

001 NO. 1024-0018  
EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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



## 1. Name

historic N/A  
and/or common The Historic Resources of Eau Claire, Multiple Resource area (Partial inventory: Historic and Architectural districts and properties)

## 2. Location

street & number See individual intensive survey forms and historic district survey forms. not for publication

city, town Eau Claire vicinity of congressional district

state Wisconsin code 55 county Eau Claire code 035

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
Multiple resources	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership (see individual intensive survey forms)

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Eau Claire County Courthouse

street & number 721 Oxford Avenue

city, town Eau Claire state Wisconsin 54701

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1978, 1981-82 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

## 7. Description

### Condition

☒ excellent

☒ good

☒ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered

☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

#### General Physical Description

Located in Eau Claire County in the west central portion of the state, the site of the city of Eau Claire is dominated by two rivers, the Chippewa and the Eau Claire, which meet in its center. The Eau Claire, the smaller of the two waterways, rises near the center of the state and proceeds in a westerly direction, intersecting the Chippewa at nearly right angles. The Chippewa, meanwhile, is listed as Wisconsin's second longest river, traveling over 180 miles and draining 9,573 square miles of land or approximately one-sixth of the state. At Eau Claire, a community which is physiographically located in Wisconsin's Central Plain, the Chippewa has been dammed since 1878. The dam, at the time of its construction, was used to create a huge log storage pond (Dells Pond) in the oxbows of the river north of the city. According to Martin, the Chippewa in its path through the Central Plain was noted for its gentle grade, moderate slopes, and terraces carved in the outwash gravels.<sup>1</sup>

These rivers, major natural resources in themselves as sources of power and transportation, were, in the mid nineteenth century, coupled with an "unrivaled" pine forest. One historian of the lumber industry reported that the Chippewa River valley contained approximately one-sixth of the pine timber west of the Appalachians. The pine, most notably the white pine, grew in a mixed conifer-deciduous forest, which spanned northern Wisconsin.<sup>2</sup>

The community that emerged at this fortuitous site actually developed from three separate settlements. While individuals were active in the newly-opened lumber region in the 1830's and 40's, the first plats at the river juncture were not recorded until 1856. At that time the land south of the Eau Claire River and east of the Chippewa River was surveyed in grid fashion and named the Village of Eau Claire. The regular pattern of blocks was oriented to the northwest (following the direction of the river) and included two parks and a cemetery. Although the plat extended well to the east, the first settlement was effectively bounded by a river terrace. On the west side of the Chippewa River similar activity was taking place. The area between the river and Half Moon Lake, a former oxbow of the Chippewa, was platted in the late summer of 1856. Named the village of Eau Claire City, the level land of the plat was also arranged as a grid and contained land for a park, cemetery, and church. The third settlement, located north of the Eau Claire River and east of the Chippewa River, was platted by various parties in 1857. Within this tract known as North Eau Claire but never incorporated as such, a plat of regularly placed blocks bordered the Chippewa River. To the east large rectangular blocks occupied a prominent terrace of the river, a natural feature which decisively bisected the area. The land adjacent to the Eau Claire River remained in large sections.

The three communities, first joined by ferry service and later by bridges, grew independently until 1872 when they were incorporated as the city of Eau Claire. Two additional centers, one opposite North Eau Claire on the west side of the Chippewa River and one to the west of "Eau Claire City" and known as Shawtown, were also distinct entities within the developing city. In each area residential, commercial, and industrial areas flourished. On the west

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



The Historic Resources of Eau Claire,

Continuation sheet Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 7

Page 1

side of the Chippewa River commercial activity centered on Water Street, which paralleled the river. Beyond Water Street to the west was the industrial area, actually the west side's lumber district. Lumber mills lined the west bank of the river, south of Menomonie Street and Half Moon Lake, which in the early years of development, had been converted into a log storage pond. North of the business district, a substantial residential area stretched for several blocks. The earliest neighborhood, that which focused on Randall Park, contained a fine mixture of unpretentious, yet comfortable, frame dwellings and the more massive, picturesque residences of several leading lumbermen.

West of "Eau Claire City" a lumber dominated community grew. Originally platted as Westville in 1869, the area soon acquired the name Shawtown (a name in use today) in reference to the Daniel Shaw Lumber Company which operated at the outlet from Half Moon Lake. Only scattered businesses developed in this company town-like section of the city which featured a boarding house for Shaw's employees, the Shaw residence (subsequently destroyed by fire), and a residential area at the foot of Mt. Washington, a large bluff overlooking the Chippewa River.

Across the Chippewa River, Barstow Street formed the core of the business district, while light manufacturing activity bordered the Chippewa River on River Street (now Graham Avenue) and to a lesser extent the Eau Claire River. The residential area for this section of the city developed south of the commercial center. Large mansions built by some of the community's prosperous citizens claimed views of the Chippewa River; other residences, both large and small, filled the blocks east to the river terrace. Identified as the city's Third Ward, this neighborhood reflected the wealth and accomplishments of Eau Claire's leading citizens.

North Eau Claire, although similar to its counterparts, contained an expanded industrial zone, which was serviced by the railroad. The mills of the Eau Claire Lumber Company, one of the Chippewa Valley's largest lumber firms, and a number of other manufacturing concerns were situated on or near the north bank of the Eau Claire River. The business section, focusing on North Barstow, Galloway, Wisconsin, and Madison Streets, featured small hotels and boarding houses that accommodated the large population of single men working in the lumber mills. A residential area, largely working class in nature, developed north of the commercial and industrial districts. Simple frame homes typified North Eau Claire where streets named Erin, Germania, and Norsk (now Franklin) indicated the neighborhood's ethnic composition.

Opposite North Eau Claire on the west side of the Chippewa River, another nearly independent community prospered. Although this area developed somewhat later than the other four parts of the city and was not separately characterized by the local histories, it included a number of business establishments along Bellinger Street, a modest residential section west and south of the commercial center, and a lumber district stretching along the west bank of the Chippewa River. (Oxford Avenue now runs through the former district.)

The general land use pattern described here has survived, to a remarkable extent, to the present. The most significant change in the landscape has occurred as the economic base

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

The Historic Resources of Eau Claire

Continuation sheet Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 7

Page 2



of the city shifted from primary extractive industry (lumber) to diversified manufacturing activity. The lumber mills, prominent landmarks which were closed and dismantled in the decades immediately before and after 1900, left large sections of land along the river banks that were filled by various manufacturing and commercial establishments. By the mid twentieth century the city's industrial firms were concentrated in four areas. On the west side of the Chippewa River industries expanded along Menomonie Street between Half Moon Lake and the river and in the northern section along Oxford Avenue. In North Eau Claire (north, that is, of the Eau Claire River) the city's industrial core of the nineteenth century has continued to develop. Containing the Uniroyal plant (formerly the Gillette Tire Company) and adjacent manufacturing concerns, the compact region has remained a conspicuous feature of the city's center. The final industrial/commercial region, a product of late twentieth century growth, is a strip of development that frames the main highways (U.S. 12 and 53) bypassing the city.

Barstow Street, the business center of the city's original plat, has emerged as Eau Claire's central business district. Embracing the major banking and governmental institutions as well as various business houses, the city's commercial "heart" is characterized by a number of nineteenth century structures; however, a majority of them have been significantly altered. Water Street, on the west side, has also remained a viable business center. Serving now the needs of a university population, Water Street, most noticeably in the 400 block, retains (to a degree) its nineteenth century quality. (Note: A Water Street historic district is a future possibility. At this time, not one structure in the block is intact architecturally.)

Residential expansion has accompanied the city's development in the twentieth century. Encircling the inner, river-oriented city, the housing tracts reflect various periods and types of growth. The addition to the east took place in the early decades of the century. Attached to the original plat but located on what is referred to as "Eastside Hill", this residential area features long, tree-lined blocks of narrow lots filled with owner and contractor-built bungalows and other simple dwellings. These homes, owned largely by middle income families and retired individuals, are well maintained, forming a complementary addition to the city's older residential sections. (See the district survey form for Emery Street Bungalow District.) The growth north, west, and south of the central city was a result of post World War II suburban expansion. Small to medium sized homes predominate in the northern and western areas, while larger homes are more common in the developments platted in the southern portion of the city.

