

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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



1. Name

historic Evans, Jonathan H., House

and/or common McKinley, Margaret, House

2. Location

street & number 440 West Adams Street not for publication

city, town Platteville vicinity of congressional district 3rd

state Wisconsin code 55 county Grant code 043

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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Margaret McKinley

street & number 390 West Adams Street

city, town Platteville vicinity of state Wisconsin 53813

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Grant County Courthouse

street & number 126 West Maple Street

city, town Lancaster state Wisconsin 53813

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on the crest of a gently sloping hillside and surrounded on three sides by an expansive tree-studded lawn, the Jonathan H. Evans House is a well-preserved frame structure composed of two intersecting gabled units and embraced on the front facade by a broad porch. Characterized by an angular profile and crisp detail, the Evans House combines elements of the late Italianate and early Queen Anne styles in an essentially modest domestic design.

Sided with clapboards, the Evans House rises two stories from a low stone foundation and culminates in an attic story. An unornamented frieze underscores the projecting eaves while thin corner boards articulate each unit of the house. Tall four-over-four sash windows are symmetrically disposed across the facades and surmounted by projecting cornice hoods, while round headed attic ventilators punctuated the gable ends. On the first story (and on the first and second stories of the front facade), the windows are paired with thin wooden mullions separating them. A small fixed panel of glass, bordered with square panes, ornaments the wall of the entry vestibule. A bay window projects from the west facade, and the doors on either side of the veranda are framed with simple architraves and cornice hoods.

Supported by thin Tuscan columns, the veranda wraps around the front facade, united by a ballustrade and anchored at either end by pedimented gables with scallop shingles. Metal cresting ornaments the porch roof while an elaborate lattice-like stick pattern embellishes the porch ceiling. A porch on the west facade features scroll-shaped brackets while an east porch is screened. A cream brick chimney with corbelled cap rises from the center of the house and a frame summer kitchen is built on the rear.

Although now subdivided into apartments, the interior of the Evans House retains the original floor plan and much of the original interior trim, including the maple bannister which rises up the front stairway and wraps around the second floor balcony. Wooden window frames, door surrounds, and hardwood floors are featured throughout.

Located in a residential neighborhood, the Evans House shares its hilltop location with the neighboring Beebe House of 1870 (NRHP 1979), and together the buildings visually dominate the immediate area. Two frame sheds, built in the 19th century, and a 20th century concrete block garage stand immediately to the rear of the house but do not contribute to the significance of the property.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) assoc with historically significant person
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates c. 1870-1875^{8,9} **Builder/Architect** Not known
through 1919

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Historically significant for its close association with a prominent leader of Wisconsin's normal school system, distinguished Grant County civic leader, and influential Platteville businessman, the Evans House was the long-time home of Jonathan Henry Evans (1830-1919) whose varied career, ranging from president of the village of Platteville to president of the Board of Regents of Normal Schools, helped shape both his community and Wisconsin's emerging system of higher education.

Jonathan Evans first arrived in Wisconsin from his native Pennsylvania in 1846 when his family settled on a farm in the Lafayette County town of Kendall.¹ Although Evans recalled that nearby Platteville was, at the time, a small "village located in a dense forest,"² he was attracted to the community, attending the Platteville Academy in 1851-52 and afterward working variously as school teacher, bookkeeper, and store clerk.³

Evans demonstrated an early interest in the political life of the region, helping form the Republican Party in Grant County in the mid-1850s.⁴ But his career as a public servant began in earnest in 1856 when he was elected Grant County Register of Deeds. Evans served two terms in that position, until 1862 when he was appointed sutler to the 33rd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.⁵

Returning to his home after the War, Evans began a career in business, operating a successful Platteville general store and retail grocery (Evans and Bevans) for the next twenty years, during which time he was numbered among the leading merchants of southwest Wisconsin.⁶ Meanwhile, Evan's political career blossomed: In 1869, he was elected County Supervisor for the towns of Platteville, Hazel Green, and Smelser; in 1870, he was elected president of the board of trustees of the village of Platteville, and from 1870-71 he represented the village on the County Board of Supervisors.⁷

It was during this period of local financial and political success that Evans built the large Victorian residence which served as his home from about 1870 until his death 49 years later. Having purchased the property in 1870,⁸ Evans's new house appears on an 1875 bird's eye view map of Platteville as an imposing residence on the northwest edge of the village, next door to the home of prominent lawyer and inventor Lucius Beebe (NRHP 1979).⁹ Eventually, Evans and Beebe closed off a street between the residences to create a spacious private drive for their homes.

