1965
1331	Oshkosh Public Museum Replica pos Firebarn and Depot (1 building)	t 1941
1526	Martin Luther Evangelical	
	Luteran Church	1959

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### SUMMARY

The Algoma Boulevard Historic District is locally significant under Criteria C, A and B. The district is architecturally significant for its concentration of fine high style architect designed buildings of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Of particular note are the Queen Anne and Period Revival structures. The district's integrity is excellent; 91 percent of all the buildings are contributing. In addition, several homes in the district are historically significant for their association with the lives of several men instrumental in the development of the lumber and wood products industries and other businesses in Oshkosh (criterion A), and with a woman civic leader of statewide significance, cossie (Jack) Hooper (criterion B).

#### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Although the fur trade brought a handful of pioneers of European descent to Winnebago County as early as 1818, it was not until the Treaty of the Cedars was signed in 1836 that the area that is present day Oshkosh was truly opened up for settlement. With this treaty, the Menominee ceded to the United States government all the land north of Lake Butte des Morts and the Fox River between the Wolf River and Lake Winnebago. Settlers were quick to arrive and begin farming. Within 15 years all traces of the fur traders disappeared.<sup>18</sup>

Most of the Algoma Boulevard Historic District is located on what was the inestead of Joseph Jackson. He was among the first of European descent to settle in Oshkosh. In the spring of 1838, Jackson married Emeline Wright, daughter of pioneer George Wright, in the first wedding ceremony held in the new settlement. In 1844, the Jacksons built the first frame house in Oshkosh. Jackson was

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup>Dr. Charles D. Goff, "Oshkosh, the <u>Real</u> Beginning," Chapter XVII in James I. Metz, ed., <u>Prairie, Pines and People: Winnebago</u> <u>County, A New Perspective</u>, (Oshkosh: Oshkosh Northwestern Company, 1976), pp. 131-135.

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the second to serve as mayor of Oshkosh, elected in 1854, 1855 and 1857.  $^{19}$ 

Oshkosh grew slowly during the late 1830s and early 1840s. In 1846, settlers began arriving in earnest to take advantage of Oshkosh's location on the navigable Fox River and near the pine forests to the north and west. In 1847, two steam lumber mills were established, and the industry that would spur Oshkosh's phenomenal growth was born. In early 1849, the population of the village reached 500. By 1850, Oshkosh had become the county seat, and its population had nearly tripled, standing at 1,392. In 1853, Oshkosh incorporated as a city.<sup>20</sup>

The city grew rapidly during the 1850s, but it was not until the arrival of the railroad in 1859, vastly improving the transportation network for delivering lumber products, that Oshkosh really began to expand. As a result of improved transportation and an increased need for lumber products brought about by the Civil War, Oshkosh boomed during the 1860s. In 1860, the city's population was 6,086. By 1870, the population had more than doubled, reaching 12,663. Despite a nationwide recession, Oshkosh continued to boom during the 1870s. In 1875, the population was 17,000.<sup>21</sup>

By the end of the 1870s, the growth of the lumber industry in Oshkosh began to slow. As the importance of the lumber industry declined in Oshkosh, wood products industries began to appear. As Oshkosh's industrial base changed, the demographics of the population changed as well. The early settlers were primarily Yankees. Following the Civil War, German and Irish immigrants

<sup>19</sup>Metz, p. 42; and Charles Kohlmann, compiler, <u>Oshkosh City</u> <u>Directory for the Year 1857</u>, (Oshkosh: Charles Kohlmann and Brother, and F.C. Messinger, 1857), pp. 7-8.

<sup>20</sup>Howard, Needles, Tammen and Bergendoff (HNTB), <u>Final Report</u> of the Intensive Historic Resource Survey for the City of Oshkosh, <u>Wisconsin</u>, (September, 1981), pp. 4-6.

<sup>21</sup>Ibid., pp. 4-6 and 16.

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arrived to work in the city's factories. Toward the end of the nineteenth century, many Poles, Scandinavians and ethnic Germans from the Volga River region of Russia settled in Oshkosh. The fifth ward, where the Algoma Boulevard Historic District is located, remained a predominantly Yankee enclave. From the late nineteenth century until the decline of the wood products industry in the late 1920s, Oshkosh was second only to Milwaukee in population in the state.<sup>22</sup>

#### ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Algoma Boulevard Historic District is architecturally The significant at the local level for its concentration of high style architect designed Queen Anne and Period Revival residences. The Queen Anne style dominated residential design in Oshkosh, as it did across America, from the 1880s until the turn of the century. It is characterized by complex and irregular plans and silhouettes. The Queen Anne style employed a variety of exterior finishes, multiple steeply pitched roofs, towers, turrets, bays and full facade or wrap around porches. Between the pure Queen Anne (4), Shingle (2), Stick (1), Queen Anne/Colonial Revival hybrids (5) and the frame vernacular homes showing Queen Anne influence (4), one third of the contributing structures in the district are Queen The Final Report of the Intensive Historic Resource Survey Anne. for the City of Oshkosh, Wisconsin (HNTB) identifies the district as one of three potential historic districts in Oshkosh significant for its Queen Anne homes. The others are the Irving Church Historic District (NRHP), and the potential Washington Avenue HNTB characterizes the Algoma Boulevard Historic District. Historic District, traditionally known as the "Gold Coast" of Oshkosh, as a small district with large, elaborate homes on large lots with deep setbacks.<sup>23</sup>

In contrast, the Irving Church Historic District is much larger, with 151 structures. It is more densely developed and the lots are

<sup>22</sup>Ibid.; and <u>OWN</u>, January 8, 1880.

<sup>23</sup>HNTB, pp. 200-02.

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smaller. Most of the homes were designed by builders rather than architects. The Queen Anne residences are generally less elaborate than those in the Algoma Boulevard Historic District, and there are more homes which predate 1880.<sup>24</sup>

The potential Washington Avenue Historic District is similar to the Algoma Boulevard district. This district is composed of large two story Queen Anne and Prairie influenced residences, many of which were architect designed. The Washington Avenue district is located east of downtown and runs along Washington between Bowen Street and Lake Winnebago.<sup>25</sup>

HNTB does not make mention of the concentration of fine Period Revival homes in the Algoma Boulevard Historic District. Period Revival designs were largely inspired by Colonial American and European historical precedents, in part brought to the public's attention by the Chicago World Columbian Exposition of 1893. Between the Colonial Revival (2), Queen Anne/Colonial Revival (5), NeoClassical Revival (1), Dutch Colonial Revival (1), Mediterranean Revival (4) and Tudor Revival (8), Period Revival accounts for over 40 percent of the contributing structures in the district.

Many of the buildings in the Algoma Boulevard Historic District were designed by architects. Ten were the work of William Waters. These are Read School at 1120 Algoma Boulevard (1879), the Benjamin and Jessie (Jack) Hooper House at 1149 Algoma Boulevard (1888), the Algoma Boulevard Methodist Church at 1174 Algoma Boulevard (1890-92), the Ideson-Osborn House at 1304 Algoma Boulevard (1897), the Goss House at 1446 West New York Avenue (1897), the Phil H. Sawyer House at 1301 Algoma Boulevard (1908), the Edgar Sawyer House and garage at 1331 Algoma Boulevard (1908), the Schriber House at 1428 Algoma Boulevard (1911), and the Moses Hooper House at 1057 Algoma Boulevard (1911-12).

<sup>24</sup>Ibid., page 142. <sup>25</sup>Ibid., pp. 207-08.

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The document <u>Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin</u> (Wyatt) lists William Waters as meeting National Register criterion C as a "master" architect.<sup>26</sup> Waters (1843-1917) was born in New York state. He studied architecture at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, graduating in 1867. Waters promptly relocated to Oshkosh and opened his own architectural firm. He was a resident of Oshkosh for fifty years. Many newspaper articles and biographies of the time attribute sizable importance to Waters' influence on architecture throughout the Fox River region.<sup>27</sup>

Waters designed many residential, commercial and civic buildings in a variety of styles. Many of the commercial buildings along North Main Street, the traditional downtown business district in Oshkosh, were designed by Waters early in his career. From 1867 until at least 1895, and probably until 1916, Waters was the architect for the Oshkosh Board of Education.<sup>28</sup> His residential designs are primarily Queen Anne, Shingle style, or Romanesque Revival. Some of Waters' best work in these styles are in the Algoma Boulevard district. Waters designed church buildings as well. He is probably best noted for designing the Wisconsin State Building at the Chicago World Columbian Exhibition in 1893. Waters also served as president of the Wisconsin Chapter of Architects. He executed his last commission, an addition to Oshkosh High School with Henry Auler, in 1916.<sup>29</sup>

Ephraim E. Stevens was an architect/builder. Born in 1851, he came to Oshkosh with his family in 1852. After high school, Stevens worked as a mason. In 1868, he became an apprentice to Green Bay architect D.M. Harteau. Harteau made Stevens a partner in 1876.

<sup>26</sup>Wyatt, II:6-2.

