

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **FEB 4 1977**
DATE ENTERED **AUG 22 1977**

**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

Culton, Charles L., House

AND/OR COMMON

Ellingson-Nygaard Funeral Home

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

708 Washington Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Edgerton

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Wisconsin 53534

CODE

55

COUNTY

Rock

CODE

105

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

___ STRUCTURE

___ SITE

___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC

PRIVATE

___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS

___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

___ YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ GOVERNMENT

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ MILITARY

___ MUSEUM

___ PARK

___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ RELIGIOUS

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Arnold L. Nygaard

STREET & NUMBER

708 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Edgerton

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 53534

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Rock County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

51 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Janesville

STATE

Wisconsin 53545

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Rock County Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE

1975

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Rock County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Janesville

STATE

Wisconsin 53545

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Charles Culton house of 1902, now the Ellingson-Nygaard Funeral Home, is an excellently maintained late Queen Anne house, with a well-preserved two-story frame carriage house in back. The narrow front of this large and elegant house faces south. The basic long rectangular block is broken by bays with bracketed, overhanging gable fronts and also by engaged towers. One tower extends east from the ridge pole at the center of the east side; the other, at the southwest corner, is topped with a conical turret. The steep gable roof of the attic story is also punctuated with dormers filled with pairs of casement windows. Eaves swing outwards like a Dutch bonnet and are fronted with barge boards. Leaded windows are grouped to afford views in many directions. The general inspiration is Tudor and French chateau. A veranda wraps around the street end. Supported by broad, finely detailed Ionic columns of red stone, it provides a balcony for the second story. The stuccoed body of the house was originally a dark gray with green trim; it is now white with green roof and trim. The frame carriage house is painted white and green to match.

The excellently maintained interior is also impressive. Sixteen rooms and four baths were planned on the upper two stories. Though the main story is now utilized as a funeral parlor, the rooms are unaltered. They are graced with fine leaded glass and superb woodwork in oak, mahogany, cherry and birdseye maple. One wall in the dining room holds an intricate, built-in buffet, with leaded glass cabinets between square pilasters. The center shelves form a concave niche, topped by a richly carved shell, and the whole is surmounted by a scrolled bonnet top pediment, broken by a pedestal. Ionic columns flank fireplaces and inglenooks, and the stairway is richly carved.

The ballroom on the north end of the second story is now the casket room. The rest of the second floor and the attic were originally sleeping quarters, and remain living quarters for the family. Six rooms in the basement include the original coal bin, the furnace room, a wine cellar, a laundry and two storage rooms. Oak timbers to support the ceiling came from a local sawmill. There have been few changes other than the adaptation of the house to a funeral home in 1947.

The gabled roof of the carriage house is broken by a large front hipped gable. Behind the oriel window was once a tack room; there was also hay storage on the second story. The ground story has been converted into a garage.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY ^{MSV}	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

↖ association with
local tobacco industry

SPECIFIC DATES 1902

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Charles Culton/Ellingson-Nygaard house is significant as one of the largest and most elegant Queen Anne houses built in Rock County. Though relatively late in date--1902--and unusual with its smooth stuccoed skin, its multi-planed, turreted exuberance affords a fine example of the Queen Anne style, with Tudor and Chateausque ramifications. It was built for over \$30,000 by a tobacco magnate in a town famous for tobacco. Charles Culton (1864-1924) was born and raised in Edgerton, and was the son of a pioneer Edgerton businessman who had owned the city's well-known cream brick industry, which furnished the bricks for schools, tobacco warehouses, and many houses in the area. The younger Culton was a tobacco dealer with the New York based firm of Weil and Sons, which had large tobacco interests in the state of Wisconsin. Although tobacco wealth built a number of Queen Anne mansions in Edgerton, Culton's was considered the finest in the city.¹ It is still associated with the hey-day of big tobacco business and social life in Edgerton, as its elegant dining room and large ballroom were the scene of many formal dances and parties.² As the site of the city's first tennis court (now disappeared), the grounds hosted tournaments from surrounding towns. The carriage house held a four-runner sleigh, a Phaeton, a surrey, and one of the first automobiles in town, an early Mitchell, made in Racine, Wis.³

The house has belonged to only three families. In 1914 it was bought by T. A. Ellingson, Wisconsin representative for Eisenlohr Bros. of Philadelphia, another large tobacco firm active in Edgerton. His son, Thomas Ellingson, lived there for about 60 years, both as a boy and later with his wife Ruth. They converted it to a funeral home in 1947. In 1973 the home and business were purchased by Arnold Nygaard, the present owner, who is maintaining the architectural integrity of the building.

1. Brown, Rock County, 1908, Vol. II, pp. 1054-5.
2. Edgerton Reporter, "Ancient Edgerton," March 10, 1966.
3. Ibid.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brown, Wm. F., ed. Rock County. Chicago: Cooper, 1908. Vol. II, pp. 1054-5.
 "Ancient Edgerton," Edgerton Reporter. March 10, 1966.
 Nye, Lowell. "Showplace Home Gets County History Nod." Edgerton Reporter. April 11, 1974.
 Douglas, Nancy B. and Hartung, Richard P., Rock County Historic Sites and Buildings,
 (Janesville, 1976), 62, 132, 136; illus., 69
 Interviews with Arnold Nygaard and with Pauline Grant, Edgerton, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.2

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 330320 4744760
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nancy Belle Douglas, Preservation Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Rock County Historical Society

DATE

3 December 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 896

TELEPHONE

(608) 756-4509

CITY OR TOWN

Janesville

STATE

Wisconsin 53545

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Richard Murray

TITLE Acting Director,
 State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

1/25/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. D. Smith

DATE

8/22/77

ATTEST: *Charles H. ...*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8.18.77

