

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 26 1979
DATE ENTERED	AUG 14 1979

**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 *Lauerman, F. J., House*

HISTORIC
Casa del Flores

AND/OR COMMON
F.J. Lauerman House (preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
383 State Street

CITY, TOWN
Marinette

STATE
Wisconsin

CODE
55

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
8th

COUNTY
Marinette

CODE
075

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Frank J. Lauerman III

STREET & NUMBER
383 State Street

CITY, TOWN
Marinette

STATE
Wisconsin 54143

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Marinette County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Hall Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Marinette

STATE
Wisconsin 54143

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Wisconsin Survey of Historic Places

DATE
1975

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN
Madison

STATE
Wisconsin 53706

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Frank J. Lauerma's "patio dwelling," native to southern California, features a central courtyard surrounded on all sides by rooms. The house is one story with the exception of one second story bedroom at the northeast corner. It has a basement under all but the court. Although a relatively early manifestation of the style, the Lauerma House exhibits elements of the Mission Style, particularly in the plan. The architect classified this patio dwelling as the "Renaissance Style," of which the details are surely characteristic.

When built, the house was situated on the outskirts of the northwestern part of Marinette. The city has gradually approached, and now two major highways intersect at the site.

The tan stucco walls of the house are broken by closely spaced sash windows with enriched cornices. Many of the windows are bayed. A curvilinear parapet tops a modillioned cornice that continues around the protruding entry porch. This porch features four coupled columns of the Roman Ionic order, resting on the elevated entry deck.

The parapet rises from 2-10 feet above the roof, which is flat. An interesting drainage system from the roof helps eliminate water accumulation. Drainage pipes within the walls lead to the basement and from there connect to the city sewer system.

Besides six bedrooms, a dining room, and kitchen, the house features a parlor, music room, library, and the "oriental room" with black woodwork and a collection of oriental furniture. The focal point of the house is the 35' x 45' center court from which all rooms emanate. Only the kitchen does not have a doorway to the court.

The court is surrounded on all sides by an arcade with fluted, Composite columns. A double glass skylight illuminates the room. The exterior light is hipped, while the ceiling light is slightly domed. Sets of three clerestory windows appear to rest upon a modillioned cornice that is accentuated with festoons. The panes of these windows are green; they open into the 4½ foot high attic.

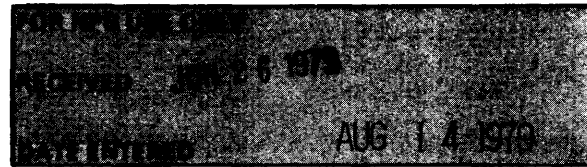
Originally, the floor of the court was cement and the fountain was rectangular. Some years after the house was built, Mr. Lauerma had red tile laid on the floor and had a round fountain installed. The fountain has shells imbedded in it and is illuminated from below. An ornamental birdbath rises from the center. At the corners of the court there are recessed planting beds. A slightly elevated hardwood floor surrounds the court, under the arcade. In a 1909 article in Dry Goods Reporter it was mentioned that the court "contains, palms, banana, fig and bread fruit trees." (p. 26). Some of these trees were 15-20 feet tall.

The interior of the house is lavishly decorated. Throughout, there are hand-painted murals, elaborate plaster trim, and ornate woodwork. Besides the large skylight in the court, there are five smaller ones. Some of these details were included in the architect's specifications while others were Mr. Lauerma's ideas.

(continued)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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7. DESCRIPTION continued

The wood trim in the domed entrance hall has an unusual green stain. Beautiful birds-eye maple is featured in the front bedroom and bath, while the dining room has white oak woodwork. The dining room trim was executed by a Mr. Pfiester of Marinette. All of the floors in the house are hardwood, with about a 10" border of inlaid trim on the periphery of each.

There are three large paintings of note in the house. The canvas in the court, by A. Rohlbeck, is glued directly on the wall. It is framed by a border painted on the plaster. The angelic motif that appears in this painting and another are repeated in the plaster trim and paintings on the ceilings in several rooms of the house.

Over the years the house has suffered few changes. The greatest changes on the exterior were the removal of decorative elements from the parapet and the addition of a bedroom at the southeast corner. Apparently the parapet trim was too fragile to survive many Wisconsin winters. Several minor changes have been made too. Three of the four chimneys were removed in about 1930 and the fireplaces were adapted for gas logs. In the late 1930s the vents in the ceilings of each room were covered with insulation. Recent modifications include the replacement of the glass panes in the exterior skylight over the court, the addition of storm windows, and the replacement of the decking and the plinths of the columns on the front entrance porch. In about 1970 a gas furnace replaced the oil heating system and in about 1975 the galvanized drainage pipes from the roof were replaced with plastic pipes. Gradually, the early electrical system has been replaced, although some of the original relay switches are still active.

