

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DEC 12 1978

RECEIVED

JAN 31 1979

DATE ENTERED

**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

F. F. White Block

AND/OR COMMON

Drapery House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1514 to 1524 11th Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Monroe

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE

55

COUNTY

Green

CODE

045

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City Urban Enterprises (Mr. Walter Ekum and Mr. John F. Kundert)

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 270

CITY, TOWN

Monroe

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 53566

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Green County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Monroe

STATE

Wisconsin 53566

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE

1976

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

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The F. F. White Block is a three-and-a-half-story, red brick structure which visually anchors the southwest corner of the courthouse square in Monroe. Only the courthouse itself rivals it in monumentality.

A great, steeply sloped hipped roof of copper crowns the pile, which features two street facades of differing design. The main (north) facade has a large central pavilion terminating in a stepped gable with stone copings on the third-floor level. A wide Tudor arch outlined in stone encloses a large oriel window which rests on a bracketed stone ledge. Gothic tracery decorates the typanum of the arch. Above this window in the attic is a tiny Gothic lancet.

A smaller version of the central pavilion marks the northwest corner of this facade. In this gable, projecting bricks emphasize the steps, the Tudor arch is trimmed with brick and encloses a double window. The rest of the third floor windows are recessed between brick pilasters, and molded brick panels trim the spandrels under each window. A wide stone cornice is supported by corbelled bricks and a stone string course marks the base of the third floor windows. A similar belt course serves as the sill for the second story windows which are set within flat brick Tudor arches. An octagonal tower emphasizes the northeast corner of the White Block. Above the third level is a stone carved with the legend, "F. F. White, 1900." The tower was originally capped by a frame turret and a cone-shaped roof surmounted by a flagpole, but this was removed in 1950 because it had deteriorated and had become a pigeon haven. The owner would like to eventually restore the tower. Two small windows deeply recessed within the brick wall frame the tower at the second level.

Another stepped gable on the southeast corner of the east facade echoes the northwest gable. Between, the third floor level is lit by a band of five small windows with molded brick spandrels between brick pilasters. Above in the roof is a shed dormer sheltering another band of five windows. The south and west facades are functional in design except for two small stepped gables on the west facade.

The first floor storefront and the interior have been much altered to serve changing uses. However the owners are currently planning to renovate the first floor storefronts in a design which will be more compatible with the existing historic fabric of the building.

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 checked="" 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 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT A.D. Conover¹

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The F.F. White Block is a visually imposing landmark in downtown Monroe. Its monumentality symbolizes the prosperity and growth of Monroe in the late nineteenth century.

F.F. White was the son of the prominent Monroe lumberman, farmer, and politician, O.J. White. After attending Beloit College, White joined his father in the lumber business. On February 16, 1898, White acquired the American House property. Soon after, he cleared ground and engaged A.D. Conover to draw plans for a pretentious three-story commercial block.

Conover, a well-known Wisconsin architect, was a civil engineering professor who practiced architecture with Lew F. Porter from 1886-1889. From 1900 to 1902 and 1911 to 1919, he practiced alone before and after serving as a member of the state board of control. Conover's best known designs include the Old Red Gym at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

F.F. White, ill with tuberculosis, died May 19, 1900. His family decided to finish construction of the building, combining resources with H. W. Caradine, a dentist who also engaged in the construction business. The block was completed on June 1, 1901. Since then the White Block has been the scene of much commercial and social activity. The Citizen Bank of Monroe moved into the first floor and remained there until merging with another local in 1940. A barbership and a plumbing firm also moved into the first floor. The Smith Lodge and Royal Arch Chapter of the F. and A. M. occupied the third floor until 1935. Physicians, attorneys and others occupied offices on the second floor. In 1935, the Monroe Little Theater rented the Masonic hall on the third floor. Currently a furniture store and other offices occupy the structure.

When the White Block was built, Victorian commercial buildings ringed the Monroe courthouse square. Imposing three-story edifices marked several corners. Today many of the Victorian buildings have been lost to progress. The White Block is the last of the monumental commercial structures to remain.

Because of its monumentality and eclectic design, the White Block embodies the distinctive characteristics of the late Victorian period of construction. The carefully-executed brickwork, and the juxtaposition of various stylistic motifs make the White Block a good example for the people of Monroe of the turn-of-the-century commercial architecture.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .13

QUADRANGLE NAME Monroe, Wisconsin

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 6 | 2 8 3 4 3 0 | 4 7 1 9 6 5 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | |

D | |

E | |

F | |

G | |

H | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

56 feet north and south, 100 feet east and west of Lot 21, Lybrand's Donation to the City of Monroe, Green County, Wisconsin.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Franz (Carol) Brand and Mrs. Terry (Marguerite) Kubly

ORGANIZATION

Women's Club of Monroe

DATE

March 16, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Brand: 608/325-4460. Kubly: 608/966-3366

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Monroe

STATE

Wisconsin 53566

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

12/6/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1/31/79

ATTEST

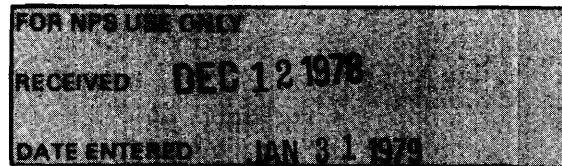
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

1/29/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



CONTINUATION SHEET

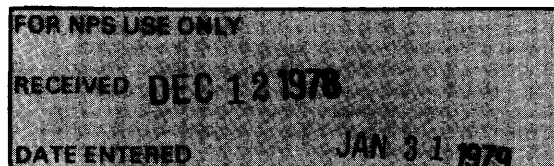
ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Downtown Monroe retailers are beginning to suffer from a loss of business to suburban shopping centers and are considering ways to revitalize the square. The Women's Club of Monroe is nominating the White Block as part of an effort to help the businessmen of the courthouse square recognize the architectural and historic value of their buildings. Partly as a result of this effort the owner of the White Block is planning to renovate the first floor facade and hopes to claim the benefits of the Tax Reform Act.

1. Abstract, Ekum Abstractors.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER See
 below PAGE

Item 9, MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alby, Charles I., present building architect, 1824 19th Street, Monroe.

Ekum Abstract and Title, Inc., Monroe, Wisconsin 53566.

Monroe Evening Times, "Little Theater," September 21, 1935 and February 12, 1937.

Monroe Sentinel, Obituary, May 23, 1900.

Report by the administrators of the F. F. White Estate to Green County Court,
July 31, 1900, Monroe, Wisconsin.

Madison City Directories.

Item 10, FORM PREPARED BY, continued:

Katherine E. Hundt, Architectural Historian
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
816 State Street
Madison

June 27, 1978
608/262-2970
Wisconsin 53706