

DEC 2 1985

JAN 16 1986

INVENTORY FORM FOR NOMINATED PROPERTIES

Name of property: Harry B. Walker House

Owner: Tekla Vucins

Address: 3130 West Wells Street

Owner's address: 3130 West Wells Street, Apt. 9

City: Milwaukee

Milwaukee, WI 53208

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

160 NRHP Certification (date)

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

170 Thematic or Multiple Resource Nomination Name (code)

180 NRHP List Name Harry B. Walker House

190 Level of Significance

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

200 District Classification

- pivotal (P)
- contributing (C)
- non-contributing (NC)

210 Applicable Criteria

- 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

230 Period of Significance

The date of construction is c. 1878.

340 Review Board Date _____

70 USGS Quad Map

SW/4 Milwaukee 7.5 min 1:24,000

80 UTM Coordinates (Format: 99-999999-9999999)

16-422290-4765540

85 Listed Acreage less than one acre

60 Verbal Boundary Description Assessment subdivision

No. 1, etc. in northeast quarter section 25-7-21,
south 150 feet in lot 22.

STREET: West Wells Street

NUMBER: 3130

**SHSW INTENSIVE
SURVEY FORM**

LOCATION

- 10 County Milwaukee
20 City or Village Milwaukee
30 Civil Town _____
35 Unincorporated Community _____
40 Location 3130 West Wells Street

50 Town-Range-Section _____

55 Quarter Sections _____
60 Verbal Boundary Description Assessment subdivision
No. 1, etc. in northeast quarter section 25-7-21,
softh 150 feet in lot 22.

PROGRAM REVIEW

- 250 Tax Case Number _____
260 Compliance Case Number _____
270 A or D Grant Yes No
275 Covenant/Easement Dates _____
320 Ownership
 private (P)
 local-public (L)
 state-public (S)
 federal-public (F)
 mixed, private-public (M)
330 Lead Agency (code) _____

SURVEY

- 90 Photo Codes MI 110-22
100 Survey Map 388
110 Map Code 110-22
120 Reconnaissance Survey Date 1979
130 Reconnaissance Surveyor Wenger/Hunton/Jenson
140 Intensive Survey Name (code) Westside
150 Intensive Surveyor Wenger/Hatala
155 Intensive Survey FY 1983
235 Survey Evaluation
 eligible (E) not eligible (N)
237 Survey District Classification
 pivotal (P) non-contributing (NC)
 contributing (C)
240 Survey Level of Significance
 national (NA) local (LO)
 state (ST)
243 Survey Evaluation Criteria
 event (A) architectural/engineering (C)
 person (B) information potential (D)
245 Proposed District _____
280 NHL Date _____
290 HABS No. _____ 300 HAER No. _____
310 Local Landmark (code) _____
315 Associated Archeological Site(s) _____

Street**ARCHITECTURE**

450 Date of Construction (source)

c. 1878 (A,B)

460 Dates of Alterations/Additions (source)

480 Builder (source)

490 and 500 Designer Type and Name (source)

___ architect:

___ artist:

___ engineer:

___ interior designer:

___ landscape architect:

___ other:

510 Style or Form (code)

High Victorian Gothic

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

House530 Building Materials (code) Asbestos (roof)Stone (foundation)Cream Brick (trim)540 Interior Visited ___ Yes No

550 Structural System (code)

560 Plan Configuration (code) L Plan**Address** 3130 West Wells Street

570 Number of Stories

2-1/2

580 Roof Shape (code)

Gable

590 Additional Description

620 Condition

 excellent ___ good ___ fair ___ poor ___ ruins

650 Related Buildings (code)

HISTORY

430 Common/Current Name

440 Historic Names (source) Harry B. Walker House (A,B)

660 Associated Individual(s) (dates) (source)

Harry B. Walker (1880-1891) (A,B)

670 Associated Event (source)

680 Commercial/Industrial Historic Uses (source)

DESCRIPTION

The Harry B. Walker House is a high style Victorian Gothic residence. It is two stories with an attic and sits on a high foundation of smooth, coursed ashlar limestone. Its asymmetrical plan, typical of the Victorian period of design, centers around a square block that is topped with a steeply pitched multi-gabled roof. Projecting from the central block are segmental bays that are topped with steeply pitched gabled roofs with deep reveals and flared eaves.

The Walker House is of frame construction encased with Milwaukee cream brick. Stone is used as trim in the window sills and wood is used extensively to decorate the gable ends and in the finely detailed front porch. All masonry surfaces below the roof line have been painted. The picturesque character of the house is enhanced by a variety of window types including segmental openings, pointed arched openings and flat openings with stone lintels that are incised with rondelles and outlined with heavy corbelled hood molds. On the main facade is a two-story segmental bay that is highly decorated with different patterns of brickwork and topped with wrought-iron cresting. The gable ends have elaborate scroll-sawn and turned truss work. The front porch is also of note with incised porch posts that support a denticulated cornice and a low rising, truncated hip roof.

The Walker House is located in what was once a gracious neighborhood of upper class 19th century houses. The house is sited towards the southwest corner of the lot with an ample backyard. There is a substantial amount of mature landscaping that obscures the house from view in the spring and summer months.

Changes to the Walker House have been minimal. The exterior is virtually intact with little or no change to the form, design and details.

ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Harry B. Walker House is locally significant as an important example of Victorian Gothic residential architecture. Built about 1878-79 for Walker, it is one of the best preserved Victorian Gothic residences as well as one of the last of its kind extant in the city. Although the architect is unknown, the Walker House is a fine example of Victorian Gothic as interpreted in a picturesque residence. Its detailing and high level of craftsmanship suggest that an accomplished architect or master builder was involved in its design. In terms of houses in the same style in Milwaukee, there are very few that are as well preserved as the Walker House. The Victorian Gothic enjoyed only limited popularity as a residential style in Milwaukee and the Walker House remains as one of the city's finest examples.

690 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES (SOURCES)

- (A) Milwaukee City Directories, 1872-1893
- (B) Milwaukee Blue Books, 1884-85
- (C) Gurda, John. The West End. Milwaukee: Milwaukee Humanities Program, University of Wisconsin Board of Regents, 1980. p. 92.

700 STUDY UNITS (CODE)

350 Demolished

360 Date Demolished

_____ Yes _____ No

ASSOCIATED HISTORY

Harry B. Walker was a paymaster for the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad. He lived in this house from at least 1880 to 1891 when he moved to the Plankinton House Hotel. The Walker House was one of the first houses built in this part of the city after the West Side Railway Company constructed a horse car line along Wells Street in 1874. This facilitated settlement in the previously inaccessible hinterland and allowed people of means, like Walker, to live in a suburban setting and commute to his office in downtown Milwaukee, (A,B,C)