NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 8/86) Wisconsin Word Processor Format (NRF.txt) (Approved 3/87)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER

JAN 2 7 1383

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

None

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in <u>Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms</u> (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

 Name of Property Geenen, William and Susanna, House N/ALocation street & number 416 North Sidney Street N/A Not for Publication city, town Kimberly N/A vicinity state Wisconsin code WI county Outagamie code 087 zip code 54136 3. Classification Ownership of No. of Resources Category of Property
X private Property within Property X building(s) contributing noncontributing \_\_\_ district \_\_\_ public-local \_1\_ \_1\_ buildings \_\_\_ site \_\_\_\_ public-State \_\_\_\_ sites \_\_\_ structure \_\_\_\_ public-Federal \_\_\_\_ structures \_\_ objects \_\_\_ object \_1\_ Total No. of contributing resources Name of related multiple property previously listed in the listing:

National Register \_\_\_0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the	
of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify	
for determination of eligibility meets	
registering properties in the National	
meets the procedural and professional	
Part 60. In my opinion, the property	
National Register criteria See c	ontinuation sheet.
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In my opinion, the property meets _	does not meet the National
Register criteria See continuati	
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Signature of commenting or other offic	ial Date
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5. National Park Service Certification	•
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6. Functions or Use	
Historic Functions	Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)	(enter categories from
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Domestic/Single Dwelling	Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	(enter categorie	Materials s from instructions)
Late 19th and Early 20th Cent American Movements	<u>tury</u>	foundation <u>Concrete</u> walls <u>Brick</u>
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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The William and Susanna Geenen House is a large two-and-a-half story brick house near the south bank of the Fox River, across from Cedar Point. It faces Sidney Street in the Village of Kimberly which in former times led to a bridge across the Fox and was a main artery of Kimberly. The house is sited a distance from the street on a spacious cultivated lawn with remnants of the original Prairie/Craftsman landscaping surviving and with a grove of virgin, 200 year old oak trees forming a back-drop. When the house was built in 1921, 27,000 square feet of greenhouse were immediately adjacent on what was a larger parcel of property that at one time comprised 145 acres of farmland. Over time, parcels of the property were sold as the local community developed and in approximately 1976, the greenhouse was demolished and the land was developed as a residential subdivision. The Geenen house is the culmination of a pioneer farm that had its beginning in an era of canal building and European immigration, and evolved to participate in the development of an industrial community modeled after a New England mill town.

The home is *thought* to be the third house built on the property replacing previous houses. It was built in 1921 and is the design of a local Appleton architect who had a classical European education. Rectangular in plan, the house measures 37 feet by 28 feet for the main building. The house is capped by a steeply pitched hip roof with a central hipped dormer on both the east and west elevations. Brick interior end chimneys on both the north and south sides of the house extend to a height above the ridge of the roof. The exterior walls of the house are constructed of a hard-fired, manufactured "wire cut" brick veneer made by the Streator Brick Company of Streator, Illinois. The brick is laid in running bond with black tinted mortar joints. This construction is backed by a weir of structural clay tile anchored to the brick across an air cavity with galvanized metal ties.

A one-story entry porch with a low-pitch hipped roof projects from the main (east) elevation. A one-story open air porch and sunroom are attached to the south elevation. The porch projects east beyond the main elevation of the house. A porte cochere is attached to the northeast corner of the house and projects both east and north from the house. A rear projection contains a small entry porch and rear staircase on the first floor is covered by a second story balcony with squared post rail.

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Lintels are emphasized by the use of a header brick lintel course terminated by square concrete corner blocks. A header brick course is also used at the head of the second floor windows similar to the first floor, but on this level, continues around the building in a stringcourse that forms the bottom edge of a stylized entablature of the main roof. Header bricks also form a stringcourse at the sill level of the second story windows.

