

914

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Peter Stauer House

other names/site number Ramage House

2. Location

street & number 629 Main Street [NA] not for publication

city or town McGregor [NA] vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Clayton code 145 zip code 52157

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (see continuation sheet for additional comments).

Robert Soike July 29, 2003
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:)

Edson W. Beall Signature of the Keeper 9/13/03 Date of Action

The Peter Stauer House
Name of Property

Clayton, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

DOMESTIC/hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

The Peter Stauer House
Name of Property

Clayton, Iowa
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Clayton County Courthouse

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1882

Significant Dates

1882

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Jacobs, Elias White Hale

The Peter Stauer House
Name of Property

Clayton, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 [1]5 [6]4[8]1[1]4[0] [4]7[6]4[2]6[0]
Zone Easting Northing

2 []
Zone Easting Northing

3 []

4 []

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patrica A. Eckhardt

organization Eckhardt Research date January, 2003

street & number 514 N. Linn Street telephone 319-338-3386

city or town Iowa City state Iowa zip code 52245-1275

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the complete form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Robert and Donna Staples

street & number 102 Eagle Drive telephone 563-873-2713

city or town McGregor state Iowa zip code 52157

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section number: 7 Page: 1

Peter Stauer House
Clayton County, Iowa

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND CONSTRUCTION HISTORY

Summary Statement

The Peter Stauer House is a two-story brick veneer building with stone details with an attached two-story wooden wing at the rear. It has a cross gable roof and a wooden porch. The house was designed by the McGregor architect, Elias White Hale Jacobs in 1882 in the Queen Anne Style. A garage at the rear of the property is non-contributing.

Detailed Description

Neighborhood

The Peter Stauer House is located near the western end of Main Street in McGregor, Iowa. The one-half mile long Main Street slopes upward at an angle from its northeastern end at the Mississippi River to St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church at its southwestern end. The Stauer house is the second house from the church on the southeast side of the street. Main Street is a mixture of houses and commercial buildings with mostly houses along its southwestern end. The McGregor Commercial Historic District, a large commercial district with a few houses mixed in is located in the three blocks closest to the river. It was placed on the National Register in the summer of 2002.

Exterior

The Main Brick Block:

The house is a brick veneer, two-story house with a two-story wooden wing attached to the rear of the main block. It was built in 1882.¹ The main block is an example of the patterned masonry variant of Queen Anne style, a distinct variant of the style of which there are several examples along Main Street in McGregor.² The basic form of the main block is a gable front and wing with the cross gabled roof running across the house with a wing on the NE and a bay SW. The house sits on a rubble stone foundation.

The Peter Stauer house has many unique features most of which can be attributed to the architect, Elias White Hale Jacobs. Brackets support the eaves on the side roof portions, but not

¹ The progress of the construction was documented in the *North Iowa Times*, McGregor, Iowa, March 2, 1882 and Oct. 19, 1882.

² Virginia & Lee McAlestser, *A Field Guide To American Houses* (New York: Knopf, 1990), p. 264.

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Peter Stauer House
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in the gable ends where a bracket is placed at each side of the gables only. The segmental-arched windows are distinctive. Colored voussoirs over the segmental arched windows alternate light and dark making the windows look as if they have rays of sunlight shooting up out of them. The light voussoirs are stone and the dark ones brick matching the body of the house. Also distinctive are the paired attic windows in the gables that rise to a peak beneath a common pointed lintel. Stringcourses of light stone circle the building along the bases of the windows on both floors. A water table course indicates the line between the stone foundation and the brick walls. Another stringcourse of types, here maybe meant to serve as a decorative frieze, is made of bricks set diagonally. It runs around the main block near the top of the upper windows.

The one-story porch is completely intact and very ornate with many unusual stylistic details. It has a muscular feeling rather than the more usual delicate and lace-like details of most Queen Anne style porches. The porch roof is flat with the exception of a low gable peak over the entrance, which extends outward from the rest of the porch about two feet. The flat roof has a cornice supported on brackets beneath a paneled frieze beneath the porch roof with small brackets supporting the roof itself. This roof is supported on octagon supports with brackets at their tops serving as capitals. The original porch railing of decoratively sawn slats is intact. Historic Photographs show the porch and fascias to be painted a medium to dark color. This has the effect of drawing out the form and shape of the house and emphasizing its windows with their brick and stone embellishments.

The Kitchen Block:

It is hard to date the kitchen wing, which is wood-framed and lower than the main block. The two-block form of the house seems common in Jacobs' designs for houses. The first floor was probably original to the house built in 1882. Part of the lower wall beneath the bay window on the rear wing's SW side is brick. By 1886, the date of the first Fire Insurance Map for McGregor,³ the rear wooden addition appears with the dimensions it has today, but with only one story and no bay window on the SW. Evidence for an original one-story addition is found in the shadow of the lower gable roof line in a closet on the second floor. This addition is almost as large as the original house. It had no bay window originally. There is brick beneath the bay window on the SW side of the house. This might indicate that the wing was intended to be brick veneer, but was continued in wood for some reason. By 1914⁴, the rear addition had two stories and the bay window appears on the Fire Insurance Map. This enlargement was probably added shortly after the Ramage family purchased the house in 1902. The rear two-story open porch dates from about 1930.

³ McGregor, Iowa, Fire Insurance Maps of 1886, 1894, 1902, 1914, & 1930.

⁴ Ibid.

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Interior

The Interior first floor (see sketch plan page 16), of the original block contains the entrance hall and what were the original dining room on the northeast, and a double parlor on the southwest. Original millwork is in place throughout the house and wallpaper from the early 20th Century is extant although faded, in the double parlor. It is in the arts and crafts style in dark purple and gold colors. In the wooden addition are the present dining room and a variety of kitchen and utility rooms.

