

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 10 1978
DATE ENTERED MAY 22 1978

**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
The American Club
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
High Street — NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN
Kohler VICINITY OF Sixth
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
Wisconsin 53044 055 Sheboygan 117

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <u>Hotel</u>

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Kohler Company, c/o Mr. Herbert V. Kohler, Jr., President
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Kohler VICINITY OF STATE
Wisconsin 53044

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Sheboygan County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
615 North Sixth Street

CITY, TOWN
Sheboygan STATE
Wisconsin 53081

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE
1975 — FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN
Madison STATE
Wisconsin 53706

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

Located on High Street, a boulevard that divides the residential section of Kohler Village from the industrial area, the American Club is set on four acres of land and faces east, directly opposite the Kohler Company's main office. The original landscaping included a boulevard approach to the main entrance which is set back 250 feet from the street. The present semi-circular driveway is a later configuration.

The building is a modified pavilion plan, consisting of a south wing, a central wing and a north wing, which has a greater extension to the rear. A separate 2-1/2 story building housing the kitchen is attached to the south wing. The north wing, though included in the original 1918 plan, was not added until 1924. The overall length of the front facade is 347 feet. The length of the south wing is 91 feet and the back entrance is 58 feet. Total elevation to the peak of the north wing is 44 feet.

Constructed of coarse red brick from Purington, Illinois, laid in common bond, the building expresses a free-interpreted Tudor style with a high gable roof of Vermont slate. Scores of shed dormers line both sides of the roof, larger on the second floor, smaller on the third floor. Marked by stacked fenestration, the overall window treatment consists primarily of double-hung, 2/2 windows with plain lug sills. With the exception of dormers, all windows are set into segmental arches.

The front facade, which is basically symmetrical, has twin gables as a central feature, one more prominent than the other. The larger gable displays three French doors on the first floor with a wrought iron balcony, and six double-hung, 6/6 light windows under a slate hood on the second floor. The smaller gable contains the main entrance set into a segmental arch under a slate hood. A frame oriel window is positioned directly above on the second floor. Two narrow casement windows also flank the front entrance on the first floor.

The front facades of the north and south wings have projecting foyers decorated with a stone cornice and three shield-shaped stone insets. The matching double leaf, lighted doors are recessed within segmental arches. On the second floor of the south wing an original open porch has been replaced by three sixteen-light windows. The north wing second floor has three windows. Both window groupings have large slate hoods.

All wood trim on the building is painted white, with the exception of the doors which are blue. The original copper flashing, gutters, and downspouts remain intact. Two single stack exterior brick chimneys are located at the jointure of the central front and back gables.

The functional interior of the building precludes any distinguishing architectural features with the exception of a carved stone fireplace in a first floor reception room (Lincoln Room). The basement level contains storage areas, a cafeteria, laundry, machine room, lounge, tap room, and bowling alleys. The first floor consists of the main kitchen, dining room (Wisconsin Room), barber shop, lobby, reception room (Lincoln Room), office and several guest rooms. The second floor

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contains a large meeting room (Washington Room) and multiple dormitory-style rooms as does the third floor of the north wing. In total, the American Club has eight double and two single rooms with bath, plus eighty-five dormitory-style rooms. The interior decor of the first floor and other major rooms is not original.

Alterations to the American Club have been minor. The south wing has new second floor windows on the east facade, replacing an original porch, and stained glass windows on the first floor of the west facade, added in 1941. A porch on the west facade has also been enclosed. Glass brick has replaced original windows on the east facade of the kitchen building and has been used to block up a south porch on the same building. A twenty-foot extension for receiving has been added to the western end of the kitchen.

Today the American Club is operated by the Kohler Company as a clubhouse for its employees and a residential hotel.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1918; 1924

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Richard Philipp

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The American Club, dedicated June 23, 1918, is significant for its historic associations with the development of the Kohler Company and also with the development of Kohler Village, a planned industrial/residential community.