Evans's career in civic affairs was soon to expand beyond the borders of Platteville, however. In 1872, Republican Governor Cadwallader C. Washburn appointed Evans to the Board of Regents of the state normal school system, a developing system of teacher's colleges which at the time included institutions in Platteville, Whitewater, and a just-opened facility in Oshkosh. For the next twenty years, under succeeding appointments by Governors Washburn, Taylor, Smith, Rusk, and Hoard, Evans served on the board as regent, vice-president, and, from 1878-1892, as president of the Board. During his

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.5

Quadrangle name Platteville, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	5	7	0	6	1	6	0	4	7	3	4	6	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: The nominated property is a rectangle within Covell's addition to the City of Platteville, Lots 48, 49, and 50 described as follows: Beginning at a point on the west side of Cherry St. (now closed), 20 feet north of the northwest corner of the intersection of Cherry St. and Adams St., proceed northwesterly (on a line parallel to Adams St.) 125 feet, then turn 90° to the right and proceed 175 feet, then turn 90° (continued)

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leonard T. Garfield/Historian
Historic Preservation Division

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date October 14, 1981

street & number 816 State Street telephone 608/262-2970

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Richard Henry

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 4/14/82

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>for Nelson Byrum</u>	Entered in the National Register date <u>6/1/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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long tenure, the system expanded to include the state's fourth normal school (at River Falls, 1875) and its fifth (Milwaukee, 1885).¹⁰

Evans's role as regent was far more than a honorary title. Proceedings and annual reports indicate that he was a central figure and guiding hand in the development of the system, closely supervising everything from the maintenance of buildings to the development of curriculum to the structuring of the "model schools." As "resident regent" from Platteville, Evans had particular responsibility for the administration of the school in his own city, and reported to the board on the status of that institution. As president during the systems years of growth in the late 19th century, Evans closely monitored the normal schools' expansion, reporting annually to the governor on the state of the system.¹¹

Much of Evans's administration was concerned with putting the normal schools, in his words, upon "a better professional basis."¹² To that end the Board, under his leadership, continually increased professional standards, enlarged courses of study, raised standards of admission, gave advanced standing to students of meritorious academic background, and created a special one-year course of strictly professional teacher training.¹³ "During his long service as regent," it was reported at his death, "he had much to do with shaping the plans and educational policy of the Normal School system of Wisconsin."¹⁴

Even as Evans assumed this important statewide role, he remained active in local Platteville affairs. Leaving his successful mercantile business in 1884, Evans served as executor of many large Grant county estates and, from 1884-1890, served as assignee of a Platteville bank. In 1890, Evans established an important real estate firm which platted and marketed 23 subdivisions to the city of Platteville before his death. One history of Wisconsin remarked that "few have done more to foster the development and upbuilding" of Platteville than Evans.¹⁵ "To J.H. Evans," extolled an obituary, "is due the very important fact that Platteville is a city of homes with ample and well-proportioned grounds,"¹⁶ a real estate principle reflected in Evans's own spacious property.

In addition to his real estate activities, Evans organized the First National Bank of Platteville in 1890 and served as vice-president and director of the bank until his death. By the early 20th century, Evans was an owner of the Platteville Light and Power Company.¹⁷ He was a substantial supporter of the local library and his collection of minerals and fossils formed the nucleus of the geology collection at the Platteville Normal School. Known as the "dean of Freemasons in southwest Wisconsin" his energetic participation in Masonic activities led to statewide offices and honors.¹⁸

In the last years of his life, Evans was perceived as an important figure in the development of the region. In 1908, Reuben Gold Thwaites, Secretary of the State Historical Society, interviewed Evans at his Platteville home in an attempt to preserve his memories of Grant County for future generations.¹⁹ A history of Wisconsin, published five years before his death in 1919, noted that "it has been largely through

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his progressive spirit that the charming little city of Platteville has become one of the best developed interior towns in the state."²⁰ The same "spirit" manifested itself in Evans's long service to the State Normal School system. As the structure most closely associated with that important life and career, the Jonathan Evans House is a locally significant historical resource in the city of Platteville.

- 1 Jonathan Henry Evans, in an interview with the editor, "Some Reminiscences of Early Grant County" in Proceedings of the SHSW 1909 (Madison: SHSW, 1910), p. 232.
- 2 Evans, p. 234.
- 3 History of Grant County (Chicago: Western Historical Society, 1881), p. 904.
- 4 Julius Bleyer, ed., Freemasonry in Wisconsin (Milwaukee: Evening Wisconsin Printing Co., 1900), p. 50.
- 5 History of Grant County, p. 904.
- 6 Ellis B. Usher, Wisconsin: Its Story and Biography, 1848-1913 (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1914), p. 2116.
- 7 History of Green County, p. 904.
- 8 Property abstract in possession of Mrs. Margaret McKinley.
- 9 J. Brosius, Bird's-Eye View of Platteville, 1875.
- 10 For a history of the state normal schools, see William Harold Herrmann, Rise of the Public Normal School System in Wisconsin (Madison: Board of Regents of the State Universities, 1953).
- 11 See Abstract of Proceedings of the Board of Regents of Normal Schools, (Madison: Board of Regents of Normal Schools, 1874-1892), and Annual Reports of Board of Regents of Normal Schools of Wisconsin, (Madison: Board of Regents of Normal Schools, 1878-1890).
- 12 Herrmann, p. 266
- 13 Herrmann, p. 275.
- 14 Commemorative Biographical Record of the Counties of Rock, Green, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Wisconsin. (Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1901), p. 41.
- 15 Usher, pps. 2112, 2117.
- 16 "Memorial to Companion Jonathan H. Evans" Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Wisconsin (Milwaukee: Burdick-Allen-Dietas Company, 1920), p. 46.
- 17 Usher, p. 2117.
- 18 "Memorial to Companion Jonathan H. Evans," p. 46.
- 19 Evans, p. 234.
- 20 Commemorative Biographical Record, p. 42.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Evans, Jonathan H., "Some Reminiscences of Early Grant County." Proceedings of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin 1909. Madison: SHSW, 1910, pp. 232-245.