The second floor of the original block is also as originally designed with three bedrooms and a nursery/sewing room in the front end of the stair hall. A second bedroom and bath are located in the wooden addition of the second floor together with rear stairs, closets and a large hallway of irregular shape

Other Buildings:

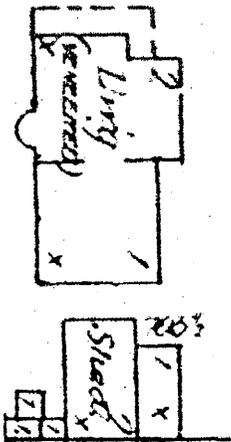
There were many buildings on the rear of the lot over the years – outhouses, sheds, and garages. The present garage is modern. It is not original to the house. A garage in this location does appear on the 1930+ Fire Insurance Map. It is non-contributing.

Integrity

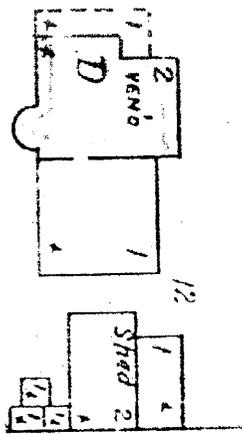
The house has excellent integrity and is in good repair with the exception of the rear porch. It has had excellent care throughout its years. There were only two owners, the Stauers from 1882-1902 and the Ramage family from 1902 until 2002 when the present owners bought the property.

Fire Insurance Maps Showing the Peter Stauer House

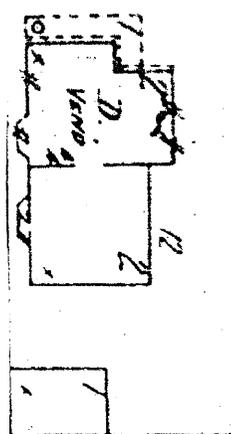
1886



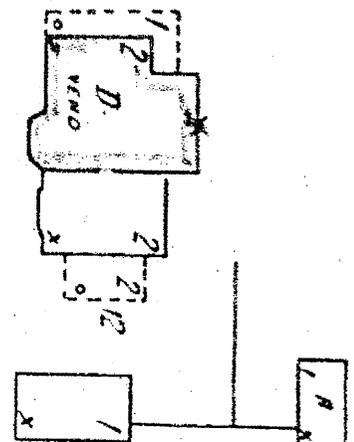
1902



1914



1930+



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Peter Stauer House
Clayton County, Iowa

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, Criteria C

Summary Statement

The Peter Stauer House, built in 1882, is locally significant as an excellent example of the Queen Anne Style of the patterned masonry sub-type, and as an example of the personal style of the architect Elias White Hale Jacobs of McGregor, Iowa. Two important McGregor businessmen, Peter Stauer and J. A. Ramage, owned the house consecutively.

Significance

Introduction: McGregor Architecture

McGregor had hopes of being another Chicago, as did many of the Mississippi River towns in the 19th century, but it never had a population of more than a few thousand. This is partly due to the restricted space upon which to build a town between the river bluffs along the Mississippi River, and due to the low population of the area. Main Street has two parts, "lower" Main Street, the northeastern half near the river, is the business district with a few houses mixed in. "Upper" Main Street, the southwestern half, but higher in elevation, is mostly houses of a mixture of styles and construction dates with modern commercial buildings and modern houses among the historic ones. The McGregor Commercial Historic District along "lower" Main Street was recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. "Upper Main Street" does not have the historic integrity and a large enough percentage of contributing buildings to qualify as an historic district.

McGregor was at the high point of its economic growth as well as its population in the 1880's, and as a result, most of its significant houses as well as its commercial district were built in that decade. The 1880's was the period in which the Queen Anne style was popular and the time that architect Elias Jacobs was designing houses and commercial buildings on Main Street in McGregor. There was a second burst of economic vitality and building around 1900.

The Peter Stauer House and only a few others like it have retained their historical integrity. Their brick construction was harder to alter than wood-frame construction. Most of the wood-frame houses in McGregor do not survive as good examples of their style.

Criteria C Historic Contexts

Architectural Style in Transition:

The Peter Stauer house is significant as an example of the transition from the Italianate style to the Queen Anne style. This house is an early development of the patterned masonry sub type,

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Peter Stauer House
Clayton County, Iowa

one of four Queen Anne styles. The other three are half-timbered, free classic, and spindlework.⁵

McAlester states that the patterned masonry sub-type comprises only 5% or less of all Queen Anne examples, and few remain. These examples have masonry walls with patterned brickwork or stonework and relatively little wooden detailing. Terra cotta and stone decorations are frequent. This variant of the Queen Anne style was usually architect designed and high style according to McAlester. The style was used mainly in major cities such as Chicago, New York, or Washington D. C. Illustration #1 on Page 284 in McAlester shows a house in New Haven, Conn. that is similar to the Stauer House in McGregor.

The Architectural Designs of Elias White Hale Jacobs:

The Peter Stauer house is significant as the work of the architect, Elias White Hale Jacobs. Jacobs is almost unknown on the Iowa architectural scene. He is not listed in Wesley I. Shank's *Iowa's Historic Architect*, although there is a brief mention of him in Alan M. Schroder's *Directory of 19th Century Iowa Architects*. His obscurity might be due in part to the relative obscurity of northeast Iowa, and the town of McGregor. This is perhaps true because he did not live in one of Iowa's larger cities, nor did he receive major commissions for courthouses, university buildings, state hospitals, or major churches as did his contemporaries such as John Cochrane, William Foster, and Fridolyn Heer.⁶ He is four years older than Cochrane, the oldest of this generation of architects that we consider the earliest in Iowa.

In spite of his obscurity, Jacobs was one of Iowa's earliest trained architects, and the quality of his work is excellent. Jacobs' buildings are structurally sound, continue to be functional, and exhibit an aesthetic balance between form and detail. The houses are stylish and comfortable with a touch of whimsy. Jacob's known major commissions are a school for McGregor (burned in 1930), a school in Lake City, Iowa, a jail for Clayton County, Iowa, and the First Methodist Church and the Masonic Block in McGregor. We can also document other McGregor houses of his in addition to the Peter Stauer House.

