

823



United States Department of 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 Kegel's Inn  
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number	5901-5905 W. National Avenue	N/A	not for publication
city or town	West Allis	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Milwaukee	code 079
			zip code 53214

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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

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 commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Kegel's Inn

Milwaukee

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

**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.☐ See continuation sheet.☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall

10-12-10

for

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**5. Classification****Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as  
as apply)☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ structure  
☐ site  
☐ object**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources  
in the count)

contributing	noncontributing
2	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
2	0 total

**Name of related multiple property listing:**

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources****is previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Tudor Revival**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation concrete

walls limestone, brick

roof slate

other wood

**Narrative Description**

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

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

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**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

Kegel's Inn is located in a commercial area near the City of West Allis's historic Six Points neighborhood, at the northeast edge of the city. Specifically, it is located at the southwest corner of W. National Avenue and S. 59<sup>th</sup> Street. Circa 1920s-era, commercial structures generally surround the bar/restaurant; however, a paved parking lot, which serves the business, is adjacent to the west. The lot upon which the structure sits includes a contributing, 1926 three-car garage to the rear (south) and a modern wooden fence runs from the garage to the bar/restaurant and separates it from the adjacent parking lot. A concrete sidewalk and terrace abuts the curblin along both W. National Avenue and S. 59<sup>th</sup> Street. A single street light is located within the concrete terrace, as is a single, small tree.

**PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:**

**Restaurant/Bar (Contributing, (1925), 1933, 1934):**

This essentially two-story, Tudor Revival style structure is constructed of hollow tile that is faced with Lannon stone along three of its four elevations. The building sits on a concrete foundation. The southernmost, gabled section of the structure rises three stories and its upper story is faced with a false half-timber and an alternating patterned-brick finish. Cast stone trims both the doorways and windows, as well as serves as the material for the parapet coping. Although the slate-shingled roof appears to be hipped from both W. National Avenue and S. 59<sup>th</sup> Street, it is actually largely flat with a very slight slope. The original building on the site was constructed in 1925. The current size and appearance dates from a substantial construction project in 1933.

The building's primary entrance is located at its angled, northeast corner which is fronted by two concrete steps with no railing. The Tudor-arched opening features a wood-and-glass storm door that is set within a limestone trimmed opening; the interior wooden panel-and-glass door features a stained-glass design that includes the words "HAIL FRIEND." A stepped and raised, cast stone label mold delineates the top of the doorway; the corners are inscribed with a foliated design, while the central, rectangular panel above the door features a bunch of grapes with leaves. A copper lantern fixture is located immediately above the doorway. A slightly projecting, square bay window completes the upper level and features a pair of leaded-glass casement windows set within a wooden surround. The roof of the building extends beyond the eave to create a hood for the bay window.

The W. National Avenue elevation is largely symmetrical in its arrangement and a gabled, parapeted small cross gable with a narrow slit opening identifies its center. Beneath the wall dormer is a tripartite grouping of multiple-light sash windows that is set within a limestone surround and topped with a

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

raised label mold. An identical grouping of three windows is located to either side of the central example; however, they lack the aforementioned label mold. The first floor includes two doorways; one at the center and another at the elevation's westernmost end. Regarding the former, the wood-and-glass door is set within a stone surround similar to the primary corner entry; however, it is slightly less ornate. The carved ornament immediately above the doorway and at the corners is a foliated design. A four-part, rectangular window is located to either side of the central entrance; however, the fourth section of the west window incorporates the elevation's second doorway (and access to the upper level). Each window opening is set within a wooden surround of which the vertical members are trimmed with spindled wooden trim. The individual windows themselves are divided into an upper and lower section with the entire window exhibiting leaded and stained glass that can be seen more clearly from the interior (and are included in the interior description). A historic-period, neon sign extends from the building's W. National Avenue elevation; it is located at the easternmost end of the north wall and reads "Kegel's Inn, Fine Dining." The sign extends from the building within ornamental ironwork and the sign itself is neon. A smaller sign was previously located above the elevation's center entrance and read "RESTAURANT."

The longer of the two primary elevations faces S. 59<sup>th</sup> Street and is also faced with Lannon stone. Like the W. National Avenue façade, a gabled and parapeted gable is located along the roofline at the approximate center of the two-story portion of the elevation. Beneath the gable is a pair of sash windows with a stone sill and stone label mold, while a rectangular doorway is located along the first floor. A pair of concrete steps and a short ironwork railing front this entrance, which is also topped with a stone label mold. Immediately above the doorway is a sign that reads, "Tap & Dining Room." North (right) of this doorway are two, single and square, leaded and stained-glass windows; the left example is topped with a raised label mold, while the right example has a smooth stone header. Located furthest north along the first floor of the S. 59<sup>th</sup> Street elevation is a tripartite, leaded and stained-glass window grouping like the four-part windows found along W. National Avenue. The remaining space north of the central doorway and along the second floor consists of four sash windows; the northern two of which are paired, while the remaining two are single examples. All are set within a limestone surround.

Progressing south of the central doorway and along the S. 59<sup>th</sup> Street elevation, the remainder of the first floor includes a tripartite grouping of leaded casements, a paired grouping of sash openings, as well as a single sash window (all of which are set within a smooth stone surround). A round-arched, wooden doorway is located at the furthest south end. Again, moving south from the center, the second floor includes a slightly projecting rectangular bay that features a recently installed Kegel's sign along its lower edge and a series of four sash windows above. The bay features wooden bracket trim beneath and the plane of the roof extends beyond the eave to create a roof over the bay. Two groupings of three



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 3

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

windows each complete the second level, with the northern grouping featuring leaded casements set within a false half-timber and brick finish. The third story of this elevation is also sheathed with a brick and half-timber finish and carries a pair of sash windows. The third floor was added in 1934.

The rear (south elevation) is slightly shielded from S. 59<sup>th</sup> Street by a modest wing wall. The first floor includes (from right to left) a rectangular entry; a pair of sash windows; as well as two single, double-hung sashes. Located between the first and second levels is a two-part, diamond-patterned, leaded window set within a wooden surround, while the full second floor includes two paired sash examples, as well as a two-sided bay projection with diamond-patterned, leaded glass casements. Topping the third story is a pair of gabled wall dormers, each of which carries a pair of sash windows. The opposite side of the third level includes a small roof dormer.

The parking lot elevation is faced with Fiber Cement stucco panels and faux wood siding to give the appearance of stucco and false half-timbering. The first floor includes four window openings; the two smaller windows at the north end feature a leaded, diamond pattern, while the largest window features multiple lights with wooden muntins. The southernmost window is a one-over-one sash example. Immediately above this southern window and on the second floor is a grouping of four, leaded glass casements; the remaining five windows of that level are one-over-one, double-hung sash examples. Finally, the third floor carries a pair of double-hung sash. A large mural is located at the building's northernmost end and is a replica of one of the interior murals located in the bar. The dancers that are found in the central portion are replicas of the dancers that are painted in the former dance section of the interior. Exterior paintings were done by Brian Keene of Milwaukee.<sup>1</sup>

Aside from some window replacements, alterations to the exterior are limited to the parking lot elevation and the application of the Fiber Cement stucco and false half-timber siding, which was completed in early 2009. Prior to the improvement, the exterior wall was comprised of common brick. All original openings were maintained during the façade alterations and a large sign advertising Kegel's has long been located at the north end of this wall. Indeed, a historic, pre-1952 photograph identifies that the north signage previously read, "DINE, DANCE, Kegel's Inn, Steak, Chicken, Noon and Evening Dinner Specials, 7-Course Dinner on Sundays."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Jim Kegel, Conversation with Traci E. Schnell, August 2009. Notes on file at Heritage Research, Ltd., Menomonee Falls, WI.

