

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 9 1984  
date entered SEP 18 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic N/A  
and/or common ~~Historic Resources of the City of Galesville, Wisconsin~~<sup>MRA</sup>  
(Partial inventory: Historic and Architectural Properties)

2. Location

street & number Various - see continuation pages not for publication  
city, town Galesville vicinity of  
state Wisconsin code 55 county Trempealeau code 121

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
Multiple resources	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership - see continuation pages, and Individual Survey Forms  
street & number  
city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Trempealeau County Courthouse  
street & number 1720 Main St.  
city, town Whitehall state Wisconsin 54773

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Galesville Intensive Survey has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no  
date 1980-81 \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local  
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

### I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Galesville is an unusually picturesque community because of its dramatic topography and its abundance of natural resources, which include a lake, a creek, and a variety of mineral springs. The city is located in the Beaver Creek Valley, where the creek swells into Lake Marinuka, an artificial lake created by a mill dam. The city is intersected by a high, nearly perpendicular limestone bluff which parallels the river. The lands surrounding the city consist of alternating bluffs and valleys, and there are abrupt changes in elevation within the city itself, which is riddled with numerous ridges and ravines.

The city is divided into high areas, known as tables, and a lower area called the flat. The lower table and the flat, located to the south of Lake Marinuka, accommodate the city's commercial and industrial sites, while the principal residential areas occupy the upper table to the west of the lake and another high area to the east of the lake. Many of the houses are dramatically sited on the edges of ravines and command exciting views of Beaver Creek and the surrounding bluffs. Because of the rugged topography, large areas of natural groundcover, in addition to the grassy lawns, surround the houses. The street pattern is, for the most part, irregular. The Cartesian grid was imposed on Galesville to the extent that this was possible, but many streets, of necessity, follow natural contours. The heart of Galesville is the Public Square, a small rectangular open space, the focal point of which is an octagonal, concrete band shell, erected in 1912. To the south of the square, Galesville's few industrial buildings are strung out along Mill Road, which runs parallel to Beaver Creek. A branch of the Chicago and Northwestern railway services this area.

Few major changes have occurred in the overall organization of Galesville since its periods of growth and development. The most important changes have been street alterations. Before the turn of the century, Mill Road was the main artery, running through the southern part of town. It linked up with the stretch of Main Street which is north of Beaver Creek and which was called Maple Street at that time. The abutments of the bridge which made this connection can still be seen at the end of Mill Road near the site of the demolished mill. Sometime after the turn of the century, Main Street (which used to dead end at Lake Marinuka) was curved to the east in order to link up with what was then Maple Street, the entire span then being called Main Street. Other changes have been minor. Since Galesville has not significantly grown since 1915, little expansion has occurred since that time. A minimal amount of newer development has taken place in the peripheral areas of the city. For example, the former East Side Park, a privately-owned recreation area has become a residential subdivision, and, of course, building infill and replacement have occurred to some degree.

### II. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Most of the buildings in Galesville were built between 1860 and 1915, with the peak period of building around the turn of the century. The community's growth during this period is reflected by the population statistics, 30 people in 1855 and nearly 1,000 in 1915. Because the population has grown slowly since this period, reaching 1,162 in 1980, there has been relatively little new construction other than a limited amount of peripheral development in the residential neighborhoods, and a small number of infill and replacement structures in other areas of the community. Consequently, much of Galesville's architecture reflects the latter nineteenth century and early twentieth century growth period.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Historic Resources of  
Galesville, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION (continued):

Most of the houses in Galesville have two stories, pitched roofs, and simple rectangular or L plans. The majority of houses are frame with clapboard exteriors, however, there are a significant number of brick houses also in the community. Most of the houses are well-maintained and relatively unaltered although many houses have had asbestos, asphalt, or aluminum siding added to their exteriors. Since many houses were built during the period when the Queen Anne style was dominant, houses often have spool and spindle porch details, other decorative millwork, channel and semi-octagonal bay windows, and other windows with colored-glass transoms. Many of Galesville's more elaborate houses exhibit more full-fledged details of the Queen Anne style, particularly along Ridge Avenue and its cross streets.

Many residential properties consist of 65' x 130' rectangular lots, but again, due to the irregularities of the terrain, there is considerable inconsistency in the size and shape of the majority of the lots. Setbacks and sideyards also vary considerably in some residential areas, where an occasional house either fronts on the sidewalk or backs up to its rear lot line. However, the siting of the houses on the upper table and of those along Main Street is quite consistent and suggests local regulation.

