NPS Form 10-300 (Rev. 8/86) WisConsin Word Processor Format (1331D) (Approved 3/8/)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

RECEIVED 2280 AUG 2 6 1996 NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in <u>Guidelines for Completing</u> <u>National Register Forms</u> (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space lett margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

1. Name of Property historic name Porter, walworth D., Dublex Residence OTHER NAMES/SITE NUMBER N/A 2. Location street & number 221-225 Seventh Street N/A not for pupilcation CITY, TOWN Baradoo N/A VICINITY state Wisconsin code Wi county Sauk code 111 zip code 53913 3. Classification Ownership of Property Category of Property No. or Resources within Property <u>X</u> private <u>x</u> puilding(s) contributing noncontributing ____ district ____ bulidings public-local 1____ public-state site _____ sites ----public-Federal _____ structure _____ structures objects ____ opject 1 1 Total Name of related multiple property listing: No. or contributing resources previously listed in the N/A National Register None

UMB NO. 1024-0018

1053

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this \underline{x} nomination _____request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property \underline{x} meets _____does not meet the National Register criteria. _____See continuation sneet.

Signature ertifying orficial 0

State Historic Preservation Officer-WI State or Federal agency and Dureau

In my opinion, the property ____meets ____does not meet the National Register criteria. ____See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification			
1, nereby, certity that this property is	s:		
	Edson H. Beal	<u>G.27.9</u>	
determined erigible for the Nationa. RegisterSee continuation shee			
determined not eligible for the National Register.			
removed from the National Register.			
other, (explain:)	-		
	Signature of the Keeper	Date	
5. Functions or Use			
Historic Functions	Current Functions		
(enter categories from instructions)	(enter categories from instruc	tions)	
DOMESTIC/multiple_dwelling	DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling		
DOMESTIC/secondary_structure	DOMESTIC/secondary structure		

Date

Architectural Classification	Materials	
(enter categories from instructions)	(enter categories from instructions)	
	roundation	Sandstone
Queen Anne	wails	weatnerpoard
		Sningle
	root	Asphait
	otner	DOOM

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

This highly intact Queen Anne style frame construction residential building was constructed in 1894 as a two-unit duplex investment property for walworth D. Porter, who lived next door. Although at first glance this irregular bian two-story Duliding appears to have the asymmetrical silhouette and massing and the "variety of surrace textures, roots, and wall projections" that are typical of better Oueen Anne style single family nouses, the duplex is in fact a completely symmetrical building that originally contained two identical side-by-side two-story living units.* The duplex is situated on a pleasant residential street that is located rive plocks north of the commercial center of the city of Baraboo, WI. Seventh Street's route traverses one of the oldest residential sections of the city and it is lined with what were originally single tamily houses that are uniformly set back from the treelined sidewarks that parallel the street. The Porter dublex blends in errortlessly with these mostly older buildings; it is only its identical but clearly sebarate twin entrances that identify it as a multi-unit building. The duplex rests on a granite coundation and has wails clad in clapboard, a compination hip-and-gaple roof, and gable ends clad in wood shingles. The designer of the Porter duplex is unknown, but it was built by Baraboo contractor and planing mill owner J. Nels Vanderveer and it is probable that the design was porrowed from one of the many pattern books of the day. The duplex is in very good condition today and its exterior is still largely intact, as are many of the original interior features.

The area surrounding the duplex is a long-established residential neighborhood whose streets form a grid plan. This grid plan is part of the original plat of the City of Baraboo, which plat overiles the relatively flat land that characterizes the north bank of the east-west flowing Baraboo River. Much of this neighborhood was aiready in existence in 1894, when W. D. Porter decided to build his duplex, and it consists of a variety of mostly frame construction Greek Revival, italianate, Queen Anne style houses and vernacular form houses of the same vintage, between which are interspersed a tew later Bungalow style and American Foursquare style nouses. Few of these houses are really large in size, but a number are very fine examples of their styles. Most of these houses were constructed as single family dwellings but many nave since been converted into multi-family dwellings. What is unusual nowever, is that many of these conversions were undertaken in the late nineteenth century around the time the Porter duplex was constructed. During this period the city of Baraboo was "booming" due to the circus development activities of the five Ringling Brothers, who would soon be the owners of what became the Ringling Brothers-Barnum & Bailey Circus, which even today is still called "The Greatest Show on Earth." As the winter headquarters of this rapidly growing enterprise, Baraboo suddenly found itself needing rental units in which to house the ever growing

¹ Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). <u>Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin</u>. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Historic Preservation Division, Vol. 2, p.2 -15 (Architecture).

<u>X</u> See continuation sheet

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET WaiWorth D. Porter Duplex, Baradoo, Sauk County, Wisconsin Section number ____/ Page _____

personnel of the circus and it was this need that Porter, a small scale real estate developer, apparently decided to exploit by building his duplex.

The block in which the Porter duplex is located is bound by Seventh Street on the south, East Street on the east, Eighth Street to the north, and Ash Street to the west and it is bisected longitudinally by a service alley. In 1894, the east half of the block consisted of six lots, all of which had been owned for some years by W. D. Porter, who lived in a now altered but still extant Greek Revival style gable ell form house located at 219 Seventh Street (Lot 10). The other five lots, nowever, were then vacant. What, if any, long range plans Porter had for the development of his property in 1894 are not known, but his first step was the building of the duplex on the lot next door (Lot 11) that is the subject of this nomination.