Information continues to be discovered about Jacobs by Robert Staples,⁷ and we can expect the list of his known designs to grow. See Jacobs' biography in a later section of this nomination.

The Peter Stauer House

The Peter Stauer House exhibits many characteristics of Jacobs' personal style. While working in the period style, Jacobs uses a number of distinct design devices on the Stauer House

⁵McAlester, pp. 264, 284, 285.

⁶ Wesley I. Shank, *Iowa's Historic Architects, A Biographical Dictionary*, Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1999.

⁷ Robert Staples is the house owner and a McGregor historian.

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Clayton County, Iowa

that appear to be unique to him. Even within the parameters of his favorite details and devices, his house designs are often different from one another.

A number of stylistic characteristics are found in the Stauer House that help to identify other examples of Jacobs' work. The first is his fairly consistent use of a characteristic form or plan. He used two masses; a front or "main" block and a lower and narrower "kitchen" block in the rear. The rear wing can be of one or two stories. This two-block plan is an old one. This more "colonial" massing might come from Jacobs' training in Philadelphia and knowledge of east coast architecture. Jacobs usually uses a gable front and wing plan for his main block giving the façade the interest and variety that is part of Victorian taste.

Other characteristics of the Jacobs' design appear in the architectural details of the Stauer House. The second and most distinctive characteristic that identifies the Peter Stauer house and potentially identifies other houses as his work is his use of voussours over segmental arched windows in five alternating light and dark panels. They look like rays of light streaming up from the windows. When Jacobs did not use this device he employed a surround lintel.

Illustration 1. Peter Stauer House Upper Gable and Window Detail



A third identifying characteristic is his use of stringcourses and water tables. There are usually two or more stringcourses on each house often including a frieze of bricks set with a corner protruding or other sculptural device near the top of the upper windows. The Stauer House has

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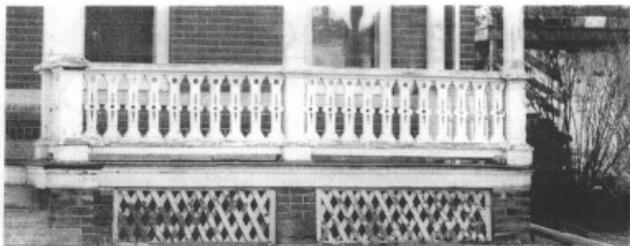
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solid stringcourses beneath the windows on each floor, a water table at the top of the foundation, and a patterned brick stringcourse near the top of the second floor windows.

A fourth characteristic is Jacobs' important gable compositions with a major window or pair of windows as a focal point. For Jacobs, the gable was not a place to put an ordinary little window, but an important part of the façade. Each of his extant houses has significant windows in the gable ends. On the Stauer House the paired gable windows are large and emphasized with a stone pointed cornice and stone sill uniting them. The street façade and a second gable on the southwest façade are treated identically. The northwest façade gable has a lunette window.

Other characteristics of Jacobs' work are the use of large but widely spaced brackets supporting the eaves, heavy details in his porch brackets and supports, and the use of distinctive porch railing supports or balusters made of sawn flat wood in jigsaw designs. These are different for each house.

Illustration 2. The Peter Stauer House, porch railing detail.



Comparable Houses In And Near McGregor, Iowa

There are a number of houses that have similar stylistic characteristics to the Peter Stauer house in and around McGregor and they are probably the work of Elias W. H. Jacobs as well. Brick houses in McGregor include the old Congregational Parsonage at 421 Main Street, 622 Main Street, and a double house at 612 Main Street. One wood-frame house designed by him is the Dr. Clark House⁸ at 631 Main Street. Jacobs' own house on C. Street at 4th Street is not extant.⁹ Two other comparable brick examples are located in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, just across the Mississippi River, at 203 S. Wacouta Avenue, and 303 S. Wacouta Avenue. In

⁸ Elizabeth Moe, long time McGregorite, identified the house at 707 as that of the late Dr. Clark.

⁹ *North Iowa Times*, February 21, 1957.

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addition to houses, Jacobs designed the First Methodist Church in McGregor, an important Italianate-style church, and commercial buildings in the business district.¹⁰ Two known to be designed by him are the Masonic Block and the First State Savings Bank. These are two of only a few three-story buildings in town.

421 Main Street

This house was the Congregational Church Parsonage.¹¹ It is quite different in appearance from the Stauer House until you look closely at the details. On the side facades (SW and NE), there are voussiors as above the windows on the Stauer House. Stringcourses run beneath windows on each floor and the stringcourse or frieze of bricks set at an angle is there too. The house has gable front and wing massing as does the Stauer House and the same configuration of a front block and a smaller, rear block. The rear block here has only one story, and we know that the original back wing of the Stauer House had only one story. The porch railing supports consists of slats cut in a design with a jigsaw similar to the Stauer House. The two gable windows on the front are emphasized and different from each other, and brackets are few, but large ones support the roof at corners.

Illustration 3. 421 Main Street



¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Elizabeth Moe

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Peter Stauer House
Clayton County, Iowa

622 Main Street

This is a less noticeable house across the street from the Stauer House. It has a configuration more like 303 S. Wacouta Street noted below. It has the gable front and wing plan similar to Jacobs' designs; however. There is a low-hipped roof instead of a gable. The segmental arched windows have a shallow brick surround with three contrasting keystones. There are no stringcourses beneath the windows, but near the top of the windows is a row of bricks with a header every 18 to 24 inches that is recessed, giving a subtle look of a frieze. The porch has lost its original supports and railing.

Illustration 4. 622 Main Street



612 Main Street

This is a double house with two front gables and a recessed entrance between them. The porch is a later addition, probably about 1900. This house has brackets at the corners of the roof. The window cornices are flat with drops on each side and match those on the house at 421 Main. There is an interesting gable decoration and a lower rear wing for each side of the house.

