

INVENTORY FORM FOR NOMINATED PROPERTIES

JUN 19 1985

Name of Property Chapel

Owner: Dept. of Veterans Affairs

Address: Wisconsin Veterans Home

Owner's Address: 77 N. Dickinson Rm. 26

City: King, Wisconsin

County: Waupaca

Madison, WI

160 NRHP Certification Date (code)

- Listed in NRHP (LI)
- Determined eligible in DOE process (DD)
- Determined eligible in nomination process (DN)
- Additional documentation added to nomination (AI)
- Boundary increased (BI)
- Boundary decreased (BD)
- Delisted (DL)
- Property moved (PM)

170 Thematic or Multiple Resource Nomination Name (code)

Historic Resources of the Wisconsin Veterans Home

160 NRHP List Name Chapel

200 Level of Significance (code)

- national (NA)
- state (ST)
- local (LO)

190 District Classification (code)

- contributing (C)
- non-contributing (NC)

210 Applicable Criteria (code)

- event (A)
- person (B)
- architecture/engineering (C)
- information potential (D)

215 Criteria Considerations

- religious property (A)
- moved property (B)
- birthplace or grave (C)
- cemetery (D)
- reconstructed property (E)
- commemorative property (F)
- less than 50 years old (G)

220 Area of Significance (code)

architecture

social history

230 Period of Significance (code)

c. 1890-1935

60 Verbal Boundary Description Beginning at the intersection of the right of way lines of Marden

Avenue and Mitchell Avenue, then southwest along the right of way line on Mitchell Avenue
*below

70 USGS Quad Map

King

80 UTM Coordinates (Format: 99/999999/999999)

16/329150/4911340

85 Listed Acreage less than one

340 Review Board Date April, 1985

*to the intersection with a line approximately 10 feet from the south facade of the building, along this line to the intersection with a line approximately 10 feet from the east facade, along this line to the intersection with the right of way line on Marden Avenue, along this line to the point of beginning.

RECORD NUMBER: Chapel

ADDRESS: King, Wisconsin

ARCHITECTURE

450 Date of Construction (source)
c. 1890 (c)

580 Roof Shape (code) Gable

460 Date of Alterations/Additions (source)
Unknown

590 Additional Description

480 Builder (source) _____

620 Condition (code)
 excellent x good fair poor ruins

490 and 500 Designer Type and Name (source)
 architect: _____
 artist: _____
 engineer: _____
 interior designer: _____
 landscape architect: _____
 other: _____

650 Related Buildings (code)
Cottages

510 Style or Form (code)
Queen Anne

HISTORY
430 Common/Current Name Chapel

520 Building, Structure, Object or Site Type (code)
building

440 Historic Names (source) Chapel

530 Building Materials (code)
shingle
(roof)
concrete block
(foundation)
wood
(trim)

660 Associated Individual(s) (dates) (source)
Women's Relief Corps (A)

540 Interior Visited x Yes No

670 Associated Events and 675 Dates (source)

550 Structural System (code) _____

680 Commercial/Industrial Historic Uses and 685 Dates (source)

555 Source for Structural System (code) _____

560 Plan Configuration (code) _____

570 Number of Stories 1

DESCRIPTION

This one-story chapel is dominated by a large, square steeple topped with a pointed hipped roof and a simple cross. The exterior of the frame building is clapboard with a small amount of fish-scale shingles and applied stickwork as trim. The large steeple splits the large front gable pediment, which has a significant entablature. The steeple also has a large wooden belfrey. Originally, the chapel had an entrance on each side of the steeple and two glazed stained-glass panels appeared where the current entrance is located. Sometime in the twentieth century, the entrance was altered to its current appearance of double wooden doors with three over three light windows. Over the doors is a porch, supported by two round columns. The porch has an entablature similar to that of the gable pediment. Two small windows are above the porch, the last remnants of the original glass panels. Other windows in the building are simple sash types. The exterior of the building is in very good condition and has been well preserved. It is still used regularly as a chapel for various denomination's services.

ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING SIGNIFICANCE

This building is significant for architecture because it is a well-preserved example of a simple frame country church found in many areas of rural Wisconsin. It has details which suggest the Queen Anne style, particularly in the form of the steeple and the trim. But the chapel's symmetry and pediment suggests an attempt to recall the small Greek Revival church of the mid-1800s. The chapel has many features which are similar to the cottages and residences in the older section of the home's grounds. This probably was deliberate, an effort to harmonize this structure with its neighbors. The chapel has a high level of preservation and integrity. Only the entrances have been significantly altered. The general appearance of the building has not changed over time. Because the chapel has such a high level of preservation, and because it is a good example of a "romantic" country church, complementing the small cottages of the original community, it is a significant architectural structure within the home grounds.

690 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

- A. Hosea W. Rood and E. B. Earle. History of Wisconsin Veterans Home 1886-1926. Madison: Democrat Printing Co., 1926.
- B. "Wisconsin Veterans Home at King," Wisconsin Blue Book, 1962, pp. 221-230.
- C. Wisconsin Veterans Home. Building Inventory April 1978. On file, Historic Preservation Office, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

700 STUDY UNITS (CODE)

_____	_____
_____	_____

RECORD NUMBER: Chapel

ADDRESS: King, Wisconsin

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The chapel was constructed c. 1890, a few years after the GAR established the home in 1887. During the years the home was under GAR control, the Women's Relief Corps helped support and maintain the chapel, as it was considered to be their proper role in relation to the home. Both Protestant and Catholic chaplains have held regular services in the chapel, although the chapel is strictly non-denominational, and all religious groups may use it. Today, Catholic, Lutheran, and additional Protestant clergy hold regular services there, while all other groups are still welcome to use the buildings as well. A,B

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

As one of the earliest buildings erected on the home grounds, it was evident that the Grand Army of the Republic founders of the Wisconsin Veterans Home felt a need to serve the veteran's (and their wives') religious needs. Recognizing the diversity of Wisconsin's population, both Catholic and Protestant denominations have used the chapel, with all other religious groups welcome to hold services as well. Today, this is still the case, with three denominations holding regular services, although the chapel itself is considered non-denominational. The building is historically significant as a still-functioning example of the veteran's community, which, while less institutional at the turn of the century, still exists at the home in King.

Religious structures are not usually eligible for the National Register, however, this chapel is an exception. It is being nominated not for its significance as a house of worship, but as an example of quality type and method of construction, and as an example of the social and cultural customs of the home residents which still flourish today.