

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8/86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format (1331D)
(Approved 3/87)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (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 left margin. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name VAN OSTRAND, DEWITT CLINTON HOUSE

other names/site number Cummings, Jaramed House

2. Location

street & number 413 Church Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Neenah

N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin

code WI

county Winnebago

code 139

zip code 54956

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 x meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

11/27/96
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet

[Signature: Elson H. Beall]

1.9.97

 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet

 determined not eligible for the National Register.

 removed from the National Register.

 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

foundation Limestone

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Dewitt Clinton Van Ostrand House is situated on less than an acre of land three blocks south of the central business district. The immediate neighborhood is comprised of modest late-19th century homes and mid 20th century apartment buildings. A modern U.S. Post Office building is located across the street.

The Van Ostrand House is a two-story Italianate residence built of masonry sometime between 1855 and 1861. The plan configuration is square with a two-story rear wing on the west facade, a one-story side wing on the north facade, and a two-story polygonal bay on the south facade. The wings date from the 1860s and the two-story bay from 1880s. These additions duplicate the materials, fenestration and detailing of the main mass and carefully maintain its architectural integrity. The west and north facades of the rear wing also bear marks of a small, undated frame addition that is no longer extant.

The foundations of the house are all coursed uncut stone, the walls are a local yellow brick with a stretcher bond, and the roofing materials are contemporary asphalt shingles. In the main mass and polygonal bay the roof is gently pitched and hipped to a central cupola. The rear wing roof is end-gabled, and the north wing roof is flat. A full-width porch extends across the main east facade, supported by four Doric order columns. A secondary porch with camphered posts extends half-way across the south facade of the west rear wing. An interior slope chimney is located northwest of the cupola, and an interior end wall chimney forms the parallel face of the south polygonal bay.

The fenestration of the main mass and each of the additions combine formal and functional elements into a single, unified design. On the main facade, two full-length windows on the first floor and three on the second symmetrically balance the main entrance and compliment the Doric porch columns. On the north facade the fenestration consists of three windows on each floor, asymmetrically arranged but formally balanced between floors and repeated on the one-story addition. On the south facade a single, second floor window functionally lights the stairwell. The remainder of this facade is occupied by the polygonal bay, fenestrated a single window each floors of every elevation, including stained-glass windows in the interior end wall chimney. The windows in the main mass and these additions are comprised of double-hung, single-paned sash with four-paned storm windows.

On the rear west wing the fenestration is purely functional. The north facade includes three windows on each floor of varying sizes and one on each floor of the west facade. Of these the second floor window appears to have been reduced from its original size. On the south facade there are two windows on the second floor and

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and three on the first floor. The second floor windows are also more noticeable smaller than the first floor windows on each of these facades. The windows are all comprised of double-hung, single-paned sash, with one original double-hung, six-over-six sash in the first floor west facade window.

In addition to the fenestration, the building has five first floor entries and one second floor entry. The main first floor entry is located on the east facade porch and includes a single paneled door with early 20th century leaded glass sidelights. A full-length window also opens onto the porch and porch roof. Another entry is located on the east facade of the north one-story addition which provided public access to Van Ostrand's office. It consists of a single lighted door and at one time was accessed by a balustered stoop that is no longer extant. The two remaining entries are located on the west and south facades of the rear wings, both of which are comprised of paneled doors.

The principal character defining decorative features are the overhanging eaves, wide friezeboard, and paired brackets. On the front porch the brackets have a single acorn pendant. On the one-story addition and at the second floor roofline each bracket has a double acorn pendant. The double pendant brackets are also repeated on the cupola, which like the house has a roof hipped to a finial.

The interior room arrangement follows a side hall plan with a parlor, library or office, and sitting room. The rear wing contains the dining room, pantry, rear hall, and kitchen. The second floor plan approximates a similar room arrangement. Character defining features include Eastlake and Craftsman style details. Camphered doors, bull's eye framing, Eastlake mantels, glazed fireplace tiles, and stained glass windows are evidence of historic remodeling in the 1880s. Craftsman style features include the front entry leaded window, an oak hall bench, and the board-and-batten paneling and ceiling beams in the dining room. These features date from the 1920s and have little impact on the architectural integrity of the interior.