In the older residential areas, expansion, sometimes meaning demolition of significant properties, has also occurred. The city's Third Ward area, now extending south to the border of Putnam Park, has in the past twenty years suffered the growth of both the city's business district and the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. A number of homes have been destroyed, mainly those located at the river's edge; however, a distinct core of late nineteenth century residences remains, complemented by fine period homes. (See the district survey form for the Third Ward Historic District.) On the city's westside, residential development has enlarged the neighborhood that focused on Randall Park to

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

The Historic Resources of Eau Claire

Continuation sheet Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 7

Page 3

west and to the north, meeting at that point the residential area associated with the growth of the Bellinger Street section of the community. This development, occurring primarily in the early decades of the new century, was an in-filling process. Immediately adjacent to Randall Park a cohesive remnant of the nineteenth century neighborhood survives. The recognizable district embraces the open space of the park, the dwellings of the early lumbermen and their neighbors, and three churches. (See the district survey form for the Randall Park Historic District.) In the northern part of the original city (North Eau Claire), in-filling was also a feature. Extending north to Mt. Simon and east to Mt. Tom (the "mounts" are river bluffs), this residential section of Eau Claire retains its working class flavor.

In the descriptive statements which follow, as well as in the statement of significance, specific sites are indicated by their historic (preferred) name, their current street address, and by map code. If the site is already listed in the National Register of Historic Places the above information is not given, rather the code "NRHP" is provided, along with the year of listing. The map codes indicate the general locality of the site and specify which map the site is located on, as follows: CEC: City of Eau Claire Map (for individually eligible sites); TW: Third Ward Historic District Map; RP: Randall Park Historic District Map; ESB: Emery Street Bungalow District Map.

Architectural Resources

Constructed in the broad array of architectural styles in use from the mid nineteenth to the mid twentieth century, the buildings in Eau Claire reflect the city's evolution from a lumber center to a regional service center. Described in general terms, the city's building stock is composed primarily of residential structures (approximately 70% of the buildings in the multiple resource area). Industrial and commercial buildings are 5% and 15%, respectively, and civic, educational, and church-related structures, 10%. Wood is the most common construction material, although brick and stone are frequently used in commercial, industrial, and public buildings. The construction quality is excellent, a reflection of the work of the accomplished craftsmen who settled in Eau Claire and the availability of quality lumber. The design quality is likewise noteworthy. A number of buildings were designed by prominent Midwestern architects, such as Purcell and Elmslie of Minneapolis and Patton and Miller of Chicago. Local architects, such as Edward Hancock, are also represented. The largest percentage (90%) of buildings were built by the owners or local contractors using standard plans, which were adapted to the individual's needs.

As mentioned above, residential structures numerically dominate Eau Claire's architectural resources. They further provide the broadest display of architectural styles. Eau Claire's first settlers erected simple frame dwellings without reference to a specific architectural style. Once the lumber industry stabilized in the 1860's, more substantial residences were constructed with the Cobblestone House (NRHP, 1974) providing an early example.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

The Historic Resources of Eau Claire

Continuation sheet Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 7

Page 4

Built in 1866, the Gothic Revival style house is distinctive in respect to construction material (it is the only known cobblestone structure in northwestern Wisconsin) and to style (Greek Revival style cobblestone buildings are most common). Complementing the cobblestone house is a late Carpenter Gothic residence, the Martin Van Buren Barron house, 221 Washington Street, CEC 2P/30. Featuring the same vertical proportions, the Barron house is sided with clapboards and ornamented by scalloped bargeboards. Bargeboards also decorate the Levi Merrill house, 120 Ferry Street, CEC 5P/5, but on this unique dwelling the Gothic detail is combined with engaged columns marking the building's corners and with narrow roundheaded openings. Other early styles, the Greek Revival and the Italianate, are represented only by vernacularized forms, although original photos of the city include identifiable Greek Revival structures.

In the next decades, particularly in the 1880's, a building boom accompanied the growth of Eau Claire's lumber industry. Workers' houses, frame dwellings most commonly one and a half stories and often L or T shaped, appeared in the northern section of the city and in other areas adjacent to the mills. Machine-made detail ornamented the plain buildings. A prime example of a simple structure lavishly decorated is the Waldemar Ager house, 429 Chestnut Street, CEC 3L/3. In this instance much of the ornamentation was furnished by the original carpenter-owner. Larger homes were also added to the city's housing stock and are pivotal features of two residential districts, the Randall Park Historic District and the Third Ward Historic District. Comprising the largest stylistic group in the nomination (and in the city), the Queen Anne residences erected in Eau Claire in the late nineteenth century are vibrant displays of the popular style. Complex roof lines, irregular massing and plans, and varied surface textures are characteristics common to all of the structures, while the numerous stylistic variations are provided by individual examples.

In the Randall Park Historic District, the Dulany house, 326 Fourth Avenue, RP 1L/15, and the Johnson house, 414 Broadway Street, RP 1L/24, are large two and a half story Queen Anne residences. Both of frame construction, the houses feature a number of picturesque elements, including multiple shingled gables, recessed balconies, and verandas decorated with millwork. A circular tower capped with a conical roof further characterizes the Dulany house. Erected by some of the city's prominent businessmen, Queen Anne residences in the Third Ward Historic District include the Winslow house (NRHP, 1978), the Drummond house (NRHP, 1974), the Cutter house, 1302 State Street, TW 3P/13, and the Buffington house, 1500 State Street, TW 3P/21. The Winslow house, a pattern book design by George Barber, is distinguished by a massive exterior chimney containing a round arched window. Next door, the Cutter house, which faces State Street, is perhaps the city's best example of Queen Anne design. Intersecting shingled gables, balconies, verandas, and a multiplicity of detail characterize the exuberant and well-crafted creation. Another neighboring structure, the Drummond house, is a handsome example of the Queen Anne style. Dominating its site, the impressive brick residence is highlighted by large shingled gables, balconies and bay windows, and prominent chimneys. Outside of the districts, the Queen Anne style is best represented by two nearly identical residences constructed for members of the Walter family, owners of the Walter Brewery.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

The Historic Resources of Eau Claire

Continuation sheet Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 7

Page 5

The John Walter house (NRHP, 1982) and its diminutive counterpart, the Eichert house, 527 North Barstow Street, CEC 3L/35, are richly ornamented illustrations of the style. Vernacular versions of the nineteenth century style are abundant within the city's older neighborhoods. In many instances, the dwellings retain only the division of surfaces, with clapboards below and shingles above.

At the close of the century, the Queen Anne tended toward more formal compositions that reflected the Colonial Revival preference for symmetrical plans, regular fenestration patterns, and reduced detail. The Galloway house, 213 Oakwood Place, TW 3P/11, located in the Third Ward Historic District, provides an exceptional example of transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival design. The two and a half story brick residence is square in plan with projections on each elevation, providing depth and interest to the otherwise plain wall surfaces. Shingled gables and a variety of window shapes furnish picturesque elements. More purely Colonial Revival in style are two similar houses in the Randall Park Historic District. Erected at the turn of the century, the Charles Ingram house, 617 Third Avenue, RP 2L/5, and the E.S. Hayes house, 620 Third Avenue, RP 2L/4, (they are directly across the distinguished street from each other) were designed (the designs have been attributed to the architect, Cass Gilbert) for members of the Ingram family, who were prominently identified with the city's lumber industry. The large frame residences are characterized by bowed projections which are more typical of Colonial Revival row housing.