<sup>2</sup> Permit for alteration, 5901 W. National Avenue, 31 October 2008. This permit and all to follow are on file at the West Allis Department of Building Inspection, West Allis City Hall, West Allis, WI; Historic photo of Kegel's, pre-1952, on file under Photos: Business, West Allis Historical Society (hereafter cited as WAHS), West Allis, WI.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 4

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

In general, the interior of the first floor includes the bar area (the bar itself was manufactured by Wagner & Boek of Milwaukee), dining areas, the kitchen, a men's and women's restroom, as well as an office. The dining furniture is also original to 1933 or was matched thereafter, as needed. A wooden-beamed ceiling is located throughout the bar and dining areas and wooden wainscoting covers much of the walls. The floors are also wooden and radiators are encased in wooden spindled covers. A short wall with mirror glass above separates the bar from the dining area to the south along the east half of the structure, while a taller wall separates the dining area from the kitchen/serving area. While partitions have long been in existence in those two locations, the current partitions were crafted by Jim Kegel himself just four years ago. Two photos are semi-permanently fixed in the upper portion—one of founder John Kegel standing behind his bar shortly after the 1933 opening (See photo #8 of 9) and another of John and Anna, along with their two eldest children, Anthony and John. An additional partition was added to delineate the small waitress station just south of the bar. While the fixtures in the bar area were replaced in the 1940s, the remainder of the fixtures date to the 1930s. Most of the original fixtures are hanging lantern types and are comprised of iron and amber glass. Within the lower ironwork section are small quatrefoil cutouts and male figures with a beer in hand rise from the top of the ironwork section of some of the fixtures (See photo #5 of 9). Finally, and perhaps most importantly, murals by German-born painter Peter Gries cover much of the first-floor interior above the wainscoting. The following is a room-by-room description of the murals; the images in the stained and leaded-glass windows will also be discussed.<sup>3</sup>

The bar area, which has been the location of a bar since 1925, is dominated by stained and leaded-glass windows to the north and east. Beginning with the north window, images include (from left to right): a man with a barrel; a man sitting at a table with a goblet; a man with a beer glass; and a man filling up a pitcher with beer from a keg. The window to the east includes (from left to right): a man appearing to bend a street light; a man with a beer barrel; and a man leaning against a street light (See photo #4 of 9). The actual glass of the two windows features hues of pinks, purples, greens and yellow.

The murals in this space are generally of whimsy and humor and three different "scenes" are located above the door. A gnome-like figure stands with a clock and an owl next to him and it reads "Feierabend"(which translates to "closing time"); the central image is the depiction of the moon with a tankard of beer; while the final image is of a monkey with a lantern leading four men and it reads, "Good Night! Pleasant Dreams Come Again."

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<sup>3</sup> Kegel, Conversation with Schnell; Historic photo of bar area of Kegel's Inn, ca. 1933, in the private collection of the Kegel family (and on display in the bar area), West Allis, WI.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 5

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

The small area above the back bar and along the west wall of the bar area includes five different "scenes," from left to right (south to north): A monkey drinking from a Schlitz-labeled tankard next to which it reads, "Von Alten Grat'en in der Welt"; the saying "Courtesy, the rule of this house, will be extended to everyone"; the saying "Wilkommen wer Freund ist; blieb' draussen wer Fiend ist" (rough translation: "Welcome those who are friends, but those who aren't, should remain outside"); a scene of three cherubic kids with a club soda bottle and they are firing the soda at a cat; and the same large scene located on the outside west wall, that of a cherub-like figure with a stein and the words "Hopfen & Malz, Gott Erhalts," (translation: "May God protect malt & hops").

Completing the bar area, the wall space south of the window and above the wainscoting includes a waiter and the words, "Bier oder Wein Die Wahl is Dein, Mir ist's egal-Zahl" (rough translation: "beer or wine, the choice, as well as number, is yours, it doesn't matter to me"). A pair of rectangular, stained and leaded-glass windows, each featuring a single, medieval male figure, is separated by a final mural—this one depicting two younger males sitting on barrels and drinking in what is presumably a vineyard. Adjacent to the men is a peacock, which is a Christian symbol of immortality.

Still along the east side of the building, the dining area south of the partition features an image of a king and a queen above the doorway along S. 59<sup>th</sup> Street. A cigar box is located adjacent to the king who holds a tankard, while the female holds a glass in her hand. Moving south along the east wall, the next mural depicts a guard guiding a gentleman (who appears to be inebriated) up a set of stairs. A wooden partition separates the south end of this dining area from a narrow serving area and the entrance to the kitchen. However, paintings above the wainscoting and along the wall shared with the kitchen include different animals (foods), such as a rabbit, duck, pig, geese, as well as a knife.

Two flattened Tudor-arched openings separate the east half of the building from the west. The narrow space of the south arch includes a goat along with a beer (identified as Bock), while the next arch includes grapes. Finally, the small space at the base of the north arch which "connects" back to the bar area, features three monkeys playing cards with a bird (perhaps an owl) overhead. Two of the monkeys are cheating with each other and passing cards beneath the table (See photo #6 of 9).

The west half of the building is divided into three spaces; however, it is all currently used for dining. The tripartite, leaded and stained-glass window set along the north wall includes (from left to right): a man seated and eating with a beer in hand and a pig on a plate; a man walking with bread flying off the plate he is carrying; and a man at a table with wine in hand. A door (that is not used) is located between the window and the east wall. The window portion of the doorway includes a man rolling a beer barrel, while the side window depicts what appears to be a man with a tureen of soup.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 6

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

The wall space above the door includes two "scenes"; the one at the left features monkeys, with the words, "Trink' dein glas heute' ohne sorgen" (translation: "drink your glass today without worry"), while the area to the right features a black cat with his back arched (symbol of a hangover) and the words "Denn der kater kamt erst morgen" (translation: "the hangover doesn't come until the next day"). Along the east wall (separating this area from the bar area to the east) and above the wainscoting includes a hunting scene with pheasants, which is signed by P. Gries. To the right (further south) is a larger scene that includes a hunting party with dogs attacking a boar. Separating the two hunting scenes is a painting of what appears to be a lute and a flute. Across this front dining space area and along the west wall are five sections of paintings, the southernmost of which is a pastoral scene, which is reportedly the last painting done by Gries, who completed it in just two days—he was seventy-three years old at the time (ca. 1942). The remaining four (from left to right) are: musical instruments; a hunting party after deer; tankards and casks; and a winter scene with boars. The men's restroom is located along the opposite side of this wall and beneath the staircase to the second floor.<sup>4</sup>

The general theme of the mid-section dining area is of music and dancing, for between 1933 and 1952, this was the location of the bands that played, as well as the dancing. Two small casement windows with a leaded, diamond-paned pattern occupy the west wall of this room, in between which shows a band playing and people sitting either on or around beer barrels and drinking. Also along this wall hang two framed paintings: one is of founder John Kegel, while second is of his son John A. Kegel. At the center and above the archway that separates this space from the east dining area are depictions of men and women dancing. To the right are a variety of musical instruments, while to the far left a mural depicts a gentleman getting out of bed with a black cat on his head (a hangover), next to which it reads, "Oha! Sprach Noah." Finally, the archway that separates the mid-section dining area from the rearmost dining area also features dancers—this group is in a line holding hands with the person in front of them.

The rearmost dining area includes a large, multiple-light window with wooden muntins which dominates the east wall. At the southeast half of this space are a pair of French doors that open to a small hallway that leads to the women's bathroom (to the south), the kitchen (to the east) and to the business office (to the west). Above the door, a painted message reads, "Gruss Gott, tritt ein Bring Gluck herrin." Painting in this area is more decorative in nature and includes "column-like" divisions, as well as ribbons, flowers and swag detailing, as well as sausage, steins and bottles, and fruit. The ceiling of this space is not beamed and includes paintings of musical instruments.

<sup>4</sup> "Kegel's Inn," Tour script prepared by Hugh Swofford for Historic Milwaukee's Spaces & Traces tour in West Allis, May 2002. Tour research directed by HMI research chair Traci E. Schnell. Copy of script in possession of Historic Milwaukee, Inc., 828 N. Broadway, Milwaukee, WI.



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 7

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

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The second floor includes five apartments including two, two-bedroom units; two, one-bedroom units and a single efficiency apartment. Because of the alterations done in 1942<sup>5</sup>, little detailing remains in the second-floor apartments. The third floor includes a one-bedroom apartment; again, no notable original detailing remains. While the apartments were remodeled, the overall integrity of Kegel's Inn is very good. The major spaces of the restaurant are intact, as is the decorative work, and the exterior (with the exception of the parking lot façade) has had very few alterations.

**Garage (Contributing, 1926):**

Behind the bar/restaurant to the south is a three-car, hipped-roof, brick garage built in 1926.<sup>6</sup> The structure's east elevation carries three, modern overhead garage doors, while the south wall is devoid of fenestration. A series of three, boarded-over windows run across the rear (west) wall, which is painted white and the north elevation carries a wooden pedestrian door and a single sash opening.

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<sup>5</sup> Permit for alteration, 5901 W. National Avenue, 19 June 1942.

<sup>6</sup> Permit for three-car garage, 5901 W. National Avenue, 15 October 1926. While the garage predates the current appearance of the Inn, it has always been associated with the building.

