

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 18 1977
DATE ENTERED JAN 9 1978

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
~~Mrs. Adam~~ (Christina) Kuhl, Sr., House
AND/OR COMMON
Kuhl-Gurath House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1416 Main Street
CITY, TOWN
Stevens Point
STATE
Wisconsin
VICINITY OF
Seventh
COUNTY
Portage
CODE
055
CODE
097

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Apartments

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Jack Worzalla
STREET & NUMBER
533 Bukolt Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Stevens Point
STATE
Wisconsin
VICINITY OF
STATE
54481

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Portage County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
Stevens Point
STATE
Wisconsin
54481

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places
DATE
1973
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
CITY, TOWN
Madison
STATE
Wisconsin
53706

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Kuhl house is a massive French Second Empire house of frame construction with a red brick veneer. Shortly before the house was completed, the Portage County Gazette, in an article entitled "An Elegant Residence," described the house:

This fine structure is 47 x 84 feet in size, two and one-half stories, or 34 feet high. The first two stories are 24 feet high, and beneath is a fine double cellar. On either of the front corners is a two story bay window, with a cupola above, which extends to a height (sic) of 44 feet above the ground. There is also a bay window on the west side. The house is practically a double one, with twelve rooms on the first floor, and the same number on the second, besides closets, hallways, &c. On both floors is a spacious, finely proportioned kitchen, pantry, parlor, sitting, dining and bath room and wood house, besides several pleasant sleeping apartments. The halls, dining rooms and kitchens are finished in hardwood, and the handsome wide staircase is of the same material. A mansard roof covers the structure, and this is covered with tin. The walls and ceilings of the parlors, sitting rooms, halls and bed rooms are papered in a handsome, attractive manner, the workmanship of D. R. Rogers, who also has the contract for doing the entire painting, which is being done in a superior manner. Aug. Lubitz took the contract for doing the carpenter work in the early spring, and has given the best of satisfaction, while the brick and stone work was done by Henry Vetter and the plastering by Mr. Chanley. The Stevens Point Manufacturing Co. furnished the sash, doors, blinds, brackets, &c., and the roofing was put on by C. Krembs & Bro. The cost of this new house will be about \$10,000, and it is hoped that Mr. Kuhl and family may enjoy its comforts for very many years.¹

The exterior of the house is little altered. The twin towers are joined at the first story level with a central entrance porch of simple design which features Doric columns and cast-iron balustrades. The many window openings are tall and narrow with stilted elliptical arches and keystones of cast iron incised with a star pattern.² Brackets embellish the cornices under the eaves and at the edges of the mansards. Ornate cast-iron cresting shipped from Chicago³ crowns the towers which feature narrow dormers with round-arched hoods. Dormers on the house have double-arched windows and flat roofs.

The interior of the house is much altered, having been converted to apartments sometime in the twentieth century. A one-story frame shed at the north end of the house is insignificant and is not included in this nomination.

1. "An Elegant Residence," Portage County Gazette, September 1, 1886.
2. The Portage County Gazette of February 24, 1886 said, "You can better imagine that the residence will be a good sized one when it is stated that there will be 52 openings, doors, and windows on the outside..."
3. Stevens Point Journal, August 21, 1886.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1886

BUILDER/~~ARCHITECT~~

Vetter and Lowinski¹

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Known locally as "the castle," the massive and imposing Kuhl house is an important local landmark. It is one of the two French Second Empire houses remaining in Stevens Point.² Wendell Nelson, a local historian, states that it is "one of the few unspoiled houses we have left in its original condition."³ When it was built it was considered "one of the finest and most expensive as well as the largest, residences in Stevens Point..."⁴

The first house on the property was built by Adam Kuhl in 1877. It was a small, 42' x 34', one story high structure which held the distinction of being the first house built of Stevens Point brick. Kuhl, an immigrant from Hesse, was one of the first German-born businessmen to settle in Stevens Point. He arrived in the area in the 1850's and was listed in the 1860 census as a cabinetmaker. In 1867 he founded a brewery which became a well-known local institution, producing 600-700 barrels of beer a year for the local market. In 1883 Kuhl died, leaving a wife, Christina, and six children.

In 1886 Mrs. Kuhl began a new residence on the site, moving the small brick house to another location. The home was completed in September of 1886. Mrs. Kuhl took over the management of her husband's business affairs until her death on January 16, 1919. According to Mr. Nelson, "The building became a rooming house just before her death, although family members continued to live there... Although long-term renters became the norm later, initially rooms were rented to businessmen or transients for a night or two. After Mrs. Kuhl's death, the house was inherited by her son, Fred J. Kuhl, who operated the firm of Kuhl Bros., a dry goods store, with his brother Adam J. Kuhl Jr."⁶ Upon his death in 1932 his wife inherited the house and used it along with several other holdings as income property until her death in 1974.

The house is threatened by the proposed realignment of USH 10 in the City of Stevens Point.

1. Stevens Point Journal, September 25, 1886.
2. "Distinctive style marks Kuhl-Gurath home," Stevens Point Daily Journal, November 19, 1975.
3. "Worzalla doesn't want house on register," Stevens Point Daily Journal, January 28, 1976.
4. "An Elegant Residence," Portage County Gazette, September 1, 1886. The Stevens Point Journal of May 8, 1886, stated that "it will be the largest house, with one possible exception, in the city."
5. Stevens Point Journal, September 22, 1877.
6. "Distinctive style..."

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY about .1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 6	2 9 5 1 2 0	4 9 3 3 0 6 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Edges of Kuhl house, including two-story brick wing on north.

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

Katherine E. Hundt, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Division
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

April 4, 1977

STREET & NUMBER
816 State Street

TELEPHONE

608/262-2970

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 A. Erney

TITLE Richard A. Erney, Acting Director
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

5/12/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST: *[Signature]*
KEEPER, GENERAL HISTORICAL ADMINISTRATION

DATE

1-9-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1-6-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED	MAY 18 1977
DATE ENTERED	JAN 9 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Major Bibliographic References

- "Brewing Industry Carried On Here For More Than A Century," Stevens Point Daily Journal, June 28, 1958.
- Cate, George W., Portage County Directory 1896, Stevens Point: Post Printing Co., 1896, v. I.
- City directories for the years 1898, 1903, 1908, 1923.
- "Distinctive style marks Kuhl-Gurath home," Stevens Point Daily Journal, November 19, 1975.
- Portage County Gazette, February 24, 1886; March 10, 1886; June 30, 1886; September 1, 1886.
- Rosholt, Malcolm, Our County Our Story: Portage County, Wisconsin, Stevens Point: Portage County Board of Supervisors, 1959, p. 120.
- Stevens Point Journal, July 21, 1877; July 28, 1877; September 22, 1877; March 20, 1886; March 27, 1886; May 8, 1886; August 21, 1886; September 25, 1886.
- Tax records, 1860-1958, tax assessor's office, Stevens Point.
- U.S. Census, Portage County, 1860, p. 167.
- "Worzalla doesn't want house on register," Stevens Point Daily Journal, January 28, 1976.