Other period revivals followed in the early decades of the twentieth century. More academic than their predecessors and larger in scale, the revival residences are located throughout Eau Claire but are most conspicuously concentrated in the city's Third Ward area. These fine dwellings, representing styles ranging from the Mediterranean Revival to the French Provincial, fill the blocks south to Putnam Park. Simplified Georgian Revival houses are most common within the neighborhood. Two individual properties, the James T. Barber house, 132 Marston Avenue, CEC 2P/18, and the Orlando Brice house, 120 Marston Avenue, CEC 2P/22, provide excellent illustrations of the Tudor Revival and Georgian Revival, respectively. Designed by Minneapolis architect, Harry Wild Jones and erected in 1903-04, the Barber residence is the city's primary example of Tudor Revival architecture. Merged with its own carriage house, the brick and stucco building is characterized by half timbering, steeply pitched gables, and locally hand-carved bargeboards. In contrast, the Brice house, just a half block away, is a stately, correct interpretation of the Georgian Revival. The brick structure is rectangular in plan with a formal central entrance accented by a semi-circular portico. The entry itself is framed by sidelights and an elliptical fanlight. Dormers, shutters, and modillions at the eave line complete the composition.

Concurrent and contrasting with the revival of period architecture was the development of the Prairie School style, a totally Midwestern phenomenon. Centered in Chicago, Frank Lloyd Wright and his contemporaries were instrumental in establishing a "modern" domestic form. In Eau Claire, the Prairie School is represented by buildings designed by Purcell and Elmslie, a Minneapolis based partnership that is recognized as one of the Midwest's major twentieth century firms. The Steven house (NRHP, 1982), constructed in 1909 and designed by Purcell and Feick, the predecessor of Purcell and Elmslie, was cited by Prairie School scholar, H. Allen Brooks for the "seminal importance" of the plan, which

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

The Historic Resources of Eau Claire

Continuation sheet Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 7

Page 6

was to be used in later commissions. The cruciform arrangement of living spaces around a free-standing fireplace allowed an open flow of interior spaces without loss of the separation of functions (statements taken from nomination form). Two other homes were designed by the firm (a bungalow in 1909 by Purcell and Feick and a church pastorage in 1915 by Purcell and Elmslie) but these structures have been substantially altered. A community house for the First Congregational Church (NRHP, 1974) was an additional project which is described below.

"Modern" housing was also represented by the bungalow, a building type popular between 1900 and 1940. Derived from English and Indian antecedents, the bungalow type is generally described as a one story house with an attic or an additional sleeping porch and room. The small residences, most commonly erected by people of modest incomes, conformed to the early twentieth century standards for style, convenience, simplicity, and sound building practices. Bungalow plans were available in catalogs distributed by Sears, Roebuck and Company and Montgomery Ward's and in other "Bungalow Books" prepared by local contractors and builders. Owner and contractor-built bungalows are prevalent in Eau Claire's residential areas, particularly those established near the turn of the century. The city's Eastside Hill neighborhood, platted in the 1920's and 1930's, is filled with these simple homes, constructed in nearly every variation possible. The most intact and representative grouping of bungalows in the city is included in the Emery Street Bungalow District (see district survey form). An individual example of a bungalow featuring distinct architectural characteristics is provided by the Kenyon house, 333 Garfield Avenue, CEC 37/15, constructed in 1915. The one story dwelling, distinguished by horizontal framing, a division of surfaces, and exposed rafters and purlins, suggests both Prairie and Western Stick style influences.

Eau Claire's "public" buildings (public used here in its broadest sense to encompass commercial, civic, ecclesiastical, and educational structures) present an almost comparable spectrum of architectural styles. The city's central business district, which centers on South Barstow Street and which has lost several noteworthy commercial buildings, contains two significant structures, the Barnes Block (NRHP, 1982) and the **First Wisconsin National**

**Bank,** 131 South Barstow Street, CEC 1P/17. The Barnes Block, a striking corner structure, is, within the city, the best surviving example of grand-scale commercial design in the Richardsonian Romanesque manner. Rising three stories, the stone and brick building is identified by a round corner tower with a slate conical roof, a round-arched entrance to the upper stories, and three gablets trimmed with rusticated stone finials and stone arches. **The First Wisconsin National bank,** erected in 1930 and designed by Burnham Brothers, Inc., a Chicago architectural firm, is a six story polished granite and limestone building representing the Moderne/Art Deco mode. A simplified illustration, the bank features vertical bands of fluting, carved ornamental panels, and a two story granite framed portal. Within the city's secondary business district located along Water Street on the westside of the Chippewa River, three commercial structures, two "boomtown" frame buildings, and the brick Pioneer Block (NRHP, 1980) furnish additional examples of commercial design. The frame structures, the John Johnson Saloon, 216 Fifth Avenue, CEC 22/10, and the Ottawa House, 602 Water Street, CEC 20/8, are the city's remaining, intact commercial buildings with the characteristic "boomtown" facade. Constructed after the



**United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

The Historic Resources of Eau Claire

Continuation sheet Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 7

Page 7

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devastating fire of 1882, the two establishments are simply designed and marked by the identifiable fronts with projecting, bracketed cornices and by lower storefront areas including recessed entrances, flanking display windows, and wood kickplates. The Johnson Saloon is further distinguished by an outside stairway to the upper story. Also erected after the 1882 fire, the Pioneer Block, a large and substantial brick edifice containing five commercial areas, is the city's only example of the High Victorian Gothic style.

The architectural styles commonly used for civic buildings, the Neo-Classical and the Beaux Arts, are represented in Eau Claire by the City Hall, 203 South Farwell, CEC 1P/27; the former Eau Claire Public Library, 217 South Farwell, CEC 1P/28, and the Federal Building, 500 South Barstow Street. (Note: The Federal Building is an eligible property, but is not included in the nomination because it is federally owned. The city hall and former library are treated as a single site because they are joined by an addition. The two buildings are, however, individually eligible.) The city hall (1916), designed by George Awsumb of Chicago and the Federal Building (1909) are fine examples of Neo-Classical/Beaux Arts architecture. Monumental stone structures, the buildings are key features of the city's main commercial district. Situated immediately south of the city hall is the former public library, a Neo-Classical building, now used for city offices. The library, a gift of Andrew Carnegie, was built in 1903 and designed by Patton and Miller, Chicago architects who specialized in libraries, schools, and collegiate buildings. In reference to schools, one of Eau Claire's school buildings is of architectural interest. The Eau Claire High School, 314 Doty Street, CEC 1P/34, constructed in 1925 and designed by local architect, Edward Hancock, is the community's most impressive Collegiate Gothic building.

Equally impressive are Eau Claire's ecclesiastical structures which include St. Patrick's Church, 322 Fulton Street, CEC 2L/20, an example of transitional Romanesque/Gothic design; Sacred Heart Church, 418 North Dewey Street, CEC 4L/15, a late Neo-Romanesque structure which rests on a bluff overlooking the city; and the First Baptist Church, 416 Niagara Street, RP 2L/14, a dignified Georgian Revival building located in the Randall Park Historic District. Added to this list are church buildings designed by Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie and the later partnership, Purcell and Elmslie. The Community House of the First Congregational Church (NRHP, 1974) (1913-14) is a Purcell and Elmslie design which illustrates the firm's successful use of the simple high pitch gable roof. Attached to the community house is the First Congregation Church, 310 Broadway Street, RP 2L/13, a Gothic structure which was not designed by the firm. The massive sandstone building and the community house are pivotal features of the Randall Park Historic District. In 1909 the parish house and chancel of Christ Church Cathedral, 510 South Farwell Street, CEC 1P/30, designed by Purcell, Feick and Elmslie, were erected. Six years later the nave, a product of the Purcell and Elmslie firm, was completed. The church and parish house, early twentieth century Neo-Gothic structures, reflect the Minneapolis architects' use of English antecedents.

Three additional sites complete Eau Claire's catalog of architectural resources: Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railroad Depot, 324 Putnam Street, CEC 4L/28; the Phoenix Manufacturing Company, Forest and Wisconsin Streets, CEC 4L/7; and the Old Wells Road bridge, CEC 5P/37. The depot, an 1893 Charles Frost design, (Frost, individually, and later in partnership with Alfred Granger was responsible for many depots in Wisconsin.), is an excellent example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. The remaining buildings

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

The Historic Resources of Eau Claire  
Continuation sheet Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 7

Page 8

of the Phoenix Manufacturing Company, three contiguous structures located on the east bank of the Chippewa River, furnish Eau Claire's most intact industrial property. Despite the alterations that have occurred as a result of changing industrial needs, the original architectural quality of the structures survives and presents a record of one of the city's principal industrial firms. The Old Wells Road bridge which spans a double track main line is the state's best preserved example of a Howe truss bridge.