Above the upper stringcourse is a wooden frieze board, a molding, the cornice, and the quarter-circle profile of the integral gutter. The soffit is paneled with beaded tongue and groove siding. The main roof is a 7/12 hip construction with cement fiber diamond shaped tiles anchored with concealed copper cleats. By 1980, the integral, double-wall gutters of the main roof had deteriorated allowing water to penetrate the soffit. The gutters were replaced at that time using the original gutter metal as patterns for re-creating the pitch of the inner wall of the gutters. The outer wall remains original to the present day. Soffit paneling that had decayed from the water penetration was replaced with paneling duplicated from the original beaded profile. The house has a full basement with footings of reinforced concrete. The foundation walls are made of concrete block which when exposed above grade is rock faced ashlar concrete block with beaded mortar joints on three sides of the building. A continuous band of smooth faced ashlar concrete segments with a beveled top edge forms the top course of the water table. Only the top or plinth course of the water table is visible from the main or east facade because of a rise in the grade and formal landscaping on the east side.

Three concrete steps bordered by brick balustrades are located on the walk leading to the front door. The main entry door is a 1 3/4" paneled oak door with a large plate glass light. Paneled oak 3/4 sidelights flank the door. The foyer holds a second air-lock where coat hooks and a boot cupboard are located. The foyer is roofed with a near-flat hipped roof with a large overhang and integrated, double-wall gutter. The over-hanging roof, a large frieze board, and a band of molded trim form a stylized Tuscan entablature which is repeated in the detailing of the open air porch and the porte cochere, and to a lesser extent the main roof.

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Windows are large double-hung eight-over-one sash. The windows are arranged in groups of two and three on the main facade. Window sills are molded concrete. All the windows are original. Storm windows were replicated from a few available examples and were installed in the early 1980s. On the first floor, the central foyer is flanked on each side by a group of three, large double-hung windows. On the second floor, a group of three narrow double hung windows is centered above the entry foyer with a pair of large double hung windows on each side. The central dormer on the main facade has a group of three, fully divided, six light, casement windows.

The interior on both floors consists of a centrally located staircase surrounded by four rooms of varying proportions and openness. The entry door is directly in line with the foot of the main stair. On one side of this axis is the living room with its fireplace and connected sunroom. On the other side is the dining room. In the rear half of the house is the kitchen and one bedroom. A second stair in the rear of the house leads to the second floor and a third leads to the basement.

Detailing throughout the house is simple rectilinear flat board trim in a "Craftsman" manner. The living room has double french doors leading to the dining room and to the sunroom. It also has a beamed ceiling with light fixtures incorporated into the beams and a wood mantel on brackets over the brick fireplace. The living room and staircase are trimmed in quarter sawn red oak with the original dark stain.

The sunroom is enclosed on three walls by floor-to-ceiling, fully divided, eight light casement windows. The fourth wall opens onto the living room. The dining room contains a built-in oak buffet with glass paneled doors. The kitchen has Adamant plaster on the lower portion of the walls capped with a molded wainscot. The cabinets in the kitchen are original rail and stile, paneled birch. Originally, the kitchen contained a six-foot wide, cast iron pedestal legged sink with drain boards on each side and a tap for soft, rain water. Hot water was originally obtained from a small coal fired water heater directly below the kitchen. The sink has been removed and replaced with a contemporary cast iron sink. The original galvanized plumbing has also been removed and replaced with copper with an electric water heater. The second stair leads from the kitchen to the second floor and remains as it was originally built.

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The second floor contains four bedrooms, a bathroom, and a sewing room. These rooms are trimmed with painted birch and have two-panel, rail and stile doors with mortised locksets. Picture rails are found in each room and in the hallway.

A fully plastered and trimmed stair leads to the attic which has a tongue and groove pine floor and a finished bedroom with plastered walls, hardwood floor, radiator, and electric lighting.

The house was originally heated by a coal fired boiler circulating hot water by gravity to cast iron radiators. In 1990, a new high-efficiency boiler with a water pump was connected to the original piping and radiator system. At some point in time, the south chimney was rebuilt with new brick.

The three nearly flat roofs of the sunroom/open air porch, the foyer, and the rear porch had suffered damage from water penetration. In the period from 1980 to 1990, each roof underwent a restoration which replaced rafters affected by decay, roof decking, roll asphalt roofing, gutters, fascia boards, and soffit paneling. Original construction was replicated in each case.