Kegel's Inn  
Name of Property

Milwaukee  
County and State

Wisconsin

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the 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.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

### Period of Significance

1933-1942

### Significant Dates

1933, 1934, 1942

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Pfaller, Mark F. (architect)  
Gries, Peter (artist/painter)

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 1

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

Kegel's Inn is nominated to the National Register under Criterion C for local architectural significance. Kegel's Inn is just one of two excellent and intact commercial examples of the Tudor Revival style of architecture in the entire city of West Allis. The building was identified in the recently completed intensive survey of the City of West Allis (2007) as one of the best examples of the Tudor Revival style in the city. Sheathed with local Lannon stone, the structure features common characteristics of the style, including cast stone trim, false half-timber finish with patterned brickwork, and a slate roof. The leaded and stained-glass windows were designed by Milwaukee's Wagner Bros. and are encased in millwork done by the West Allis Millwork firm of the Marks Bros. Not only does the exterior exhibit excellent, local craftsmanship, the interior features a significant number of murals painted between 1933 and 1942 by German-born artist Peter Gries. The period of significance begins in 1933 with the remodeling and expansion of the original building to its current appearance; the third floor of the living quarters was added a year later in 1934. The period ends in 1942 with the completion of the decorative murals that decorate the interior.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The City of West Allis is a Milwaukee suburb situated in western Milwaukee County, directly south of Interstate 94. It is bordered by Milwaukee and Wauwatosa on the north, Milwaukee and West Milwaukee on the east, Milwaukee and Greenfield on the south, and New Berlin and Brookfield to the west. Two small waterways of Honey Creek and the Root River cross the city.

The origins of West Allis are tied directly to the settlement of what would become the City of Milwaukee. Milwaukee emerged in the early 1830s as settlers were drawn to the confluence of the Milwaukee, Menomonee and Kinnickinnic rivers. As the Milwaukee settlement grew, other settlers pushed further into the interior and set up other small, pioneer communities. Within the modern-day boundaries of West Allis, one of these small settlements emerged around 1835 and was called Honey Creek in the Town of Greenfield, which was named for the honey bees living in the fruit trees lining the creek's bank.<sup>7</sup>

The first settlement grew rapidly and by 1845 the first log schoolhouse had thirty-eight pupils. In the early 1850s, the Case steam sawmill began operations. Lumber from the mill was used in the 1860s to build the Mukwonago Plank Road, a toll road laid over the old Indian trail, which is now National Avenue. Where this road crossed two other trails (at the present-day intersection of National and

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<sup>7</sup> Julius H. Burbach, *West Allis: A City of Marvellous (Sic) Growth in a Decade, June 28, 1902-June 28, 1912* (N.p.: 1912), 5.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 2

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

Greenfield avenues with 62<sup>nd</sup> Street) became known as "Old Six Points." Stagecoaches made a mail run three days a week between Milwaukee, Madison and Hazel Green and teams of horses delivered loads of walnut, oak, maple, elm and basswood lumber from the sawmills to Milwaukee. By 1869, the village of Honey Creek included a blacksmith shop, the Case sawmill, a general store, a brick schoolhouse, a cemetery, a Baptist church and numerous farms and homesteads.<sup>8</sup>

The next phase of the settlement began in 1880 when the Chicago & NorthWestern Railroad line from Milwaukee to Madison was built with a stop named "North Greenfield" near the Honey Creek settlement. A similar and parallel line just to the north was laid by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad (the Milwaukee Road). In 1887, brothers Fred W. and Stutley I. Henderson platted Henderson's Subdivision No. 1 near the North Greenfield Depot. In 1891, after a bitter contest, the permanent site for the Wisconsin State Fair was selected on the former site of the Alfred Orendorf claim, which was adjacent to the Milwaukee Road rail line. After a few years, the Milwaukee Motor Railway Company extended a streetcar line to the fairgrounds, followed by the Milwaukee Street Car Company.<sup>9</sup>

Meanwhile, the City of Milwaukee had grown phenomenally as a port and as one of the nation's leading manufacturing centers. Massive shipments of wheat, meat and lumber came through the city by water or rail. The E.P. Allis Reliance Works diversified production of burr millstones, steam engines, saw and flour-mill equipment and other iron and steel products, along with the rise of the Milwaukee Iron Company's iron and steel works sealed Milwaukee's future as a heavy goods center. Milwaukee breweries were among the country's first to bottle beer and ship it to a national market. With an endless supply of immigrant workers, a handful of strong business and civic leaders, and a worldwide market for its products, Milwaukee's potential for industrial growth was limited only by its physical boundaries.<sup>10</sup>

At the turn of the twentieth century, North Greenfield was a thriving business and professional community that was platted but sparsely developed and surrounded by farmland and open countryside.

<sup>8</sup> Winifred Case Knapp, "Random Notes on the Honey Creek Settlement" (Milwaukee: Milwaukee County Historical Society, 1959), from program for dedication of historical plaque marking the site of the Honey Creek settlement; *Map of the County and City of Milwaukee* (Milwaukee: Chapman and Smith, 1869); Leonard A. Szudy, "A Half Century of Public Education in West Allis," In partial fulfillment for Ph.D. in Education from Colorado State College, 1 August 1960, 33-34, On file at the WAHS.

<sup>9</sup> Burbach, *West Allis* (1912), 5, 9 13; Frederick I. Olsen, "City Expansion and Suburban Spread: Settlements and Governments in Milwaukee County," in Ralph M. Aderman, ed., *Trading Post to Metropolis: Milwaukee County's First 150 Years* (Milwaukee: Milwaukee County Historical Society, 1987), 45.

<sup>10</sup> Olsen, "City Expansion and Suburban Spread," 22.



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 3

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

Connected to Milwaukee by streetcar and railroad lines, it was a natural choice for factories wishing to relocate, since it offered reasonable transportation and housing opportunities for workers, as well as room for expansion. Stutley I. Henderson recognized the area's potential for industrial growth and was keenly aware of the E. P. Allis company's desire to expand. Indeed, the Allis firm, headed by Charles Allis, had been offered a number of inducements to move their Clinton Street factory to other Milwaukee-area locations. However, it was Henderson's visit on 25 November 1900 to the home of Charles Allis that initiated the factory's move to what is now West Allis. Although Henderson alone could offer the 100 acres needed by Allis, an option for additional land was needed to facilitate the construction of a spur line between the Milwaukee Road and the Chicago & NorthWestern Railroad. For this, Arthur N. McGeoch, a significant land owner in the vicinity, was approached by Henderson to help seal the deal. As a result of his involvement, the real estate firm known as the Central Improvement Company (CIC) was formed, with McGeoch as one of its officers. Charles Allis ultimately made the decision to open a new plant for his company in North Greenfield and thus began the industrial history of the community.<sup>11</sup>

The origins of the commercial history of West Allis date back to the time of the Honey Creek settlement. This small cluster of buildings initially contained a blacksmith shop, a sawmill and a general store. The development of other commercial areas within early West Allis coincided with the placement of streetcar lines. The first lines ran along W. Greenfield Avenue and S. 70<sup>th</sup> Street. As a result, W. Greenfield Avenue emerged as West Allis' main street. Beginning at Six Points, which was the intersection of W. Greenfield and W. National avenues with S. 62<sup>nd</sup> Street, the commercial character of the street continued westward. Early development was intermittent along this route with the heaviest concentration existing between S. 68<sup>th</sup> and S. 74<sup>th</sup> streets. By 1910, this stretch included 46 commercial structures intermixed with 28 vacant lots. Most of these buildings were two stories tall and of wood-frame construction. By 1927, all of the empty parcels were filled with businesses and the overall length of this commercial strip moved westward to the vicinity of S. 82<sup>nd</sup> Street, as well as connecting with Six Points.<sup>12</sup>

No doubt identifying the possibilities for the largely undeveloped area east of the Six Points intersection, soft drink parlor owner Matthias Leskovar (whose business was located at 55<sup>th</sup> & Burnham) encouraged his friend John T. Kegel to open an establishment of his own. Kegel was born on 4 December 1892 in Austria. As a teen, he moved to Graz, where one of his sisters lived and where he got a job at a harness-making concern. In 1911, at the age of eighteen, Kegel immigrated to the

<sup>11</sup> Burbach, *West Allis* (1912), 19, 21, 23; "McGeoch, Sr., is Dead Here," unidentified newspaper clipping, 18 June 1949. Clipping filed under "M" in the Surname Binder, WAHS.

<sup>12</sup> Sanborn Map Company, *Fire Insurance Map of West Allis, Wis.* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1910; 1927).

