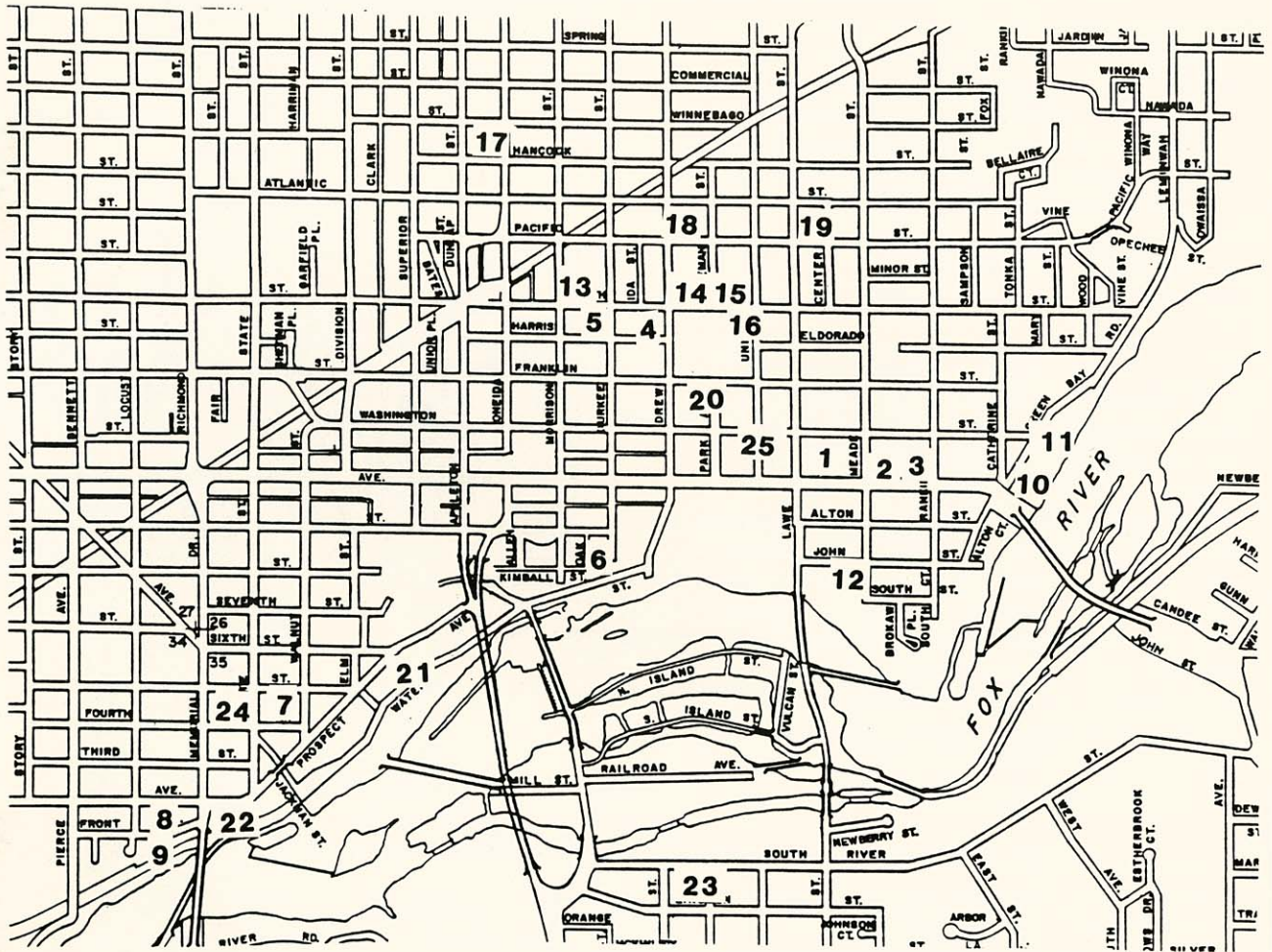


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Residential

Historic Sites Survey

1989

Appleton Department of Planning & Development



726 E. College Ave.- This building was the home of Alfred Galpin Jr., son of Alfred Galpin Sr. (see 802 E. College Ave.) Galpin was a prominent citizen of Appleton in the late 1800's. He was involved in banking serving as cashier for both the Second National Bank and the Manufacturers National Bank. His house is famous as the location of the first telephone in the State of Wisconsin. A line ran from his home to his office on the corner of College and Morrison. He had several correspondences with Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone.