Also in that period, the flat roof and cantilevered beams of the porte cochere were structurally damaged by water penetration. The construction was disassembled, labeled, and stored and was reconstructed to replicate its original construction in August of 1992.

The basement is subdivided into a number of rooms by concrete block bearing walls. Soft rain water was delivered to the basement cistern adjacent to the laundry room by downspouts connected to the roof gutters. The foundation walls are unaltered from their original state and are structurally sound. The rain water collection system has been largely disconnected.

The present house has not undergone any alterations to change its original plan, primary characteristics, or materials. Work that has been undertaken has been primarily limited to repairing damage by water penetration to roof constructions. A program of restoration was begun that has continued conformance with the "Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation" and has been under the direction of a registered architect experienced with the restoration.

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In 1990, a garage was built adjacent to the house measuring 18 feet by 37 feet. The roof pitch and roof over-hangs of the main house were repeated in the construction of the garage to blend with the architecture of the main house. In addition, wood casement windows divided into six lights and narrow, beveled, lap siding were used to harmonize with the house. The garage is considered a noncontributing structure.

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Applicable National Regi	ster CriteriaAB <u>X</u> C	D
Criteria Considerations	(Exceptions)ABC	DEFG
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance Signi	ificant Dates
Architecture	1921	N/A
Significant PersonN/A	Architect/Builder Wildhagen, Herman	
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The William and Susanna Geenen House is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a fine example of an American Foursquare vernacular form with Craftsman

detailing. It also contributes to the historic fabric of the Lower Fox River Lock and Dam System. The period of significance is the construction date of the house.

#### Historical Background

The Winnebago and the Menominee Indians originally inhabited the area now known as Kimberly and the earliest references to Kimberly refer to the area as "Smithfield" on the opposite side of the Fox River from Cedar Point. In 1832, Reverend John Clark came to Smithfield to minister to Indian tribes that had been relocated along the Fox from the East Coast <sup>2</sup> In 1836, the Reverend Father Theodore VandenBroek set out from Green Bay to found a new mission at La Petite Chute just east of Cedar Point <sup>3</sup> or "The Cedars" as it became known after the Treaty of the Cedars was signed the same year on that location by the Menominees. At about the same time, the Stockbridge Indians living on the south side of the Fox River sold a large part of their lands to the United States Government <sup>4</sup> and the first record of ownership of Lots 4, 5 and 6 of Section 27, Town of Buchanan passes from the United States to Henry R. Schoolcraft in 1847. <sup>5</sup> Ownership of Lots 4, 5, and 6 continues to pass among investors speculating in land along the Fox River as water power is continually developed and improvements are made in river navigation. <sup>6</sup> In 1847, Father VandenBroek returned to his native Holland to recruit immigrants to the Fox Valley with the Fox River Development Company providing a ship for the immigrants who were to be a source of labor for canal building. <sup>7</sup>

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In 1850, Evert, Henry, and John Geenen joined the flow of immigrants from Holland to the Fox Valley and settled in Freedom, just north of the community of Little Chute. <sup>8</sup> In 1859, John Geenen, a baker in Holland, rented farmland on the South bank of the Fox River across from Cedar Point and eight years later, in 1867, purchased the same land, parts of Lots 4, 5, and 6, Section 27, of the Town of Buchanan. <sup>9</sup>

John Geenen married Cornelia T. Wilemson in Freedom before farming in Buchanan on the south bank of the Fox. Cornelia was also a recent Dutch immigrant to the Fox Valley. John and his wife took up 80 acres of wild land and brought it under cultivation. They had eight children of which three died. The five surviving children were Mrs. William Brill, William, Dina, Minnie, and Anna. William Geenen was born in 1864. The family farmed the land for thirty years although Cornelia died in 1874 of tuberculosis at the age of 43. After her death, the female children were parented by relatives, and William stayed with his father to help on the farm until he was twenty-three. <sup>10</sup> In 1880, John Geenen sold a part of Section 4 on the bank of the river to the Green Bay and Mississippi Canal Company. <sup>11</sup> In 1887, William Geenen increased the family farm to 145 acres by marriage to Susanna Schumacher, the daughter of German immigrants on the adjoining farm.