Commercial structures are organized about the Public Square located off Main Street, south of Lake Marinuka. Business properties, and an occasional residential building, line the square and the extensions of three of the four streets that form the square: Main Street, Gale Avenue, Davis Street, and Court Street. Above many of the stores are residential apartments with separate entries at the sides or centers. Almost all of the buildings in the commercial district front on the sidewalk and have little or no space between them. Notable exceptions are the bank and gasoline station--newer buildings which are free standing and set back from the sidewalk--and the two lots south of the Public Square which remain vacant. The commercial buildings are simple turn of the century structures which are decorated with a variety of cornice types and wood, stone, cast iron, or pressed metal decoration and siding. Most of the roofs are flat or are gable concealed behind false fronts. While some frame buildings exist in the downtown commercial area, most of the buildings are brick.

III. ARCHEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

While there have been some archeological investigations in the Galesville area, any sites within the corporate limits of the city probably have been disturbed by construction and other excavation activities. It is impossible, however, to evaluate the city's archeological resources without an intensive archeological survey which is not feasible at this time.

IV. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The content of this multiple resource nomination is based on two surveys. In 1977, the Historic Preservation Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (SHSW) conducted a reconnaissance survey that was updated in 1978 and 1980. Through these efforts, approximately 33 sites of architectural interest were identified within the corporate limits of the city. The 1977 and 1978 survey work was completed by graduate students working under the supervision of the Historic Preservation Division of the SHSW.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Historic Resources of  
Galesville, Wisconsin

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

2

SURVEY METHODOLOGY (continued)

Using the SHSW survey as a starting point, Pfaller Herbst Associates, Inc., conducted an intensive architectural/historical survey within the multiple resource area in the latter part of 1980. Bruce M. Kriviskey, AICP, was Project Director and Project Architectural Historian; Diane T. Turner served as Assistant Researcher, and Richard H. Zeitlin, Ph.D., was the Project Historian.

While conducting the intensive survey, the team identified 48 additional structures which merited investigation, bringing the total of buildings researched to 81. Of these 81 buildings, however, only 19 were felt to be of sufficient architectural or historical significance to be either pivotal within an identified district or eligible for individual listing on the National Register. Architectural data was collected in the field and historical information was gathered through personal interviews, tax rolls, atlases, published histories of Trempealeau County, Galesville histories, and various manuscript collections on file at the Trempealeau County Historical Society. (See Major Bibliographical References)

In the summer of 1983, SHSW staff conducted another reconnaissance survey to provide as broad a context as possible for the multiple resource nomination. Additional properties were added to the inventory as a result of this effort. In the fall of 1983, Carol Lohry Cartwright, history graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, conducted additional historical research and re-evaluated the entire survey effort.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Gale College: 1859–1934

Ridge Avenue: 1875–1934 Downtown: 1875–1934

**Specific dates** See Individual Inventory Forms also  
**Builder/Architect** See Individual Inventory forms also  
**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

-Association with locally significant persons  
 -Ethnic History

## I. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This nomination consists of three historic districts, five individual buildings, and one structure. The Downtown Historic District is significant in the areas of commerce and architecture. The Ridge Avenue Historic District is significant in the areas of architecture and association with locally significant persons. The Gale College Historic District is significant in the areas of education, ethnic history, and architecture. Individual buildings are significant in the areas of architecture, commerce, ethnic history, and association with locally significant persons. The structure is significant for engineering.

A thorough discussion of significance for all resources follows and is structured in the following manner. A brief historical overview will be given, followed by statements of significance for each of the historic districts. Finally, statements of significance will be given for each area of significance with each of the resources discussed where appropriate.