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 4

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

United States and made his way to Wisconsin, where he first settled in Milwaukee. He met his wife Anna (nee Bevc, who had immigrated with her family to the United States from Slovenia in 1907) through church activities and they married in 1915 at St. Mary Help of Christians Church in West Allis. In 1918, they moved to present-day 1574 S. 72<sup>nd</sup> Street in West Allis. Between 1911 and 1925, Kegel worked as a trimmer, then a milkman, and eventually as an auto trimmer (working with leather upholstery) at Seaman Auto Body in Milwaukee.<sup>13</sup>

In 1925, Leskovar lent Kegel the money to start the business, which included the funding to construct a building. On 25 May 1925, a permit was taken out to erect a brick-faced, tile-constructed building at the corner of what was then 50<sup>th</sup> & W. National avenues. Estimated to cost \$13,100, the structure, which was described to be one-and-one-half stories, was to include two stores on the first level, with living quarters at the rear. Despite the citation for an upper half-story, there is no evidence of its construction. Kegel applied for his soft drink parlor license on 17 November 1925 (Prohibition began in 1919) and it was issued four days later. Although the actual date of its opening is not known, the parlor was in business at some point in December of that same year. While the soft drink parlor/restaurant was located in the east half of the building and the Kegel family resided at the rear, the initial occupant of the west half was an ice cream parlor run by Frank Puncer. By 1927, however, the west commercial space was occupied by Prosperity Cleaners and Tailors (Peter Yankoff, manager), which remained there until 1933.<sup>14</sup>

Despite having started the soft drink parlor, Kegel maintained his job at Seaman Auto and his wife Anna ran the "bar" during the day. Business was slow at first; however, as word likely spread that bootleg beer was being brewed on the premises and that liquor was "available," business increased. The beer brewing was done in the basement which was accessible through a trap door. In 1927, Kegel advertised the business—identified as "Kegel's Place" in the *West Allis City Directory*. In the ad, the sale of candy and cigars were advertised, along with a "light lunch" that was free. Despite the fact that

<sup>13</sup> "Kegel's Inn," Tour script.

<sup>14</sup> Rose (Kegel) Ulma, Conversation with Hugh Swofford, HMI volunteer, 30 March 2002. Notes recorded in "Kegel's Inn" tour script; Original permit for 5901 W. National Avenue, 25 May 1925. A 1981 article indicates that John A. Kegel has an invitation to the Inn's first anniversary party, dated 25 August 1925. Considering the building permit for the structure at 5901 W. National Avenue was taken out on 25 May 1925, the anniversary date would suggest that Kegel's may have operated at another location prior to the construction of this building. No evidence or information of that could be found and the date on the invitation could not be verified. Also, in support of the 1925 construction date, is that the water hookup, which was only run to the curb as of November 1923, was not extended (to the building) until September 1925. Furthermore, the heating permit is dated 6 October 1925. Margaret LeBrun, "European Flavor Found at Inn," *West Allis Star*, 23 July 1981; West Allis Water Works Application, 5901 W. National Avenue, 13 November 1923, Noted as extended in February 1925.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 5

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

Anna was caught selling liquor in 1927, business "as usual" (including the illegal brewing and sale of beer) continued through 1933. Towards the end of Prohibition, John also got caught and was arrested by a federal agent posing as a customer. Kegel's attorney was able to postpone the case until the repeal of Prohibition and the case was eventually dismissed.<sup>15</sup>

On 20 February 1933, Congress passed the Twenty-First Amendment, which repealed Prohibition/the Volstead Act of 1919. Less than two months later--on April 7<sup>th</sup>--the sale of beer with no more than 3.2% alcohol content was legalized. Undoubtedly not a coincidence--less than two-and-one-half weeks after the legalization of beer and, interestingly, one day before the Wisconsin state convention ratified the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment--John Kegel took out a permit on 24 April 1933, to remodel and enlarge his drinking establishment, which would also include a restaurant. He chose Milwaukee architect Mark F. Pfaller to complete the remodel, which was estimated to cost \$15,000--an amount greater than the cost to build the original structure just eight years earlier. Kegel must have approached Pfaller shortly after the February repeal, for the actual remodel drawings are dated 20 March 1933.<sup>16</sup>

Contractors for the various elements of construction included (but are not limited to) the following: Oliver Werdsma, Wauwatosa (general contractor, carpenter and mason, as well as provider of concrete); Skobis Company (structural steel); Lannon Quarries Corporation (Lannon stone); P. Schmidt & Company (cut stone); Neis & Brechtel (plumbing); Lonn Brothers (heating); Bruss Brothers (sheet metal); John Sterzinger (plaster); Bickler Electric Co. (electrical); Marks Bros., West Allis (millwork); Wagner Bros. (art glass); T.C. Esser Co. (plate glass); and H.F. Haessler Hardware Co. (hardware). In fewer than four months, the former plain, one-story, cream brick structure that had formerly included two storefronts, was transformed into a single Old English, Tudor-styled beer hall (with dining hall), which opened for business on 26 August 1933. Living quarters were expanded to the rear and the second floor included three offices and two, large apartments. Three additional bedrooms and a bathroom were completed on the third floor (to be used by the Kegel family, occupants of the first level quarters) in 1934.<sup>17</sup>

An ad for its opening, including a photo of the building, appeared in the *West Allis Star* two days earlier and read:

<sup>15</sup> Ulma, Conversation with Swofford; *West Allis City Directory*, 1927; Information regarding the federal agent's visit in a photocopy of unidentified, published material. Filed under "Kegel" in Business Binders, WAHS.

<sup>16</sup> Permit for addition, 5901 W. National Avenue, 24 April 1933; Mark F. Pfaller, "Alterations and Addition of Store Apartment Building," Job No. 146, 20 March 1933, Both items on file at the West Allis Department of Building Inspection. Wisconsin was second only to Michigan in ratifying the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment.

<sup>17</sup> Permit for addition, 5901 W. National Avenue, 24 April 1933; The various contractors were gleaned from "Contracts Awarded," *The Daily Reporter*, 18, 25 and 26 April, 3, 7 and 13 May, and 10, 15 July.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 6

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

Hail Friends! You are invited to the Grand Opening of Kegel's Inn, West National Avenue and South 59<sup>th</sup> Street, Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> starting at 8 P.M. The New Kegel Inn is a reproduction of English design. You'll like the atmosphere, and you'll like meeting your friends here. Enjoy a varied choice of delicious and appetizing dishes served in homey, yet distinctive atmosphere. All sorts of delicious sandwiches, hot plate lunches specially prepared to tempt the most javed (sic) of appetites.<sup>18</sup>

The ad also advertised dancing every Saturday night. The week to follow, the paper reported that "crowds. . . overflowed into the streets. . ." for the opening. John Kegel also took out an ad to formally thank those that had attended the grand opening. This time the ad advertised music for dancing on both Saturday and Sunday evenings. Indeed, in addition to offering food and drink, between 1933 and 1952, Kegel's hosted dance bands weekly. The original "house band" was a three-person German band. Later it was a six-piece band "The Vilia Boys." The dance floor and staging area was located in the central portion of the west half of the building's first floor.<sup>19</sup>

All interior areas of the first floor exhibit murals that were executed by artist/painter Peter Gries. Gries completed the bar area murals first and they were done shortly after Kegel opened for business; his final mural was completed in 1942 (see Architecture section for biographical information on Gries). In 1942, the second-floor offices were converted for use as additional apartments, thus the total number of apartments on the second floor was at five. Kegel turned to Mark Pfaller's former partner Nicholas Backes for that work, which cost approximately \$3,000. The Kegel family moved to the second floor (as well as occupied the third-floor bedrooms) in order to expand the first-floor dining areas.<sup>20</sup>

Shortly after the expansion of the restaurant's kitchen area, John and Anna Kegel retired in 1947. John passed away on 11 December 1952, after which live bands were discontinued. Their son John A.

<sup>18</sup> "Advertisement, Grand Opening," *West Allis Star*, 24 August 1933, 6/1-3.

<sup>19</sup> "Opening of Kegel Inn Is Largely Attended," *West Allis Star*, 31 August 1933, 1/1; Advertisement (re: Thank You for Attending Grand Opening), *West Allis Star*, 31 August 1933, 6/1-2.

<sup>20</sup> Permit for alteration (addition of men's bathroom beneath west stairs), 5901 W. National Avenue, 9 September 1943; Margaret LeBrun, "European Flavor Found at Inn," *West Allis Star*, 23 July 1981; "Kegel's Inn," Tour Script; Permit for alteration (second floor), 5901 W. National Avenue, 19 June 1942; N. P. Backes, "Remodel 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor into Six Apartments for Mr. John Kegel," Undated (1942) Plans, On file at the West Allis Department of Building Inspection, West Allis City Hall, West Allis, WI. Although the plans show six apartments, the second floor was ultimately remodeled into five apartments (two, 2-bedrooms apts., two, 1-bedroom apts. and one efficiency apartment). A sixth apartment—including one bedroom—would later be constructed on the third floor. Information provided by Jim Kegel, Conversation with Schnell.