The bU-foot-wide by 140-root-deep rectangular iot belonging to the Porter duplex fronts on Seventh Street, its rear is bounded by the service alley, and it is flanked by older Greek Revival style houses on either side. The lot is relatively flat and it is given over almost entirely to lawn and to a rew trees. The Porter duplex shares a common setback with its neighbors and it is placed a little ways back from the concrete sidewalk that parallels Seventh Street in front. A small noncontributing frame construction one-car garage that is located at the rear of the lot was in place as early as 1913, but its date of construction is not known.

The Porter dubiex is an irregular plan, two-story Queen Anne style building Whose overall design exhibits bilateral symmetry; a line drawn from top to bottom through the middle of its main facade or rear elevation or from north to south across the depth of the building at the same point would divide the building into two nearly identical halves. The duplex has a south-racing main racade that measures 25.4-feetwide and a north-facing rear elevation that measures 42.4-feet-wide. Its 45.5-footlong east and west-facing side elevations are nearly identical in design and they both step out in two roughly equal steps as they proceed from front to back, which accounts for the greater width of the rear of the building. The duplex rests on rock-faced ashiar brownstone foundation walls that enclose a full concrete-floored basement story. The exterior walls that rest on this foundation are still clad in their original narrow clappoards and they are entramed by a wooden water table (which is surmounted by a beveled drip cap) that encircles the entire house at the level or the sill plate, and by corner poards and fascia boards. These walls are sheltered by the boxed overhanging eaves of the combination gable and hip main roof, which is covered in aspnalt sningles and whose hipped portion has a ridgeline that runs north-south.

Main South-Facing Facade

The main facade of the Porter duplex faces south onto Seventh Street and it is symmetrical in design and is dominated by the two-bay 25.5-foot-wide main block, whose wall surface is entramed by the previously mentioned water table, corner NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8-86) Wisconsin Word Processor Format Approved 2/87

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Doards, and fascia board. In addition, a thin wood stringcourse divides the first story wail surface from the second story. The first story of each bay consists of a very shallow rectifinear oriel window that is supported by two small wooden scroll brackets and sheltered by a small asphalt shingle-covered hip roof. Each oriel provides fight to the fiving room of one of the two side-by-side duplex units and contains a single farge square fixed fight that is surmounted by a fixed rectifinear transom fight. The second story of each bay consists of a single broad one-over-one fight double hund wood sash window, both of which are enframed with simple board surrounds and both of which admit fight to second story bedrooms. A rectifinear wood spandref panel decorated with a repeatedly incised circular pattern (70 circles in all) fills the wall space between each of the oriels and the window above it.

The facade is crowned by a large centered wall dormer that features a paired group of two square one-light fixed windows that light the attic story. These windows are roughly centered on the triangular face of the dormer. That portion of the wall surface below their heads (and terminating at the heads of the second story windows below) is clad in staggered wood shingles while the upper portion of the wall surface is clad in square wood shingles. The raking cornices of the eaves of the dormer are elaborately molded and are an extension of the cornice that edges the eaves of the south-facing slope of the hipped main roof, whose peak is crowned by a small panelled cream brick chimney stack.

The length of the main facade is further extended to the east and west by two 5.5root-wide shed-rooted eits that contain the main entrances to the two dublex units. These two mirror image one-and-a-half-story eils are both set back approximately 8.5reet from the main wall surface of the facade and they are sheltered by downward extensions of the east and west slopes of the main roof. The only opening on the south-racing walls or these ells is a rlat-arched entrance door opening that is located in the first story. These entrances are each reached by ascending a flight or wood steps that lead up to a deck that is sheltered by a gable-rooted porch. These decks occupy the corner spaces created by the intersection of the main block and the ells, which spaces are deeper than they are wide. The wooden porches are identical in design and although both have been altered over time, enough of their original details remain so that between the two or them their original appearance to be determined with precision.² Each porch extends several feet south beyond the plane or the main facade and the root of each is supported by a pair or square posts decorated with several incised lines. These posts frame the steps and another square post placed closer to the entrance lends further support to the root. The small tront-facing gable end of each porch is decorated with a radiating decorative wooden cutout design and a norseshoe arch-shaped cutout immediately below it has open spandreis that are partially filled with short turned spindles. Identical

² The west porch is the most complete and lacks only a few of its original turned balusters. The east porch no longer has its turned balustrade or its scrollsawn panels below the decks, both of which can easily be replicated.

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spindles decorates a frieze that runs beneath the side eave of each porch and taller turned spindles are used as balusters for the porch balustrade. A final decorative touch is provided by panels composed of notched and pierced flat boards that hide the crawispaces below the porch decks.