## II. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The early history of Galesville is intimately associated with the founding of Trempealeau County. Judge George Gale, a Yankee speculator/entrepreneur, founded the village along the banks of Beaver Creek at the same time he was developing Trempealeau County.<sup>1</sup> Known as the "Father of Trempealeau County," Gale platted Galesville in 1854, but only 30 people lived there in 1855.<sup>2</sup> Galesville rapidly developed, however, one reason being it was the county seat from 1854–1877 and therefore an important center for local politics. By 1887, Galesville had a population of 439 and the loss of the county seat was made up for by the development of a successful milling industry. Gale built a mill dam in 1855 and helped finance the first mill. A flood destroyed this mill in 1866, but Wilson Davis immediately rebuilt it. Of seven stories, the stone mill was the largest and most prosperous in the area, handling the abundant wheat crops of northwest Wisconsin and Minnesota. As early as 1870, Galesville was described as a "beautiful, thriving, and famed little city."<sup>3</sup> The mill continued to bring prosperity and commercial activity to Galesville into the early twentieth century. The late 1800's and early 1900's saw Galesville's commercial downtown grow and thrive along with the Davis Mill, famous now for its "Peach Blossom Flour." The residential area of Galesville was also growing during this time with much significant construction occurring. Also, Galesville University, founded in 1854 by George Gale, having changed hands twice, was after 1901, a successful Norwegian-Lutheran academy. As the twentieth century wore on, increasingly, the economic base of Galesville changed as a series of devastating fires and changes in the milling industry hampered the growth of the mill. Galesville's growth peaked and the community became less an industrial center and more a service/commercial center for the community and surrounding residents. Unfortunately, in the 1960s, the mill was demolished, and a tangible remnant of Galesville's formative years was lost forever.<sup>4</sup>

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Quadrangle name Galesville

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

A 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

B 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

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E 

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F 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carol Lohry Cartwright, Historian (Bruce Kriviskey, Richard Zeitlin & Diane L. Turner, Pfaller Herbst Associates, Inc.)

organization Historic Preservation Division date February 1, 1984  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

street & number 816 State Street telephone 608-262-1339

city or town Madison state Wisconsin

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:    national    <sup>\*</sup>state    local    \*State significance for the Gale College Historic District only.

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 [Signature]

title Director, Historic Preservation Division, SHSW date AUG. 1, 1984

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Beth Grosvenor date 9/18/89  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: See Continuation Sheet for listing date     
Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only	
received	
date entered	

Continuation sheet      Historic Resources of Galesville, Wisconsin      Item number 8      Page 4

III. Areas of Significance (continued)

A. Association With Locally Significant Persons (807 W. Ridge Ave., Ridge Avenue Historic District, Gale College Historic District)

The most locally significant prson associated with Galesville, of course, was George Gale, founder of Galesville, developer of Trempealeau County, and founder of Galesville University. A "Yankee" immigrant to Wisconsin, Gale was a southern Wisconsin journalist, delegate to the Wisconsin constitutional convention, and district attorney during the decade of the 1840s. In the 1850s, Gale moved to western Wisconsin, served as a circuit judge, and in 1854 platted Galesville. During the decade of the 1850s, Gale helped develop and legally establish the county of Trempealeau, helped finance a milling industry in Galesville, and founded a frontier college, also in Galesville. The Main Building in the Gale College Historic District is the only significant remaining remnant of Gale's association with the community. The Main Building was built for the original Galesville University, and up to his death in 1868, George Gale was intimately involved in the operation of the University. While the building was remodeled in the 1880s, it still retains its relationship to site and integrity.

By 1900, Galesville was experiencing a peak development period. The Davis Mill and the Arctic Springs Creamery were thriving industries, but the community was also growing in its commercial and service sectors, as evidenced by the number of downtown buildings constructed during this period. As the industrial base in Galesville shrank during the early years of the twentieth century, it was the commercial and service sector which kept Galesville economically stable. Today, while many small Wisconsin communities have declined due to the changing economy, Galesville remains stable for its size, maintaining viable commercial and service activities in its downtown area. That Galesville was able to remain stable is due, in part, because some prominent turn-of-the-century professionals established and maintained successful business and service organizations which laid the economic foundation for Galesville's future stability. Many of these persons lived in residences included in this nomination.

John F. Cance (807 W. Ridge Ave.) was a significant twentieth century businessman in Galesville. He began his banking career in an entry-level position at the Bank of Galesville, and rapidly moved up to Cashier, a position he held at the time his Tudor Revival home was built in 1908. This progressively-designed home, done by a member of Cass Gilbert's St. Paul Office, reflects Cance's position as an "up and coming" banker. In 1930 Cance was named President of the Bank of Galesville and received much community praise for guiding the Bank through the difficult depression years. He was Bank President and lived at 807 W. Ridge Ave. until his death in 1953.

