

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received NOV 7 1984
date entered DEC 6 1984

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

1. Name

historic William E. Pollock, Residence

and/or common Pollock Alumni House, University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh

2. Location

street & number 765 Algoma Boulevard NA not for publication

city, town Oshkosh NA vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Winnebago code 139

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 checked="" 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"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input 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 State of Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin System

street & number 1930 Monroe Street

city, town Madison vicinity of state Wisconsin 53701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Winnebago County Courthouse 415 Jackson Street

city, town Oshkosh state Wisconsin

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		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

One of Oshkosh's finest examples of twentieth century, Spanish-influenced residential design, the Pollock House is an imposing two and one-half story residence located on a sizable, well-landscaped lot within the heart of the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh campus. Set back behind a broad front lawn facing on Algoma Boulevard, the building is nestled among a grouping of modern college residence halls built between 1952 and 1962. Completed in 1920, the richly appointed residence has been attributed to a Chicago area architect.¹

The main portion of the structure is a smooth, two story, stucco-faced rectangular block, capped by a dramatic red, clay-tile roof. The front of the roof is punctuated by twin, hipped-roof dormers lighting a third-floor attic space. Three brick chimneys rise well above the roofline, one at each end of the front section of the building, and one to the rear, and all are finished with decorative chimney caps topped with tile roofs.

Designed in a Spanish-Mediterranean Revival style, the building features a central, arched entry vestibule framed by concrete planters and topped by a "ceremonial" wrought iron balcony reached by second floor French windows. The vestibule, which appears to have been added at a later date, partially shades two small side windows, one on each side of the main double door entry. The balcony is supported on heavy stone consoles. To the right (west) of the central entry are three round-arched window openings that feature simple 1/1 wooden sash, while to the left (east) lies a one story projecting bay capped by a tiled, pent roof. The bay is lit by a series of five narrow, round-arched windows featuring wood trim in the form of columns and keystones. Exposed rafter ends are visible at the eaves. The second floor windows of the facade consist of simple, regularly space rectangular openings with six-over-one sash and plain surrounds.

One of the facade's most dramatic features is the broad, red-tiled roof. Shading the building with its deeply overhanging eaves, which feature exposed rafter ends, the broad sweep of the roof is broken by two large attic dormers capped with hipped roofs and sided in vitrified clay shingles. Containin tripartite window fenestration, the dormers light small third-story living spaces. Copper downspouts at each end of the facade drain the roof gutters.

The southeastern elevation features the same semi-circular ground floor and rectangular second story fenestration as the facade. French doors located at ground level open onto a small concrete patio enclosed by a heavy balustrade. A large exterior chimney dominates the elevation, as does a similar chimney on the northwestern elevation. To the northwestern side of the building, a low, one-story, brick addition dating to c.1950, connects the Pollock house with nearby dormitory facilities. A low building, set behind a large shade tree, the simple addition does not detract significantly from the main building's appearance. A simple, flat plane, the rear (southwest) elevation features irregularly placed window openings of various sizes, and a small, pent-roofed bay to one side. A large, three-window dormer, similar to those on the facade, is visible at the roofline.

(continued)

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7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

The interior of the building, although adapted to the needs of its university functions, has remained substantially unchanged since its days as a prominent Algoma Blvd. residence. The most dramatic feature of the building's interior is a beautifully detailed central stairway. Trimmed in dark hardwood, the graceful, flowing staircase rises to an open landing, which in turn opens out onto a brightly lit study enclosed by a curved wall partition of glass and wood. Short flights of parallel stairs located to either side of the main flight lead up to the main second floor level. On the ground floor, the expansive front entry hall, which contains the central stairway, opens onto a major living room space to the southeast and a second smaller parlor space to the northwest. The living room features a handsomely detailed fireplace and mantle flanked by twin, round-headed French doors, which open onto the side patio. On the northeast wall is a large, wooden window seat which forms the distinctive projecting bay on the building's facade. Each of the bay's five rounded arch windows features a decorative art glass crest of strictly ornamental design. The second parlor features full floor to ceiling length wood paneling and a second distinctive mantelpiece. To the rear of the ground floor is a formal dining room along with a kitchen area, a pantry and a secondary staircase.

The second floor plan contains five sizable rooms, each detailed with fine wood trim and hardwood floors. The two main front rooms each contain elegant fireplace details. Above the first floor entry is a brightly lit sitting room now utilized as an office. The remaining upstairs rooms serve various uses from meeting rooms to offices. A full basement lies underneath the main section of the building.

In general, the majority of the interior spaces are maintained as originally designed and many are furnished with extensive period antiques. The striking mixture of period revival forms - eighteenth century English on the interior and Mediterranean Revival on the exterior - is typical of the eclectic nature of early twentieth century residential design.

¹Promotional pamphlet from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Alumni Office, Pollock Alumni House.

(Other resources were checked in an attempt to reveal further information concerning the building's architect, but none proved of value. The above cited source is said to be based on information provided by the Pollock family.)

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1920⁴ Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

A locally significant example of eclectic, twentieth century period revival design, the Pollock house is an impressive Mediterranean revival residence. Built for Oshkosh industrialist William E. Pollock in 1920 and now used as an Alumni house on the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh campus, the home is representative of the high style twentieth century residential building stock in the community of Oshkosh, particularly in the Algoma Boulevard area.