In 1889 thirty acres of the Geenen farm became the Gilmore subdivision with housing for paper-mill workers at the new Kimberly Clark mill nearby. 12 Also in 1889, John, William, and Susanna Geenen sold a right of way across their farm to the Milwaukee Lake Shore and Western Railway Company to service the new mill with rail access. <sup>13</sup>

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#### William Geenen

Known as a prosperous farmer and land-holder in the Town of Buchanan and one of the leading men in his community, William Geenen became secretary of the Farmers' Home Mutual Insurance Company in 1885. In 1890, John Geenen died and William Geenen began a business delivering milk in the village of Kimberly continuing for eighteen years. <sup>14</sup> By 1892, Outagamie County considered itself a "great cheese making county" for shipping 1,500 boxes of cheese to Europe by way of Chicago. <sup>15</sup>

The son of an immigrant farmer, William Geenen learned reading, writing, and arithmetic at St. John's Catholic School in Little Chute on the north side of the Fox River. The success of his education is evidenced by the "Record of the Proceedings of School District Meetings" he penned as chairman of the first organizational meeting for the founding of School District No. 6 of the Town of Buchanan. William Geenen was elected Clerk and one of three superintending officials of the school district. <sup>16</sup> The three commissioner arrangement of Clerk, Treasurer, and Director employed in the formation of Kimberly's school district was the result of early public education legislation passed in 1841. <sup>17</sup> The three commissioners were empowered to organize the school and hire teachers. William Geenen continued in the capacity of Clerk of the School District for twenty-six years. By October 15, 1929 William was president of the Kimberly Board of Vocational Education. <sup>18</sup>

In 1893 William began a florist business with 800 square feet of greenhouse. This business would continue for seventy years and grow to 27,000 square feet of greenhouse. During much of this time 80 acres of land was farmed as well. In 1906, William Geenen became a founding investor, Charter member, and vice-president of the State Bank of Little Chute. He functioned as vice-president of the bank for 34 years until 1939. <sup>19</sup>

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Kimberly was incorporated as a Village in 1910. In 1921, William and Susanna Geenen employed the Appleton architect, Herman Wildhagen to build the present house. At the same time they built two new wings on the greenhouse to bring its size to 27,000 square feet. <sup>20</sup>

In 1924, William and Susanna Geenen donated a portion of their land to the Village of Kimberly for the site of the Waterworks and Pumphouse which remain to this day. <sup>21</sup>

Both William and Susanna died in 1941 after twenty years in this home.

#### **Architecture**

The William and Susanna Geenen house was designed in 1921 by local Appleton architect Herman Wildhagen who was born in Germany in 1863 and studied at the Government Technicum, Nienburg. <sup>22</sup> Records indicate Herman practiced in partnership with Philip Dean of Appleton in 1893. In 1897 city directories list him in solo practise when he undertook his first of four commissions that survive or are recorded, the Second Ward Public School of Appleton. These buildings show Wildhagen working in the styles and architectural idioms in vogue at the time.

According to <u>Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin</u>, the American Foursquare is "distinguished by its box-like massing and broad proportions, and [is] often devoid of overt stylistic references, the prototypical Foursquare is two stories in height, with hipped roof, widely overhanging eaves, central dormers and a one-story porch spanning the front facade."<sup>23</sup> It goes on to note that examples may be embellished with Craftsman, Prairie School, or Colonial Revival details. A "straightforward interior plan of the Foursquare...typically features four large rooms on each floor...Some examples...used a central hall-stairway arrangement reminiscent of the contemporary Colonial Revival."<sup>24</sup>

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The William Geenen house is notable for its simplicity. The house exhibits a strict symmetry on its primary facade. The open south porch, attached glazed sunroom, and the veranda/porte-cochere are sheltered by wide eaves and offer an extension of living spaces into the out-of-doors, typical of the period. The scrolled and cantilevered beams of the porte cochere are representative of the Craftsman movement in fashion at the time the house was being built. The partial width entry porch is a departure from the prototypical porch configuration and may be the result of the relative size of the building.

The interior room arrangement reflects the typical informal, open, and characteristic Foursquare room arrangement. The living room displays simple Craftsman style detailing in ceiling beams, fireplace mantle, trim, and built-in bookcase and buffet.