The physical setting for these resources is a river-dominated community that developed from three separate villages. The blocks are generally rectangular and oriented to the compass directions with the exception of the plat of the Village of Eau Claire (it contains the central business district) which parallels the Chippewa River and the adjacent Third Ward area where the residential blocks run in a northwest-southeast direction. The houses in the city's older neighborhoods are set back approximately fifteen to twenty feet from the sidewalk line and feature spacious rear and side yards and front boulevard. An average block contains ten to sixteen houses. Large trees (unfortunately most of these are elms which are rapidly disappearing) and numerous other plantings fill the individual yards and soften the edges of house, sidewalk and street. Both the Randall Park Historic District and the Third Ward Historic District reflect these general characteristics (see district survey forms for more information). The later additions to the city, particularly those to the east deviate from this pattern. In this area, where bungalows are the common building type, the blocks are longer and the density greater (averaging twenty homes per block). The narrow lots which extend to the sidewalk located at the street's edge (no boulevard is present) are once again filled with trees and various planting. For a comprehensive description see the Emery Street Bungalow District.

Parks and open spaces are conspicuous features of Eau Claire's cultural landscape. Donated in many instances by prominent lumbermen, the parks add significantly to the city's pleasing appearance. Of special importance with respect to the nomination is Randall Park in the Randall Park Historic District. Featuring the pivotal statue of Adin Randall, the park provides a natural focus for the district.

Survey Methodology

In 1981 the city of Eau Claire received a survey and planning grant from the Historic Preservation Division of the State Historical Society. The grant provided for an intensive architectural/historical survey of the city's resources and the preparation of a multiple resource nomination. James Schuh, a staff member of the city of Eau Claire's Department of Planning and Development, was project director, and Mary Taylor, a preservation consultant, conducted the survey and completed the nomination.

The intensive survey of the city of Eau Claire began with an update of the reconnaissance survey completed in the summer of 1978 by the State Historical Society. A reconnaissance or windshield survey requires a surveyor to travel over every road in the designated geographical area (e.g. city, county, etc.) and to identify and photograph potentially significant properties. In Eau Claire approximately 300 sites were documented in this preliminary inventory. Because only general historical research accompanied the effort, architecturally significant sites predominated.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet The Historic Resources of Eau Claire  
Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 7

Page 9

A second examination of every building in the city initiated the updating procedure. The city was surveyed in sections based on building use and geographical location. Commercial and industrial structures were inspected first. This arrangement simplified comparisons and historic district identification. The survey of specific neighborhoods and residential areas of the city developed within the same time period completed the inventory. Neighborhoods were delineated with the aid of the city of Eau Claire planning staff and particularly the neighborhood planner, Lucy Thompson. In 1978 the city inaugurated a neighborhood assistance program, which has produced three neighborhood plans - the Westside Neighborhood Conservation Plan, the Northside Hill Neighborhood Strategy Plan, and the North River Fronts Neighborhood Plan. Recently the staff has begun to work in a fourth neighborhood, the city's Third Ward. Once again this approach facilitated building comparisons and the designation of historic districts.

The re-survey of the city yielded more than 300 additional sites. These sites included a large number of bungalows, a building type which was largely overlooked in the 1978 survey, commercial structures, and residences in areas of the city that were previously unrepresented. Several historical properties, uncovered through the in-depth historical research, (fourteen themes provide the framework for the research), which accompanies an intensive survey, were also added. At the same time each of the buildings from the 1978 survey was checked for alteration or demolition. If an alteration had occurred, a new photo was taken.

The next phase of the project focused on site specific research and re-examination of the historic districts that were roughly outlined in the field. Also at this time, all sites were mapped. In reference to historic districts, the mapping of sites provided additional information on the concentration of buildings and the location of boundaries. The intensive research effort produced substantial information which aided in describing individual sites and in documenting the special character of historic districts. It also identified a small number of properties which had eluded both of the previous surveys.

Finally, using National Register criteria, the most significant properties and districts were identified for inclusion in a multiple resource nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The staff of the Historic Preservation Division of the State Historical Society was consulted during this process. **Twenty four** individual buildings of distinct historical engineering and/or architectural importance were selected as well as three historic districts: the Randall Park Historic District, the Third Ward Historic District, and the Emery Street Bungalow District. (The Federal Building is also an eligible site but is not included in the nomination because it is federally owned.) These districts, chosen for their unique, identifiable character and role within Eau Claire's history, are all located in residential areas.

## Archeological Surveys

The archeological resources of the city of Eau Claire have not been comprehensively surveyed, although in recent years site specific research has preceded a number of construction projects. A 1914 article compiled by C.E. Brown and H.L. Skavlem (see bibliography below) documented two sites in Eau Claire - a single oval mound at the rear

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

The Historic Resources of Eau Claire

Continuation sheet Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 7

Page 10

of a hill known as Mount Tom (it is located on the city's near north side) and a camp and workshop site on the west side of the Chippewa River where the now unused Milwaukee Road bridge crosses (the site was described as between the river bank and First Avenue). No further information concerning these sites is available, but it is believed that they are no longer intact due to continued human development. A complete bibliography of the archeological literature pertaining to Eau Claire follows. It is recorded in chronological order.

Brown, Charles E. 1912. "Fourth Addition to the Record of Wisconsin Antiquities", Wisconsin Archeologist (old series) 10 (4):165-185.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1925. "Fifth Addition to the Record of Wisconsin Antiquities", Wisconsin Archeologist (new series) 4 (1).

Brown, Charles E. and H.L. Skavlem. 1914. "Notes of Some Archeological Features of Eau Claire, Chippewa, Rusk, and Dunn Counties", Wisconsin Archeologist (old series) 13 (1):60-79.

Tiffany, Joseph A. 1976. "Archeological Survey of the Stein Property, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Eau Claire, Wisconsin." Report on file at SHPO, State Historical Society, Madison.

Gibbon, Guy E. 1979. "Archeological Survey of Area Within Proposed Industrial Park, City of Eau Claire, Eau Claire County Wisconsin." Report on file at SHPO, State Historical Society, Madison.

McNair, R. Lee. 1980. "An Archaeological Survey for the Proposed Relocation of Golf Road, City of Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin." Report on File at SHPO, State Historical Society, Madison.

Barth, Robert O. 1981. "An Archaeological Survey of the Chippewa River in Eau Claire and Chippewa Counties, Wisconsin." Report on file at SHPO, State Historical Society, Madison.

Footnotes - Description

1. Lawrence Martin, The Physical Geography of Wisconsin, 3d. ed., (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1965), p. 360.
2. Robert Fries, Empire in Pine: The Story of Lumbering in Wisconsin, 1830-1900, (Madison: State Historical Society), pp. 20-21.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				associated with
<b>Specific dates</b> 1862–1932	<b>Builder/Architect</b> (see survey forms)			significant individual

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### Introduction

Strategically sited at the confluence of the Chippewa and Eau Claire Rivers and originally surrounded by a magnificent pine forest, the city of Eau Claire is recognized for its role in the growth of the state's lumber industry, which at the turn of the century surpassed Michigan's industry as the leading lumber producer in the nation. Following the exhaustion of the timber resource, the city maintained a stable population and emerged as a major regional center, serving the predominantly rural counties of west central Wisconsin. The historic resources included in this nomination date from the 1860's to the 1930's and mirror Eau Claire's particular pattern of economic, cultural, and physical development.

Twenty four individual properties (the Federal Building is also eligible, but it is not included in the nomination because it is federally owned) and three historic districts have been selected for their architectural, engineering, and/or historical significance. The three districts - the Randall Park Historic District, the Third Ward Historic District, and the Emery Street Bungalow District - are residential in character and significant for their contributions to Eau Claire's architectural inventory and (with the exception of the Emery Street District) for their association with the historical development of the city. Moreover, the Randall Park Historic District contains an exceptional piece of sculpture, the seated figure of Adin Randall, created by Wisconsin's foremost sculptress, Helen Farnsworth Mears. Architectural significance is also cited for a majority of the individual sites, which furnish a full representation of the styles existing in the city. The other areas of significance represented in the nomination include industry, education, and association with significant individuals. In addition, the Old Wells Road Bridge, a Howe truss bridge, is an important engineering feature.