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 7

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

Kegel (b. 2 January 1916; d. 22 August 1998), who had been helping in the family business since the age of ten, took over operations from 1947 to 1955. That year, George Kegel (b. 22 February 1932; d. August 1977)--John and Anna's youngest (of their nine children)--ran the bar and restaurant until 1966. It was then purchased by John A. and subsequently run by him once again. John A. decided to semi-retire in 1981 and his son Robert (Rob) took over. Shortly thereafter, his other son James (Jim) joined Rob and they--the third generation of the Kegel family--continue to operate Kegel's Inn. Kegel family members resided in the structure into the 1950s.<sup>21</sup>

**AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHITECTURE**

Based largely on medieval antecedents, the Period Tudor Revival style is generally distinguished by the use of half-timber work and stucco or brick. Indeed, Kegel's Inn includes alternating patterned brick and false half-timber work at its south end, while the building's west elevation is also covered with a recent, faux stucco and half-timber finish. However, the majority of the tavern/restaurant is sheathed with a stone veneer; specifically with limestone or what is commonly called Lannon stone or more broadly as Waukesha limestone. Lannon stone refers directly to the quarries in the vicinity of the Village of Lannon, in Waukesha County; however, other quarries in Waukesha also provided such limestone to the surrounding communities. Indeed, Lannon stone sheathes a good number of structures in West Allis. Despite the structure's locationally unique building material, it does exhibit many of the usual characteristics associated with the Period Tudor Revival style such as leaded and stained-glass, casement windows (with either rectangular or diamond panes); quoined window surrounds of cast stone, and a label mold above the primary entrance. Additional Tudor flourishes include the building's slate roof; its carved, floriated ornamentation around the doorways, as well as the parapeted wall gables that include slit-like window openings. Kegel's Inn is just one of two commercial buildings in the entire city of West Allis that exhibits the Tudor Revival style of architecture. The other structure, the Koelsch Funeral Home, which was completed just four years after Kegel's, is also being nominated for inclusion in the National Register.

The architect of the subject structure was Mark Frank Pfaller. Pfaller was born in Jefferson, Wisconsin, in 1892. He studied mathematics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison before serving as a draftsman for Milwaukee architect Henry C. Hensel between 1909 and 1910. Over the next few years, Pfaller continued to work as a draftsman for several other architects and would also work for either the City of Milwaukee Engineering Department or the Department of Public Works between 1916 and 1917. In 1918, Pfaller and Nicholas P. Backes established a joint office. The pair designed a

<sup>21</sup> "Kegel's Inn," Tour Script; Sharol Hesselink, "Kegel's Provides Years of Old World Flavor," Unidentified newspaper clipping, 15 May 1968. On file in the Business binder under "Kegel," WAHS.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 8

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

number of houses and other buildings primarily in the Period Revival or Prairie styles until the partnership dissolved in 1924. In 1925, Pfaller changed careers to become the president of the Eastern Manufacturing Company which made dye stuffs. The company lasted only one year and Pfaller returned to architecture before becoming the vice president of the Residence Park Building & Loan Association in 1933. After 1939, it appears that Pfaller once again returned to architecture and was joined by his son Mark Arthur, who worked as a draftsman. Mark A. graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1942 and then served in the military during World War II. After the war, the Pfalters started the firm of Mark F. Pfalter Associates, Architects, located in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. The firm received a number of prominent educational, commercial and church commissions in southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois from the 1950s to the 1970s. The elder Pfalter, who was responsible for the design of Kegel's Inn, retired in 1976 and moved to Florida where he died in 1982. Mark Arthur passed away on 23 March 2000. Although the original firm was disbanded, his son, Mark F. Pfalter II, continues to work as an architect. The firm is known as Pfalter Architectural Associates and has offices in both Milwaukee and Plymouth, Wisconsin.<sup>22</sup>

Accentuating the building's exterior, but more visible from the interior are the leaded and stained-glass windows that were executed by the Milwaukee firm of Wagner Bros. Established in 1909 by brothers George (b. circa 1879) and John (b. circa 1871; d. November 1939) Wagner, a third brother, Joseph, joined them the following year. The Wagners were born in Bavaria and, according to a 1942 interview with Joseph, he came to the United States at the age of nine (circa 1888). Six years later, he became a student apprentice in the field of art glass. Prior to moving to Milwaukee, Joseph worked as the superintendent of the Chicago art glass firm Flanagan-Bieden. In circa 1902, he married his Illinois-born wife Ella and together they had five children. Clearly his brothers John and George were also trained in the field; however, no information regarding their training was noted in the article or in John's obituary. The 1909 city directory list only George and John as members of the Wagner Bros. firm; however, Joseph and his family moved to Milwaukee shortly thereafter. Their first shop was located at 418 Water Street; however, in circa 1930, the brothers moved their operation to 2001 Clybourn Street. In addition to the Wagner brothers, Alfred P. Wachtler was identified as working for the firm since circa 1919. The firm did their own designing, as well as tinting of glass. Specifically, the firm was responsible for all of the chandelier fixtures in the Milwaukee County Courthouse, as well as the globes that originally lit the W. Wisconsin Avenue viaduct. The article indicates that they did work in other states and that they installed the imported rose window at St. John's Military Academy chapel in Delafield, Wisconsin. By no later than 1952, the firm had incorporated as Wagner

<sup>22</sup> *Sketch Book of Milwaukee* (Milwaukee: Associated Compilers, 1933), 84; Biographical sketch for Pfalter included in "Prospect Avenue Apartment Buildings Historic District," National Register nomination form prepared by Les Vollmert and Carlen Hatala, February 1989.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 9

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

Bros., Inc., and the officers included Joseph J. as president/treasurer; son Lambert as vice president and son Germain as secretary. Joe appears to have passed away in September 1964 in California.<sup>23</sup>

Nearly as notable as the exterior of Kegel's Inn are the murals of the interior, which were painted by German-born Peter Gries. Gries was born in Darmstadt, Germany, on 13 November 1869. Little is known about Gries; however, the manifest for the ship upon which he sailed to the United States cited that he was a painter. He arrived in New York on 21 December 1925 and continued on to Wisconsin to join his son William who was living in Wauwatosa and also worked as a building painter. The year to follow, Peter's daughter Helen and his wife Elizabeth joined the family and, in 1927, they eventually settled along N. 67<sup>th</sup> Street in Milwaukee. City directories initially cite Gries as a painter; however, he would later be cited as an interior decorator/artist. It is believed that the murals in the bar area were done shortly after its official opening (after the remodeling) on 26 August 1933. The following year, the dining room murals were completed. In 1942, at which time Gries was seventy-three years old, he completed the final interior scene. Gries passed away on 11 May 1947, at the age of seventy-seven.<sup>24</sup>

Finally, the West Allis firm of Marks Bros. was responsible for the building's millwork which is assumed to be the wooden trim surrounding the leaded and stained-glass windows, as well as the radiator covers and wainscoting on the interior. Brothers Nick and Frank Marks started the firm in 1904 and, two years later, their brother John joined them. Nick passed away in November 1933, three months after Kegel's opening.<sup>25</sup>

**CONCLUSION:**

Kegel's Inn is significant at the local level as an excellent and highly intact example of the English-inspired, Tudor Revival style of architecture in the City of West Allis. Furthermore, the building features notable, leaded and stained-glass windows executed by the Wagner Bros. of Milwaukee, as well as intact, hand-painted murals by German-born Peter Gries on the interior.

<sup>23</sup> "Broken Panes Cause Wagners no Pain Except in Own Plant," *Milwaukee Sentinel*, 4 January 1942. The obituary for John N. Wagner indicates that John was born in Schoenbrunn, Bavaria, and came to the United States (to Chicago) in 1890. He is cited as having moved to Milwaukee in 1908, shortly after which the glass concern was established with his brothers, "John N. Wagner, Glass Man, Is Dead," *Milwaukee Journal*, 13 November 1939.

<sup>24</sup> "Kegel's Inn, Tour script; "Peter Gries, Obituary," *Milwaukee Sentinel*, 12 May 1947; An inquiry was made to the West Bend Museum of Wisconsin Art in regards to information and/or other known work of Gries and none was found.

<sup>25</sup> "Nick Marks, Ill Few Days, Dies," *West Allis Star*, November 1933, Clipping under "M," Surname Binder, WAHS.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 10

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL:**

No archaeological survey has been done within the immediate vicinity of Kegel's Inn. Although no archaeological deposits have been reported, the archaeological potential for this area remains unassessed.

**PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES:**

In 2006, the City of West Allis received a grant from the National Park Service to do a full reconnaissance and intensive survey of the city in order to determine what buildings and districts were considered to be potentially eligible for the National Register. In 2008, the city again received a grant from the National Park Service, this time to prepare National Register nominations based on the results of the 2006-07 survey. Therefore, this nomination, along with three others, was prepared for the West Allis Landmarks Commission with the support of the City of West Allis' Department of City Development. The City of West Allis was created on industry and for close to three-quarters of the city's existence, industry has been its focus. Since the majority of the large manufacturing concerns have since left the city (with some being subsequently demolished), the West Allis Landmarks Commission feels that it's important to identify and recognize those property owners that have made a concerted effort to preserve their buildings throughout the city's evolving economy. The National Register listing of this property will enable its owner to take part in the tax rehabilitation program which, in turn, can help to maintain the property's historic integrity in the future.