The house site retains historic landscape characteristics. It retains two yard areas as it did originally, a formal front yard and an informal back yard. Low brick piers at the street mark both the pedestrian entry and the vehicular entry to the property and each continues to the house in a long axis that accents the front entry foyer and porte cochere, respectively. In 1926, a photograph of the house from the street was published as one example of "correct" landscaping by Henry Stuyvenberg working throughout Kimberly under the direction of Mrs. Elizabeth Thuerer of Appleton. <sup>25</sup> Original evergreen trees, cedars, yews, deciduous shrubs and hedges survive. The backyard presents an entirely different character with its natural growth under the canopy of a grove of giant oak trees.

Compared to other houses in the Village of Kimberly, the house is significant for its embodiment of architectural principles of the American Foursquare. A large number of dwellings, particularly in the vicinity of the paper mill and the Geenen house, are modest, wood frame houses built for the mill workers and represent the vernacular construction prevalent in Kimberly from the period. Two houses in the Village are similar in materials, size, and form to the Geenen house, but have been altered on the main elevation and lack the setting and architectural refinement that are in evidence in the Geenen house.

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### **Endnotes**

- 1 "Lower Fox River/Winnebago Pool Long-Range Plan: Summary and Recommendations," East Central Regional Planning Commission, April, 1989, page 24.
- The Land of the Fox: A Saga of Outagamie County, Outagamie County State Centennial Committee, Appleton: Badger Printing Company, 1949, page 104.
- 3 "The History of Kimberly," <u>Appleton Evening Crescent</u>, June 6, 1907.
- 4 "Stockbridge/Munsee/Brothertown New York Indians'," <u>Cultural Resource</u> <u>Management in Wisconsin</u>, Volume 1, Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1986, Historic Indians Section 14-1.
- 5 Abstract of Title, compiled by B & H Abstract & Title Co., Appleton, November 8, 1978.
- 6 "Inland Waterways," <u>Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin</u>, Volume 2, Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1986, Transportation Section 2-1.
- Kort, Ellen, *The Fox Heritage: A History of Wisconsin's Fox Cities*, Woodland Hills, California: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1936, page 42.
- Publication of unknown title, from a partial page entitled "Evert Saunders," a photograph on the page shows Evert Saunders, John Geenen, and W. M. Lamure, unknown date.
- 9 Ryan, Judge Thomas H., editor. *History of Outagamie County, Wisconsin*, Chicago: Goodspeed Historical Association, 1911, page 893.

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- Ryan, Judge Thomas H., editor, *History of Outagamie County, Wisconsin*. Chicago: Goodspeed Historical Association, 1911, page 654.
- Book 1, Assessor's Rolls, Register of Deeds, Outagamie Courthouse, Appleton, 1880.
- "30 Acres Platted for Kimberly," <u>The Appleton Post</u>, 1889, reprinted in the Appleton Post-Crescent, September, 1989.
- Abstract of Title, compiled by B & H Abstract & Title Co., Appleton, November 8, 1978.
- Ryan, Judge Thomas H., editor, *History of Outagamie County, Wisconsin*, Chicago: Goodspeed Historical Association, 1911, page 892-893.
- Newspaper article of unknown title, Appleton Post, 1892, reprinted in the <u>Appleton Post-Crescent</u>, August, 1992.
- "District Record: School and Township Records," School District No. 6, Town of Buchanan, Outagamie County, Wisconsin, 1870.
- "Public Primary Education," <u>Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin</u>: Volume 3, Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1986, Education Section 2-1.
- 18 History of Kimberly's Public Schools, typed manuscript, Kimberly School District, approximately 1930.
- Ryan, Judge Thomas H., editor, *History of Outagamie County, Wisconsin*, Chicago: Goodspeed Historical Association, 1911, pages 892-893.