#### Historical Development

In 1821, more than twenty years before Wisconsin attained statehood, the first raft of logs from the Chippewa River Valley entered Prairie du Chien, a Mississippi River community.<sup>1</sup> A tributary of the Mississippi, the Chippewa River, from its headwaters near Lake Superior, travelled through miles of magnificent pine forest before reaching the continent's major waterway. At a site approximately two thirds of the way between its source and its union with the Mississippi, the Chippewa was joined by the last substantial river flowing from the east - the Eau Claire. This river junction, claimed by both the Sioux and Chippewa tribes and used as a point of transfer during the fur trade era, possessed a number of natural assets, which by the mid 1850's generated the nucleus of a community.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

The Historic Resources of Eau Claire  
Continuation sheet Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 8

Page 1

The lumber industry in Wisconsin, which at the turn of the century dominated the state's economy, began with the construction of a sawmill on the Fox River south of Green Bay in 1809.<sup>2</sup> In small strides, including the 1821 event described above, the industry gained a foothold as the demand for lumber increased while the sources (those in the eastern states) decreased. It has been noted that "by 1830, lumbering operations were being carried on along the banks of most of Wisconsin's useful logging streams".<sup>3</sup>

The "most useful" of Wisconsin's logging streams was the Chippewa River where logging activities flourished following the government treaties with the Indians in 1837 and 1842. A sawmill at the major falls on the Chippewa (now the site of the city of Chippewa Falls) was built in 1838 and in operation two years later. On the Eau Galle River, a small tributary of the Chippewa which enters the main channel just south of present day Durand, a mill was sawing lumber in 1839. At the confluence of the Chippewa and Eau Claire Rivers, mill construction was delayed until 1845, when sawing facilities were erected on both the main river and its tributary.<sup>4</sup>

Although development at this site continued, it was not until the middle of the next decade that a recognizable settlement appeared. Attracted by the boom throughout the nation in the years 1850-1856, eastern lumbermen and others heading west in search of opportunity remained at the emerging lumber center. Daniel Shaw, Charles A. Bullen, Orrin Ingram, Donald Kennedy, George Buffington, and J.G. Thorp were among those who arrived during 1856 and 1857. These men (and others) were instrumental in establishing the lumber industry around which a permanent community grew. (The Buffington residence is extant but not included in the nomination; the Charles Bullen residence is located within the Randall Park Historic District, 606 Third Avenue, RP 1L/31).

Reflecting the increase in population and the prosperous economic circumstances, two village plats were recorded in 1856. The first plat, containing the land south of the Eau Claire River and west of the Chippewa River, was named the Village of Eau Claire. On the opposite side of the Chippewa the Village of Eau Claire City, surveyed and platted under the direction of Adin Randall, the lumber town's first "booster" (the Randall residence, included in the nomination, is located at 526 Menomonie Street, CEC 7L/5), was located between the river and Half Moon Lake. North of the Eau Claire River, a third village, platted by a number of individuals but never officially incorporated, thrived. Also, at this time (1856) the county of Eau Claire, a rectangular piece of land, was separated from Chippewa county; the settlement coalescing at the river junction was selected as the county seat.

Interrupting this pattern of growth was the devastating Panic of 1857. A number of entrepreneurs, including Adin Randall, never recovered from this setback, while others were fortunate to receive financial assistance from capitalists in the east. Economic circumstances improved by the beginning of the next decade as railroad expansion and the settlement of the treeless prairies west of the Mississippi River increased the need for lumber. The Civil War, too, provided an economic boom. Thus as the 1860's came to a close, the lumber industry ended its first stage of development. By this time the major

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

The Historic Resources of Eau Claire  
Continuation sheet Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 8

Page 2

companies operating in the Chippewa valley had been organized and had survived a variety of natural and man-made disasters (i.e. floods, fires) and a number of fluctuations in the market for lumber. Moreover, increased recognition of the resource located in the valley and of the community situated at the junction of the rivers brought additional settlers and an influx of speculators and investors who sought the remaining pine lands.

The Chippewa River, as already noted, was a major waterway through the pine lands. Distinctive among the many rivers which drained the pinery, the Chippewa has been comprehensively described by Charles Twining, a prominent historian of Wisconsin's lumber industry:

The Wisconsin pine lands ranged generally north of a line from Green Bay to the mouth of the St. Croix, including nearly one-half the area of the state. Within that region, and among all of the tributaries of the Upper Mississippi, the Chippewa valley comprised the largest and single most important lumbering district. Draining more than a third of the Wisconsin pinery, its original stand was estimated to have exceeded 46 billion board feet - 16 billion feet more than the next largest district, the Wisconsin River valley. Not only did the Chippewa basin contain more pine than was growing in the neighboring valleys, but the greater portion of that pine was unusually accessible to the lumbermen. Its lakes, rivers, and streams formed a natural network of waterways, providing excellent transportation for a bulky product.<sup>5</sup>

Eau Claire, which developed as the principal lumber town on the Chippewa River, was also distinctive, for, in addition to the usual requirements for a lumber-based settlement, access to lumber and adequate water power, the location at the river junction offered natural areas for the sorting of logs. Half Moon Lake, a former oxbow of the river, was particularly well suited for this purpose. As early as 1857 a canal, connecting the lake with the Chippewa River, had been excavated. The lake, which was used by several lumber companies, including those located near its southern edge, was further improved in 1878 when the dam at the rapids just north of the city's center was completed. The dam was constructed after a long legal battle with Eau Claire's major rival, Chippewa Falls. Ostensibly to provide a water works for Eau Claire, the dam was, in fact, used to create a huge log storage pond. Coupled with this improvement was a flume that carried logs from the dam to Half Moon Lake.

Between 1870 and the turn of the century, Eau Claire experienced dramatic growth followed by a decline (not a "bust"). Finally incorporated in 1872 and linked by railroad to the major midwestern centers in 1870, the city formed of three villages took on a more "solid" appearance. Business houses lined the main commercial thoroughfares, Barstow Street and Water Street, and dwellings, both grand and modest, filled the city's residential blocks. An electric railway system, the Eau Claire Street Railway Light and Power Company

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

The Historic Resources of Eau Claire

Continuation sheet Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 8

Page 3

organized in 1890 (a horse drawn transportation system preceded the railway), serviced the various sections of the community. By the turn of the century, the system included an interurban line between Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls, a city approximately ten miles north.

Following the Chicago fire in 1871 and the continuing migration to the trans-Mississippi west, the lumber industry was producing as never before. By 1885 six companies dominated the production of lumber in the city: the Eau Claire Lumber Company, the Dells Lumber Company, the Empire Lumber Company, the Northwestern Lumber Company, the Daniel Shaw Lumber Company, and the Valley Lumber Company. Located almost exclusively along the west bank of the Chippewa River these large concerns were producing (on average) twelve to sixty million board feet of lumber per year.<sup>6</sup> The largest firm, the Eau Claire Lumber Company, which was situated on the Eau Claire River, averaged seventy five to ninety million feet yearly and employed 1800 men.<sup>7</sup> In 1880 and 1885 the mills at Eau Claire produced somewhat more than one half of all the lumber manufactured in the Chippewa Valley. Furthermore, "in the entire Mississippi valley only Minneapolis continued to outrank Eau Claire in its production of lumber".<sup>8</sup>

Population increase reflected the growth of the industry. In 1880, the first census in which the city of Eau Claire was included separately, a population of 10,118 was recorded. In only five years that figure had more than doubled to 21,668. The newcomers, for the most part Norwegian immigrants, represented a change in the city's ethnic composition. Previously, the foreign born population had been dominated by German, Irish, and Canadian born individuals. Native born Americans, including a substantial group of Yankees who dominated the upper levels of the lumber industry, comprised the largest segment of the population.