The Ridge Avenue Historic District was the residential neighborhood where many locally significant persons lived between 1875 and 1934. It is significant that these persons resided in close proximity to one another, indicating that they desired not only to work in similar businesses, but to socialize together as well. The most prominent resident of the district was Eugene Clark (624 W. Ridge Ave.). Clark was the son of pioneer resident Isaac Clark, and was President of the Bank of Galesville (a bank his father helped establish) between 1894 and 1930. He was active in local politics, served on the school and county boards, and reached his peak as a politician by being elected for two terms as a State Senator from the Galesville area to the Wisconsin Legislature.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet      Historic Resources of Galesville, Wisconsin      Item number 8      Page 5

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Association With Locally Significant Persons (continued)

John A. Berg lived at 524 W. Ridge Ave., a pivotal building in the district. He founded the Galesville Building and Realty Company and the Farmer's and Merchant's Bank. He was also a local politician and one-time president of the Gale College Board of Trustees. The pivotal building at 625 W. Ridge Ave. was the home of W. S. Wadleigh, a prominent Galesville attorney who served nine terms as mayor, no doubt leaving a major imprint on local politics and policies. The pivotal building at 612 W. Ridge Ave. was the home of Ole F. Myhre, co-founder of the successful Gilbertson-Myhre department store, a business still in operation today as a department store. The modest house at 613 W. Ridge Ave. was the residence of G. O. Gilbertson, also co-founder of the Gilbertson-Myhre store. Gilbertson also helped organize the Artic Springs Creamery, a significant Galesville dairy business at the turn of the century. Finally, Peter Enhagen occupied the residence at 431 W. Ridge Ave. He was part owner of the Hammer-Enhagen mercantile, another of Galesville's successful businesses at the turn of the century.

While many of these people would not necessarily be significant individuals, together they represent the "movers and shakers" of turn-of-the-century Galesville. The fact that they chose to live in close proximity to each other in some of the finest homes in the community is significant. It indicates that they saw themselves as the prominent and successful group of businessmen local history shows them to be. In part, they were responsible for Galesville's growth in the late nineteenth century, and its stability in the twentieth.

B. Architecture (All districts, 806 W. Gale Ave., 807 W. Ridge Ave.)

Within the City of Galesville there exists a broad spectrum of vernacular architectural styles popular during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Most houses are simple structures, but some have noteworthy details and features, which in many cases appear to have been added to older structures at a later date. These details are overwhelmingly Queen Anne in style, but the Colonial Revival and Craftsman/Prairie School movements at the turn of the century are also represented. While the most significant residential structures are located in the Ridge Avenue Historic District, several individual residences stand out as significant for their architectural detail. The late Queen Anne style house at 806 W. Gale Avenue, for example, has details which suggest the emerging influence of the Colonial Revival style. It is the best example of this turn-of-the-century house type in Galesville. The brick residence at 830 Clark, while typical of turn-of-the-century vernacular residences in Galesville, stands out for its elaborate stickwork detail and its interesting T-plan, both not typical in the community. It is the best example of this turn-of-the-century house type in the community. One of the most striking of Galesville's residences (outside the Ridge Avenue Historic District) is the residence at 807 W. Ridge Avenue. Built in 1908, it is significant because it represents an early attempt at the Tudor Revival style and is unique in Galesville. While the residence is not the direct work of a master, the house plans were drawn by a member of Cass Gilbert's St. Paul staff and represents the firm's reputation as a disseminator of popular eastern architectural styles in the midwest.<sup>5</sup>

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Historic Resources of  
Galesville, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 6

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

B. Architecture (continued)

The Downtown Historic District consists of a group of buildings which have a relatively intact historic architectural character. Most of the structures are simple but attractive vernacular buildings. They are often embellished with details reflecting general Victorian commercial and Neo-classical styles, details that were popularly applied to commercial buildings in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The Clark Block (1883, 143 Davis Street) is an ornate example of a Victorian commercial building. The Downtown Historic District is significant architecturally because the buildings together convey a sense of a late nineteenth century and early twentieth century thriving business district of a small Wisconsin community.

The Ridge Avenue Historic District is significant architecturally because it contains the greatest concentration of architecturally significant residential structures in Galesville, particularly late nineteenth century style houses. The district includes an intact portion of what was once, and is still, the most prestigious residential area in the community. Built by prominent local citizens, the large, attractive houses of the district exhibit more elaborate detail, greater craftsmanship, and more sophisticated styling than the majority of structures in the community. The District is noteworthy for its residences which exhibit Italianate, Stick and Queen Anne architectural details. The Queen Anne form is evident in the pivotal residences as well as in the Presbyterian Church (1895/1896, 519 W. Ridge Avenue), which is Galesville's oldest surviving church building.