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- <sup>20</sup> "Gee Whiz! Kimberly Is Getting To Be 'Some' Place," *Cooperation*, Kimberly-Clark Corporation, December, 1921.
- Abstract of Title, compiled by B & H Abstract & Title Co., Appleton, Wisconsin, November 8, 1978.
- Biographical files, Architects, Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison.
- Barbara Wyatt, editor, <u>Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin</u>, Volume 2, Architecture study unit, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1986, p. 2-25.
- 24 Ibid.
- 25 "The Effect of Artistic Planting at Kimberly," *Cooperation*, Kimberly Clark Corporation, September 1926, p. 29.

### 9. Major Bibliographical Reference

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Previous documentation on preliminary determination individual listing (36	on of	X see continuation sheet	
has been requested  previously listed in the Register	e National	Primary location of additional data:	
previously determined e the National Register	•	X State Historic preservation office	
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10. Geographical Data			
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11. Form Prepared By name/title David J. Geenen	Architect	, edited by Jim Draeger (WI SHPO)	
organization		date <u>September 31, 1992</u>	
	Sidney Stre	<u>eet telephone 414/788-9615</u>	
city or town Kimberly		state WI zip code 54136	

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"Kimberly Vocational School Opens for Winter Season," Cooperation, Kimberly-Clark Corporation, November, 1929.

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Larsen, Lawrence and Charles Glaab, Factories in the Valley: Neenah-Menasha, 1870-1915, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1964.

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"Line Engraving from an 1897 Newspaper," Post-Crescent, Appleton, December 10, 1978.

"Lower Fox River/Winnebago Pool Long-Range Plan: Summary and Recommendations," East Central Regional Planning Commission, April, 1989.

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United States Department of Interior National Park Service

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### Verbal Boundary Description

All that part of Block 56, Village of Kimberly Assessor's Plat, located in Government Lots 4 and 5, Section 27, Town 21 North, Range 18 East, Village of Kimberly, Outagamie County, Wisconsin, commencing at the southeast corner of Block 56; thence NOdeg 15'44"W 120.00 feet to the point of beginning; thence continuing NOdeg 15'44"W 100.00 feet; thence S89deg 47'30"W 265.00 feet; thence SOdeg 15'44"E 100.00 feet; thence N89deg 47'30"E 265.00 feet to the point of beginning.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary chosen includes the main residence and the land attached to it that has survived as an intact legal parcel to the present day. Other portions of the property have been put to industrial, recreational, or residential uses and are therefore excluded from the nominated boundary.

United States Department of Interior National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

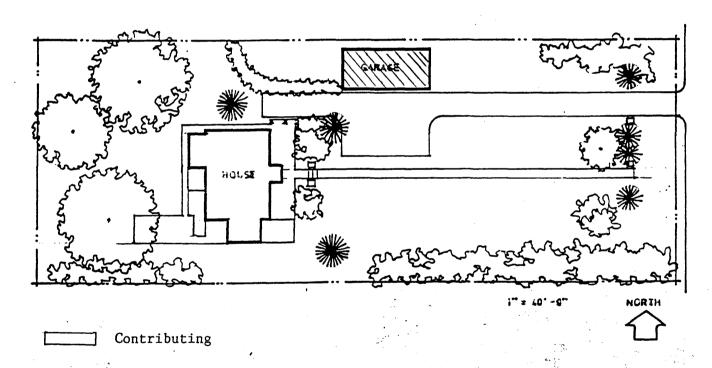
Section number Photos Page 1 William and Susanna Geenen House Kimberly, Outagamie County, WI

### Photographic Documentation

The following information applies to all photos:
William and Susanna Geenen House
Kimberly, Outagamie County, WI
Photographs taken by David J. Geenen
Photographs taken July and August 1992
Negatives are filed with the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

1 of 10.	Principal (East) Elevation.
2 of 10.	Principal (East) Elevation from driveway.
3 of 10.	Principal (East) Elevation.
4 of 10.	Detail, South porch showing Tuscan entablature.
5 of 10.	Detail, main entry.
6 of 10.	Detail, Porte Cochere and soffit of main roof.
7 of 10.	Detail, rear (West) elevation showing second floor balcony.
8 of 10.	Interior, entry and staircase.
9 of 10.	Interior detail, kitchen cabinets.
10 of 10.	Detail, newel post of the main stair.

Geenen, William and Susanna, House Outagamie, Wi City: Kimberly Site Plan



Non contributing