Although the 1880's represented a period of peak growth, the decade also witnessed a marked change in the operation of the lumber industry. Beginning in the 1860's the lumber interests along the Mississippi River sought to control the production of lumber from the Chippewa valley. In 1870 Frederick Weyerhaeuser, a dynamic force in the lumber industry, established the Mississippi River Logging Company, an organization of the major Mississippi River lumber firms. Various members of this company made large purchases of pine land in the Chippewa valley, an act which necessitated cooperation between the Eau Claire millmen and their downriver counterparts particularly during the spring log-driving operations. Following a disastrous flood in 1880, the undeclared cooperation that had existed was replaced by a more formal arrangement which reflected the dominance of Weyerhaeuser's group. In 1881 the Chippewa Logging Company, or "the pool", was organized with membership including the leading producers on the Chippewa as well as the Mississippi. The new company was responsible for the purchase, delivery, distribution, and sale of virtually all of the white pine in the Chippewa valley.<sup>9</sup>

The decline of Eau Claire's lumber industry was evident by the beginning of the 1890's. Already in 1887 the Mississippi River Logging Company had purchased the Eau Claire Lumber



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

The Historic Resources of Eau Claire  
Continuation sheet Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 8

Page 4

Company's six mills. Three years later when the Northwestern Lumber Company took control, the new owners kept one mill in operation and dismantled the others. Orrin Ingram's firm, the Empire Lumber Company, one of the valley's major producers, ceased operations in 1899. The Daniel Shaw Lumber Company produced lumber until 1912 and the Dells Lumber Company, the last to close, ended operations in 1930. (In reference to the lumber industry itself, only scattered remnants survive. The most significant of these is the office of the Kaiser Lumber Company, 1004 Menomonie Street, CEC 23/29.) A drop in population accompanied the mill closings. Between 1885 and 1890 Eau Claire lost twenty percent of its population - a loss which severely challenged the community's self-described position as Wisconsin's "Second City". Despite the major reversals Eau Claire was able to make the transition from a city based on primary extractive industry to one based on diversified manufacturing activity. A number of manufacturing firms specializing in sawmill machinery were previously part of the city's economic base. The noteworthy examples were the Phoenix Manufacturing Company, originally organized in 1860, and the McDonough Manufacturing Company, incorporated in 1889. Other manufacturing concerns, also auxiliary to the lumber industry, were features of late nineteenth century Eau Claire. Two furniture companies, the Phoenix (1899) and the Pioneer (1887), a papermill, the Dells Pulp and Paper Company (1894), and box companies, the Linderman Box and Veneer Company (1895) and the Kaiser Lumber Company Box Factory (1905) represented efforts to make full use of the remaining resource. (Buildings associated with nearly all of these industries remain; however, the greater number of them have been significantly altered. An exception is the Phoenix Manufacturing Company, Forest and Wisconsin Streets, CEC 4L/7, where three adjoining buildings are included in the nomination.) These industries were located, for the most part, on land formerly occupied or owned by lumber companies.

In the twentieth century, Eau Claire's manufacturing base became increasingly diversified. Non lumber-related industries such as the Gillette Safety Tire Company (now Uniroyal, Inc.) and the Northwestern Steel and Iron Works, which later became the National Pressure Cooker Company (now National Presto Industries, Inc.), a nationally recognized producer of small home appliances, opened large plants within the main industrial area north of the Eau Claire River. (Presto, has within the last ten years, moved to a location near the city's northeastern limits. The original structures are presently being used by the L.E. Phillips Career Development Center.) At the same time, Eau Claire emerged as a major regional center for west central Wisconsin. Providing trade and service facilities for the surrounding predominantly rural counties, the city also housed important governmental and educational functions. In particular the creation of a state normal school in 1909 (now the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire) added to Eau Claire's stature. (The school's first building, Schofield Hall, CEC 7L/8, is included in the nomination.)

Steadily increasing population figures mirrored Eau Claire's resurgence. Stagnant at the turn of the century, the totals moved upward slowly during the decades of the twentieth century, reaching 30,745 in 1940 and 44,619 in 1970. Physically expanding as a result of this growth, the city continued to move outward from its historic center at the river junction. Today, Eau Claire is a vital and diverse community, a unique reflection of its history and its people.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

The Historic Resources of Eau Claire

Continuation sheet Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 8

Page 5

Resources Included in the Nomination

Architecturally significant properties dominate the multiple resource nomination. Of the twenty four individual sites, fourteen are nominated solely for architecture, three for both history and architecture, six for history, and one for engineering. The three historic districts, all of which are located in residential areas, are architecturally significant and, in the case of the Randall Park and Third Ward Districts, historically significant. The types of structures nominated are varied and offer an excellent cross section of the city's building stock. The twenty four properties include eleven residences, three churches, two schools, one civic building (The City Hall, 203 S. Farwell Street, CEC 1P/27, and the former Eau Claire Public Library, 217 S. Farwell Street, CEC 1P/28, are considered a single site.), four commercial establishments (The railroad depot is considered commercial), two industrial sites, one of which is composed of three adjacent buildings, and a bridge. The historic districts, as mentioned above, are residential groupings, encompassing from forty six buildings (the Third Ward Historic District) to sixty seven buildings (the Randall Park Historic District). In respect to building type, the last named district is the most diverse of the three, featuring three churches, a small store, and a park, as well as residences.

The nominated residential properties, those individually eligible and those located in the historic districts, reach across the entire spectrum of architectural styles and reflect the varied tastes and economic situations of Eau Claire's population. The buildings range from unique vernacular expressions such as the Levi Merrill House, 120 Ferry Street, CEC 5P/5, a combination of Gothic and Classical elements, and the Waldemar Ager House, 429 Chestnut Street, CEC 3L/3, a simple structure ornamented by hand and machine-made detail, to the identifiable national styles. Examples of the latter include the Christine Eichert House, 527 North Barstow Street, CEC 3L/35, a clapboard and shingle Queen Anne residence; the James Barber House, 132 Marston Avenue, CEC 2P/18, a striking Tudor Revival dwelling designed by Minneapolis architect, Harry Wild Jones, and built for a prominent lumberman; and the Orlando Brice House, 120 Marston Avenue, CEC 2P/22, a formal Georgian Revival structure situated on the east bank of the Chippewa River. Two of the historic districts, the Randall Park Historic District and the Third Ward Historic District, are distinguished by similar examples of residential architecture. The Third Ward Historic District offers the greatest variety of architectural styles, including the late picturesque residences, Queen Anne homes, period revivals, and simplified Prairie School examples. In contrast, the third district, the Emery Street Bungalow District, presents one specific building type, the bungalow, in an assortment of forms.

Architectural styles are also represented by Eau Claire's commercial, industrial and public buildings. As mentioned above, four commercial establishments, all of which are nominated for their architectural significance, are included in the nomination. The individual sites featured are two "boomtown" frame buildings, the John Johnson Saloon, 216 Fifth Avenue, CEC 22/10, and the Ottawa House, 602 Water Street, CEC 20/8; the First Wisconsin National Bank, 131 South Barstow Street, CEC 1P/17, a Moderne/Art Deco structure; and the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railroad Depot, 324 Putnam Street, CEC 4L/28, a Charles Frost designed Richardsonian Romanesque depot. Collegiate Gothic, Neo-Classical, and late Neo-Romanesque are three of the architectural styles

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

The Historic Resources of Eau Claire  
Continuation sheet Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 8

Page 6

provided by Eau Claire's public buildings (churches, schools, and civic structures), which are distinct features of the city's cultural landscape. The single industrial site of architectural significance is the Phoenix Manufacturing Company, Forest and Wisconsin Streets, CEC 4L/7. Two of the three adjoining structures, which comprise the site, are of fieldstone construction, while the 1907 component is a massive brick industrial structure distinguished by a monitor roof. Providing a structure of engineering significance is the Old Wells Road Bridge, CEC 5P/37, a Howe truss bridge of statewide importance.