802 E. College Ave.- This home was originally built by Alfred Galpin Sr. He lived in this house from its construction in 1856 to 1893. He was an alderman in 1863 and was nominated for mayor by the Democratic Party only to decline. It was also said that he and his house were active in the underground railroad. In 1893 Michael Gouchnauer bought the house from Alfred Galpin. Mr. Gouchnauer was the contractor for the first electric streetcar in Appleton. The house stayed in the Gouchnauer family until 1970.



818 E. College Ave.- This was the home of Judge Frank Harriman, the son of Judge Joseph Harriman. Both Frank and Joseph Harriman served as Judges in Outagamie county, Frank taking over the position after his father's death, and both men were mayors of Appleton. Joseph Harriman was one of the founders of Appleton and was President of the Appleton Electric Street Car Company. Joseph Harriman also donated the land for what is now Peabody Park. Appleton's first mayor, Amos Story, also owned a home on this site.





405 N. Drew St.- This house was built by Fred J.H. Pfenning, an industrialist who owned a mill in the flats area and was later owned by Herman Erb, who was an early pioneer of Appleton. Mr. Erb was one of the founders of the First National Bank of Appleton. He served as cashier and was President of the bank in 1909. He was the father of Herman Erb Jr., a former Mayor of Appleton. Herman Erb Jr. was one of the youngest men ever nominated for a position in the city and was the youngest man ever elected Mayor. He served three one- year terms as mayor and tragically ended his life by killing himself in 1900.



417 N. Durkee St.- Originally owned by Mayor David Hammel who owned a livery and a sale stable. It is rumored that President Taft visited in 1910 when it was owned by E.A. Edmunds, a Republican Banker. The Hammel's were good friends of Edna Ferber's family and she wrote of them in her autobiography.



229 S. Durkee St.- The home of Professor James Phinney. Mr. Phinney was one the very first settlers in Appleton. A professor of mathematics and natural science he was one of the first faculty members of Lawrence University. He was unanimously elected the first clerk in the Village of Appleton in 1853 and was the city's first school superintendent in 1857. Politically, he was a Republican supported in several elections by the Greenback Party.



515 W. Fifth St.- The oldest remaining house in Appleton, it originally was built in 1851 by Elisha Morrow at 720 E. John St. It was the second house built in Lawesburg. In 1935 Karl Schuetter moved the house to make way for expansion at Lawrence. It is currently occupied by Lester Balliet who has furnished the house with antiques from the time period when the house was built. The owner is Mrs. Joseph Sensenbrenner of Neenah.

720 W. Front St.- Built in 1895 on the property owned by George Miller this house was the home of Arthur G. Meating. Mr. Meating was the County Superintendent of Schools from 1902 to 1932. He sponsored trips for graduating high school seniors to Madison and in 1930 and 1931 organized trips to Washington, D.C. Over 1,200 people went with the Appleton contingent to Washington in 1931 where they met President Herbert Hoover. Loosing his office in 1932, he started a travel agency and sponsored trips to spots around the world. His daughter, Elizabeth Meating Proctor , who wrote a book on the history of Front Street, currently lives there.





721 W. Front St.- This was the home of Fred Blood, son of Appleton pioneer Henry Blood. Fred Blood founded the St. James Hotel in Red Wing Minnesota and was a coal, wood, and grain dealer. His father Henry Blood was one of the men who picked the location for Lawrence University and was one of Appleton's early pioneers.