Within the Gale College Historic District, Gale/Chaminade, the old Main Hall, is the most significant architecturally. It is the only significant example of stone construction in Galesville and is one of the most elaborately detailed Italianate buildings in the community.

C. Commerce (Downtown Historic District, 218 E. Mill Road)

The heart of Galesville's commercial activity was, and is still, the downtown area. Built on much of the original 1854 plat of Galesville, the downtown grew around the Public Square with significant extensions along Gale Avenue. Commercial activity in Galesville was always in close proximity to the prosperous flour mill which was in almost continuous operation from 1855 to the mid-20th century. The downtown area is only a block from the site of that mill. The downtown offered commercial services to both community residents and those who came to Galesville because of the mill, and later, the other Galesville industries. The downtown provided banking, clothing and other general merchandise, hotels, recreation facilities, and lodges to consumers in both the 19th and 20th centuries. Although the mill closed operations in the mid-20th century, a steady industrial base in Galesville has contributed to the continuation of a viable downtown commercial area.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet      Historic Resources of      Item number      8      Page      7  
   Galesville, Wisconsin

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

C. Commerce (continued)

The Downtown Historic District encompasses the most significant of the commercial structures in Galesville. Some of the present structures replaced earlier buildings at the turn of the century, but many buildings are original structures on their respective sites. The pivotal buildings in the District reflect the important commercial role of Galesville in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Clark Block (1886, 143 S. Davis Street) housed the first bank, the Bank of Galesville, which was established in 1883. The Bank of Galesville was the most prominent and prosperous of Galesville's banks and has remained in service to the present day. The Gilbertson-Myhre general store (1884, 106 E. Gale Avenue) provided general merchandise to the public and also included, during its early days of usage, an "Opera House," theatre, and public hall. Later, the hall was converted to a roller skating rink, but by the 1890s, the expanding store closed its recreational facilities in favor of additional merchandise. A third story was added after 1913 to house still more goods, making the Gilbertson-Myhre business one of the largest in the area. The Galesville Building and Realty Company building (1911, 212 S. Main Street) was erected by a thriving real estate company and also housed, for a time, a bank. The success of the Galesville downtown commercial area is evidenced by its building density along Gale Avenue, Main Street, and Davis Street. Recent demolition and construction has eroded building density in a few areas, but overall the Downtown Historic District retains the compactness of the significant commercial area which still exists as a testimony to a thriving commercial community.

One individual property also represents commercial activity in 19th and early 20th century Galesville. The blacksmith shop/boarding house at 218 E. Mill is one of the few significant remainders of the mid-19th century commercial activity which centered around the mill, located only a block away. After its early use as a blacksmith shop, this building took on its most important commercial significance as a boarding house, providing housing for workers and travelers who participated in the commercial/industrial activities of the neighborhood. While several boarding houses/hotels existed in this area of Galesville at the turn of the century, this building is the only identifiable remnant of this type of commercial activity left in the community.

D. Education (Gale College Historic District)

Galesville's most significant educational institution was Galesville University. During the time that George Gale was developing Trempealeau County and Galesville, he founded a university, endowing it with 1,096 acres of land in 1859. The founding of Galesville University was not only an attempt to bring higher education to a frontier area, but was also one of the earlier institutions of higher education in the State of Wisconsin.

Before university buildings were erected, classes were held in the county courthouse. In 1859, the local architect, Samuel S. Luce, designed a structure to house the university. Luce's building, completed in 1862, is the pivotal building in the Gale College Historic District, Gale/Chaminade Hall, the old main hall. The university was affiliated with the Methodist-Episcopal Church

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
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Historic Resources of  
Galesville, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

8

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

D. Education (continued)

until 1876. The Presbyterian Church acquired control of the university, holding it between 1876 and 1901.<sup>6</sup> In 1879 Galesville University obtained a Military Tactics and Drill Instructor from the U.S. Army.<sup>7</sup> This course proved to be quite popular and enrollments rose from 40 to 130. The drill program was so successful in attracting students that the Board of Trustees authorized the addition of a third story to the Main Hall (completed in 1881-82) and construction of a frame dormitory. Later, a fire damaged the Main Hall and remodeling was completed in 1884-85.<sup>8</sup> Eventually enrollment declined, and in 1901, the Presbyterians decided to abandon the university.<sup>9</sup>