The sites recognized for their historical importance are less numerous and, because of the dominance of the lumber industry, more concentrated on a single (but obviously important) aspect of Eau Claire's history. The following sites are related in some manner (they are associated with prominent lumbermen or with a facet of the industry itself) to the lumber industry: the John S. Owen House, 907 Porter Avenue, CEC 2P/8; the James Barber House, 132 Marston Avenue, CEC 2P/18; the Adin Randall House, 526 Menomonie Street, CEC 7L/5; the Kaiser Lumber Company Office, 1004 Menomonie Street, CEC 23/29; and the Phoenix Manufacturing Company, Forest and Wisconsin Streets, CEC 4L/7. The Randall Park Historic District, as the home of a number of lumbermen, is also associated with the history of the industry. Historically significant individuals (other than lumbermen) were represented by the Roy Wilcox House, 104 Wilcox Street, CEC 2P/21; the Charles L. James House, 411 Union Street, CEC 34/30; and the Waldemar Ager House, 429 Chestnut Street, CEC 3L/3. Wilcox played an important role in state and local politics in the 1910's and 1920's; James was a nationally recognized intellectual of the anarchist movement; and Ager contributed to the development of the city's and the state's Norwegian community, as editor, lecturer, and author. Additionally, several figures prominent in Eau Claire's business community resided in the Third Ward Historic District. And finally, Schofield Hall, 105 Garfield Avenue, CEC 7L/8, is nominated for its association with the growth of what is now the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

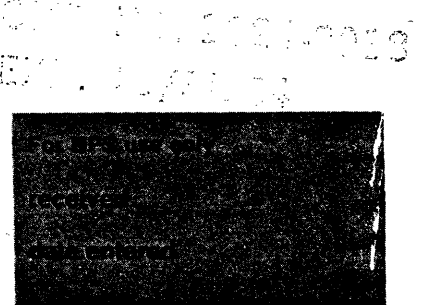
Planning, Preservation, and Restoration Activities

The historic preservation survey and planning project which includes the intensive survey of Eau Claire's historic resources and this multiple resource nomination was initiated by the staff of the city of Eau Claire's Department of Planning and Development in order to inventory, document, and nominate the community's historically and architecturally significant properties. In a further attempt to integrate and to use the information generated, the project also provided for an update of the city's Landmarks Ordinance (a Landmarks Commission was established in 1974), a preservation plan, and an educational video tape program. (A preservation planner furnished the revised ordinance and plan. A media professional produced the tape with the assistance of volunteers.)

Since 1974, the Landmarks Commission has been the major focus of historic preservation in Eau Claire. The active group has sponsored walking tours and open houses, designated local landmarks, and prepared the National Register nominations for nearly all of Eau Claire's listed properties. To facilitate the Commission's identification and designation of additional city landmarks, the entire intensive survey, including the report, intensive survey forms, and photographs, will be on file at the Landmarks Commission's office, located in the Schlegelmilch-McDaniel House. The Preservation Division of the State Historical

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



The Historic Resources of Eau Claire  
Continuation sheet Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 8

Page 7

Society will also retain the complete survey, while copies of the survey report will be available at the Chippewa Valley Museum, the L.E. Phillips Library, and the Eau Claire Department of Planning and Development.

The ordinance and plan components of the project additionally affect the Landmarks Commission. The revised ordinance reflects the need to designate local historic districts and formally empowers the commission to do so. The historic preservation plan, adopted by the Eau Claire city council in May, 1982, as part of the city's comprehensive plan, reiterates the city's commitment to historic preservation and provides both policy statements and implementation strategies. One of the policies directly relates to the National Register and the Landmarks Commission, stating that "all structures and sites eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places should be considered for local landmark designation".<sup>10</sup>

The final phase, the video tape program, is an educational tool, which will be used by the city, the Landmarks Commission, and others for introducing and describing historic preservation in the city of Eau Claire. The tape, the first to be included in a survey and planning grant in the State of Wisconsin, focuses on the survey, the ordinance, and plan, but is introduced by a number of interviews featuring historical, architectural, and preservation-related information.

The combination of these efforts and the participation of an active citizenry assures the continuation of a healthy historic preservation program in Eau Claire.

Significance: Architecture

The architectural resources included in the multiple resource nomination represent types, periods, and methods of construction and record the progression of architectural styles in Eau Claire from the 1870's to the 1930's. Residential properties are overwhelmingly dominant. The three historic districts are residential in character and seven of the seventeen individual sites are homes (of the total twenty **four individual properties nominated, seventeen** are architecturally significant). The residences provide examples of late Carpenter Gothic (Martin Van Buren Barron House, 221 Washington Street, CEC 3P/30), Queen Anne (Christine Eichert House, 527 North Barstow Street, CEC 3L/35), Tudor Revival (James Barber House, 132 Marston Avenue, CEC 2P/18), and Georgian Revival (Orlando Brice House, 120 Marston Avenue, CEC 2P/22) architecture. Moreover, vernacular illustrations are included and represented by the Waldemar Ager House, 429 Chestnut Street, CEC 3L/3, and the Levi Merrill House, 120 Ferry Street, CEC 5P/5. The bungalow housing type is also recognized individually in the A.L. Kenyon House, 333 Garfield Avenue, CEC 28/17, and collectively in the Emery Street Bungalow District. The other two districts, the Randall Park Historic District and the Third Ward Historic District, complement the individual residential sites. The Randall Park District is primarily composed of nineteenth century structures, while the Third Ward District spans a longer time period from the late nineteenth century to the third decade of the twentieth century.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

The Historic Resources of Eau Claire

Continuation sheet Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 8

Page 8

The non-residential structures (schools, churches, civic, commercial, and industrial buildings) offer a nearly equal display of styles.

Examples include the City Hall, 203 South Farwell Street, CEC 1P/27, and the Eau Claire Public Library, 217 South Farwell, CEC 1P/28, an impressive pair of structures representing the Neo-Classical and Beaux Arts traditions; St. Patrick's Church, 322 Fulton Street, CEC 2L/20, a transitional Romanesque/Gothic design; Eau Claire High School, 314 Doty Street, CEC 1P/34, a massive Collegiate Gothic structure; the Ottawa House, 602 Water Street, CEC 20/8, a vernacular "boomtown" facade commercial building; and the Phoenix Manufacturing Company, Forest and Wisconsin Streets, CEC 4L/7, fieldstone and brick industrial buildings.

For more information refer to the "Architectural Resources" portion of Item #7, the individual intensive survey forms, and the district survey forms.

Significance: Education

Schofield Hall, 105 Garfield Avenue, CEC 7L/8, is the "Old Main" of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire campus and represents the growth and advancement of that institution which began as the Eau Claire State Normal School. An integral part of the community and the focus of its intellectual life, the school was the last of nine created by the state's normal school system. The building originally contained all classrooms, laboratories, administrative offices, the model school, a gymnasium, the library, and the auditorium, and was the lone structure on the campus until 1950. For more information see the individual intensive survey form.

Significance: Engineering

The Old Wells Road Bridge, CEC 5P/37, located in the northwest section of the city, is recognized for its engineering significance. Erected in 1911, the Eau Claire structure is the best preserved of the two Howe truss highway bridges in the state. For more information see the individual intensive survey form.

Significance: Industry

The Kaiser Lumber Company Office, 1004 Menomonie Street, CEC 23/29, is historically associated with the development of the city's lumber industry. Although lumber was Eau Claire's dominant economic activity until the early decades of the twentieth century, few intact remnants of the industry survive. Most noticeably absent are any structures relating to the actual production of lumber. The Kaiser Lumber Company, located at the inlet of Half Moon Lake (the former site of the Valley Lumber Company), was established in 1905 (the last lumber firm to be organized in the city) and produced both hardwood lumber and boxes. The office building which is totally intact was the focus of the company, where the activities of lumber and box production were coordinated.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

The Historic Resources of Eau Claire

Continuation sheet Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 8

Page 9

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An additional site related to the city's lumber industry is the Phoenix Manufacturing Company, Forest and Wisconsin Streets, CEC 4L/7. A descendent of one of the city's oldest manufacturing firms, Graham and Tolles, founded in 1861, the Phoenix Company specialized in making and repairing sawmill machinery. Perhaps the company's greatest achievement came in the early twentieth century (1903) when it produced a steam log hauler which revolutionized the transportation of logs. The remaining buildings, three adjoining structures, are the city's most intact industrial properties and clearly represent the development of an industry vital to the production of lumber. For more information see the individual intensive survey forms.

