

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received **MAR 2** 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Reynolds-Weed House

and/or common Moore House

2. Location

street & number 12 N. Church Street ___ not for publication

city, town Elkhorn ___ vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Walworth code 127

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Lillian F. Moore

street & number 12 N. Church Street

city, town Elkhorn ___ vicinity of state Wisconsin

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Walworth County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Elkhorn state Wisconsin 53121

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wis. Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date 1974 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Before alteration in the 1860s and 1870s, the Reynolds-Weed House served as Elkhorn's Union School. Although no sketch or historic photo of the building could be found, a source described the building as being of brick, two stories, and without ornament (see Item 8.) Nearly square in dimension and symmetrical in design, the present building is a large, two-story Italianate house of double-wall salmon brick construction. Its broad truncated hipped roof, covered with stamped tin shingles, is intersected by center attic-level pediments above all elevations. Large paired wood brackets fill the ends of the eaves at the corners of the building and at the returns of the roofline pediments; modillions line the interstices of the brackets, the raking cornices, and the cornice of the front porch. Spanning the paneled center double doors and long arched window to each side, the porch retains its "cut-work" arcading, Tuscan columns, cross-cut balustrade, and roofline cresting. The red glass lozenge in the semicircular fanlight is repeated in the semicircular windows to the sides of the entrance, and in the bay window on the south side of the house. The north-side bay, unlike the crested polygonal one of the south, is a shallow rectangle of paneled wood with a flared roof, "supported" by long thin wood brackets underneath. Windows on the front elevation are set between compound brick arches and stone lintels; those on the north and south sides are enclosed by flat (second story) or radiating brick arches and stone lintels. Louvred wood shutters date from the nineteenth century. Blind lunettes with louvres mark the peaks of the pediments. The one-story nineteenth-century kitchen attached to the rear (west) was more recently sided, and has been used as a family room since a kitchen was incorporated into the first story of the house in the twentieth-century alteration.

Wide stone thresholds survive from the original schoolhouse in the front and rear entrances. An account in the single issue of The Elkhorn Conservator of 1857 described the interior of the original Union School as being divided into three departments, "very well seated," and furnished with blackboards and "all the necessary conveniences."¹ The evolved plan is regular, with rooms distributed to either side of front and rear stairs on both stories, and, to the sides of a center interior wall inbetween. The first story includes front (east) parlors; a parlor (open into the south bay) in the center of the south side of the plan; a dining room (open into the north bay) in the center of the north side of the plan; and a sewing room, kitchen, and storage closets at the rear. The front stairhall holds the curved dog-leg oak stair, with its polygonal newell, slim turned balusters, and scroll-cut brackets beneath the treads; the small, steep enclosed dog-leg stair at the rear is utilitarian rather than formal. The second story is composed of three bedrooms (in corners of the plan), a larger master dressing room, bath, and closets. Most floors are wide pine board, and heavy profiled wood moldings border ceilings surround doorways on the first floor.

(continued)

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Reynolds-Weed House, Elkhorn, Walworth Co., WI

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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The property includes a small board-and-batten garage, with large garage door, to the northwest of the house. Of unknown date and little interest, the garage is not considered significant to the nomination.

The Reynolds-Weed House, occupying the lot originally set aside for the Elkhorn School, lies on the west side of the courthouse square. Residential properties of late nineteenth-century vintage lie to the north and west, and commercial and civic buildings are visible across the broad courthouse lawn to the east.

¹The Elkhorn Conservator, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1857, Preston Otis, publisher, Elkhorn, Wisconsin, September 17, 1857.

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 1850; ca. 1868, 1879¹ **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

As altered in the later 1860s and 1870s, the former Reynolds-Weed House is one of Elkhorn's finest examples of the Victorian Italiante period of construction. Originally constructed as a two-story "native brick school...without outer ornament..." the building retains the substantial wood and cast iron ornament resulting from two later Victorian redecorations.

The builder of the original 1850 Elkhorn Union School on Church Street is unknown. As a local landmark, the building's evolution was summarized in the 1912 History of Walworth County: replacing the "old oak schoolhouse" of 1840, the "larger one," was constructed on the same lot, "...of native brick, two-storied, without outer ornament, substantial, homely, and comfortable."¹ The Church Street site was designated on the original plat of Elkhorn, consisting of five parallel north-south streets, laid out by county surveyor Edward Norris. The building served as the community's only school until 1857 when another one was constructed; in 1868, the property was sold to Dr. James C. Reynolds for use as a residence.

Exact dates of redecoration are unknown, but the work done for Dr. Reynolds after purchase in 1868 has been noted: "Its construction admitted such extensions and alterations as to make it a neat old-fashioned dwelling for Doctor Reynolds, and after him Belden Weed."¹ Oral tradition holds that the north and south frame bay windows were added after purchase by Weed in 1879;² given the match of glass in the bays to that on the first story of the front facade, it is possible that the facade (and porch) were altered concurrently. The Combination Atlas-Map of Walworth County³ of 1873 illustrated a number of small Italianate and Gothic Revival brick houses whose form or decoration was similar to that of the then-Reynolds house.

The 1974 Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places survey of Elkhorn catalogued a number of fine Italiante and Queen Anne houses in Elkhorn, similarly decorated with fine wood porches and details. Of those of late Italianate character (i.e., with broad facades, roofline pediments, and bays), the Reynolds-Weed House is perhaps the finest and best-preserved. Further it compares well with the larger body of extant earlier Italianate, Gothic Revival, and Queen Anne residences in the small, resort-lakes-region city.

¹ Albert Beckwith, History of Walworth Co., Vol. 1, 1912, p. 293.
² Testimony of Mrs. Lilian Moore (descendant of Belden Weed), as reported to the Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, May 1980; date of transfer reported in Title Deed, Walworth Co., March 31, 1879.
³ Everts, Baskin, and Stewart, Chicago.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Beckwith, Albert C., History of Walworth County, Vol. 1, B. F. Bowen & Co., Indianapolis, 1912.

The Elkhorn Conservator, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1857, Preston Otis, Publisher, Elkhorn, Walworth County, Wisconsin.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Elkhorn

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	6	3	7	3	2	9	5	4	7	2	5	3	8	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

Lot 8, Block 19 and a piece of land 4 rods E and W and 5 rods N and S off the E end of Lot 7, Block 19, all in the original plat of the village (now city) of Elkhorn, Walworth County.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By (Continued)

name/title Diane H. Filipowicz/Architectural Historian

organization State Historical Society of Wis. date October, 1982

street & number 816 State Street telephone (608) 262-2732

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Richard Murray

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

date 2/9/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 3/31/83

J. Malone Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Reynolds-Weed House, Elkhorn, Walworth Co., WI

Continuation sheet

Item number 11.

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FORM PREPARED BY:

Research Assistance By:

Mrs. Lillian F. Moore

May 1980

12 N. Church St.

Elkhorn

(414)723-3426

Wisc.