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Peter Stauer House
Clayton County, Iowa

Illustration 5. 612 Main Street



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203 S. Wacouta Avenue, Prairie Du Chine, Wisconsin

Of all of the houses that are possible designs by Jacobs, this one seems the closest to the design of the Stauer House and must date to the early 1880's as well. It is constructed in cream-colored brick with a different porch design and a different gable window type, but there are voussoirs over the windows that match the Stauer House. They are harder to see because there is so little contrast between the light brick and the stone. It has the same large but infrequent brackets, the stringcourses of colored stone or brick and the same form with a main block with a smaller "kitchen" wing.

Illustrations 6. 203 S. Wacouta Avenue



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303 S. Wacouta Avenue

This house lacks roof brackets and most of its porch detailing, but it has the main block and lower rear wing configuration Jacobs liked for his houses. The Italianate characteristics of this house suggest it dates to the 1870's. Jacobs moved to McGregor in 1862. The roof seems low in pitch and very close to the top of the second floor windows. Maybe it is a replacement roof. This house is close in form to 703 Main Street in McGregor that has a similar low-hipped roof. Its segmental arched brick window cornices extend up into the roof cornice. It is unlikely that the porch supports are not original.

Illustration 7. 303 S. Wacouta Avenue



Biographical Information: Elias White Hale Jacobs, Architect

Elias White Hale Jacobs was born in Huntington County Pennsylvania in August 21, 1829. His father was of English and Scotch descent, was a carpenter and joiner and a farmer. His mother was of German Descent. Mr. Jacobs grew up on a farm and learned the trade of carpenter, but at 19 years of age he studied medicine with Dr. Rodregue of Blair County PA. Leaving this, he studied architecture, a profession he followed from then on. He left Pennsylvania in 1851 and moved to Muscatine, Iowa, where he worked for the government. He moved to Clayton County where he had friends and lived in several towns in the county. He moved to McGregor in 1862.¹² He placed advertisements in the *Iowa State Gazetteers* from 1880-1892¹³.

¹²*History of Clayton County, Iowa*, Chicago: Inter-state Publishing Company, 1882, P. 988.

¹³ Schroder, Alan M., Comp. *Directory of 19th Century Iowa Architects*. Iowa City, Iowa State Historical Department, 1982, p. 27.

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Jacobs' activities were recorded from time to time in the *North Iowa Times*, the McGregor, Iowa newspaper. These mentions give us a partial list of his buildings. The following list is a work in progress:

Civic and Commercial Buildings

McGregor School
School in Lake City, Iowa¹⁴
First Methodist Church, McGregor¹⁵
Masonic Hall, McGregor
First State Savings Bank, McGregor
Clayton County Jail, Elkader, Iowa

Houses in the McGregor area

The Jacobs House at 4th Street and C. Avenue
The Peter Stauer House at 629 Main Street
The Dr. Clark House at 631 Main Street
Melvin Davis House in country near Monona, Iowa¹⁶

Potential Jacobs' designs in the McGregor Area

Double House at 612 Main Street
Old Congregational Parsonage at 421 Main Street
House at 622 Main Street
House at 203 Wacoutta Ave., Prairie Du Chine, Wisconsin
House at 303 Wacoutta Ave., Prairie Du Chine, Wisconsin

Biographical Information: Peter Stauer, First Owner

Peter Stauer was a lumber merchant in McGregor, owning a Lumber Mill across the street from his house with his partner V. Daubenberger.¹⁷ Stauer was born in Prussia in 1824.¹⁸ He was educated in Germany and immigrated to the United States in June of 1851. He went immediately to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where his brother was living. He drifted around until 1858 when he joined the Gold Rush to California. After returning to McGregor he began his business in 1862. His first partner was named Schillinger, but V. Daubenberger replaced Schillinger by 1865. Another partner, O. H. Leefield was soon added. The mill was moved to Prairie De Chine

¹⁴ *North Iowa Times*, July 17, 1880.

¹⁵ *North Iowa Times*, February 21, 1957.

¹⁶ *North Iowa Times*, August 26, 1880.

¹⁷ McGregor, Iowa, Fire Insurance Maps, 1886 & 1894.

¹⁸ *North Iowa Times*, November 19, 1903, Obituary.

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Peter Stauer House
Clayton County, Iowa

Jacobs' activities were recorded from time to time in the *North Iowa Times*, the McGregor, Iowa newspaper. These mentions give us a partial list of his buildings. The following list is a work in progress:

Civic and Commercial Buildings

McGregor School
School in Lake City, Iowa¹⁴
First Methodist Church, McGregor¹⁵
Masonic Hall, McGregor
First State Savings Bank, McGregor
Clayton County Jail, Elkader, Iowa

Houses in the McGregor area

The Jacobs House at 4th Street and C. Avenue
The Peter Stauer House at 629 Main Street
The Dr. Clark House at 631 Main Street
Melvin Davis House in country near Monona, Iowa¹⁶

Potential Jacobs' designs in the McGregor Area

Double House at 612 Main Street
Old Congregational Parsonage at 421 Main Street
House at 622 Main Street
House at 203 Wacoutta Ave., Prairie Du Chine, Wisconsin
House at 303 Wacoutta Ave., Prairie Du Chine, Wisconsin

Biographical Information: Peter Stauer, First Owner

Peter Stauer was a lumber merchant in McGregor, owning a Lumber Mill across the street from his house with his partner V. Daubenberger.¹⁷ Stauer was born in Prussia in 1824.¹⁸ He was educated in Germany and immigrated to the United States in June of 1851. He went immediately to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where his brother was living. He drifted around until 1858 when he joined the Gold Rush to California. After returning to McGregor he began his business in 1862. His first partner was named Schillinger, but V. Daubenberger replaced Schillinger by 1865. Another partner, O. H. Leefield was soon added. The mill was moved to Prairie De Chine

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¹⁷ McGregor, Iowa, Fire Insurance Maps, 1886 & 1894.

¹⁸ *North Iowa Times*, November 19, 1903, Obituary.