West-racing Side Elevation

The 42.4-root-wide west-facing side elevation is asymmetrical in design. Its dominant feature is a centrally placed two-story-tail 20.75-foot-wide x 5.25-footdeep gaple-rooted ell. This ell is two-pays-wide and both stories of each bay contain a single flat-arched window opening that is filled with a one-over-one light double hung wood sash window; the first story ones lighting a second parlor and the second story ones, a bedroom. The gable end that crowns this ell is tilled with the same mix of staggered and square wood sningles that is used on the main facade, but this one contains just a single small flat-arcned one-over-one light double hung wood sash window. Placed to the right (south) of this ell, and having a west-racing wall surface that continues in the same plane as that of the center ell, is the side elevation of the previously described one-and-a-hair story shed-rooted entrance eii, whose only opening is an oplong window in the first story that lights the entrance vestibule. To the right of this ell, but inset 5.25-reet, is the two-story-tall 8.5foot-wide side wall of the main plock of the duplex, which here is one-bay-wide. Each story of this day reatures a single flat-arched window opening that is filled with a one-over-one fight double hund wood sash window, the upper one of which lights the front begroom while the lower one, which is sheltered by the front porch, lights the living room.

To the left (north) of the center ell is still another ell, which completes the length of the elevation. This ell completely covers what would otherwise be the wall surface of the main block and it is one-story-tail, its west wall is 16.75-feetwide, and it projects outward (west) three feet further than the west wall surface of the center ell. This ell contains the dining room and a kitchen pantry and it is sheltered by a hip roor whose west-facing slope begins just below the eave of the main block of the building. The three-foot-wide south-facing side wall of this ell contains a single narrow flat-arched window opening that is filled with a double hung wood one-over-one light sash window while a somewhat wider but otherwise identical window is centered on the ell's west-facing wall surface.

North-Facing Rear Elevation

The rear elevation of the duplex, while still largely original, is the only one that has undergone any meaningful alterations. This elevation consists of three principal elements: the centrally positioned 25.3-root-wide two-story hip-rooted rear elevation of the center block; the 8.5-root-wide one-story rear elevation of the east dining room/pantry ell; and the identical but mirror image 8.5-root-wide rear elevation of the west dining room/pantry ell. All three of of these elements NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8-86) WisConsin Word Processor Format Addroved 2/8/

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nave north-facing wall surfaces that are aligned in the same continuous plane, which is only broken by two hip-roored rear entrance vestibules that are placed at the extreme opposite ends or the center block's wall surface.³

As the above suggests, the rear elevation of the Porter duplex was originally designed to be completely symmetrical and much of this symmetry still survives. Twin side-by-side basement entrances covered by sloping paired storm doors fill the space between the two symmetrically placed entrance vestibules. To the left and right of these vestibules, the wall surfaces of the two ells are each pierced by a single flat-arched window opening that contains a one-over-one flight double hung wood sash window. These windows are positioned close to the vestibules and they light the kitchen pantries of each duplex unit. Two wider flat-arched window obenings that also each contain a one-over-one flight double hund wood sash window are positioned on the first story of the two-bay-wide main block between the vestibules, where they provide flight for the two kitchens, and two less wide window openings that once both fit bathrooms were originally positioned in the second story as well.

The first important change that affected the rear elevation occurred when the two original entrance porches on this elevation were enclosed. Originally, these porches were both open and they were composed of elements that were identical to those found on the front porches; their roors were supported by incised posts and they each had balustrades composed of turned balusters.* At some time before World War 11, however, these porches were enclosed with walls that were clad in the samesized clapboards as those used on the original wall surfaces of the duplex, and sixpanel wood doors were installed. A second important change occurred around 1950, when the west auplex unit was subdivided into two units. In order to provide this new unit with an outside main entrance of its own, the right-hand (west) second story window opening on the main block was converted into a door opening and an enclosed clapboard-covered second story was added to the west rear entrance vestibule, providing an enclosed vestibule for the new entrance. To connect the second story entrance to the ground, a still extant covered open exterior staircase was then constructed that extends down from the vestibule and across the Wall surface of the west dining room/pantry ell to a raised landing that is supported by rour posts. The stairs then turns south 90° around the northwest corner of the duplex and continues down to the ground. A last change to the rear elevation that resulted from the creation of this new living unit was the placement of a small new oblong second story window on the wall surface or the main block just to the left of the new second story vestibule.

A second thin cream brick chimney stack is centered on the north-facing slope of the hip roof that covers the main block of the duplex.

[&]quot; The original appearance of these porches is substantiated by portions of the original posts and balustrades that are still visible inside the east vestibule.

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East-facing Side Elevation

The east-racing side elevation of the Porter duplex is identical to and is a mirror image of the west-racing one described earlier.

Interior

The subdividing of the original west duplex unit (221 & 223) into two one-story units in 1950, resulted in the removal of many of the historic features from this duplex and involved some alterations to the original room arrangement. The east duplex unit (225), nowever, is still almost totally intact and is in very good condition and it will eventually be used as a guide for the restoration of the west duplex unit.

East Duplex

The basement story of this duplex is reached from the inside by a stairs that descends from the first story kitchen and from the outside by an entrance located in the rear wall. Its perimeter walls are made of rubble stone and mortar (the brownstone that covers the exterior basement walls is apparently a veneer) and the floor is poured concrete. The basement is divided into two spaces, the smaller of which is placed underneath the living room in the front (south) end of the duplex. This room once contained the original furnace (non-extant) and coal bunker and its floor is a step lower than the remainder of the basement. A framed partition wall whose lower nair is clad in wainscot and into which is set a door whose upper half consists of a four-light window separates this room from larger one to the north.