<sup>27</sup>"Architect No More," <u>Oshkosh Daily Northwestern</u> (<u>ODN</u>), December 15, 1917, p. 3.

<sup>28</sup>Commemorative Biographical Record of the Fox River Valley Counties of Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago, p. 1172.

<sup>29</sup>Ibid.; "Architect No More"; and HNTB, pp. 63 and 153.

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The partnership dissolved when Stevens returned to Oshkosh in 1878. At first Stevens worked as a builder. He built Read School at 1120 Algoma Boulevard (1879). The Oshkosh City Directory lists Stevens as a contractor and builder from 1879 until 1889. He is listed as an architect from 1891 until 1905, and unlisted thereafter. The Wood House at 1540 Algoma Boulevard (c.1888) may have been designed by Stevens; it bears his trademark tower with domed roof.<sup>30</sup>

Levi S. Hicks is listed as a carpenter in the 1889 Oshkosh City Directory. He is listed as an architect from 1891 through 1893, and unlisted thereafter. Hicks designed the McMillen House at 1107 Algoma Boulevard, an excellent example of the Stick style, around 1885 (but possibly as late as 1888).<sup>31</sup>

William Klapproth is listed as an architect in the Winnebago County and Oshkosh City directories from 1895 through 1926. He designed the fine Queen Anne/Colonial Revival Waite House at 1106 Algoma Boulevard in 1890.<sup>32</sup>

Three of the homes in the Algoma Boulevard Historic District are thought to be the work of Auler and Jensen. Henry Auler (1884-1951) was born in Oshkosh and educated at the University of Wisconsin. He established an architectural practice in Oshkosh in 1907, working with William Waters until Waters' death in 1917. Thereafter, Auler formed a partnership with James P. Jensen. This firm designed many public buildings and private residences. Much of their early residential work was executed in the Prairie and Tudor Revival styles. The firm became Auler, Jensen and Brown with the addition of Wallace Brown. Brown left during World War II. The firm was reorganized as Auler, Irion and Wertsch in 1947.<sup>33</sup> In the Algoma Boulevard district, Auler designed the Morris House at 1183 Algoma Boulevard (Prairie, c.1910). With Jensen and Brown, he

<sup>30</sup>HNTB, pp. 152-53; and <u>ODN</u>, April 10, 1897.
<sup>31</sup><u>OWN</u>, May 24, 1888, p. 5.
<sup>32</sup>HNTB, intensive survey form.
<sup>33</sup>HNTB, p. 149.

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designed the Converse House at 1212 Algoma Boulevard (Mediterranean Revival, 1926), and the Meyer House at 1219 Algoma Boulevard (Tudor Revival, 1926).

Two architects from outside of Oshkosh designed buildings in the Algoma Boulevard district. Internationally prominent Wisconsin architect Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) designed the Prairie style Hunt House at 1165 Algoma Boulevard in 1917. Bryant Fleming, an architect from Ithaca, New York, designed the Paine House/Paine Art Center and three outbuildings (1927-48), all in variations of the Tudor Revival style. Other structures in the district were probably architect designed, but the architects have not yet been identified.

# HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Algoma Boulevard Historic District are locally significant under criterion A as a concentration of homes of men prominent in the development of the lumber and wood products and other industries in Oshkosh. These homes reflect the prominence of early industrial leaders in Oshkosh and collectively represent the accomplishments of major figures in the city's development. Jessie (Jack) Hooper, a woman civic leader of statewide significance, also lived in the district. Her home is significant under criterion B.

LUMBERING AND WOOD PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES

The history of the lumber and wood products industries in Oshkosh is the history of Oshkosh itself. The lumber industry was established in Oshkosh in 1847 with the opening of two steam mills. Lumbering quickly became the central preoccupation of Oshkosh. According to Wyatt, Oshkosh proved to be strategically located, near the source of pine timber and with easy access to a network of waterways for shipping its products. By 1859, the first railroad arrived in Oshkosh. Four would soon serve the city. By 1860, there were 25 lumber dealers in Oshkosh, 11 sawmills and several sash, door and blind factories. By 1866, the number of sawmills

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had leapt to 30, and Oshkosh had established itself as the sawmilling center of its district.  $^{\rm 34}$ 

