

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 14 1979
DATE ENTERED 15

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

Will Ott House (preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Weekley House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1532 Madison Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

#

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

LaCrosse

VICINITY OF

Third

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Wisconsin 54601

55

LaCrosse

063

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dallas and Nancy Weekley

STREET & NUMBER

1532 Madison Street

CITY, TOWN

LaCrosse

VICINITY OF

Wisconsin

STATE

54601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

LaCrosse County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

400 North 4th Street

CITY, TOWN

LaCrosse

STATE

Wisconsin 54601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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 Ott House is a fine example of unaltered Queen Anne architecture. The home occupies a spacious corner lot in a fashionable residential section of the city of La Crosse, complementing other 19th century neighborhood structures. The facade of the Ott House faces north, overlooking a well kept city park.

The plan of the house is a characteristic Queen Anne stylism, distinguished by an irregular massing of the projected forms of the verandah, bay windows and turrets. Details are proportionately small and classical. The structure is topped by multiple gable roofs sheathed in asphalt shingles. It rests on a high foundation of rusticated coursed sandstone. The exterior is clad in cypress shingles and clapboard.

A verandah crosses the facade of the house and curves around the northeast corner. It is supported by 13 columns set on sandstone pilings and topped with Ionic capitols. A pedimented entry at the far end of the porch features a sculptured tympanum. Above the entry there is an enclosed porch with several closely spaced windows. A balcony with a balustrade of turned spindles tops the enclosed porch and a door in the Palladian motif enters onto the balcony. The gable has a denticulated cornice and returns.

Two rounded turrets grace the facade. The turret at the northeast corner is three stories in height, terminating in a steeply pitched conical roof with very closely spaced brackets supporting a projecting cornice. Tower rooms are illuminated by three full-length aluminum combination windows at the first and second stories. The original windows with transoms illuminate the third story. Clapboard covers the turret, with bands of imbricated shingles at the lower second and third story levels. The turret at the northwest corner is similar, but has only two stories and a less steeply pitched roof.

Three bays project from the main block of the building. A three-story bay window, centrally located at the east side, terminates in a gable roof with a raking cornice with bracketed returns. A set of three windows are inset under a single pediment in the shingled gable. Paired windows are found at the first and second stories, together with single aluminum combination windows. The two remaining bays are similar. A one-story bay is found at the east side, close to the southeast corner. A two-story bay is centrally located at the west side. Also at the west side, close to the southwest corner, is an enclosed shed porch. Two chimneys, newly tuck-pointed, protrude through the roof.

Alterations to the exterior include the extension of the verandah and the enclosure of the second story porch. Both changes have served to enhance the beauty of the home. These alterations were executed shortly after the home was built.

The interior of the Ott House is elegantly trimmed with a variety of finely crafted native woods. The entrance foyer, located in the northwest turret, features a stairway of fiddle-back maple. The ornate newels, with hand carved

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Description (continued)

foliage and egg and dart molding, effectively complement the delicately turned balusters, simple brackets and bead and reel string. A curved foyer window seat is also of fiddle-back maple.

Two fireplaces provide a focal point for the first floor living rooms. One is of quarter-sawn oak, with tall Ionic pilasters bearing a simple frieze with a decorative bead and reel cornice. Light colored tiles and neo-classic bas-relief panels frame the ornate iron grill. The overmantel contains a bevel edged mirror surrounded by bead and reel molding. The other fireplace is similar, but of birch with a leaded glass cabinet.

Wainscotting of a variety of woods is found throughout the house. The interior door and window moldings are decorative and hand turned. The doors themselves are massive, of 1/4 inch curly birch veneer laminated on walnut stock to prevent warping. Walls are plastered and papered. Two of the plaster ceilings have recently been replaced with dry wall.

All of the hardware is original. It is of cast brass, massive and ornate. Two of the original gas lights can be found atop the newel posts in the foyer. The window in the inside entry door is leaded crystal. Five other leaded windows are found in the house.

In 1930, the interior was remodeled for use as four apartments. Kitchens were added in two small second story rooms. One large second story room, crossing the front of the house and including both of the turrets, was divided into two smaller rooms. Downstairs, two baths were added, one at the end of the central hall, and one in the enclosed rear porch. The library was converted into a kitchen, but the cherry wainscotting was preserved. A colonnade was closed, forming a partition between two large rooms. All of the leftover wood from this remodeling has been saved.

The site of the Ott House retains much of its original integrity. The residential neighborhood is pleasant and relatively unchanged. The only other structure occupying the large corner lot is a small clapboarded garage with a steeply pitched gable roof and a shed roofed lean-to. The garage, built at about the same time as the house, is well set back on the lot and faces the east.

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	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1900¹ ~~BUILDER~~ ARCHITECT Schick and Stoltz²

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ott House is significant as an example of Queen Anne architecture in excellent condition incorporating an unusually varied assortment of fine woods. Built to the design of prominent mid-western architects, the house is the product of a locally respected builder well versed in his trade. As a visual symbol of the prosperity and growth of La Crosse, the house is an important part of the architectural heritage of that city.