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Peter Stauer House
Clayton County, Iowa

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Two Undated Historic Photographs Of The Peter Stauer House



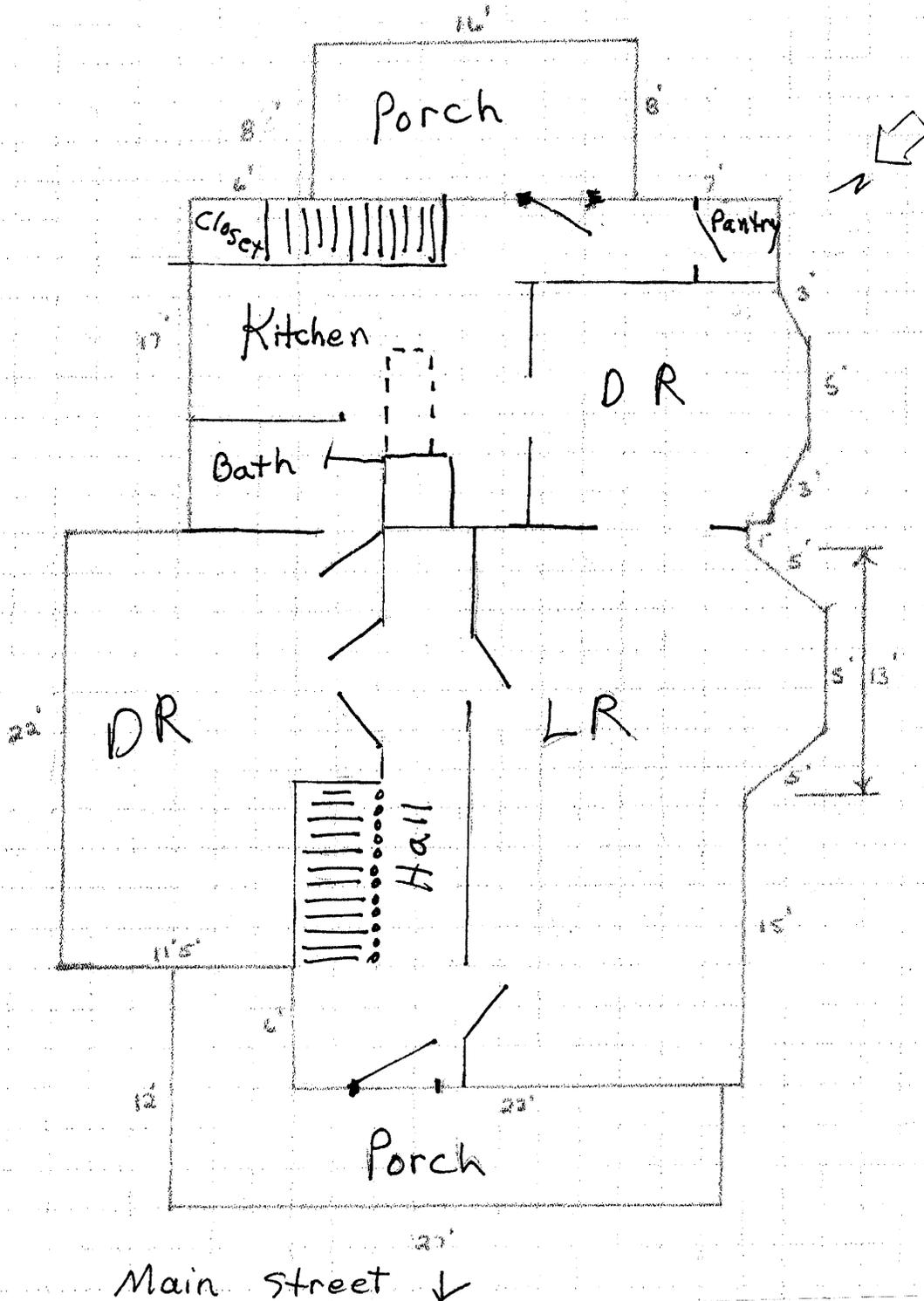
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Peter Stauer House
Clayton County, Iowa

Sketch Plan First Floor, Drawn In December 2002



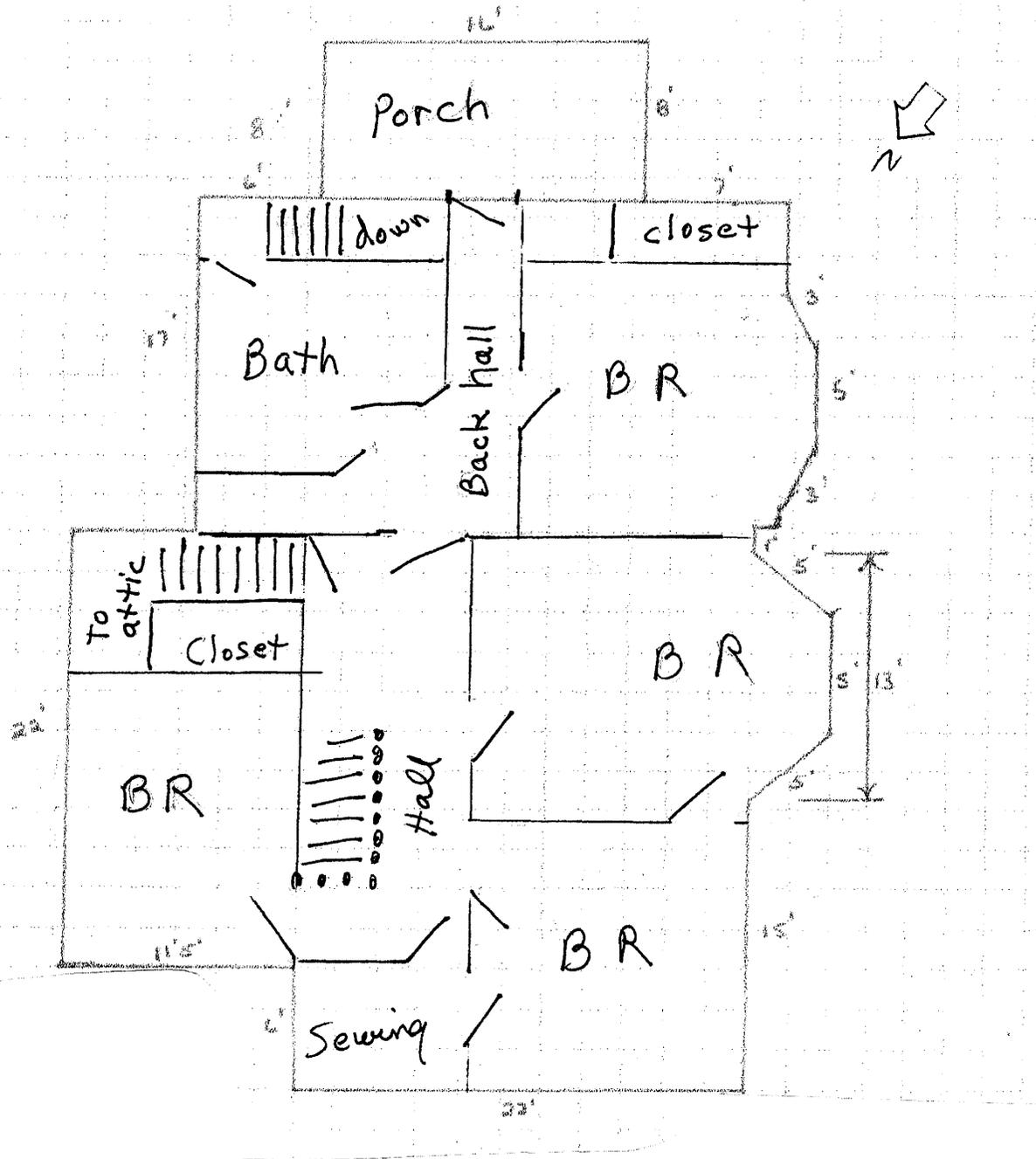
United States Department of the Interior
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Peter Stauer House
Clayton County, Iowa