The growth of the lumber industry in Oshkosh peaked in 1874 with 47 sawmills. After that, growth began to slow. The clearing of the forests closest to the City meant that raw materials were further and further away from the mills in Oshkosh. The sawmill industry followed the forests edges. Wood products manufacturing quickly succeeded lumbering as Oshkosh's leading industry, and as a major facet of Wisconsin's statewide economy. The 1876 city directory estimated that if all 9 sash, door and blind factories in Oshkosh operated at full capacity, they could produce 300,000 doors, 650,000 windows and 150,000 pairs of blinds annually. By 1880, Winnebago County was the undisputed leader of wood products manufacturing in the state. Oshkosh, the "Sawdust City," led the county. During the 1880s, between 8 and 12 building materials finishing mills operated in Oshkosh. Most of these were sash, door There were also mills manufacturing and blind factories. furniture, cabinetwork, matches and caskets. The leading wood products manufacturers in Oshkosh were Paine Lumber Company, Morgan Brothers Company, and Radford Brothers and Company. The latter two are still in operation; their founders lived in the Irving Church Historic District (NRHP) to the southeast. Other firms that were prominent in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were P. Sawyer and Son, Robert McMillen and Company, and Hollister, Amos and Company (all lumber and building products); and the Buckstaff Company (furniture and caskets, still in business). In his book, Publius Lawson names Paine, Sawyer, McMillen, Hollister and Buckstaff as part of the group whose efforts made Oshkosh a manufacturing center. These men, their families, and many of the later officers and managers of their firms lived in the Algoma Boulevard Historic District.35

<sup>34</sup>Metz, p. 297; Wyatt, II:5-3 through 5-6; and HNTB, pp. 5-6, and 17.

<sup>35</sup>Wyatt, II:7-1 through 7-5; Richard J. Harney, <u>Oshkosh City</u> <u>Directory and Rebuilt Oshkosh Illustrated</u>, (Oshkosh: Allen and Hicks, 1876), page 90; and Publius Lawson, <u>History of Winnebago</u> <u>County, Wisconsin--Its Cities, Towns, Resources, People</u>, two volumes, (Chicago: C.F. Cooper and Company, 1908), I:524.

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Paine Lumber Company was founded by Edward L. Paine (1801-?). Paine had owned a sawmill in Canisteo, New York. In 1855, he dismantled his sawmill and brought all his equipment to Oshkosh. Paine built a sawmill on the east bank of the Fox River just south of what is now Congress Avenue. He operated the mill with the assistance of his sons, Charles N. and George, under the name C.N. Paine and Company. The original sawmill burned in 1868. The company quickly rebuilt. In 1869, the new mill employed 40 hands, and had a capacity of 5 million feet of lumber and 12 million shingles annually. In 1870, Edward retired. By 1880, the Paines had built a sash-and-door factory next to the sawmill. In 1883, the firm incorporated as Paine Lumber Company, Limited. The company expanded rapidly, acquiring immense tracts of timber in northern Wisconsin and the Pacific northwest, and founding associated corporations and branch offices in Minnesota, Ohio, Maine, Delaware, New York and Chicago. The buildings at the main plant in Oshkosh were destroyed by fire and rebuilt immediately in 1895. After the turn of the century, it became difficult and expensive to continue making doors of solid pine. Nathan Paine, son of George, proposed using hardwoods such as oak and birch, and veneering them with pine. Before that time, hardwoods were unmarketable. A factory for milling hardwoods was built on the west side of the river in 1904, and Paine became the first company in the world to promote the use of hardwoods. Under Nathan's direction, the company also became the first to produce one and two panel doors. Nathan (1869-1947) was born in Oshkosh and groomed to manage the company. He was appointed secretary in 1902, vice president in 1906, and president in 1917. By 1908, Paine Lumber Company, Limited was thought to be the largest sash and door manufacturer in the world, employing an average of 1,800 workers annually. At its peak in 1929, Paine employed 2,200 and produced 1/3 of the nation's hardwood doors. During the Depression, the firm was forced to sell off some of its assets. In 1937, the firm became the first to patent the hollow core door, a specialty which the company continued to produce until closing around 1983. Nathan Paine was also a philanthropist. He had the Tudor Revival mansion at 1410 Algoma Boulevard built as his summer home and to eventually

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serve as a public art center and arboretum. He intended the estate to inspire the public and beautify the city with its meticulous reproduction of an English country house and natural garden. Paine never lived in the house. In 1927, construction on the house began. The Crash of 1929 brought work to a near halt, with only the structure and exterior finished. Work on the house continued at a slow pace during the Depression, and finally stopped when the Paine Bank collapsed and the Paine Lumber Company briefly closed. After Nathan's death, his wife Jesse Kimberly Paine had the interior finished. The estate was opened to the public in 1948.<sup>36</sup>

