OMT NO. 1024-0018 EXP. 10/31/84

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

For NPS use only
JAN 3 1 1984
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Sate entered
And the state of t

Type all entries	-complete ap	plicable se	ctions	_				
1. Nam	e							
historic	Brewster I	Randall H	ouse					
and/or common	ノー Upson-Will	iams Hous	se					
2. Loca								
street & number	1412 F	Ruger Ave	nue				not for pub	lication
city, town	Janesville		vicinity of		-congressional-district-			
state Wi	isconsin	code	55	county	Rock		code	105
3. Clas	sificati	on	_					
Category district _X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership publicX private both Public Acqui in process being con	5	Accessib	cupied in progress le	Present Us agricult comme educati entertai governi industri	ure rcial onal nment nent	museur park X private religiou scientif transpo	residence s ic
4. Own	er of P	roper	ty					
name	William an	d Mary Wi	11iams					
street & number	1412 Ruger	Avenue						
city, town	Janesville		vi	cinity of		state	Wisconsin	53545
5. Loca	ition of	Lega	l Des	cripti	on			
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, et	c. Roc	k County	Courthou	se			
street & number		51	South Ma	in Street				
city, town		Jan	esville			state	Wisconsin	53545
6. Repr	esenta	tion i	n Exi	sting	Surveys	(co	n't)	
Wisconsi titie Historic	n Inventory Places	of		has this pro	pperty been deter	mined el	igible? y	es <u>X</u> no
1975 date	,				federal	_X_ stat	te county	local
depository for su	rvey records	State Hi	storical	Society	of Wisconsin			
city, town		Madison				state	Wisconsin	53706

Condition X excellent good fair	_ deteriorated _ ruins _ unexposed	Check one unaltered _X altered	Check one original site moved date	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

7. Description

The main mass of the house is a two-story frame cube facing north, attached to a rear wing of one-story plus attic. The southeast and south sides are augmented by shallow, one-story bracked frame sections. A small open porch with denticulated cornice and roof-top balustrade was added to the west side, but does not detract from the overall integrity or appearance of the structure. The front facade is composed of three units of openings: the recessed double-door, off-set to the left (east) side, is framed by thick pilasters and a denticulated cornice, a post-1945 abbreviation of the original front porch. The low hipped roof overhangs wide eaves, supported by large paired brackets, modillions, and denticulation.

Simple profiled wood moldings and bracketed sills frame the double-hung windows around the house. The paired brackets on the two-story cube and rear wing are articulated with beads, rosettes, and lobed consoles, and the soffits are trimmed with reels. The building is supported by a low stone foundation, dressed only at the front. Tall red brick chimneys occur at the southwest and southeast corners of the two-story cube, and on the west-side extension. The reduction of the original porch to the current door frame, undertaken by former owners, the Donald Upsons, was a common solution in Janesville to the problem of serious deterioration.

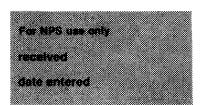
Significant features of the interior include a curved stair with fine balustrade and newel in the front hall; a front parlor with paneled window frames, original ceiling moldings, and classical white marble fireplace; an additional two white marble fireplaces in back parlors; and much of the original hardware.

The forty-three-acre farm that once surrounded the house has been replaced by homes of 1920s and 1930s-vintage. The buildings vary in style and construction material, but generally are of the same scale and are well-maintained. The Upson-Williams house property is lush with trees and low shrubs.

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Upson-Williams House, Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin Continuation sheet Item number 6.



Page 1.

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (cont.)

Intensive Survey of the City of Janesville

1982

State, local

State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street

Madison, Wisconsin 53706

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture x architecture art commerce communications	community planning landse law economics literat education mulitar engineering music exploration/settlement philos	y social/ humanitarian
Specific dates	1862	Builder/Architect Garrie Nettle	ton (attributed)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Brewster Randall is architecturally significant as one of the best-preserved examples in Janesville of the transitional Greek Revival-Italianate period of construction. The simple design, with enriched bracketed cornice, is attributed to local carpenter/architect Garrie Nettleton, the known or suspected designer of a number of surviving architecturally-distinguished buildings of the later nineteenth-century in Janesville.

Originally the home of Brewster Randall, the Upson-Williams house is one of a great variety of Italianate-era house types in Janesville, a city distinguished by the quality and volume of building activity of that time. With its augmented cubic form, three apparent-bay system of fenestration, low hipped roof, and prominent bracketed cornice, the building is one of perhaps a dozen buildings of the transitional Greek Revival-Italianate type surviving in the city. The form pre-dates more assymetrical pedimented Italianate houses in the area, but post-dates Janesville's pre-eminent Italian villa, the William Tallman House (NRHP 1970) of 1857-59. When General Brewster constructed the house in the early 1860s, it stood on a forty-three-acre farm.