Kegel's Inn  
Name of Property

Milwaukee  
County and State

Wisconsin

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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

### Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- 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:

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 419633 4763021  
Zone Easting Northing

2  
Zone Easting Northing

3  
Zone Easting Northing

4  
Zone Easting Northing

☐ 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 Traci E. Schnell, Senior Architectural Historian  
organization Heritage Research, Ltd.  
street & number N89 W16785 Appleton Avenue  
city or town Menomonee Falls state WI

date July 2009  
telephone 262.251.7792  
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**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

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**BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

\*An asterisk notes resources reviewed but not cited.

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Burbach, Julius H. *West Allis: A City of Marvellous (Sic) Growth in a Decade, June 28, 1902-June 28, 1912*. N.p.: 1912.

"Broken Panes Cause Wagners no Pain Except in Own Plant." *Milwaukee Sentinel*, 4 January 1942.

*The Daily Reporter* (Milwaukee, WI). Various dates reviewed between April and June 1933. See individual footnotes for specific citations.

Gries, Peter. Obituary. *Milwaukee (WI) Sentinel*, 12 May 1947.

Historic photo of bar area of Kegel's Inn, ca. 1933. In the private collection of the Kegel family (and on display in the bar area), West Allis, WI.

Historic photo of exterior of Kegel's Inn, pre-1952. On file under Photos: Business (Box 1), West Allis Historical Society, West Allis, WI.

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Kegel, Jim. Conversation with Traci E. Schnell, August 2009. Notes on file at Heritage Research, Ltd., Menomonee Falls, WI.

"Kegel's Inn." Tour script prepared by Hugh Swofford for Historic Milwaukee's Spaces & Traces tour in West Allis, May 2002. Tour research directed and overseen by Traci E. Schnell. Copy of script in possession of Historic Milwaukee, Inc., 828 N. Broadway, Milwaukee, WI.

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**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 2

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

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\*Merril, Peter C., comp. *German-American Artists in Early Milwaukee: A Biographical Dictionary*. Madison, WI: Friends of the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies, c1997.

Newspaper clippings. A variety of clippings are located in various organizational binders located at the West Allis Historical Society, West Allis, WI. See individual footnotes for specific citations.

Olsen, Frederick I. "City Expansion and Suburban Spread: Settlements and Governments in Milwaukee County" in Ralph M. Aderman, ed., *Trading Post to Metropolis: Milwaukee County's First 150 Years*. Milwaukee: Milwaukee County Historical Society, 1987.

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Szudy, Leonard A. "A Half Century of Public Education in West Allis." In partial fulfillment for Ph.D. in Education from Colorado State College, 1 August 1960. On file at the West Allis Historical Society, West Allis, WI.

Ulma, Rose (Kegel). Conversation with High Swofford, HMI volunteer, 30 March 2002. Notes recorded in "Kegel's Inn" tour script described above.

*West Allis City Directory*. Various dates reviewed between 1918 and 1952. See individual footnotes for specific citations.

*West Allis (WI) Star*. Various years reviewed. See individual footnotes for specific citations.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 3

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

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\*West Bend Museum of Wisconsin Art. Inquiries were made regarding Peter Gries and the Wagner Bros.; however, no information was learned.

Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Madison: Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986.



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 1

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

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**GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The historic boundary is a rectangle that measures 65 feet x 94 feet, the legal description of which is known as Lot 1, Block 1, Hinkley's Subdivision No. 1, in the City of West Allis.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary described above is the property historically associated with Kegel's Inn and does not include the adjacent parking lot.

Kegel's Inn	Milwaukee	Wisconsin
Name of Property	County and State	

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed 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.)

<b>name/title</b>	James & Robert Kegel	<b>date</b>	March 2009
<b>organization</b>	Kegel's Inn	<b>telephone</b>	414.257.9999
<b>street &amp; number</b>	5901 W. National Avenue	<b>zip code</b>	53214
<b>city or town</b>	West Allis	<b>state</b>	WI

**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 Reduction Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section Photos Page 1

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

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**KEGEL'S INN, West Allis, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin.  
All photos except #8 by Traci E. Schnell, August 2009.  
Negatives on file in the Historic Preservation Division of the Wisconsin Historical  
Society, Madison, Wisconsin.**

KEGEL'S INN (north and east elevations)  
View to southwest  
Photo #1 of 9

KEGEL'S INN (east and south elevations)  
View to northwest  
Photo #2 of 9

KEGEL'S INN (south and west elevations)  
View to northeast  
Photo #3 of 9

KEGEL'S INN (Interior: window detail)  
View to east  
Photo #4 of 9

KEGEL'S INN (Interior: lantern fixture in southeast dining room)  
View to northwest  
Photo #5 of 9

KEGEL'S INN (Interior: Gries Mural)  
View to west  
Photo #6 of 9

KEGEL'S INN (Interior: Bar area)  
View to northwest  
Photo #7 of 9

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section Photos Page 2

Kegel's Inn  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

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KEGEL'S INN (Interior: Bar area, Ca. 1933)

View to north

Photo in the private collection of the Kegel family (and on display in the bar) located in  
West Allis, WI

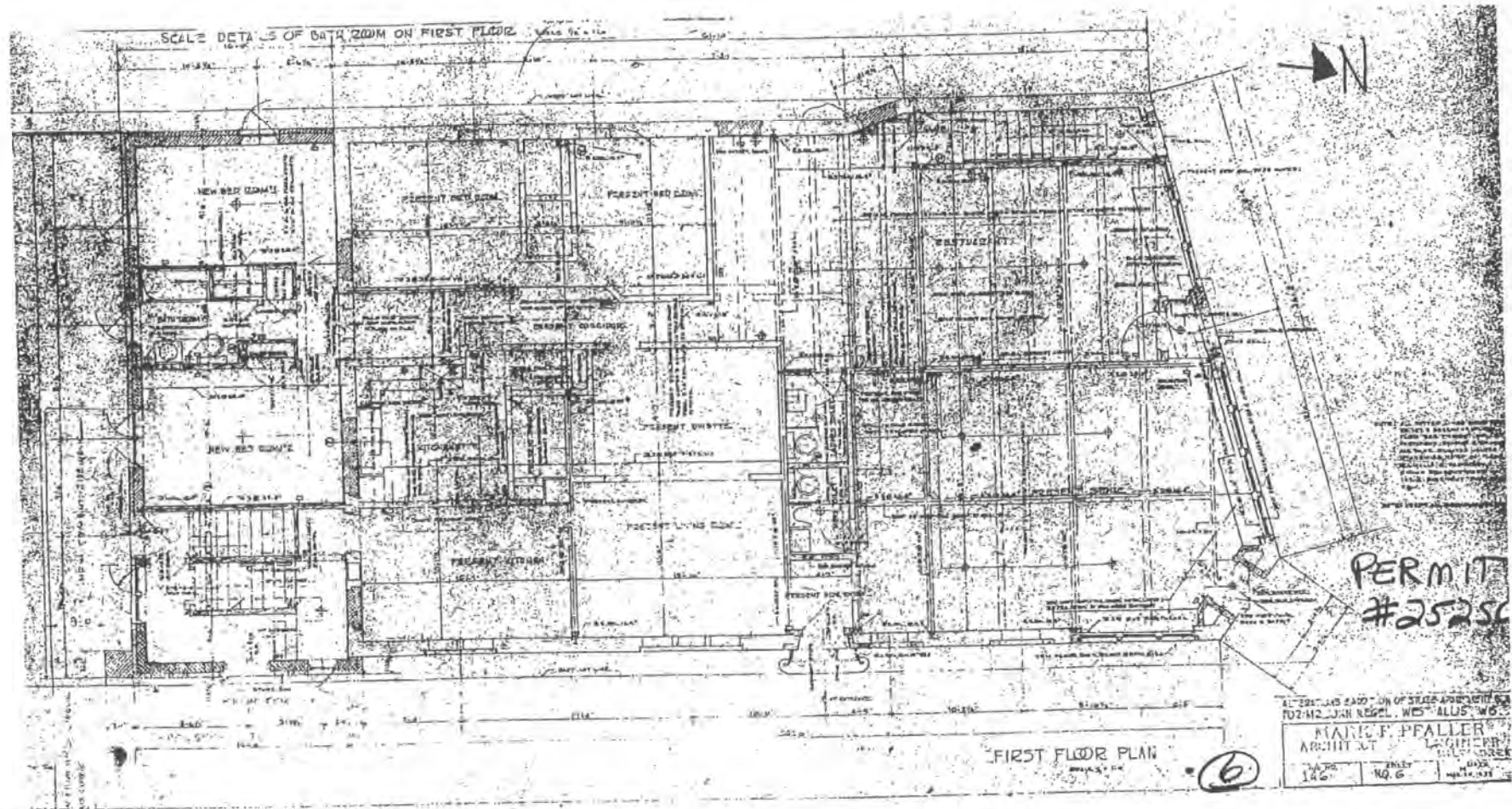
Photo #8 of 9

KEGEL'S INN (Garage)