P. Sawyer and Son was founded by Philetus Sawyer. Sawyer (1816-1900) was born in Vermont and began working as a sawmill hand at age 14 in Crown Point, New York. By age 21, he was renting and operating the mill. As the best timber was cleared, the lumber business in New York state became less profitable. Sawyer decided to become a farmer and moved his family to Rosendale (Fond du Lac County) in 1846. Unable to make a living, Sawyer sold the farm in 1849 and moved to Algoma. There he managed the first sawmill that had been built in the vicinity of Oshkosh and, by 1853, bought it. He formed a partnership with Brand and Olcott, lumber manufacturers and dealers in Fond du Lac, shipping his logs there to market. In 1856, the firm became Brand & Sawyer. Sawyer bought large tracts of timberland to provide logs for his mill. In 1857, he built a large Italianate house on the northwest corner of what is now Algoma Boulevard and Congress Avenue (probably demolished around In 1862, Sawyer bought out Brand. Sawyer's son Edgar 1920). P.(1842-1927) joined his father in 1863 and the firm became P. Sawyer and Son. During the Civil War, P. Sawyer and Son employed 24 and produced over 5 million feet of lumber and 1 million shingles a year. At the same time, Philetus began to emerge as a civic leader. In 1857 and 1861, he was elected to the Wisconsin State Legislature. He served as alderman of the fifth ward in

<sup>36</sup>Lawson, I:526; HNTB, pp. 32-34; <u>Holland's Oshkosh City</u> <u>Directory for the Years 1879-82</u>, (Chicago: Holland Publishing Company, 1879), p. 46; Clinton F. Karstaedt, ed., <u>Oshkosh, One</u> <u>Hundred Years a City: 1853-1953</u>, (Oshkosh: Oshkosh Centennial, Incorporated, 1953), pp. 239-40; and Katherine Hundt Rankin, National Register nomination form for Paine Art Center, 1978.

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1858-59 and 1862-63, and as mayor of Oshkosh from 1863 to 1865. In 1864, Philetus was elected to Congress, serving ten years in the House of Representatives (1865-1875) and twelve years in the Senate (1881-1893). Hardworking and influential, Sawyer introduced and got passed more bills than any other legislator of his time. Almost all of it was special local legislation: land grants and money for Wisconsin river and harbor improvements, and railroads; and pensions for Civil War veterans or their widows and orphans. During the 1880s and 1890s, he was a boss of the Wisconsin Republican party. In that role he gained political notoriety, as the man who Robert M. LaFollette claimed embodied the evils of boss rule, and who inspired LaFollette's resolve to overthrow the old leadership and reform the party. This was the beginning of the Progressive Movement in Wisconsin.<sup>37</sup>

While Philetus served in Washington, Edgar proved himself an able manager at P. Sawyer and Son. In 1867, there were 22 sawmills operating in Oshkosh. Only three produced more lumber than the Sawyers'. Of 18 mills manufacturing lath, only two produced more. The firm expanded under Edgar's direction, and both Sawyers became involved in other enterprises. Between 1850 and 1900, the Sawyers bought and sold thousands of acres of pineland, and carried on widespread lumbering operations in northern Wisconsin. Edgar and Philetus were founders and officers in the First National Bank of Oshkosh, one of the largest in the state. They also had interests in other banks in Fond du Lac, Oshkosh and Milwaukee. They were associated with Seymour Hollister (see below) in the Wolf River Boom Company, which maintained a reservoir for rafting, storing and running logs near Lake Poygan; and the Keshena Improvement Company (1866), to improve the Wolf River and make additional pinelands accessible for logging. About 1869, the Sawyers went into manufacturing farm implements. In 1873, they organized this

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup>Richard Nelson Current, <u>Pine Logs and Politics: the Life of</u> <u>Philetus Sawyer</u>, (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1950), pp. 4-19, 22-33, 45, 51, 79, 87, 93, 98-99, 108-119, 123-32, 144, 199, 214, 268, 278 and 294.