Historical Background:

Head of one of the leading industrial firms in the thriving city of Oshkosh during the 1920s, William E. Pollock was recognized by Wisconsin historian Milo Quaiffe as "the guiding spirit in building up a business (in the Oshkosh community) that now has a national reputation and occupies a very definite place in the clothing market."¹

Born in Ford County, Illinois in 1872, William Pollock's first business experience had been in his father's mercantile store in the small town of Saybrook, Illinois.² In 1910, at the age of 38, Pollock moved to Oshkosh, Wisconsin to take over the ownership of the Oshkosh Clothing Manufacturing Co. in partnership with local businessman James G. Clark.³ When Pollock acquired official control of the operation the firm's production was still limited by a lack of adequate shipping and distribution networks, and a generally localized marketing strategy. Changing the firm's name to the Oshkosh Overall Co., Pollock and Clark began the initiation of progressive new manufacturing and marketing programs almost immediately. It was these new programs, among them the origination of the trade name "Oshkosh B'Gosh," that eventually provided the company with the strong, solid base from which in later years it would grow to national prominence. (The firm's original Otter Street plant and office still serves the Oshkosh B'Gosh Co. today.)

A prominent and well respected businessman in the community, who also held positions on the board of directors of the Commercial National Bank of Oshkosh and as president of the local Association of Commerce, Pollock moved into his newly completed home on Algoma Boulevard from Church Street in 1920.⁴ Constructed by the Fluor Brothers Construction Co. of Oshkosh,⁵ from plans reportedly by Chicago architect,⁶ the building remained the home of the Pollock family until 1943. At that time, retired from his position as head of the overall company, Pollock made a gift of the home to the Wisconsin State Teachers College at Oshkosh, with the aid of the local alumni association.⁷ Situated in a beautiful formal garden, the Mediterranean styled home was converted to a dormitory space for women attending the school in 1946.⁸ An honor house, residency was limited to only upperclass women, 20 to 32 of which resided in the house at a single time. In 1967 the residence became the home of the university's new College of Nursing administrative offices.⁹ The most recent chapter in the history of the Pollock house began in 1970 when the university assigned the building to the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Alumni Association for use as an alumni and adult center on campus.¹⁰

(continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Oshkosh

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	3	7	5	6	8	0	4	8	7	5	6	3	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

Situated within Lot 2, Block U Jackson & Martins Addition, 5th Ward of the City of Oshkosh; constituting an area approximately 30' out from the exterior walls of the structure

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 Paul R. Lusignan / Acting Architectural Historian

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date September, 1984

street & number 816 State Street telephone 608/262-4772


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

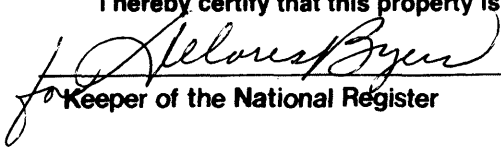
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director of Historic Preservation date October 25, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register


Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

12/6/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

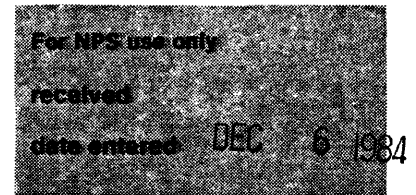
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8. SIGNIFICANCE

Architectural Significance:

As early as the 1850s and 1860s, Algoma Boulevard had become the home of many of Oshkosh's influential and affluent businessmen and professionals. By the turn of the century the area had become the most fashionable part of the city, often referred to locally as Oshkosh's "Gold Coast,"¹¹ and it continued to remain so well into the early twentieth century. Although very few of the oldest homes exist, Algoma Boulevard is still a show-place of beautiful late nineteenth and early twentieth century residences representing a full range of architectural periods. The Pollock house is representative of one of the last phases of affluent residential design in the area, and nobly expresses the stature of its builder William Pollock. The substantial, two and one-half story building of stucco design in a Mediterranean style is typical of the homes in the area in its dramatic set back from the roadway behind a well-landscaped, large city lot. Its simple yet stylistic detailing mark it as one of the community's finest examples of the exuberant eclectic period revival designs which dominated the era between 1920 and 1930.

An examination of residential designs within the Oshkosh area based on sites included in the Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places revealed only seven residences of roughly contemporary construction and similar Spanish-Mediterranean influenced design. None of these sites appear to match the Pollock house in scale, degree of integrity, or architectural sophistication.

¹Quaiffe, Milo, Wisconsin Its History and Its People, (Chicago, 1924), p. 338.

²Ibid., p. 338.

³Ibid., p. 338.

⁴Oshkosh City Directory, 1919-1922.

⁵Howard Needles Tammen and Bergendoff, Final Report Intensive Historic Resource Survey, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, (Oshkosh, 1981), p. 156.

⁶UW-O Alumni Office promotional pamphlet, Pollock Alumni House.

⁷Wyman, Walker D., History of Wisconsin State Universities (River Falls, 1968), pp. 121-122.

⁸Ibid., p. 121

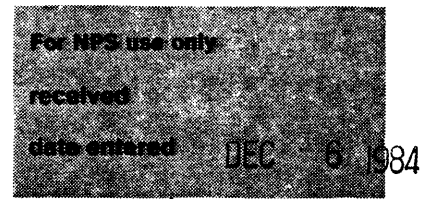
⁹Pollock Alumni House, pamphlet.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Howard Needles Tammen and Bergendoff, pp. 200-201.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Howard Needle Tammen and Bergendoff, Final Report - Intensive Historic Resource Survey for the City of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, (Oshkosh, 1981).

University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Alumni Office, promotional pamphlet on the Pollock Alumni House (UW-0, 1983).

Wyman, Walker D. (ed.), History of the Wisconsin State Universities, (River Falls, 1968), pp. 95-132.

City Directories for the city of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, (State Historical Society of Wisconsin Library)

University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Archives, Area Research Center, UW-0.

Quaife, M. M., Wisconsin, Its History and Its People 1634-1924, Volume No. 3, (Chicago, 1924).