The floors of the first and second stories of the duplex consist of oak boards and the walls and cellings are plastered, although now nearly all of the walls have been papered and the celling of the second parlor has been covered in acoustic tiles. The bases of the walls are all covered with the original varnished molded baseboards and all the original varnished five-panel wood doors (with their original hardware) and all the original windows are still intact.⁵ In addition, the windows and doors all retain their original varnished trim sets as well. These trim sets consist of molded raised face pliaster casings and these have base blocks and head blocks, both of which are decorated with bulls-eye designs.

The plan of the first story is divided into three sections. The first section consists of a rectifinear plan 12.75-foot-wide front parlor at the south end, which has a small 5.75-root-wide entrance vestibule flanking it to its right (east). The 18.5-foot-wide mid-section is occupied by a full-width second parlor (this may have originally been the dining room), which has the enclosed staircase that leads to the second story running up behind its west (inside) wall. The 21.25-foot-wide rear

[>] The trim sets and other woodwork in the kitchen is painted.

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section consists of the kitchen, which occupies its left (west) half, while the right half is divided into two rooms, with the smaller room being a pantry that occupies the south end or the right half.

The rectilinear entrance vestibule opens directly into the second parlor and it is it by a single oblong window in the outer wall. Entrance to the front parlor is through a wide, cased and capped flat-arched opening in the partition wall that separates the two pariors. The front parior is rectilinear in plan and its most elaborate feature is a fireplace that is located in its northwest corner. The rireplace is placed at an angle to the room and its opening is edged with a thin cast iron frame whose surface is elaborately decorated and the opening is filled with a cast iron grate whose face is also elaborately decorated. Most, and perhaps all of the original mantel that once surrounded the fireplace opening has also survived. The rireplace opening's surround is covered with glazed prown tiles, some of which are square-shaded and bear a central spiral pattern from which radiate four smaller spirals that are placed in the corners of the tile. These tiles alternate with squares or the same size that are formed from eight small rectangular tiles arranged in a basket weave pattern and these same small rectangular tiles have also been used to cover the nearth. The millwork that is placed adjacent to the surround is bordered by thin fluted hair columns that support the simple manteishelf and a molded decoration having a scroll-like form is centered on the millwork above the fireplace opening."

A door in the west wall of the second parlor opens into the enclosed staircase that ascends to the second story and there are two doors placed in the north wall of this parlor. The right-hand one is the only entrance to the rectangular room that occupies most of the right half of the rear section of this story. The left-hand door (west) leads to the kitchen, which occupies the west half. Although all of the kitchen's cabinetry and all of its appliances have been replaced over the years, nearly all of its original woodwork and trim has survived including the original door and window trim and the beaded board wainscot that encircles the room.' In addition, all of the original beaded board cupboards in the adjacent pantry have also survived.

The second story of the duplex can also be divided into three sections. The first section (the south end of this story) consists of a rectilinear plan 12.75-foot-wide front bedroom. The 18.5-foot-wide mid-section consists of a second bedroom to the right (east) and a stairnall to the left. The single flight main staircase, whose lower portion is enclosed, ascends along the west (inner) wall of the duplex to this 19.5-foot-long rectilinear plan stairnall where it is edged by a low balustrade that

The fireplace in the front parlor of the first story unit of what was originally the west duplex is identical to this one and it is also intact.

' The kitchen is the only room with crown molding, which suggests that other rooms in the duplex may once had crown molding as well.

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is composed of turned balusters and a cap rail, which are terminated by a square newel post that has a chamiered top crowned by a ball rinial. The 12.75-root-wide rear section of this story is given over mostly to a bathroom and an adjoining closet. One enters the bathroom from the hall through a one-light over two-panel door, which is the only exception to the otherwise ubiquitous five-panel doors found elsewhere in the duplex.

A second staircase ascends along the west wall of the second story stairnall to the attic story, which has a board floor but is otherwise untinished.

West Duplex

Originally, the interior of the west duplex was a mirror image of the east duplex. In 1950, however, the second story of the west duplex was converted into a second living unit with attendant alterations to suit. As a result, neither unit in the west nair of this building has the same degree of integrity that the east side displays. Never-the-less, the original room layout in these two units is still largely intact and all of the original windows in both units are still in place as well. In addition, much of the original standing trim in the first story unit (the only one seen) has survived the remodeling as did the west duplex's original tireplace and mantle. It is believed that it would be a relatively simple task to restore the entire west duplex to its original appearance using the still intact east duplex as a model.

Garage

A small one-story rectilinear plan gaple-rooted trame garage is located adjacent to the alleyway at the rear of the lot. This one-car garage has an asphalt shingleclad gable root whose ridgeline runs east-west, walls that are clad in harrow clapboards enframed with corner and rascla boards like the walls of the duplex, a concrete slab floor, and a single garage door that is located in the east-facing end elevation of the building. Sanborn-Perris maps show that this building was in place as early as 1913, but its date of construction cannot otherwise be determined." Since the garage is believed to be of a later date than the duplex, it is not considered to be a contributing resource.