The grounds also include a small frame 1890s carriage house converted to a one-story two-car garage. The plan configuration is rectangular with ground level foundations, clapboard siding, and asphalt shingles covering a hipped roof. The east facade is comprised of two lighted garage doors, while the west facade is dominated by hinged double carriage doors. The north and south facades each have three windows with double-hung, six-over-six sash. Located in the northwest corner of the property, the carriage house was probably moved to this location and converted in 1920s, after a portion of the property was sold. The alteration of the dining room and the demolition of the rear frame addition probably date from this same period.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: nationally statewide X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A X B X C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Industry

Architecture

Period of Significance

1869-1906 (1)

1855-1860 (2)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Dates

ca. 1865 (3)

ca. 1885 (4)

Significant Person

Van Ostrand, Dewitt Clinton

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

The Dewitt Clinton Van Ostrand House is nominated to the National Register for its local significance under criteria B and C. The property is nominated under criterion B its association with D. C. Van Ostrand, one of Neenah's pioneer bankers and paper manufacturers. The Van Ostrand house is also nominated under criterion C for its local architectural significance. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Italianate period of design addressed in Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, and is reflective of a significant period of growth and achievement in the community.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Neenah began in 1835 as an industrial and agricultural mission for the Menominee Indians. Its early white settlement, attracted by the Fox River water power, followed several years later. Due to conflicts between the principal landowners, Neenah's growth lagged behind other villages in the area until after the Civil War, at which time rail transportation and renewed economic vigor encouraged a boom in local industry. Neenah's role in Wisconsin's paper industry began during this period and included the formation of Kimberly-Clark Corporation in 1872.

The phenomenal success of Kimberly-Clark and later paper companies produced a social structure dominated by some of the most influential families in the Fox River Valley and the state. This social structure and the industry that sustained it reached a plateau around the turn of the century. After World War I, industry turned to manufacturing consumer products. This created more jobs and greater wealth, which provided Neenah with a stable economic environment throughout the Great Depression.

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COMMERCE

In Factories in the Valley, historians Glaab and Larson cite D. C. Van Ostrand as exemplary of Neenah's pioneer businessmen. A New Yorker born in 1827, Van Ostrand came to Neenah in 1850. There he started a small chair factory, manufacturing Boston rockers. A year later he was running a Durham boat between Appleton and Neenah, contracting to portage goods from Kaukauna to Menasha. In 1855, he purchased a stock of goods and opened a store in Neenah, then bought into the dry goods business with Hiram Smith. Two years later he took up operation of the old government flour mill and was estimated to be worth \$15,000 to \$20,000. He was thereafter elected president of the village board.(5)

In 1861 Van Ostrand moved to Eldorado in Ford du Lac County, where he engaged in flour milling and was elected to the state legislature. Then in 1868 he returned to Neenah to reestablish his business association with Hiram Smith. That same year they acquired the Neenah Paper Company from fractious investors and turned it into one of the first successful paper producers in the state. In 1873 they extended their partnership, purchasing an interest in both the H. P. Leavens' hardware store and the Neenah Stove Works, the latter being sold to George and D. W. Bergstrom in 1878. (6)

Shortly thereafter the two men opened a loan and mortgage office which led to the organization of the Manufacturers' Bank in 1881. Opened with a capital stock of \$65,000, it held deposits of more than \$90,000 its first year of operations. One of only two banks in the city in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the bank's board of directors included lumberman Henry Sherry and paper manufacturers F. C. Shattuck and William Gilbert. Hiram Smith served as president until his death in 1900, at which time the bank had deposits of nearly \$500,000. Succeeding to the office of president, Van Ostrand served until his death in 1906, during which time the bank added an impressive stone facade to its building, and then reorganized as the National Manufacturer's Bank of Neenah. (7)

Unlike Neenah's better known industrialists, Van Ostrand was self-effacing and presumably content to live simply. Instead of building an elaborate residence on either Wisconsin or Forest Avenues, he continued to live in the modest Church Street house and traveled extensively, visiting Europe, Asia, Africa, Mexico, Alaska, and California.(8) His sole domestic indulgence was an elaborate, two-story bay, so meticulously constructed in the 1880s as to be nearly indistinguishable from the original 1860s structure. This addition expanded the family sitting room, immediately adjacent to the office Van Ostrand maintained in the one-story wing, from which Van Ostrand is believed to have conducted his diverse business interests.