The Kohler Company, founded in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, in 1873 by John Michael Kohler as a machine shop, has grown to become one of the world's largest manufacturers of plumbing products, generator sets, and air-cooled engines. In 1899, the company was moved four miles west to its present site. Under the guidance of Walter J. Kohler, third son of the founder, Kohler Village was planned. This remarkable man was president of the company from 1905 to 1940 and also served as Governor of Wisconsin from 1929-31. The company made great strides under his direction, including many new product developments in cast iron, vitreous china and the first automatic power and light generator.

He is particularly noted for his humanitarian interest in the working man. He is quoted as saying "a worker deserves not only wages but roses as well" -- associating "roses" with the joys of nature as well as a high quality standard of living. This is further expressed in his association with Richard Philipp and the Olmsted Brothers in the planning of Kohler Village. He traveled to Europe with Philipp to explore English garden communities and selected him as architect for many of the homes and major buildings in Kohler. A partner in the firm of Brust and Philipp from 1906-1927, Philipp apprenticed with the influential Milwaukee firm of Ferry and Clas for ten years. Brust and Philipp, one of the most significant architectural firms in the state, specialized in Eclectic Resurgence buildings and were particularly renowned for their traditional English-style houses.

The American Club, built in 1918, was the first major architectural statement in the planned community, setting the English garden flavor of the village and serving as a pattern for many of the other buildings to come. Designed primarily as a home for single men, it also served as a recreational facility for the community. It drew its name from Walter Kohler's wish to help Americanize the many foreign-born workers who immigrated to Sheboygan County and were employed by Kohler, including Dutch, German and White Russians. Descriptions of the original decor list many portraits of Lincoln and Washington as well as American flags in the halls, lounges, and reading rooms. Classes in English and citizenship were held for the residents and other community members.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.013

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6
ZONE	EASTING

4	3	7	1	2	0
NORTHING					

4	8	4	3	0	6	0
NORTHING						

B

ZONE	EASTING

NORTHING			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 35, Block 2 of the west one subdivision of the Village of Kohler having the dimensions 430' depth by 406.55' frontage on High Street between Orchard Road and School Street.

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

Beverly Rempe

ORGANIZATION

Jacobson Advertising

STREET & NUMBER

529 Ontario Avenue

CITY OR TOWN

Sheboygan

DATE

December 8, 1977

TELEPHONE

414/458-3541

STATE

Wisconsin 53081

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Richard R. Munn

TITLE Director

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

2/3/78

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

ATTEST:

Walter Cole

DATE

5-23-78

DATE

5-12-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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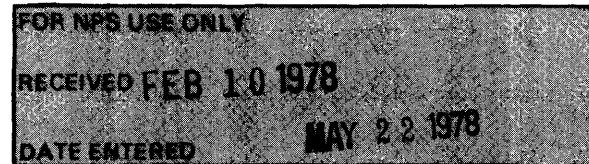
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In his dedication speech, Mr. Kohler stated that the building was not a temporary structure, to be razed within a generation, but that its construction was such that it would last many years, and as a permanent institution was given a prominent place in the city plan. He also specified that the industrial section shall not encroach upon the Club life or upon the residential community and stated that any future developments in the industrial section will be a part of the general city plan and will harmonize architecturally with the American Club. He expressed his wish to "hygienically house single men of modest means, giving them high standards of living and clean, healthful recreation that would inculcate in them a desire for Americanization and a love for their adopted country." He further stated that the club was not to be operated for profit, but rather to play an important part in the community life of Kohler. Closing his speech he states: "If this club, besides providing suitable living conditions, be also an influence in the Americanization of the foreign-born and serve as a stimulus for a greater love of country and a desire for a higher citizenship, then its purpose will have been achieved."

Many of the families who live in Kohler, Sheboygan and neighboring areas today have antecedents who immigrated to Wisconsin and lived at the American Club before settling into the community.

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Item 9

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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Item 11, continued:

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