View to northwest

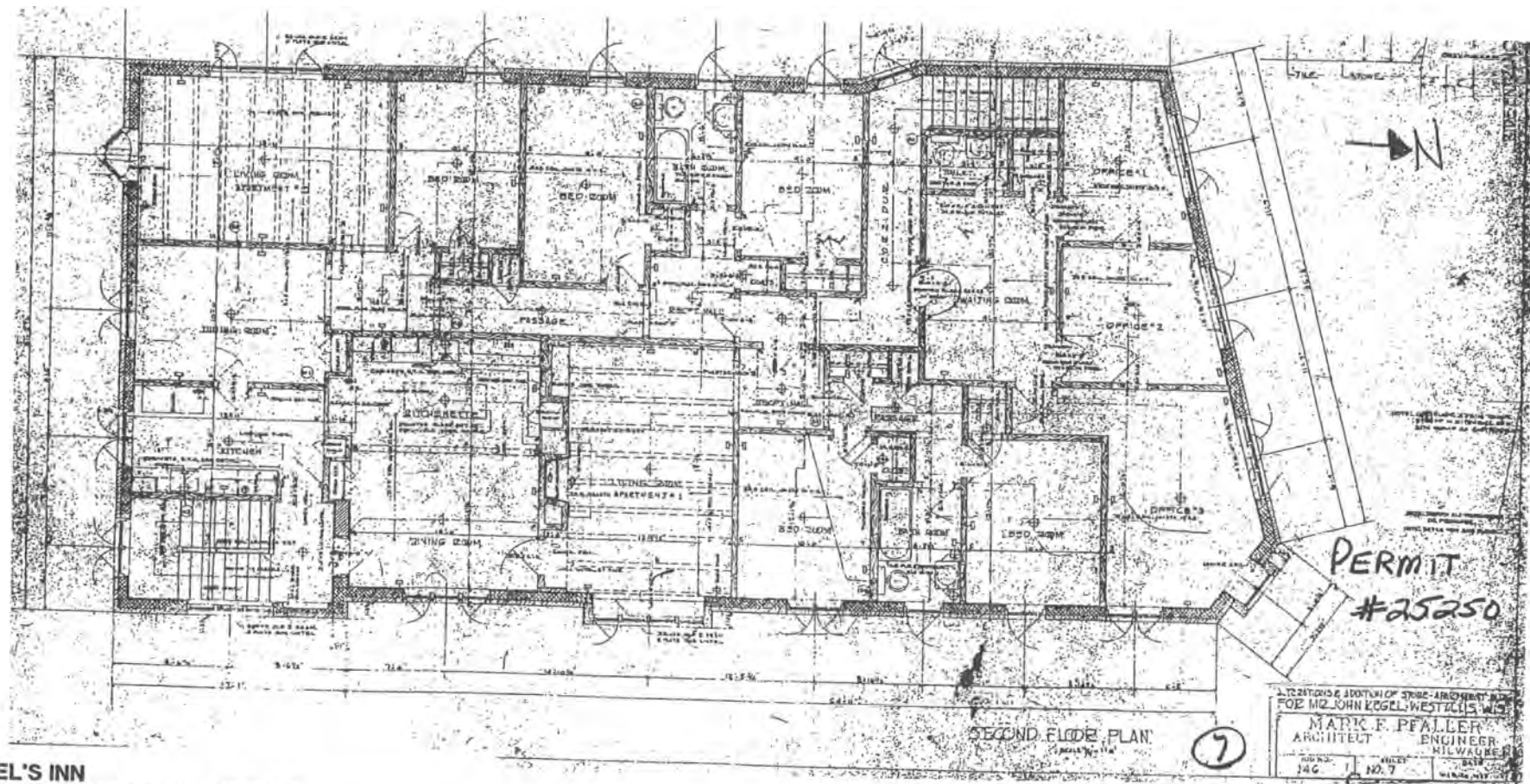
Photo #9 of 9





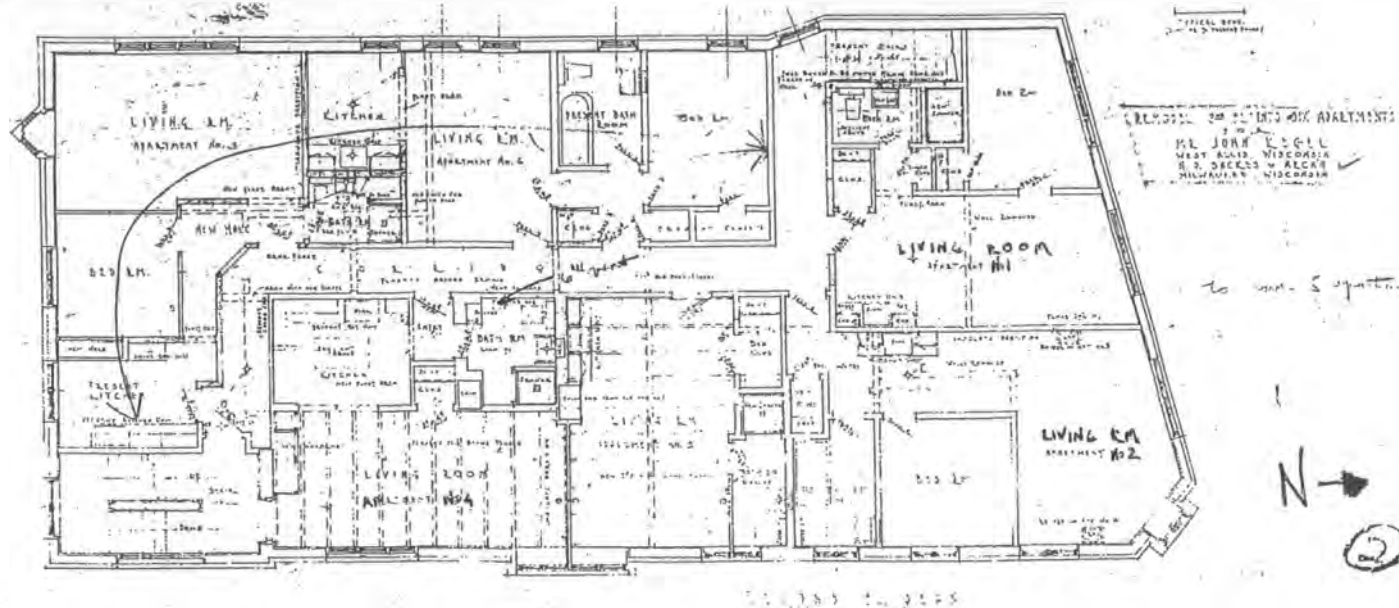
**KEGEL'S INN**  
**5901-5905 W. NATIONAL AVENUE**  
 WEST ALLIS, MILWAUKEE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

**ATTACHMENT A:** First floor plan, Mark F. Pfaller, 20 March 1933. Copies of plans on file at the City of West Allis Department of Inspection and Zoning, West Allis City Hall, West Allis, WI. The plans show that the bar (identified as present store) and the original dining area are at the north (right) end of the building, while living quarters was located to the rear and the new addition (including two new bedrooms and a staircase to the second floor) is to the south/at the far left.

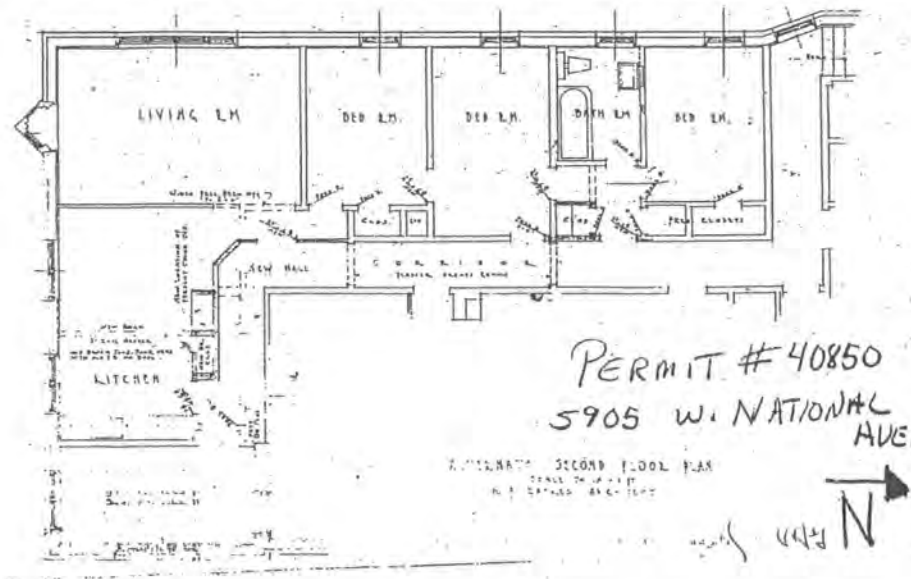


**KEGEL'S INN**  
**5901-5905 W. NATIONAL AVENUE**  
 WEST ALLIS, MILWAUKEE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

**ATTACHMENT B:** Second floor plan, Mark F. Pfaller, 20 March 1933. Copies of plans on file at the City of West Allis Department of Inspection and Zoning, West Allis City Hall, West Allis, WI. The plans show that the second floor originally consisted of two apartments and three offices across the north/front.