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After Van Ostrand's death the house remained in the family until 1916, when it was sold to William Sindahl. Sindahl, a local building contractor, made surprisingly few alterations to the house, but sold the rear lots fronting Isabella Street shortly after purchasing the property.

Most of the structures associated with Van Ostrands' varied yet representative business career have been demolished or extensively altered. The government mill burned in 1874, and the Neenah Paper Company mill was demolished in 1884 by Kimberly, Clark & Co. The Smith & Van Ostrand dry goods block burned shortly after the turn of the century, and the Leavens hardware store was incorporated into the 1916 Jandrey Company building (Wisconsin Avenue Historic District, NRHP 1984). The Neenah Stove Works, doubled in size in the 1890s by the Bergstroms, is recognizable but retains little of its appearance from the 1870s.

The only remaining associated structures are Van Ostrand's house and the Manufacturer's National Bank building (Wisconsin Avenue Historic District, NRHP 1984), both of which maintain a high degree of architectural integrity. The bank building, however, is associated with only one aspect of Van Ostrand's diverse career. The house and its office served a more central and continuous function in his many business interests, which included the establishment of Neenah's paper industry.

INDUSTRY

According to Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, the state's paper making industry was relatively insignificant in the 1860s. Beginning in 1848 with a small facility in Milwaukee, early paper mills were subsequently constructed in Beloit, Whitewater, Fond du Lac, Sparta, and Appleton. In 1865 another paper mill began operations in Neenah with a stock company of local businessmen led by Hiram and Edward Smith. Organized as the Neenah Paper Company, the other investors were Dr. Nathaniel Robinson, Nathan Cobb, John Jamison, and Moses Hooper. Hiram Smith served as managing director, Nathaniel Robinson as superintendant. Pioneer Wisconsin papermaker Myron Haynes was hired to direct production.(9)

Hampered by dissent among the initial owners, the property eventually was leased to Edward and Hiram Smith in 1867. The following year Edward Smith sold his interest to D. C. Van Ostrand, who then acquired control of the Neenah Paper Company with Hiram Smith. With Haynes continuing as superintendant, the well-established partners were soon producing 465 tons of print paper, over sixteen tons of book paper, and nearly twenty-five tons of tea paper. Van Ostrand's concurrent acquisition of the house on Church Street, what was then Neenah's premiere address, helped to underscore the profitability and importance of this new industry.

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The firm of Smith & Van Ostrand was one of the first profitable paper mills in Wisconsin, and its success called widespread attention to the possibilities of paper manufacture in the Fox River Valley. In six years three more companies were organized in Neenah to manufacture paper: Kimberly, Clark & Co. (1872), the Patten Paper Co. (1874), and the Winnebago Paper Co. (1874).(8) Of these Kimberly, Clark & Co. quickly became the front runner, growing faster in its early years than anyone could have imagined possible. By 1874 Kimberly, Clark & Co. had outgrown its starting production capacity and acquired Smith and Van Ostrand's operation, demolishing the mill in 1884 to make way for a larger facility.(10)

The remaining resources associated with Neenah's first paper mill are the homes associated with its historic owners. Of these the Greek Revival Edward Smith House (303 Church Street) has been significantly altered, appearing much as it did in in 1915. The Italianate John Jamison House (314 W. Forest Avenue) and Gothic Revival Myron Haynes House (323 W. North Water Street) retain their basic form but have been striped of their character defining features. The Neenah homes of Dr. Nathaniel Robinson, Nathan Cobb, and Moses Hooper have all been demolished. Those with the greatest integrity of site and form are the octagonal Hiram Smith House (NRHP 1996) and the Van Ostrand house. No other houses associated with Van Ostrand's life are known to exist.

In this small field of limited resources, the D. C. Van Ostrand House assumes greater historical importance for its association with the founding of Neenah's nationally significant paper industry. Although somewhat altered by subsequent owners, the house maintains an exceptionally high standard of integrity of both site and form. Occupied by Van Ostrand during his brief but highly influential years in the paper industry, the house exemplifies the simple beginnings of a remarkable period of local growth and achievement, a period that ultimately shaped the economic history of the entire Fox River Valley.