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venture as the Sawyer Manufacturing Company. The Sawyers continued to operate their Algoma sawmill until 1874.<sup>38</sup>

During the 1870s, Chicago became the chief marketing center for lumber from the Great Lakes forests. Chicago wholesalers often formed partnerships with Michigan and Wisconsin lumbermen. The Sawyers were partners or stockholders in several such joint The most notable of these was the Sawyer-Goodman enterprises. Company, managed by Edgar's brother-in-law, William O. Goodman. In 1879, this company built a sawmill at Marinette with a capacity far exceeding P. Sawyer and Son in Oshkosh. Sawyer-Goodman quickly became one of the largest lumber businesses in Chicago and the Northwest. Subsidiaries of this corporation included the Menominee River Boom Company (c.1879), Marinette Lumber Company (1882) and Quinnisec Logging Company (1891). The Sawyers also heavily promoted and invested in Wisconsin railroads. In 1894, the Sawyers established the Sawyer Cattle Company. This company held 21,000 head of cattle and 220,000 acres of grazing lands in Texas. Phil H. Sawyer (1873-1941) succeeded his father Edgar as president of the Sawyer Company and a director of the First National Bank of Oshkosh. Edgar and his family lived in Philetus' home until Edgar built his own on the southwest corner of Algoma Boulevard and Congress Avenue in the 1870s. Toward the end of his life, Philetus lived with Edgar's family. In 1908, Oshkosh architect William Waters built an opulent Tudor Revival mansion for Edgar at 1331 Algoma Boulevard to replace his 1870s French Second Empire residence. At the same time, Waters designed a smaller Tudor Revival house next door at 1301 for one of Edgar's children. Some sources suggest this home was built for daughter Nia. According to city directories of the time, Edgar's daughter and her family (the C.C. Chases) lived first in Philetus' old house and then with Edgar, while son Phil lived at 1301. In 1922, Edgar donated his home to the city of Oshkosh to serve as a public museum. For two years, the city debated whether to accept the gift. In 1924, following a state Supreme Court ruling, the city accepted, and opened the home as an art museum. Thereafter, the Sawyers' spent little time in Oshkosh, maintaining legal residences in Palm Beach and Lake Worth, Florida. The company, P. Sawyer and Son, is not

<sup>38</sup>Ibid.

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listed in the city directory after that time. The company either closed, reorganized under a different name, or was relocated to Florida.<sup>39</sup>

Robert H. McMillen (1830-1898) was a lumber dealer with a national reputation. He came to Oshkosh from New York state in 1854. McMillen began as a silent partner in the Morgan brothers sash, door and blind factory (then called Morgan, Watts and Jones) in 1858. In 1868, he withdrew from the Morgan brothers' company and founded McMillen and Brother, with other partners (including Seymour Hollister), building a sawmill for lumber and shingles. In 1869, the firm employed 40 and was producing 5 million feet of lumber and 12 million shingles annually. In 1871, McMillen's brother died, and the firm became R. McMillen and Company. McMillen built a sash, door and blind factory in 1873. In 1880, McMillen employed 100, and was producing 50,000 feet of lumber, 200 doors, 400 windows and 100 pairs of blinds a day. By 1888, McMillen had bought out his partners. In 1889, his sash, door and blind factory covered 15 acres and was the largest in Oshkosh. McMillen owned extensive pinelands, was a founder and president of Fox River Paper Company at Appleton, and a founder and director of the First National Bank of Oshkosh. About 1885, Oshkosh architect Levi S. Hicks designed for McMillen the Stick style house at 1107 Algoma Boulevard.40

Seymour W. Hollister (1845-1916) was born in Racine. His family moved to Oshkosh shortly afterward. After serving in the Civil War, Hollister returned to Oshkosh and went into logging with his brother William. By 1868, his brother had left the partnership. In 1882, he joined with Frank Amos to purchase a sawmill, operating as Hollister, Amos and Company. Hollister was a silent partner in

<sup>39</sup><u>ODN</u> April 23, 1927 and June 21, 1941; and Karstaedt, pp. 21-22.

<sup>40</sup>Holland's Oshkosh City Directory 1860-70, p. 43; George Randall, compiler, <u>Illustrated Atlas of Winnebago County</u>, <u>Wisconsin</u>, (Madison: Brant and Fuller, 1889), p.42; and Richard J. Harney, <u>History of Winnebago County</u>, <u>Wisconsin and Early History of</u> <u>the Northwest</u>, (Oshkosh: Allen and Hicks, 1876), p. 172.