The owner is most concerned that modifications or renovation to the house are strictly compatible with the original fabric. For example, when the deck on the entry porch was restored, he had 2" planks specially milled since they were not available commercially. The house is in excellent condition, although the flat roof poses constant maintenance problems, particularly in the winter when snow shoveling is crucial.

To the northwest of the house there is a two-story, three car garage of the same vintage as the house. It is a clapboard structure with a hipped roof. The first floor was used for automobile storage and featured a battery charger for electric cars. The second floor, now used for storage, housed a pigeon loft at the southwest corner.

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 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) associat with locally promine individual
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1901¹

BUILDER/ARCHITECT L.B. Valk²

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Frank J. Lauerman "Casa del Flores" is significant from an architectural and historical perspective. It is a most unusual house in plan and detail to have appeared on the Wisconsin landscape in 1901. The craftsmanship and materials are exquisite.

The Lauerman family figures prominently in the history of Marinette. They were actively involved in the commercial, manufacturing, banking and insurance activities there and contributed a great deal to the development of Marinette.

HISTORY Frank Lauerman was born in Muscoda, Wisconsin of Bohemian descent. He attended public schools through the third grade. In about 1890 he joined his brother in partnership at "The Savings Bank" store in Marinette, a mercantile establishment on Main Street. The store was a great success and the brothers were joined by their other brother, Charles, after a few years. In 1903 the store was moved to a larger building that they leased on Dunlap Square. They purchased the building in 1913 and built an addition. By 1924 another addition was needed, and with its completion the store covered an entire city block.

Frank J. Lauerman served as president of the Lauerman Brothers Company for many years. He was considered by some to be "the dynamo of the business" (Wisconsin: Stability, Progress, Beauty, p. 633). In 1893 he married Nellie Fann. Lauerman promised his wife that she could select the plan for their house. She was captivated by a picture of the William Borden house that appeared in a 1900 issue of the Ladies Home Journal. The house had been designed by L.B. Valk, a Los Angeles architect.

Valk's reply to Mrs. Lauerman's initial inquiry is still in existence. It reads in part, "You can build one of these dwellings as it should be built all the way from 3000 dollars up - so if you can send me kind of site - compass points of site and size of rooms you need and cost you can put into it I can show you what you can do" (L.B. Valk, letter to Mrs. F.J. Lauerman, 6 November 1900). The house ended up costing \$20,000. Mrs. Lauerman must have been pleased with her exotic "Renaissance Patio Dwelling," though she only lived for two years after its completion.

Despite Frank Lauerman's elaborate home, an article written while he was still alive mentioned that "in his private life Mr. Lauerman lives plainly and sedately. He has proved to be a good friend and good citizen and played

1. Frank J. Lauerman III, Telephone interviews by Barbara Wyatt, March 1979.
2. L.B. Valk, Letter to Mrs. F.J. Lauerman, 6 November 1900.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Colt, Philip. "A House Built Around a Garden." Country Life in America.
New York, October 1905.
- Lauerman, Frank J. III. Telephone interviews by Barbara Wyatt, March 1979.
- Quaife, Milo. Wisconsin: Its History, and Its People, Volume 3. Chicago:
S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1924
- Valk, L.B. Letter to Mrs. F.J. Lauerman, 6 November 1900.
- Wisconsin: Stability, Progress, Beauty, Volume 5. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 19

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .738 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Marinette, Wisconsin-Michigan

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 449770 4993970

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION That part of Blocks A and B of Hall's addition to the City of Marinette and that part of Lots 15 and 16 in H. Bentley's Third addition as described in volume 236, page 13 of the warranty deeds filed in the Registers office at the Marinette County Courthouse.