**ATTACHMENT C, Exhibit #1:** Second floor plan, N.P. Backes, architect, 1942. Copies of plans on file at the City of West Allis Department of Inspection and Zoning, West Allis City Hall, West Allis, WI. The plan shows the 1942 alterations from two apartments to six apartments.



**ATTACHMENT C, Exhibit #2:** Alternate Second floor plan for the southwest corner, 1942. Instead of six apartments, this alteration would accommodate five apartments.

**KEGEL'S INN**  
**5901-5905 W. NATIONAL AVENUE**  
 WEST ALLIS, MILWAUKEE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY    Kegel's Inn  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Milwaukee

DATE RECEIVED:            8/25/10            DATE OF PENDING LIST:    9/27/10  
DATE OF 16TH DAY:        10/12/10            DATE OF 45TH DAY:        10/09/10  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000823

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:    N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER:    N    PDIL:            N    PERIOD:        N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE:        N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL:        N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT    ☐ RETURN    ☐ REJECT    10-12-10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





KEGEL'S INN

West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

Photo #1 of 9



KEGELS INN

West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

Photo #2 of 9



KEGEL'S INN

West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

Photo # 3 of 9





REGELS INN

West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

Photo # 4 of 9



KEGEL'S INN

West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

Photo # 5 of 9





KEGEL'S INN  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI  
Photo #6 of 9



KEGELS INN  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI  
Photo # 7 of 9



KEGEL'S INN

West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI

Photo # 8 of 9



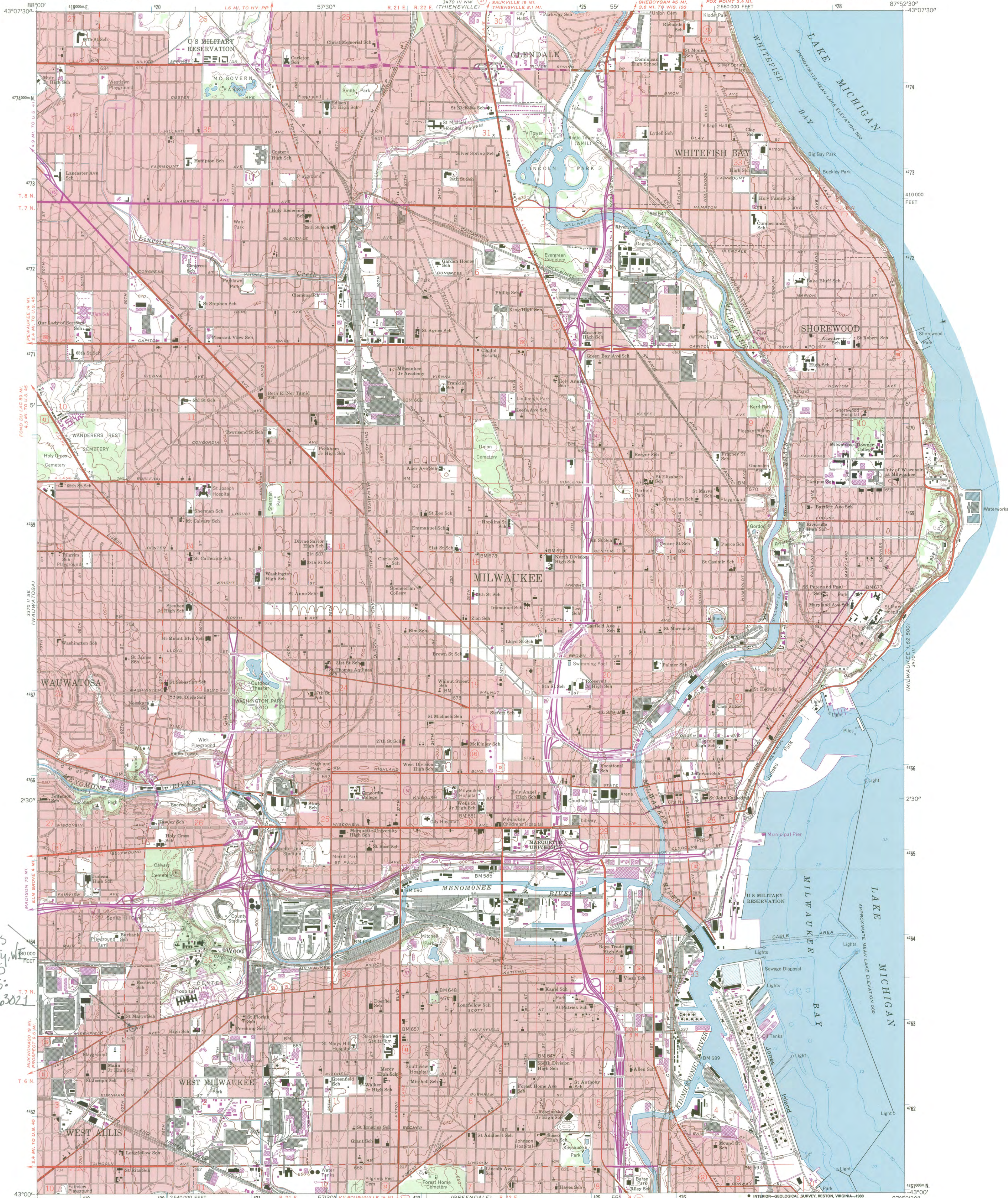


KEGEL'S INN  
West Allis, Milwaukee County, WI  
Photo # 9 of 9



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MILWAUKEE QUADRANGLE  
WISCONSIN—MILWAUKEE CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
SW 1/4 MILWAUKEE 15' QUADRANGLE



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and City of Milwaukee

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods

Aerial photographs taken 1954-1955. Field check 1958

Hydrography compiled from U. S. Lake Survey charts 74 and 743 (1957)

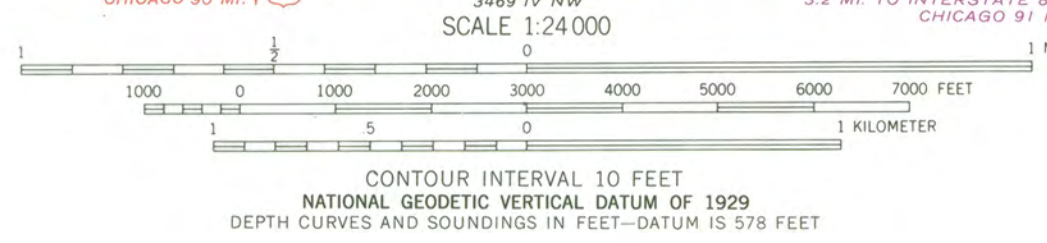
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum

10,000-foot grid based on Wisconsin coordinate system, south zone

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1971. This information not field checked



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,  
move the projection lines 3 meters north and  
6 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
U. S. Route ——— State Route ———  
Interstate Route ———

MILWAUKEE, WIS.  
SW 1/4 MILWAUKEE 15' QUADRANGLE  
43087-A8-TF-024

1958  
PHOTOREVISED 1971  
DMA 3470 III SW—SERIES V861





RECEIVED  
FEB 18 2010  
DIV HIST PRES



**MAYOR'S OFFICE**

**Dan Devine**  
Mayor

414/302-8290  
414/302-8207 (Fax)

City Hall  
7525 West Greenfield Avenue  
West Allis, Wisconsin 53214

ddevine@ci.west-allis.wi.us  
www.ci.west-allis.wi.us

Wisconsin Historical Society  
Attn: Daina Penkiunas  
816 State St.  
Madison, WI 53706

February 15, 2010

RE: State and National Register of Historic Places Nomination

Dear Preservation Review Board Members:

On behalf of the City of West Allis Historical Commission I am writing in support of the nomination of Kegel's Inn, (5901-05 W. National Ave., Koelsch Funeral Home, (7622 W. Greenfield Ave.) and McMicken, Alexander & Pauline House (1508 S. 80 St.) to the State and National Register of Historic Places. The Historical Commission was formed to promote preservation awareness, to preserve historic resources and to educate the public on historic preservation.

The City of West Allis Historical Commission is committed to preserving its important cultural resources by actively pursuing and utilizing available historic preservation tools. The City of West Allis Historical Commission is honored to support the continued preservation of these three (3) properties nominated for the State and National Register.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss these or other preservation projects please contact me at (414) 302-8290.

Sincerely,

Mayor Dan Devine, Chair  
West Allis Historical Commission