Sketch Plan Second Floor, Drawn In December 2002



Main Street ↓

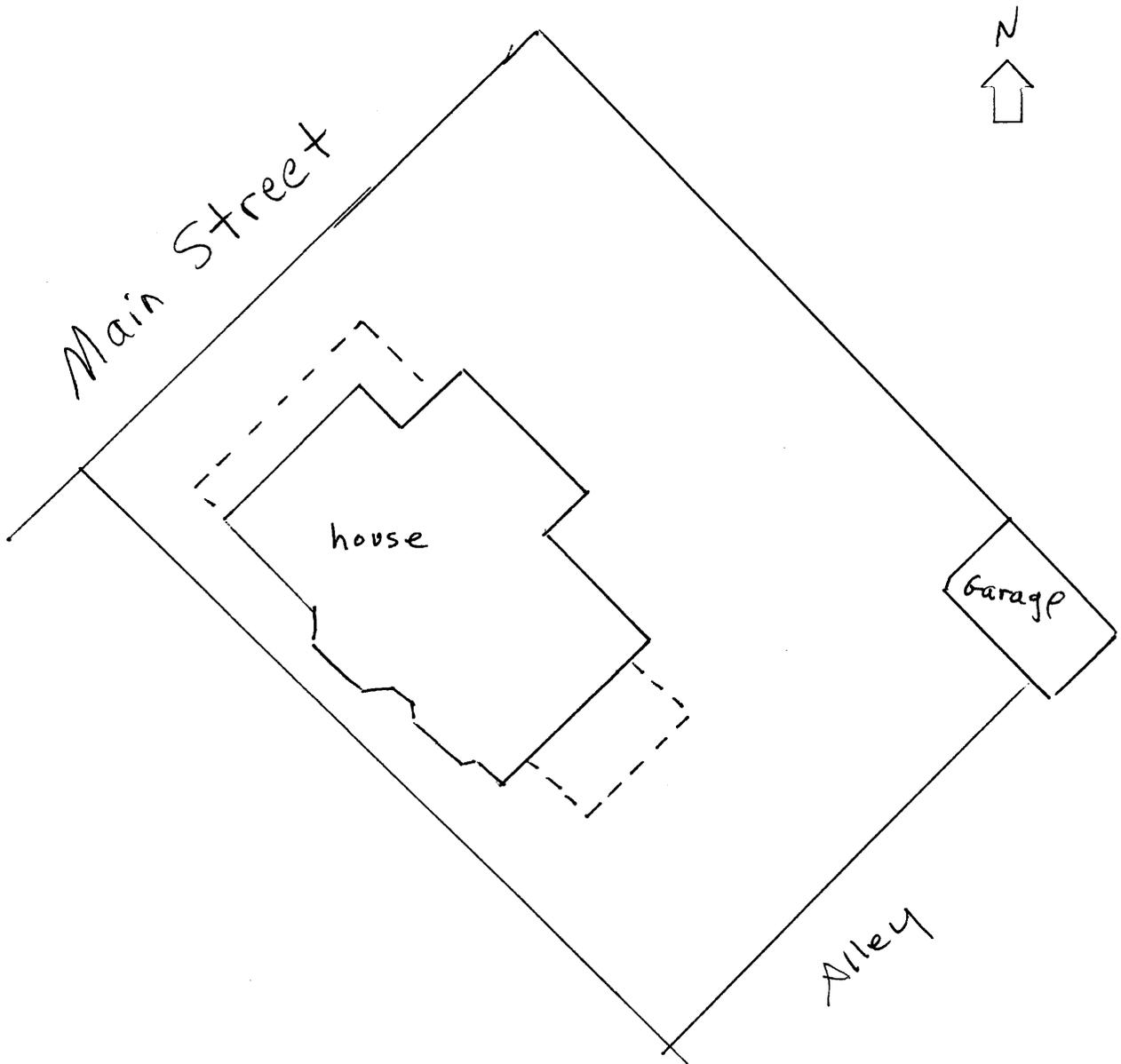
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Peter Stauer House
Clayton County, Iowa