Sanborn-Perris Map Co. <u>Insurance Map of the City of Baraboo</u>, New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Co., 1913. This is the first Sanborn map that covers this portion of Baraboo.

d. Statement of Significance			
Certirying official has considered the other properties:nationally	significance of this proper		
Applicable National Register Criteria	ABX UU		
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	ABCU	£'£'G	
Areas of Significance			
(enter categories from instructions) Architecture	Period of Significance <u>1894</u> 9		
	Cultural Arrillation		
Significant Person	Architect/Bulider		
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Walworth D. Porter Duplex is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for its local significance under National Register (NK) criterion C. More specifically, the Porter duplex is being nominated because of its associations with the NK significance area of Architecture, a theme that is also identified in the State of Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP). research centered on evaluating this building using the Queen Anne style subsection of the Architectural Styles study unit of the CRMP's Architecture Theme Section. The results of this research is detailed below and confirms that the Porter duplex building is locally significant under criterion C as a highly intact example of late nineteenth century Queen Anne style design as applied to a side-by-side duplex residence, which is a very rare building type in Baraboo and an unusual one to find in any but Wisconsin's largest cities during this period.

This duplex was built in 1894 for walworth D. Porter, who came to Baraboo in 1850 with his parents and prospered, first as a clerk in a store, later as a farmer, and later still as a real estate developer. The building was built by Porter as an investment and as income property and in 1894 was located next door to Porter's own house. At the time, Baraboo was undergoing a population boom that was fueled in part by the rapidly expanding local operations of the Ringling Brotners, who were then beginning the careers that would culminate in their becoming the owners of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, which is still extant and has been the largest circus operation in the United States for most or its existence. So rapid was the growth of this enterprise that it put a severe strain on the available rental nousing stock of the city of Baraboo and it was this growing need for housing that Porter sought to exploit by building the cupiex that is the subject of this nomination. Indeed, the first tenant of the east duplex unit (225) of this building

X See continuation sneet

Baraboo Evening News. Uctober 19, 1894, p. 3.

¹⁰ Ibid. August 22, 1894, p. 5.

¹¹ Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). Op. Cit., Voi. 2, p. 2-15 (Architecture).

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was none other than Charles E. Ringling, one of the five Ringling prothers and the general manager of the circus, who moved in with his wife, Edith, in the fall of 1894. The duplex subsequently had many other residents and several owners, but it has been maintained in good condition throughout most of its existence and remains in a nightly intact state of preservation today.

Historic Context

The history of Baraboo has already been told in detail in the <u>Baraboo intensive</u> <u>Survey Report</u> of 1989.44 Consequently, the history that follows will give only such information as is necessary to understand the conditions that existed when the Porter duplex was built.

The city of Baraboo is located in eastern Sauk County on the banks of the Baraboo River, which flows in a northeasterly direction for approximately seven miles further before emptying into the Wisconsin River, the state's major tributary of the Mississippi River. The first permanent settlement in this vicinity occurred when Eben Peck, Wallace Rowan, Abram Wood and James Van Siyke arrived at the site of the Baraboo River rapids in 1839.

When Wood and Rowan came to Sauk County in 1839 they made a claim of the land and water-site at the upper bend of the Baraboo River and erected a sawmill, the first of what would be many mills on the river. The area between the ox -bows (of the river, near Baraboo) was claimed five years later by George Brown, who erected a second sawmill. Soon thereafter a gristmill was built on the opposite side of the river, followed by Hayes, Pratt, and Hayes shingle and lath mill, and a chair factory. Eventually, four dams were built on this stretch of the river, with a firth added in the 1890s.

These mills became the roundation of Baraboo's economy in the first decade of settlement. By 18/4 the Island Woolen Mill located on the upper ox-bow was producing 7000 yards/month, just under its 9000 yard/month capacity. Wool for the mill came principally from northern and western Wisconsin, although a "considerable" amount came from Minnesota and lowa as well. M. J. Brown's Baraboo Manufacturing Company consumed 1,000,000 square feet [of hardwood] per year. Three-fourths of this raw material was floated down the Baraboo, With the rest brought in on sleds.

As mills sprang up on the river, entrepreneurs arrived to provide goods and services to the surrounding settlement. Augoston Harasztny [sic] erected a small frame nouse near the dam and opened a store there. As early as 1847 James Maxwell built on what is now the soutneast side of the [courthouse]

¹² Miller, Maria. <u>Baraboo Intensive Survey</u>. Baraboo: Community Development Authority, City or Baraboo, 1989. NPS FORM 10-900a (Rev. 8-86) WisConsin Word Processor Format Approved 2/8/

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square the first frame building north of the river, which came to be known as the "corner store." That same year the Western Hotel was erected by Colonel Edward Sumner, while Lyman Clark built the "Baraboo House." Baraboo at this time consisted of about 146 people, living in "a few plain nouses on the hill."-3

In 1843-44, the inhabitants of a nearby community on the Wisconsin River, Prairie du Sac, petitioned the Territorial Legislature to form Sauk County, with themselves as the county seat. This lasted until 1846, when the a popular vote moved the seat to Baraboo, where it afterwards remained despite occasional challenges from both Prairie du Sac and another community to the west of Baraboo; the village of Reedsburg. In 1847, the county commissioners platted a village on the north side of the Baraboo River, which they named Adams, while George Brown, who owned much of the south bank, had his own land platted as the village of Baraboo, named after the river. In 1852, the postal authorities in Washington D.C. asked that the village of Adams be dropped and the completed plats were henceforth Known as Baraboo.

Thanks to its mills and other commercial enterprises, Baraboo soon became a thriving community.