The house was built in 1900 for Will Ott, the president of the Segelke and Kohlhaus Manufacturing Company. This firm, founded in 1859 by two Germans, originally produced sashes and doors. Always a successful business, Segelke and Kohlhaus grew to immense proportions under Ott's guidance, with branch offices in Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit and other cities. By the turn of the century it was among the largest lumber companies in the upper mid-west.³

The architects of the Ott House, Schick and Stoltz, were responsible for much of the local architectural work in La Crosse in the late 19th century. Gustav Stoltz, a native of Germany, received his education in the technical schools of Boston and practiced in the offices of Ware & Van Brunt and Rotch & Tilden. He arrived in La Crosse in 1885. Hugo Schick, a native of Austria, attended the Polytechnical School and Academy of Art in Vienna. He practiced in Vienna, New York, Chicago and St. Paul before coming to La Crosse in 1886.

As a team Schick and Stoltz designed some of La Crosse's finest residences and commercial and public buildings, often in the Romanesque Revival. The Clark County Jail in Neillsville, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978, is a fine example of their work. The builder, Frank Schwalbe, worked in conjunction with the architects on a number of structures. His work can also be seen in many of the city's large brewery complexes.

As the president of a successful lumber company, Will Ott had the knowledge, resources and wealth necessary to build his house as a showcase for unusual and select woods. Quarter-sawn oak, cherry, bird's-eye and fiddle-back maple, curly birch, ash, beechnut, and other unidentified woods are used throughout the house. The interior is the synthesis of the work of several master craftsmen, of whom at least two were famous within the mid-west. The entrance stairway of rare fiddle-back maple, with its ornate newels and delicately turned balusters, is the work of Egid Hackner. Hackner was a well known sculptor, whose carved altars and statues adorn many mid-western churches. The staircase was assembled by Tony Williams and Jake Kinservik, who also assembled the staircases for the Mayo house in Rochester, Minnesota.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.26

Quadrangle Name La Crosse, WI - MN

Quadrangle Scale 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	6, 4, 2, 1, 5, 0	4, 8, 5, 1, 7, 1, 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Plot of A.L. Sveum subdivision of Lot 12 of Rublee and Gillette addition to City of La Crosse, Lot 1 and E. 23' of Lot 2.

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

Patricia Mueller, Preservation Assistant

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

June 14, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

608/262-8904

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

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 Muey

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

10/16/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Carol O. Skell

DATE

1-15-80

~~DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION~~

~~KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~

ATTEST *Emma Jane Sans*

DATE

1/14/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Regional Coordinator

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Significance (continued)

Bernard Hake, a German cabinetmaker, constructed the wainscotting found throughout the house using a variety of woods. The massive doors and their ornamentation is the work of Lars Moe. John Mollander hand-carved all of the decorative window and door moldings.

James Holy, famous for his leaded glass, created the graceful crystal window in the main entrance door and five other leaded windows found throughout the house. Examples of Holy's work may be seen in banks, churches, bars and homes in the midwest.

Although Ott lived in the house only seven years, until 1907, subsequent owners have appreciated the beauty of the home and cared for it accordingly. The Murphy family, long time residents from 1917 to 1969, remodeled the interior of the house for use as apartments. Schwalbe, the original builder, was still active at this time and supervised the work to insure a perfect match of woods and the continuation of fine workmanship.

Tenants of the house have included actors, writers, professors and musicians. Marie Toland, head of the drama department at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and aunt of the Pulitzer prize winner, John Toland, was a renter. Mauree Applegate Clack, a University of Wisconsin-La Crosse professor and author of numerous books on creative writing, lived here until her death in 1970. The present owners, Dallas and Nancy Weekley, purchased the home in 1971. The Weekleys are concert pianists and have performed throughout the United States and Europe.

Footnotes

1. Tax Rolls from 1898-1901, at the Area Research Center, Murphy Library, UW-La Crosse.
2. The Biographical History of La Crosse, Trempealeau, and Buffalo Counties, p. 179-180.
3. Kroner, Marie, The Segelke and Kohlhaus Manufacturing Company, 1857-1960, 1973, unpublished.

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Major Bibliographical References

Kroner, Marie, The Segelke & Kohlhaus Manufacturing Company, 1857-1960, 1973, unpublished.

La Crosse County Historical Sketches, 1940, La Crosse, Series 5, pp. 20-21.

Tax Rolls from 1898-1901, at the Area Research Center, Murphy Library, UW-LaCrosse.

The Biographical History of La Crosse, Trempealeau and Buffalo Counties, 1892, Chicago, pp. 179-180, 225.

Weekley, Dallas, interviews with Roland Holy, E.L. Schreiber, and Melvin Wisland, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1974.

Weekley, Dallas, interviews with Miriam Schepke (deceased) and Hulda Garbers, La Crosse, Wisconsin, between 1971 and 1974.