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the McMillen Company from 1875 through 1887. In 1888, he founded a second lumber business, Hollister, Jewell and Company. Philetus Sawyer was a silent partner. This company purchased a tract of 95,000 acres of timber in Ontario, Canada. There they built a sawmill which produced 20 million feet of lumber annually until it burned in 1893. Hollister was also a founder of the Choate-Hollister Furniture Company; and vice president, and general manager of both the Keshena Improvement Company and the Wolf River Boom Company. In addition to sawmilling, Hollister, Amos and Company held the contract to run all the logs from the upper Wolf River, monopolizing that log transportation route from 1890 until the last log run in 1911. In 1914, Hollister, Amos and Company was one of only four sawmills still operating in Oshkosh. Hollister was also politically active, serving on the staffs of Governors W.H. Upham, and Edward Scofield. The house at 1622 Algoma Boulevard was built for Hollister in 1883.41

John, James, George and Robert Buckstaff formed Buckstaff Brothers in the 1860s. In 1865, they built a shingle mill, and in 1866, a sawmill. By 1867, the company employed 38. The following year, Buckstaff Brothers employed 40 to 50, and was producing 6 million feet of lumber, 7 million shingles, and 500,000 feet of lath a year. In 1872, the company became Buckstaff Brothers and Chase, building additional sawmills at Morris, Tigerton and Shawano. The shingle mill was sold in 1882 and the firm reorganized to manufacture furniture, as the Buckstaff-Edwards Company, using In 1883, the firm began making caskets. their own lumber. Buckstaff-Edwards quickly became one of the largest furniture manufacturers in the Midwest. In 1912, R.H. Edwards sold out, and the firm became the Buckstaff Company. Buckstaff began specializing in commercial and office furniture in the 1920s. During World War II they built a new plant to manufacture metal office furniture. In 1945, the company built a plant to produce plastic laminates. There were several furniture factories in Oshkosh during late nineteenth century; Buckstaff was the largest and is the only one still in production. George A. Buckstaff

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup>Ellis B. Usher, <u>Wisconsin: Its Story and Biography</u>, (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1914), IV:857-60; and <u>Milwaukee Journal</u>, February 12, 1916.

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(1861-1927), son of John, was born in Oshkosh and graduated from both the University of Wisconsin and Columbia Law School in 1886. George worked as an attorney in Oshkosh briefly, and then held various offices in the Buckstaff Company. He served as secretary until 1900, and president from 1900 until 1927. From 1894 through 1896, he represented Oshkosh in the State Assembly and was Assembly Speaker. His wife, Florence (Griswold) was also a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, and served as a Regent of the University for over 20 years. The frame vernacular house at 1202 Algoma Boulevard was built for the Buckstaffs in 1897.<sup>42</sup>

George Challoner's Sons manufactured shingle and sawmill machinery that was shipped throughout the U.S. and Canada. The firm was established in Omro in 1865 by George Challoner (1819-1880). In 1887, the business was moved to Oshkosh. The firm employed 25 to 50. Frank (1853-1899) and John (1856-?) Challoner took over the business when their father died. Frank served as state legislator from Omro from 1884 to 1888. When Frank died, the company reorganized as the Wilkin-Challoner Company, manufacturing woodworking machinery. It went out of business about 1950. The house at 1452 West New York Avenue was built for Frank Challoner in 1895.<sup>43</sup>

In addition to the founding families of these firms, many of the subsequent officers and managers of these companies lived in the Algoma Boulevard Historic District. A.B. Ideson was secretary of Paine Lumber Company in 1897, when William Waters designed the home at 1304 Algoma Boulevard for him. Ideson was also mayor of Oshkosh during the woodworkers strike of 1898. As mayor, Ideson called in the National Guard to quell the strike, making him unpopular enough that he sold the house and moved to Ohio in 1904. Albert Osborn, another prominent lumberman, bought the house from Ideson. Osborn

<sup>42</sup>Holland's Oshkosh City Directory: 1869-70, p. 47; Lawson, I:809; <u>ODN</u>, September 27, 1927; and Karstaedt, p. 215.

<sup>43</sup>Randall, <u>Illustrated Atlas of Winnebago County, Wisconsin</u>, p. 34; Lawson I:531; and <u>Wright's Oshkosh City Directories</u>, (Milwaukee: Wright Directory Company, 1949 and 1951).

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owned 3 lumber and 2 land buying companies.<sup>44</sup> Stephen Hunt was a vice president at the McMillen Company in 1916 when he commissioned Frank Lloyd Wright to design the modest Prairie style home at 1165 Algoma Boulevard.<sup>45</sup> J.G. Morris (1865-) began at R. McMillen and Company as a clerk in 1887. By 1902, he had become vice president, and in 1906, president. The home at 1183 Algoma Boulevard was built for Morris about 1910. Designed by Henry Auler, it replaced an earlier home built on the site for Morris' father-in-law, Frank Amos, Seymour Hollister's partner.<sup>46</sup> Harry N. Hart was secretary-treasurer of McMillen when the home at 1202 Algoma Boulevard was built for him in 1909.