By 1856, the population for Baraboo: had reached about 2000. A "local correspondent" recorded the presence of rour dams on the Baraboo Rapids with prospects of another. There had been established a flouring mill, four sawmills, a gristmill, a fath, picket and sningle factory, and two Cabinet factories with planing mills. The town could also boast of two financial institutions, eight drygoods stores, three hardware and stove stores, and three drugstores, as well as a peweiry store, bookstore, and five notels. Six lawyers, two dentists and six physicians had established practices, and five painters, five shoemakers, six blacksmiths and five cabinet and wagon makers had set up business in the growing village. By the 1860's [sic], the townspeople could also include bakers, butchers, photographers, milliners and musicians among their population.¹"

Baraboo was incorporated as a village in 1865.

By this time, the lumber milling activity along the river had tapered off, and Baraboo had become largely a trading center for the rich agricultural region surrounding the village. ... The timely arrival of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad in 18/1 served to revive trade and renew interest in the town. Real estate transactions increased. Brick stores and several hotels were constructed both near the railroad and around the courthouse square. The

¹³ Miller, Maria. Op. Cit., pp. 10-12.

¹⁴ lbid, pp. 13-14.

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selection or Baraboo as the grand distribution point for the Madison Division [of the railroad] contributed to this trend, as workshops and roundhouses were erected, requiring material and labor from the town and townspeople."

Local estimates put the value of the railroad activity to the village at \$200,000 during the years between 1872-1883, and by 1879, Baraboo's population had reached 3000.

The 1880'S (Sic) also saw the advent of the "Kingling Classic and Comic Concert Co.," the forerunner of the now famous Kingling Brotners, Barnum and Balley Circus. Two years after the emergence of the Concert Co., the first real circus was given in 1884 by AL, ALT T. and Charles Kingling, sons of a local harness-maker. The Kingling Brothers -- all seven of whom eventually Joined the circus would later become proprietors of the now famous Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Balley Circus.

Because of the large amount of performers and workers required to produce the circus, the Ringling presence was and remains pervasive in Baraboo. Wagon snops, animal barns, sewing rooms, wagon barns, rooming houses and offices all remain as evidence of the large effect circus-related enterprises had on the community. The circus dominated the railroad and the mills in Baraboo's economy of the early 1900's, as the Ringlings not only employed nundreds of local citizens themselves, but gave business to carpenters, painters, blacksmiths, seamstresses and merchants."

Not surprisingly, the presence of so many new workers and their families Caused the local population to increase rapidly, and by 1889, what was by then the city of Baraboo had increased to 5000. Such growth brought with it a demand for new housing that the community could not immediately fill, however, one result being that the owners of many of Baraboo's older residences had them converted into multi-unit buildings. New buildings were also constructed to meet the need, though, one of them being the duplex residence built by Walworth D. Porter that is the subject of this nomination.

Walworth belavan Porter (1839-1924) was one of the first European-American children born in Walworth County, Wisconsin. His rather, Samuel Lyman Porter (1800-1889) was a native of Staten Island, Nr, while his mother, Permetia Clark Porter (1805-1890), was a native or Monmouth, NJ. S. L. Porter was a carpenter by trade, but switched to farming when he and his wife moved to Wisconsin and to Walworth County in the 1830s, when that part of the state was still virtually a wilderness. The Porter's continued to farm in Walworth County after their son, Walworth, Was born there in 1839, but in 1850 moved to Baraboo. "In the following year [S. L. Porter] bought

¹⁵ Miller, Maria. Up. Cit., pp. 14-15. ¹⁶ Ibid, p. 16.

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six building lots in Baraboo. At this city he resumed his trade, and during the years that followed built many of the leading residences and frame store buildings erected here."-'

His son, Walworth D. Porter, was educated in the public schools of Walworth County and of Barapoo and attended the Barapoo Institute. He then started work as a clerk in a store in Barapoo and with his earnings purchased a small farm that he worked for some years as a hop farm. Porter served in the Civil War, as did his two brotners, and in 1870, he was married to Ellen Atkinson (1837-1929). Most of his active life after the war was spent as a businessman in Barapoo, at which activity he was successful. A biographical entry written towards the close of his life in 1918 noted that at that time "He is the owner of one of the best brick residences in the city, built by him in 1912 at No. 220 Eighth Street, in addition to which he owns six lots and three buildings which he rents."¹⁶

The Six lots referred to above constitute the east hair of the block where Porter's brick and studio American Foursquare style Eighth Street house and its three lots are located.⁴⁹ The three rental bulldings referred to above include Porter's Greek Revival style former nome residence, which is located on the opposite side of the block at 219 Seventh Street; another and older Greek Revival style nouse at 235 Seventh Street that was moved to its corner lot by Porter and which is also still extant; and the duplex that is the subject of this nomination, which is located in between the other two at 221-225 Seventh Street.

Porter commenced the building of this duplex in 1894, a year after the financial panic of 1893, and its construction was timed to coincide with the rising local demand for rental nousing that the expansion of the Ringling Brothers enterprises was then creating. The first mention of the project occurred in August of that year when the local newspaper reported that " work has been commenced on Mrs. W. D. Porter's large double tenement house near the corner of Seventh and East streets. The building is to have all the modern conveniences. J. N. Vanderveer has the contract."²⁰ By October the duplex was complete and both local newspapers noted that "Mrs. Charles Ringling has moved into a part of Mrs. D. W. Isic! Porter's new residence."²⁴ The Kinglings occupied the east unit (225) and the news of their new living arrangements must have been made the Baraboo community happy since as recently as August of that year Charles Ringling had let it be known that, as the

¹⁷ Cole, Harry Ellsworth. <u>A Standard History of Sauk County Wisconsin</u>. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1918. Vol. II, p. 571.

ie ibid.