ARCHITECTURE

Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin states that Italianate houses in Wisconsin are distinguished by wide eaves with numerous brackets, gently sloping hipped roofs, and sometimes a polygonal or square cupola. Popular from 1850 to 1880, the Italianate in its various forms is found throughout Wisconsin. Nationally, the cubic octagon is considered the most common subtype, making up one-third of Italianate houses. These typically employed three openings in composing the facades, and only have included a cupola.

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In 1855 Jaramed Cummings acquired the lots on Church street for \$34, and six years later he sold the property to flour miller Samuel Oborn for \$1,000. Oborn in turn sold the property to another miller, Joshua Kurtz, in 1864 for \$1,800. Five years later Van Ostrand acquired the property for \$3,500. These transactions indicate that the house was probably constructed sometime between 1855 and 1860, with Kurtz responsible for one or both of the principal additions.

Two stories in height and constructed of brick, the Van Ostrand House exhibits the characteristic cubic massing and the three-opening pattern on the front facade, elaborated by double pendant paired brackets and a matching cupola. The full cubic form of the Van Ostrand House has been modestly modified by historic additions, but character defining features were extended to maintain an harmonious whole that respects the distinctive qualities of the original design.

While a fairly ubiquitous style in Wisconsin, the Van Ostrand House is one of only five surviving brick Italianates in Neenah. The 1877 Charles Stridde House (304 S. Commercial), the undated William Krueger House (112 E. Franklin), the undated Alexander Moore House (112 Harrison), and the 1874 Charles Paul House (317 E. Columbian) of the cubic building form with three-opening dimension of the principal facade. The Stridde House exhibits moulded window hoods, and the Krueger House has elaborate brackets, but for the most part these other examples have experienced significant alterations and adaptations to other uses. The Paul House the most comparable integrity, yet its negligible Italiante features suggest a cubic building form rather than the Italianate style.

Modified by subsequent owners in the 1920s, the D. C. Van Ostrand House retains an exceptionally high level of integrity of both site and form, and is exemplary in the community as one of the most popular styles of the late nineteenth century. Associated with the establishment of Neenah's nationally prominent paper industry, the Van Ostrand House is a pivotal landmark in Neenah's rich and diversified architectural history.

FOOTNOTES

1. The period of significance covers the years D. C. Van Ostrand occupied the house and was actively engaged in the manufacture of paper and banking.
2. Transactions recorded in the Winnebago County Register of Deeds indicate that the house was constructed Jeramed Cummings. Cummings acquired the property in 1855 for \$34 and then sold it in 1861 for \$1,000 to Samuel Oborn.

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3. Transactions recorded in the Winnebago County Register of Deeds indicate that the west and north wings were added sometime in the 1860s. Samuel Oborn mortgaged the property in 1864 and then sold it to Joshua Kurtz in 1866 for \$1,800. In 1869 Kurtz sold the property to Van Ostrand for \$3,500. The principal additions were probably executed by Kurtz, but the smaller of the two may be attributable to Oborn.
4. The two-story bay is believed to date from the 1880s as indicated by such characteristic features as the stained glass windows, Eastlake mantels and glazed fireplace tiles. The chimney flue that divides around the stained glass windows is particularly indicative of late 19th century construction.
5. Glaab & Larson, 134.
6. Lawson, 1176.
7. Shattuck, 175.
8. Lawson, 1177.
9. Wyatt, Industry 6-4.
10. Glaab & Larson, 112.

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Photographic Materials - Identification

VAN OSTRAND, DEWITT CLINTON HOUSE
Neenah, Winnebago County, Wisconsin
Photos by Peter Adams, June 1994
Negatives at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

- Photo #1 of 9: View from southeast.
- Photo #2 of 9: View from northeast.
- Photo #3 of 9: View from northwest.
- Photo #4 of 9: View from southwest.
- Photo #5 of 9: View from the south.
- Photo #6 of 9: Garage, view from east.
- Photo #7 of 9: Garage, view from west.
- Photo #8 of 9: Interior, detail of sitting room fireplace.
- Photo #9 of 9: Interior, detail of dining room.

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Section number OWNER Page 1 VAN OSTRAND, D. C. HOUSE
Neenah, Winnebago County, Wisconsin

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