Significance: Sculpture

The figure of Adin Randall, Randall Park, RP 33/22, a pivotal feature of the Randall Park Historic District, is a significant piece of sculpture. Designed by Helen Farnsworth Mears, the state's most celebrated sculptress, the statue was donated to the city by Orrin Ingram, a prominent citizen and lumberman. For more information see the district survey form and the individual intensive survey form.

Significance: Significant Individuals

The Randall Park Historic District, the Third Ward Historic District, and several single properties (the Charles L. James House, 411 Union Street, CEC 34/30; the Waldemar Ager House, 429 Chestnut Street, CEC 3L/3; the Adin Randall House, CEC 526 Menomonie Street, CEC 7L/5; the Roy Wilcox House, 104 Wilcox Street, CEC 2P/21; the John S. Owen House 907 Porter Avenue, CEC 2P/8; and the James Barber House, 132 Marston Avenue, CEC 2P/18) are associated with individuals significant within Eau Claire (the majority are in this category), the state, and the nation.

The locally significant individuals include Owen, Randall, Barber, and Wilcox. Owen and Barber were acknowledged as two of the city's lumber barons, both having wide interests in the lumber industry and prominent positions within the community. Despite the number of notable lumbermen who lived in Eau Claire, few of their houses remain. The residences of these two men are fine representatives and are augmented by homes in the Randall Park Historic District, which has historically been associated with the industry. Adin Randall, too, was affiliated with the lumber business, but, as one of the settlements' pioneers, he acted as a "town booster" and was instrumental in luring some of the first major lumber producers to the site. Representing another facet of Eau Claire's history, Roy Wilcox was involved in local and state politics, assisting in the legislation which provided for the commission form of government that Eau Claire (the first city in the state to do so) adopted in 1910 and serving as state senator from 1917 to 1920.

Waldemar Ager made contributions to both his community and his state. Ager, who settled in Eau Claire in 1892, was a vital member of the state's Norwegian community. He was editor of the weekly publication, Reform, a distinguished and prolific author, and temperance advocate. And finally, Charles L. James is a nationally significant figure, known for his scholarly contributions to the anarchist movement. Another prolific writer, he published his articles in several periodicals, including Mother Earth,

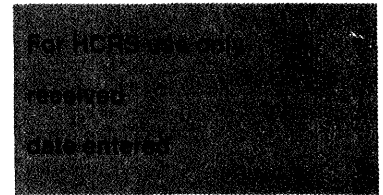
**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

The Historic Resources of Eau Claire

Continuation sheet Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 8

Page 10



established by Emma Goldman in 1906. For more information see the district survey forms and the individual intensive survey forms.

**Archeological Resources**

The scope of both the Eau Claire Intensive Survey and this multiple resource nomination was limited to a partial inventory of the historic resources of Eau Claire, specifically excluding archeology. Therefore, no sites, either individual or within a district, have been included in this nomination.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

The Historic Resources of Eau Claire  
Continuation sheet Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 8

Page 11

Footnotes - Significance

1. Dale Peterson, "Lumbering on the Chippewa: The Eau Claire Area, 1945-1885" (PhD. dissertation, University of Minnesota, 1970), p. 40.
2. Charles Twining, Downriver, Orrin H. Ingram and the Empire Lumber Company (Madison: State Historical Society, 1975), p. 28.
3. Ibid, p. 28.
4. Peterson, p. 53.
5. Twining, p. 29.
6. James B. Smith, "The Movements for Diversitified Industry in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, 1879-1907: Boosterism and Urban Development Strategy in a Declining Lumber Town" (MA Thesis, University of Wisconsin, 1967), pp. 187-188.
7. Paul Wallace Gates, "Weyerhaeuser and Chippewa Logging Industry", in The John H. Hauberg Historical Essays, ed. O. Fritiof Ander (Rock Island, Illinois: Augustana College, 1954), p. 63.
8. Peterson, p. 706.
9. Twining, p. 206.
10. Historic Preservation Plan, 1982.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property see survey forms

Quadrangle name see survey forms

Quadrangle scale see survey forms

UMT References (see survey forms)

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

All nominated properties are contained within the corporate limits of the City of Eau Claire as they existed in March, 1982. For specific boundary descriptions and justifications see individual and district survey forms.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary E. Taylor/ Preservation Consultant

organization City of Eau Claire

date July 1982

street & number 203 South Farwell Street

telephone (715) 839-5085

city or town Eau Claire

state Wisconsin

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is: see Intensive Survey Forms

☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Richard Mauer*

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisc.

date

11/3/82

For NPS use only

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

*See Continuation sheet for listing*

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

The Historic Resources of Eau Claire  
Continuation sheet Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 9

Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

The Historic Resources of Eau Claire  
Continuation sheet Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Item number 9

Page 2

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 3

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Eau Claire Multiple Resource Area  
State Wisconsin

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Ager, Waldemar, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

*For removal of objection - new owner*  
1/29/83

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

2. Brice, Orlando, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

1/28/83

Attest

3. Johnson, John, Saloon

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

1/28/83

Attest

4. Ottawa House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

1/28/83

Attest

5. Wilcox, Roy House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

1/28/83

Attest

6. Phoenix Manufacturing Company

Substantive Review

Keeper

1/28/83

Attest

7. Barber, James, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

1/28/83

Attest

8. Eau Claire Public Library

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

1/28/83

Attest

9. Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis &  
Omaha Railroad Depot

Substantive Review

Keeper

1/28/83

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

10. Randall, Adin, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

1/28/83

Attest

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 3

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Eau Claire Multiple Resource Area  
State Wisconsin

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |   |                                     |            |                               |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| 11. Barron, Martin Van Buren, House               | Substantive Review                  | Keeper     | <u>Donna M. Dwyer 1/28/83</u> |
|   |                                     | Attest     |                               |
| 12. City Hall                                     | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melvin Byers 1/28/83</u>   |
|   |                                     | Attest     |                               |
| 13. Christ Church Cathedral and<br>Parish House   | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melvin Byers 1/28/83</u>   |
|   |                                     | Attest     |                               |
| 14. Schofield Hall                                | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melvin Byers 1/28/83</u>   |
|   |                                     | Attest     |                               |
| 15. Kaiser Lumber Company Office                  | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melvin Byers 1/28/83</u>   |
|   |                                     | Attest     |                               |
| 16. Eau Claire High School                        | Substantive Review                  | Keeper     | <u>Donna M. Dwyer 1/28/83</u> |
|   |                                     | Attest     |                               |
| 17. James, Charles, L., House                     | Substantive Review                  | Keeper     | <u>Donna M. Dwyer 3/3/83</u>  |
|   |                                     | Attest     |                               |
| DOE/OWNER OBJECTION                               |                                     |            |                               |
| 18. Union National Bank (First<br>Wisconsin Bank) | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melvin Byers 1/28/83</u>   |
|   |                                     | Attest     |                               |
| 19. Kenyon, A. L., House                          | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melvin Byers 1/28/83</u>   |
|   |                                     | Attest     |                               |
| 20. Eichert, Christine, House                     | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melvin Byers 1/28/83</u>   |
|   |                                     | Attest     |                               |

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered \_\_\_\_\_

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 3 of 3

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Eau Claire Multiple Resource Area  
State Wisconsin

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

\* 21. Merrill, Levi, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

William H. Byers 1-28-83

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

22. Old Wells Road Bridge

Substantive Review

Keeper

William H. Byers 1-28-83

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

23. Owen, John S., House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

William H. Byers 1/28/83

Attest

24. St. Patrick's Church

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

William H. Byers 1/28/83

Attest

25. Sacred Heart Church

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

William H. Byers 3/3/83

Attest

26. Randall Park Historic District

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

William H. Byers 5/24/83

Attest

27. Emery Street Bungalow District

Substantive Review

Keeper

accept Patrick Andrews 5/20/83

Attest

28. Third Ward Historic District

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

William H. Byers 5/20/83

Attest

29. Kline's Department Store

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

William H. Byers 6/14/84

Attest

30. Merrill, Levi, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

William H. Byers 6/20/84

Attest

(new owner)