Site Plan Sketch Map, Drawn In February 2003



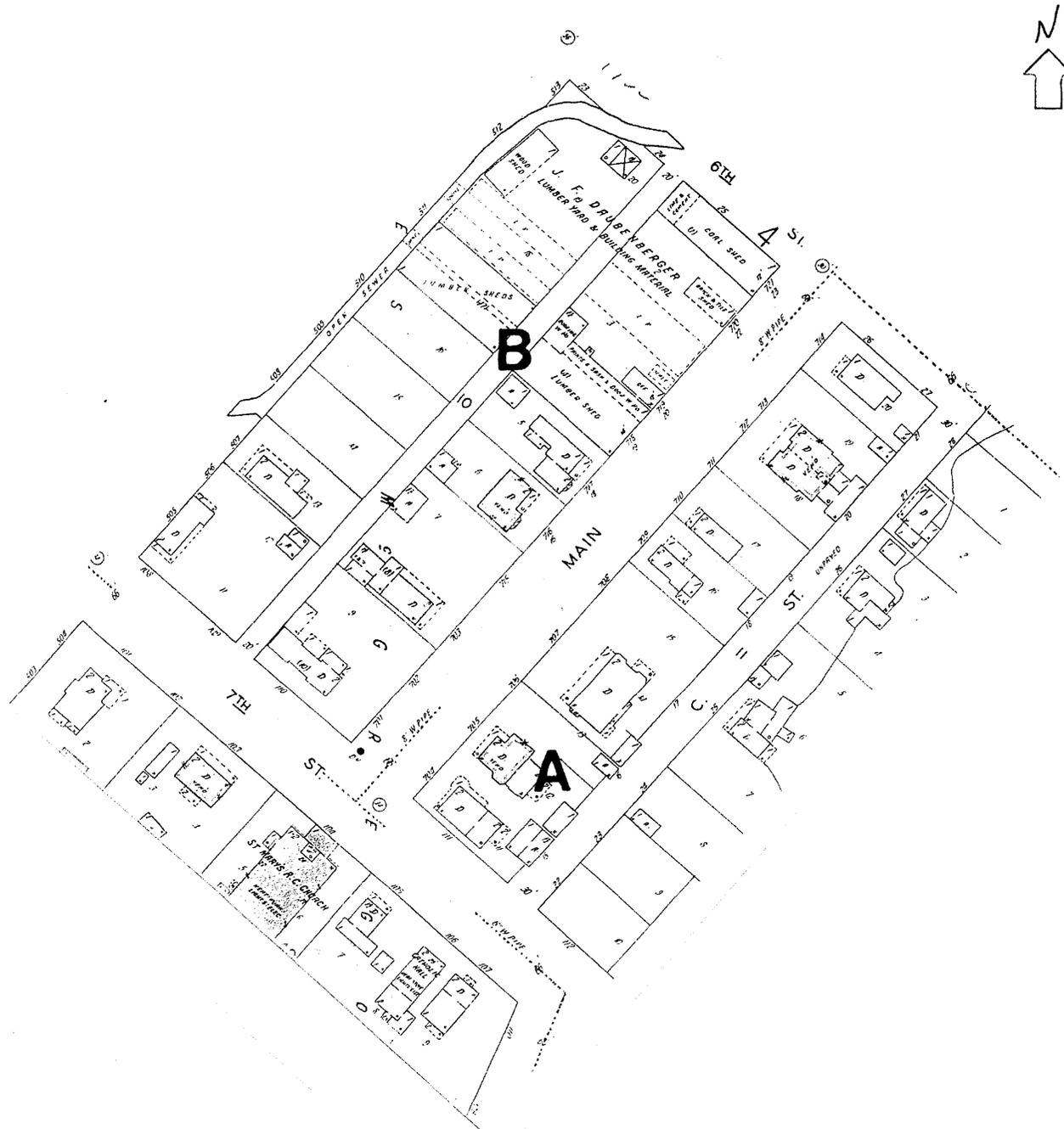
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Peter Stauer House
Clayton County, Iowa

Plat Map, Detail from the 1930+ Fire Insurance Map of McGregor
House indicated by "A"; Former Stauer and Daubenberger Lumberyard indicated by "B"