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

Barbara Wyatt, Nominations Specialist

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

March 26, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

(608) 262-8904

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 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 SIGNATURE

Richard Murray

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE 5/23/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol Shull
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

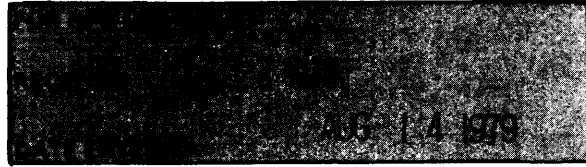
DATE 8-14-79

ATTEST: *Eunna Mae Saye*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION
Regional Coordinator

DATE 8-13-79

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

a generous, active part in civic affairs. He has given liberal financial assistance to numerous worthy causes and deserving individuals, all of which were known only to the recipients (Wisconsin: Stability, Progress, Beauty, p. 633). Lauerman's prominence in the community was well-deserved. Besides serving as president of the Lauerman Brothers Company for several years, he served as president of the Marinette Knitting Mills, director of the Badger Paper Company of Peshigo, director of the Old Line Life Insurance Company of Milwaukee, director and vice-president of the First National Bank of Marinette, and as director and treasurer of the Madagin-Lauerman Real Estate Company of Marinette. All but the Marinette Knitting Mills are still in existence and members of the Lauerman family are stockholders. Frank Lauerman was also active in several civic and fraternal organizations and was a member of the Catholic Church. In 1938 he was honored with election to the Rice Foundation Society, a New York organization that recognized men "of character and achievement" (Rice Foundation Society portrait, 1938).

In 1942 Mr. Lauerman's second wife died and he continued to occupy the house with his daughter, Joyce Lauerman, until his death in 1959. Though he had given the house to his son, Frank J. Lauerman, Jr., before his death, Miss Lauerman lived there until 1977. Frank J. Lauerman III, who now occupies the house with his family, assumed ownership in 1976.

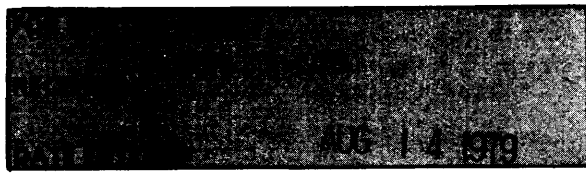
ARCHITECTURE L.B. Valk's design for Frank J. Lauerman's house is a manifestation of a new architectural trend that began to sweep through California at the turn of the century. While the house incorporates elements of the emerging Mission style in plan, roof, and the stucco wall treatment, it lacks the simplicity characteristic of the style. The forerunners of the Mission style first appeared in California about ten years prior to construction of the Lauerman House. Often, the simplicity of the true style was embellished in a variety of motifs. Spanish Colonial details, as well as Moorish, Queen Anne, and Sullivan-esque motifs appeared on Mission style buildings. Apparently, the application of the Neo-Classical details such as appear on the Lauerman house was an early adaptation of the style, reflective of other architectural trends of the period.

A magazine article that appeared in 1905 describing the patio houses of L.B. Valk stated that the courtyard arrangement was an "adaption from Pompeian dwellings, many specimens of which have recently been exhumed" (Country Life in America, October 1905, p. 616). The article does concede that all patio houses "that have been built bear some resemblance to the Mission architecture

(continued)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

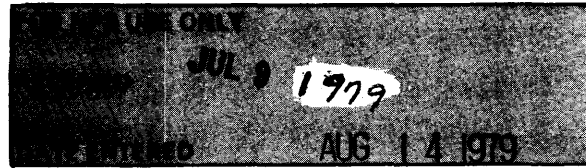
of California" (Ibid., p. 618).

Although no information is available on the architect, Valk, he may have been of some repute since his design of the prominent Borden family house appeared in the Ladies Home Journal. An article that appeared in Country Life in America in 1905 implied that Valk was one of the major contributors to the Pompeian style patio dwellings. The Borden house was also featured in this article, as was the Lauerman house, Valk's own house, and one he designed in Fort Hamilton, Long Island. The Lauerman House is notable for its probable uniqueness in Wisconsin in plan and details. The flat roof was normally considered impractical here, while the courtyard plan was exotic. Undoubtedly, Mr. Lauerman could afford to be innovative and to employ the finest materials in his wife's dream house.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

LAUERMAN, F. J., HOUSE, 383 State Street, Marinette, Marinette County, Wisconsin



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER See
 below PAGE

C O R R E C T I O N S

7. Description

Delete so much of the end of the second sentence of paragraph 1 as reads at the northeast corner and substitute therefor: on the west side of the house.

On the Continuation Sheet, paragraph 3, line 3, delete southeast and substitute therefor: northwest.

10. Geographical Data

Correct UTM References to read: 16 / 449720 / 4994030. (See attached, corrected Marinette West, Wis.-Mich. USGS Quadrangle.)