This nouse occupies the north nait of the six-lot parcel and it is currently operated as a bed and preakfast establishment.

²⁰ The Baraboo Republic. August 22, 1894, p. 5.

21 Ibid, October 24, 1894, p. 1. Also: <u>Baraboo Evening News</u>. October 19, 1894, p. 3. NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8-86) Wisconsin Word Processor Format Addroved 2/87

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newspaper put it: "indications are in favor of the circus seeking other quarters next winter but the matter has not been definitely settled."++ what changed the brother's minds is not known, but the result was that the circus continued to use Baraboo as its wintering quarters until 1918, after which the circus quarters were tinally moved to Bridgeport, Connecticut. The Charles Kinglings, meanwhile, occupied their duplex unit until 1900, when they moved into their sumptuous new Georgian Revival style residence located at the corner of Ash and Eighth Streets (201 Eighth Street - extant).

W. D. Porter and his wife continued to live next door to their duplex until 1912, when they built their new nouse on the other side of the block. The Porters resided there until W. D. Porter's death in 1924 at the age of 84, by Which time ne had become one of Baraboo's best Known Citizens.^{4,3} His wife, meanwhile, continued to reside in their Eighth Street nome until her own death in 1929, at the age of 92.^{4,4} One year before her death, in 1928, Mrs. Porter sold the duplex building to yet another couple associated with the Kingling Brothers circus, Charles H. and Minnie H. Kooney, a husband and wife team who had been celebrated performers with the circus in prior years.^{4,5} The Kooneys lived in the West duplex unit (223) until 1937, when new owners took possession. It subsequently went through several more changes in ownership before being purchased by the current owner, Jettrey L. Roy, in 1993.

Architecture

The architectural significance of the Walworth D. Porter duplex lies in its being an excellent representative example of the middle-sized Queen Anne style residential buildings that formed a major portion of the middle class building stock that was built in the city of Baraboo and in other Wisconsin cities between 1880 and 1900, and this significance is considerably enhanced by the high degree of integrity which is still present in the fabric of the Porter duplex today. This building is also an excellent example of a side-by-side duplex, a rare building type in Baraboo and one that is more often found in only the largest Wisconsin cities such as Milwaukee.

The builder of this duplex, local contractor J. N. Vanderveer, may also have been the designer as well, although it is more likely that the design came from one of the many pattern books published at that time. Whoever designed it, nowever, made good use of "irregularity of plan and massing," a nalimark of the Queen Anne style that is specifically mentioned in the Queen Anne style subsection of the

²⁴ Wisconsin State Journal. "Widow of W. D. Porter Dies." July 24, 1929.

²² Baraboo News Republic. August 11, 1894, p. 3.

Baraboo News. Octoper 31, 1924 (Opituary of W. D. Porter). November 1, 1924 (Burial notice).

²³ Abstract of Title for 221-225 Eighth Street. In the possession of the owner.

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Architectural Styles study unit of the CRMP.** The design of the Porter duplex also makes sparing use of such typically Queen Anne style elements as variegated exterior surface materials, "wall projections," "steeply pitched roots," and a "dominant front-facing gable," all of which the CRMP also mentions as being specific attributes of the Queen Anne style.

J. Neis Vanderveer appears to have had a successful career in Baraboo as both a contractor and as a planing mill owner and operator, a not uncommon blend in the pullding trades of smaller Wisconsin cities in the late nineteenth century. The specifics of Vanderveer's career are not known but his name turns up with requiarity in the Baraboo Intensive Survey. Among the Baraboo buildings mentioned in the Survey that are definitely associated with Vanderveer are: the IMCA Building, Duilt in 1890 by the J. N. Vanderveer & Co. to a design by Conover & Porter of Madison and located at the corner of Ash and Second streets (non-extant); " Trinity Episcopal Church, built in 1890-91 by J. N. Vanderveer to a design by C. K. Adams of Chicago (extant);²³ and an extension to the Peck and Herrort Store building at 125-127 Walnut Street (extant). ** in addition, it is also possible (even likely) that Vanderveer had previously been a partner in an earlier Baraboo contracting firm, that of Gollmar, Vanderveer & Co., which the Survey stated, "constructed the First Ward schoolhouse, the largest and most costly building of 1886, as well as the largest and most costly building in the Second Ward, the Ewing Block at 107 Fourth Street (extant). The firm also did the finishing for Carow's building at 125-127 Wainut Street (extant - see above)."-" Besides the Porter duplex, J. N. Vanderveer also built a nouse for himself in 1894. As the local newspaper noted: "J. N. Vanderveer and tamily have moved into their new residence on Eighth Avenue." --

The side-by-side duplex is a residential resource type whose appearance in Wisconsin dates back as far as 1840 in Milwaukee, where most of the state's nineteenth century examples seem to have been concentrated.³⁴ The little research that has so far been undertaken on the incidence of this resource type (which is also sometimes called a doublenouse) in Wisconsin deals almost entirely with Milwaukee examples, which are so numerous as to be called "Milwaukee Duplexes."³³ One of the best of the late

²⁶ Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). Op. Cit., Vol. 2, p. 2-15 (Architecture).