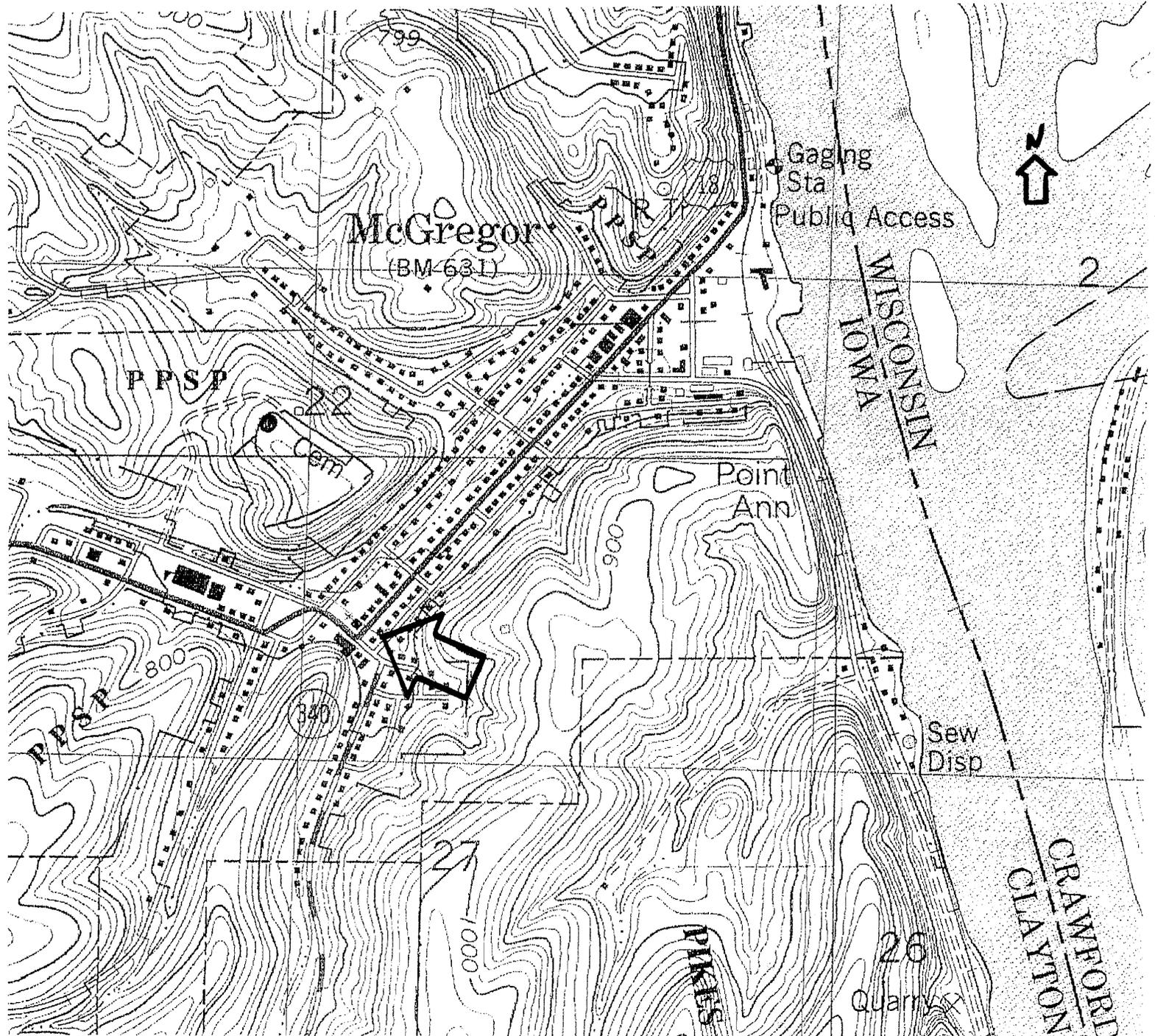
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Peter Stauer House
Clayton County, Iowa

Town Map of McGregor
Current USGS Map, Detail With The Peter Stauer House Indicated By An Arrow



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Peter Stauer House
Clayton County, Iowa

SOURCES

Fire Insurance Maps, McGregor, Iowa, 1887, 1894, 1905, 1914, 1930, 1930+.

Clayton County Property Transfer Records.

History of Clayton County, Iowa, Chicago: Inter-state Publishing Company, 1882.

Interviews: Elizabeth Moe, resident in McGregor since childhood, November, 2002.
Robert Staples, life-time resident of McGregor, September 2002 through
January, 2003.

Iowa State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1880.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide To American Houses*. New York: Knopf, 1990.

North Iowa Times, McGregor Iowa, 1880-1890.

Plat of Clayton County, Iowa. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Warner & Foote, 1886.

Ramage Family Archives, Property of Wm. Staples, McGregor, Iowa.

Schroder, Alan M., Comp. *Directory of 19th Century Iowa Architects*. Iowa City, Iowa State
Historical Department, 1982.

Shank, Wesley I. *Iowa's Historic Architects, A Biographical Dictionary*. Iowa City: University of
Iowa Press, 1888.

Standard Atlas of Clayton County, Iowa. Chicago: Geo. A. Ogle & Company, 1902.

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Peter Stauer House
Clayton County, Iowa

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundary is described as Lot 12, SW 1/2 lot 13, Block 11 in the James McGregor Jr. Addition of the town of McGregor, Iowa.

Verbal Justification

This boundary encloses the historic property upon which the house was constructed.

PHOTOGRAPHS

All Photographs have the following information in common.

Location:

Peter Stauer House
629 Main Street
McGregor, Clayton County, Iowa

Photographer: Patricia Eckhardt

Date: September, 2002

Film – 35mm, Kodak 5053 TMY

Negative: Robert Staples, owner, McGregor, Iowa

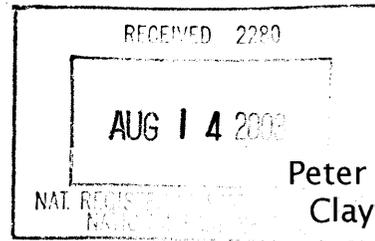
Photos - -Looking toward subject:

1. Front (NW) façade looking SE
2. Façade and NE side looking E
3. Detail NW and SW façades looking E
4. NW façade looking SW
5. NE and SE facades looking W
6. SE and SW facades looking N
7. Detail upper NW façade looking SE
8. Detail, SW side where front block joins rear block looking E
9. Detail, upper bay on SW side looking NE
10. Front Stair Hall, looking SE
11. Upstairs hall looking toward rear wing looking SE
12. Interior from front parlor looking into back parlor and dining room, looking SE

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Peter Stauer House
Clayton County, Iowa

in 1873, but the lumberyard remained in McGregor.¹⁹ The lumberyard appears on all of the Fire Insurance Maps of McGregor across the street and toward the northwest end of Block 10, taking up almost one-half block.

Biographical Information: J. A. Ramage, Second Owner

The Ramages purchased the property from Stauer in 1902.²⁰ Ramage, born in 1875, was a native of McGregor. He graduated from high school in McGregor and attended the University of Wisconsin from 1892 to 1894 and Spencierian Business College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from 1894 to 1895. After some traveling he came back to McGregor and worked first for Samuel J. Peterson, a druggist and his father's partner. He worked as cashier at the State Bank of McGregor from 1903-1933, and for the First State Savings Bank in McGregor for the next three years. He then entered into a very successful real estate business. The Stauer house, subsequently known as the Ramage House, was owned by the Ramage family until 2002 when it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Staples of McGregor, Iowa.

¹⁹ *History of Clayton County, Iowa*, 1882, p. 1002-1002.

²⁰ Notes compiled from the north Iowa times and other documents by Robert Staples, present owner.