About the builder/architect of the house, Garrie Nettleton, little is known. It is known that he was in Janesville as a carpenter in 1857-58, and that by 1862 he listed himself in the city directory as an architect. He must have left Janesville by 1870 as the directory of that year lists Schulze as the successor to Nettleton and Schulze. It is known that Nettleton built the Lappin-Gessert House and also Christ Episcopal Church, now demolished. Nettleton is also credited as the architect of the First Congregational Church in Janesville (both in the minutes of the church society and the lithograph engraving of the church fabric) of 1869. From the Tallman papers it is also known that Nettleton was employed by William M. Tallman as an architect and builder of at least two downtown stores, neither of which is standing, and of the elaborate frame constructed fencing and gates to Tallman's home on Jackson St. (N.R.19.15.70). (While the fence no longer is in place, fragments of it are displayed in the Horse Barn at the Tallman Restorations.)

Historical Background

Original owner Brewster Randall came to Janesville in 1862 in the fifty-sixth year of his life, having retired from politics in Ohio. Randall received his education in law in the offices of Joshua R. Giddings, the fiery abolitionist who in the "Creole Case" of 1841 declared that the negroes who mutinied on the ship Creole "in resuming their natural rights of personal liberty...violated no law of the United States." Randall attained some prominence at law, and was elected to the State Senate of Ohio, and soon became president of that body. In the Wade-Chase controversy over an election to the United States Senate, Randall is believed to have cast the deciding vote in favor of Chase. Randall was a friend of President Hayes and remained so during their lifetimes. Upon his retirement in Janesville he led a quiet life, seeking no political office, although greatly admired in the community. Because any historical contribution made by Randall predates his residence in the house and in Wisconsin, he cannot be claimed as a significant person associated with the house.

9. Major Bibliographical References

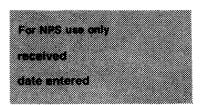
(See continuation sheet.)

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10. Geogra	phica	I Data					
Acreage of nominated pro Quadrangle name Janes UMT References	perty <u>les</u> ville Wes	s than one t Quadrang	le	Quadrang	le scale <u>1:24000</u>		
A 1 6 3 3 5 7 2 1 Zone Easting	0 4 ₁ 7 2 Northin	17 6 19 10 9	B Zone	Easting	Northing		
C			D <u> </u>				
Verhal houndary descr	intion and i	ustification					
Verbal boundary description and justification Lot 19, 20, Uplands addition to the City of Janesville.							
List all states and cou state	nties for pro	code	county	county boundaries	code		
state		code	county		code		
11. Form P	repar		(cont.)		code		
Ruth Ann W	illis, Pro	eservation					
organization Rock Cour	nty Histor	rical Socie	ety	date December 2,	1980		
street & number P. O.	Box 896			telephone 608/756	5-4509		
city or town Janes	ville	<u>.</u>		stateWisconsin 5	53545		
12. State H	istori	c Pres	ervation	Officer C	ertification		
The evaluated significance	of this prop	erty within the	state is:				
nationa	ıl	_ state	X 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 sign	ature (eg ffe	4			
title Director, Histo	oric Pres	ervation Di	ivision	date	JAN. 25, 1984		
For NPS use only I hereby certify that t	his property Gyew	Ente	the National Registe red in the onal Register	er date	3/1/84		
Keeper of the National	Register				-/-/		
Attest:				date			
Chief of Registration							

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Upson-Williams House, Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin Continuation sheet Significance item number 8



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Footnotes

¹ City of Janesville Tax Records-1862.

²The attribution of this house to the local architect/builder Garrie Nettleton is based upon the similarity in handling of the ornamental features, particularly the overhanging eaves with their cornice of modillions and dentils, to his known handling of like details in the Lappin-Gessert House of 1864.

Rock County Gazetteer, Directory and Business Advertiser, 1857. Janesville Directory, City Record and Business Advertiser, 1862. Holland's Janesville City Directory, 1870.

⁴ Janesville Daily Gazette, March 18, 1864, pg.3. The History of Rock County Wisconsin, 1879, pg. 556.

⁵Tallman Papers, Rock County Historical Society Library.

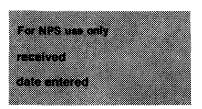
Encyclopaedia Britannica, Vol. 10, pg. 338.

⁷ The Janesville Gazette, May 4, 1880, pg. 4.

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Upson-Williams House, Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin Continuation sheet Item number 9, 11



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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

City of Janesville Tax Records-1862

Encyclopaedia Britannica, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.: Chicago, 1929.

Holland's Janesville City Directory, Western Publishing Co.: Chicago, 1870.

The History of Rock County Wisconsin, Western Historical Company: Chicago, 1879.

Janesville Daily Gazette, March 18, 1864. Gazette Publishing Co.; Janesville.

Janesville Directory, City Record and Business Advertiser, Moseley and Brother: Janesville, 1862.

The Janesville Gazette, May 4, 1880, Gazette Publishing Co.: Janesville.

The Tallman Papers, RCHS Collections.

10. FORM PREPARED BY: (cont.)

Diane H. Filipowicz/Architectural Historian State Historical Society of Wisconsin 816 State Street Madison, Wisconsin 53706 Revised September 1983 608/262-2732