90 N. Green Bay Rd.- This was the home of Gustavus Buchanan, son of William Buchanan and one of the founders of the Appleton Wire Works. Gus Buchanan was the President up until his death in 1938, just six weeks apart for the death of Albert Weissenbom, another founder of the Wire Works. The house is very elaborate with seven chimneys and a beautiful view of the river. The house is currently owned by the institute of Paper Chemistry.



124 N. Green Bay Rd.- Home of Norman Richmond, one of the Richmond Brothers who owned the first paper mill in Appleton. The Richmond mill was located on what is now the site of Dresser Industries below the south end of the College Avenue bridge. At the time, paper was not the leading industry on the river as it is now. Then paper mills were considered to be a risky business because the methods of perfecting paper had not yet been developed and there were more lucrative businesses to enter into. The home was also the residence of Judge Albert Spencer, an Appleton native and one of the most famous judges in Outagamie County. He studied under the guidance of Judge Joseph Harriman.



741 E. John St.- The home of John Wood, a pioneer of Appleton. Mr. Wood was also influential in the settling of Marquette, Ishpeming, and Iron Mountain Michigan. Although he lived in Appleton he still was active in Upper Michigan due to his many real estate holdings and his ties to the First National Bank of Iron Mountain, which he founded.



216 E. North St.- This was the home of Edna Ferber when she wrote the book Dawn O' Hara in 1909. Edna Ferber was one of Appleton's most famous citizens. She began her career as a cub reporter for her hometown paper the Appleton Evening Crescent and later was a reporter for the Milwaukee Journal. She later went on to be the fiction editor for Everybody's Magazine and wrote for the American Magazine. She wrote of her life in Appleton in her autobiography A Peculiar Treasure. The house was built in 1895.





402 E. North St.- The Geenen sisters, Minni, Dinah, and Anna, lived in this house in 1906. They ran the Geenen Dry Goods Company that was located at the present site of Marshall Fields. In 1896 the Geenen sisters started a store with their two cousins Mr. A.J. Koch and Mr. William Smith. After two years the male cousins withdrew from the business and the store was run exclusively by the Geenen sisters. In 1907 they bought the building that was formerly occupied by Edna Ferber's family to expand their business. The store had all the selection of a major department store and employed over seventy people at its height. The store was unusual because it was owned and operated almost exclusively by women during a time when such things were not common. The Geenen home is currently used as a bed and breakfast house. The house is made of brick and wood and has a turret in the center of the facade.



510 & 516 E. North St.- These twin houses were occupied by sisters Eva Hammel and Anna Kahn. Their husbands ran the Appleton Toy and Furniture Company. The Appleton Toy Company began in 1882 when Michael Bauer and Daniel Waters constructed a factory at the foot of the Lawe Street hill in the flats. They made rocking horses, wagons, wheelbarrows, and buggies. In 1890 the company was bought by the Union Toy and Furniture Company. Appleton business men Jacob Kober, Maurice Rossmessl, and William Saecker ran the company as well as other businesses they owned in town. In 1899 the company was again sold to Phillip Hammel and A. J. Kahn. At the height of their production they called themselves America's Santa Claus. In 1945 the company was sold to Playschool and was shut down in the 1960's.



524 E. North St.- This house was first occupied by Asa F. Tuttle, the President and founder of Tuttle Press, in 1915. Mr. Tuttle started his business in Elgin, Illinois, where he began printing badges and wrappers on a machine that he designed himself. He moved to Appleton in 1902 when Wisconsin Tissue Company, one of his biggest buyers, asked him to move to Appleton for their mutual advantage. Mr. Tuttle's company was the first company ever to produce a paper disposable napkin. The house is of an Eclectic Resurgence style and is marked by a three story turret on the east side.