4' Miller, Maria. Op. Cit., p. 126.

⁵⁰ Ibid, pp. 211-212.

³¹ Bara<u>poo Republic</u>. September 5, 1894. This was 208 Eighth Avenue.

³² In Madison, Wisconsin's second largest city, for example, only a handful of side-by-side duplexes are known to have been built before the turn-of-the-century, the earliest of which was the Greek Revival style red brick Atwood-Buck double house, built in 1851 and located at 210 Martin Luther King Jr. Bivd. (non-extant).

Jandscape Research. Built in Milwaukee: An Architectural View of the City. Milwaukee: City of Milwaukee, n.d. (ca.1981), pp. 64-65.

⁻⁸ Ibid, p. 163.

²⁹ Ibia, p. 213

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Victorian period examples or this type in Milwaukee has recently been listed in the NRHP; the Elias A. Calkins boublehouse (1612-14 East Kane Place - NRHP 1/18/90) and in the nomination the writers give a good description of the type.

A doublehouse is basically two multistory (sic) nouses, each with a separate entrance, that share a common wall. The most typical (Milwaukee) examples are two-and-one-nait stories tail and have entrances paired in the middle of the facade, often sneitered by a common porch. The facades are often symmetrical with each nair being a mirror image of the other, as is the case with the Calkins House. During the Queen Anne period the entrances were often moved to the ends and the facades of the two units were renestrated differently to create a more picturesque, asymmetrical appearance. Doublehouses were usually intended for middle-class or upper-class occupancy and because of their greater size and the consequent need for a lot with a wider frontage were generally more costly to build and nence more costly to rent than the more typical long, narrow, Milwaukee duplex with its upper and lower flat configuration. Some (doublehouses) were built as owner-occubied structures while others were intended purely as rental properties, and the owners never lived in them. Doublehouses filled a special niche in the city's housing market by providing nouse-sized units with the desirable feature of separating the bedroom floor from the living room floor of the house, a much sought-after floor plan characteristic in Victorian times. They could be built on a smaller lot and at less construction cost than would be required to construct two decently spaced, treestanding single-ramily nouses. The resulting building usually presented an attractive, even imposing appearance because or the width of the facade and the greater opportunities for architectural expression.34

Clearly, the Porter duplex also belongs in this group as well, since its design exhibits almost all the salient features described above. Interestingly enough, though, a second duplex of almost identical design was also built in Baraboo in 1894. This is the much altered but still extant duplex located at 214-216 Third Street, which was built for John Kaercher, a carpenter, who lived next door at 212 Third Street.³⁵ Since these are the only two duplex residences built in Baraboo in the nineteenth century, the chances of their near simultaneous construction being a coincidence is highly unlikely, but exactly what tied these two building projects together is unknown. Possibly Kaercher's protession linked to nim to Vanderveer in some way or it may be that the first occupant of 214, Cassius M. Greenslet, who

³* Vollmert, Les and Carlen Hatala. Ellas A. Calkins Doublehouse National Register Nomination Form. Milwaukee: Dept. of City Development, 1989, pp. 8 - 8.1. On file with the SHPU in Madison.

- Barapoo City Directory. Madison: George R. Angell, Publishers, 1895-96. This was the first city directory published for Baradoo. NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8-86) Wisconsin Word Processor Format Approved 2/87

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was a partner with funis N. Vanderveer in the firm of Greensiet & Vanderveer, proprietors of a livery stable at 610 Uak Street, may have been linked through the two Vanderveers³⁶ whatever the connection, the Porter duplex is now by far the more intact of the two buildings and is both a fine example of the duplex resource type and of the Queen Anne style as applied to this type.

The Porter duplex is thus locally significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent, highly intact example of a type of Queen Anne style duplex residence that was especially associated with the middle class of its day, a type that was and is a rare part of Baraboo's architectural heritage. The building has all the typical reatures of a Queen Anne style nouse of its time such as an irregular plan, a mix of siding materials such as clapboard and decorative wood shingles, porches decorated with turned posts and other reatures. In addition, the duplex also has a largely original and quite intact interior that adds considerably to the overall significance of the building.

<u>Uwner</u>

Jeffrey L. Koy 223 Seventh Street Baraboo, Wi 53913

³⁶ <u>Baraboo Republic</u>. October 9, 1894, p. **3**. "C. Greenslet is moving his household good [sic] into Karcher's new house east of the Presbyterian Church."

See continuation sheet Verbal Boundary Description Lot No. 11, Block No. 1, of the City of Baraboo, formerly Adams, Sauk County, Wisconsin. Being part of the NE% of the SE% of Sec. 35, T12N, R6E. See continuation sheet Boundary Justification The boundaries enclose all the land historically associated with the nominated building. See continuation sheet II. Form Prepared By		
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street & number <u>1311 Morrison St.</u> telephone <u>(608) 251-9450</u>	name/title <u>Timothy F. Heggland/Consultant</u> tor: Jertrey L. Roy/owner	
	organization date May 24, 1995	
city or town <u>Madison</u> State <u>W1</u> zip code <u>53703</u>	street & number <u>1311 Morrison St.</u> telephone <u>(608) 251-9450</u>	
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