### OTHER BUSINESS LEADERS

The manufacture of grass mats was an important industry in Oshkosh in the early twentieth century. In 1902, the Oshkosh Grass Matting Company was founded by Leander Choate, Emil Steiger, F.E. Waite (?-1930) and son Ossian T. (?-1925). It was the second such business in the city. In 1907, the Waites formed their own company, incorporating in 1908 as Waite Grass Carpet Company. The company was one of the largest of its kind in the country. In 1924, the name was changed to Waite Carpet Company. After World War II, the firm began manufacturing synthetic fabric floor coverings. The company disappeared from the city directory after 1966. The house at 1106 Algoma Boulevard was designed by Oshkosh architect William Klapproth and built for O.T. Waite in 1900.<sup>47</sup>

### CIVIC LEADERS

<sup>44</sup>Bonnie Marousek, homeowner, interview May 26, 1993. She has extensively researched the history of Ideson and Osborn.

<sup>45</sup>Edgar Kaufmann and Ben Raeburn, <u>Frank Lloyd Wright: Writings</u> <u>and Buildings</u>, (New York: World Publishing Company, 1960), p. 338.

<sup>46</sup>Usher, VII:992; and Dorothy Steele, interview with Ted Irion, March 13, 1981.

<sup>47</sup>Karstaedt, p. 245; Lawson, I:530; and HNTB, p. 37.

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The home at 1149 Algoma Boulevrd is significant under criterion B as the home of Jessie (Jack) Hooper (?-1935). She was arguably the most prominent among the civic leaders who lived in the Algoma Boulevard Historic District. She was a suffragist, pacifist and humanitarian of statewide significance. As president of the Oshkosh Ladies Benevolent Society during World War I, she helped establish a program of visiting nurses and a tuberculosis sanitarium in Oshkosh. At the same time, she became a member of the Wisconsin Woman's Suffrage Association, lobbying the state legislature on women's issues. After World War I, Hooper lobbied for the suffrage amendment in Washington. Her efforts help to spur Wisconsin to become the first state to ratify the amendment. By 1922, Hooper was president of the Wisconsin League of Women Voters, and the most well known woman in Wisconsin politics. That year she was drafted by the Democratic Party as a candidate for the U.S. Senate to run against incumbent Robert M. LaFollette. She lost the election, but went on to work for world peace. She was a founder of the Conference for the Cause and Cure of War in 1925, and a member of the national committee of the League of Women Voters for International Cooperation to Prevent War. In the early 1930s, she spearheaded an anti-war petition drive among women, conveying one million signatures to the Geneva Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments in 1932. The house at 1149 Algoma Boulevard, designed by architect William Waters, was built for Benjamin and Jessie (Jack) Hooper in 1888, the year they were married. Benjamin (1861-1943) was a prominent local attorney, as well as a partner in the Bemis-Hooper-Hays wholesale grocery firm, and a director of Gurney Refrigeration Company.48 The house was individually listed on the National Register in recognition of Jessie Hooper's importance.

# PRESERVATION ACTIVITY

The Oshkosh Landmarks Commission was created with the adoption of the Oshkosh Historic Preservation Ordinance in 1981. The Commission's powers are restricted to the designation of local landmarks. Design review of proposed alterations to historic

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup>David Donath, National Register nomination form for the Jessie Jack Hooper House, 1978.

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structures is not required. The Commission is currently reviewing a draft revised ordinance which would require that permits to alter any locally designated structures be reviewed by the Commission. The Oshkosh Volunteers for Preservation, a not-for profit group, was formed in 1992 to foster the preservation of structures, sites and districts which are part of the historical, architectural and archaeological heritage of Oshkosh.

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

No archaeological remains have been discovered to date in the Algoma Boulevard Historic District. Some prehistoric and late historic remains may be present, as American Indians and, later, European Americans have inhabited the area for hundreds of years.

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Photo 1 of 11 Algoma Boulevard Historic District Oshkosh, Winnebago County, WI Photo by Elizabeth L. Miller, May 1992 Negative on file at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin 1133 and 1141 Algoma Boulevard The information for the following photographs is the same as the above, except as noted. Photo 2 of 11 1106 Algoma Boulevard Photo 3 of 11 1107 Algoma Boulevard Photo 4 of 11 1120 Algoma Boulevard Photo 5 of 11 1121 Algoma Boulevard Photo 6 of 11 1149 Algoma Boulevard Photo 7 of 11 1165 Algoma Boulevard Photo 8 of 11 1174 Algoma Boulevard Photo 9 of 11 1301 Algoma Boulevard Photo 10 of 11 1331 Algoma Boulevard Photo 11 of 11

1331 Algoma Boulevard (garage)