Usher, Ellis B., Wisconsin: Its Story and Biography, 1843-1913. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1914.

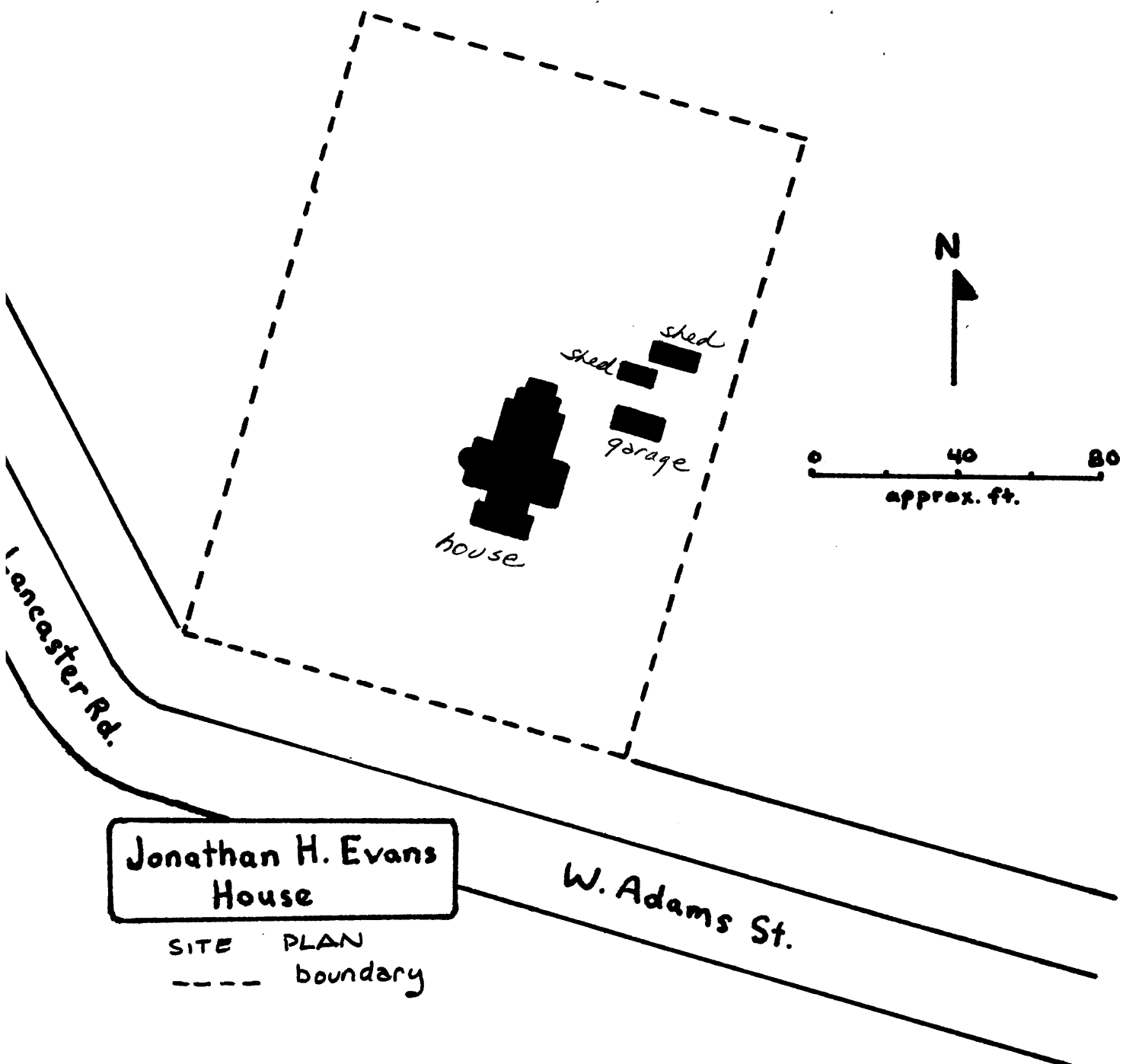
Herrmann, William Harold., Rise of the Public Normal School System in Wisconsin. Madison: Board of Regents of the State Universities, 1953.

Board of Regents of Normal Schools. Abstract of Proceedings, 1874-1892. Madison: Board of Regents, 1874-1892.

10. Geographical Data

Verbal boundary description and justification (continued):

to the right and proceed 125 feet, then turn 90° to the right and proceed 175 feet to point of beginning.



Lancaster Rd.

Jonathan H. Evans
House

W. Adams St.

SITE PLAN
---- boundary