821 N. Oneida St.- The home of George Walter was built in 1885. George Walter was the owner of the Star Brewery, which brewed Alder Brau Beer. He bought out the Charles Meunch Brewery with Frank Fries. He eventually bought out Frank Fries and created the George Walter Brewery on what is now the corner of Walnut and Lawrence St. He died in the early 1900's but the brewery was run by his children until it closed in 1974.



402 E. Pacific St.- The home of Judge Thomas Ryan was built in 1885. Judge Ryan was originally from the town of Buchanan and was active in the Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus. He was Outagamie County's first municipal Judge and wrote the history of Outagamie County.





716 E. Pacific St.- This was the Albert Voecks home, the first headquarters for Aid Association for Lutherans, built in 1907. AAL was founded in St. Paul's church by several gentlemen who wanted to start a fraternal benefit society for Lutherans. Many people at that time considered fraternal societies to be contrary to their religion. AAL offered insurance to Lutherans in a fraternal atmosphere. The Voecks kitchen served as the main office and headquarters until business became so large that they had to move. Their offices can be seen downtown and on the far north side of town today.



229 N. Park Ave.- The former house of George Jones. It is of a Queen Anne Style and was built in 1901. Mr. Jones was involved in real estate and owned extensive holdings in the Fox Valley, Oregon, and Northern Michigan. He was a practicing lawyer and a philanthropist. He was a supporter of the first library in Appleton and gave money to start libraries in almost every town in the county. He was instrumental in erecting the Soldier Square monument and donated land to the city for a park which now bears his name. The house served as a girls dormitory for several years until it became the house for the Lawrence President.



315 W. Prospect Ave.- The John Hart Whorton House is one of the most elaborate old homes in Appleton and was constructed around the year 1870. It is a two story, cream colored, brick building with a three story tower on the west side. Mr. Whorton was a very influential businessman in Appleton. He owned several lumber mills and was responsible for the organization of the Commercial National Bank of Appleton where he was later president. He was a trustee of Lawrence University and was active in the Republican Party and the Methodist Church. The Whorton House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

625 W. Prospect St.- Built in 1882, Hearthstone is perhaps the best known historic house in the City of Appleton. Entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, Hearthstone was the first home in the world to be lit with electricity generated by a hydroelectric plant. Hearthstone was originally built for Henry Roger's wife Cremora because she was distressed about moving to the wilderness of Wisconsin from Baltimore. To appease her, he built a large and elaborate home that was larger than any of her friend's in Baltimore. Rodgers, fascinated by the potential of electricity installed electrical wiring in the walls of the house. On September 30, 1882 the home was lit from the first commercial hydroelectric power station in the world. The home is ornately decorated with decorative tile on its seven fireplaces and its stained glass windows. The original brass switches are still in the house and still operate the light fixtures. One of the switches is in the Smithsonian Institute. It was designed by William Waters, the architect of Oshkosh's Opera House and the Whorton/Warner Building. The house is currently owned by Friends of Hearthstone, Inc., a nonprofit organization formed to preserve the house.



315 E. South River St.- This building from 1875 was the home of Quincy Marston, son of Civil War Veteran Captain Joseph Marston. Joseph Marston was involved in the battles of Gettysburg, Antietam, and the second battle of Bull Run. During his tour of duty he was shot in the head, had a shell explode at his feet, and was captured by the Confederate Army only to escape. He served as mayor and ran a wagon stock company.





523 S. State St.- The James Tompkins house was built in 1868 by former Greenville resident and businessman James Tompkins. His house is unique because it was one of the first to be built from cement. In 1868 brick was scarce in the area so he used a different type of substance for the house. The Tompkins family married into the Babcock, Zuehlke, and Gilmore families, all prominent in the Fox Valley at the time. In 1947 the house was bought by Oscar C. Boldt, president of Boldt Construction. It was entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.



127 N. Union St.- The home of Thomas Patten was erected in 1895. Mr. Patten was a foreman at Patten Paper Company and was the son of its founder Azel W. Patten. The house is a stick style that was popular at the time of its construction.