In 1901, the Lutheran Church took over the control of the university, now called Gale College. The Norwegian Lutheran Synod dominated the school (now more of an academy than a university), which sat almost in the middle of a geographic area **containing** the highest concentration of Norwegian-Americans in the United States.<sup>10</sup> Much of the religious instruction at this preparatory/normal school was carried out in the Norwegian language. Under the Lutheran regime, expansion of Gale College was greatest. In 1906 a men's dormitory was completed, and in 1916, the Lutherans built a women's dormitory.<sup>11</sup> During its 38 years of operation as a Lutheran school, Gale College maintained close ties with the community of Galesville. In fact, the dominant Norwegian Lutheran Church of the era in Galesville, Trinity Church, included the college population in its congregation. Enrollment declined during the Great Depression and in 1939 the Lutherans closed the school. In 1941, the Society of Mary, a Catholic religious order, purchased the grounds and renamed the institution Marynook. It is currently used as a religious retreat center.

The Gale College Historic District includes the buildings most significant to the educational history of Galesville. The college is significant because it was an early attempt to bring higher education to a frontier area by a person who was one of the most significant developers of Trempealeau County and Galesville. Not only was George Gale interested in the profits of frontier development in western Wisconsin, he was interested in bringing "Yankee" higher education to this frontier area. By the turn of the century, this Yankee inspired institution became the physical foundation of a new, populous ethnic group's desire to foster their higher education goals. The Norwegian Lutheran control of Gale College is significant because it represents this ethnic group's growth in importance in the area, not only in numbers, but in culture and ideas.



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Continuation sheet Historic Resources of  
Galesville, Wisconsin

Item number 8

Page 10

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

F. Ethnic History (continued) When Norwegians became the dominant ethnic group in Trempealeau County, they left their mark on Galesville in a number of ways.

One historically significant resource is the abandoned Trinity Church (South Seventh Street). This church was built by the Norwegian Synod Lutherans and was the dominant Lutheran congregation at the turn of the century, indicating the strength of this ethnic group over others in the Lutheran religion.

The most significant resource which can be linked to the Norwegians in the area was Gale College, under Norwegian Lutheran control from 1901 to 1939. Control of this school represented the importance of this ethnic group not only in their numbers, but as a means to foster and disseminate their culture and ideas to their own ethnic group and others. Under the Norwegian Lutheran control, Gale College experienced its greatest growth. The Norwegian Lutheran period was the longest and stablest regime in the college's history as well.

Notes

<sup>1</sup>Curtiss-Wedge, pp. 295-296; "George Gale" in the A. H. Anderson Papers, Trempealeau County Historical Society, Whitehall, Wisconsin.

<sup>2</sup>Curti, American Community, p. 28.

<sup>3</sup>Curtiss-Wedge, Trempealeau, p. 85.

<sup>4</sup>The Galesville Centennial, 1954; Zeitlin, Richard H. Unpublished Galesville History in the final report of the intensive architectural and historical survey of Galesville, Wisconsin, Trempealeau County by Pfaller Herbst Associates, Inc., 1980-81.

<sup>5</sup>Murphy, Patricia Ann, Cass Gilbert Minnesota Master Architect, pamphlet prepared for exhibition, no date.

<sup>6</sup>Morke, Lucinda, "A History of Galesville University," Encounters, A Journal of Regional Interaction, vol. 1, no. 3 (December, 1973), 21; Gipple, Papers, folder 1; Arthur F. Giere, MSS, "Brief History of Galesville University, 1854-1940," (September 1940), at Marynook Academy Archives, Galesville, Wisconsin.

<sup>7</sup>Morke, Lucinda, "A History of Galesville University," Encounters: A Journal of Regional Interaction, vol. 1, no. 4 (March, 1973), 69.

<sup>8</sup>Gale Papers, Correspondence, 1875-1892 folder; Giere, MSS, p. 25; Gipple Papers, folder 1.

<sup>9</sup>Morke, "Galesville University," (March, 1973), p. 68.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet      Historic Resources of  
Galesville, Wisconsin

Item number      8

Page      11

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

<sup>10</sup>Holand, Hjalmar Rued. De Norske Settlementers Historie. Ephraim, WI; Forfatterens Forlag, 1908, p. 284.

<sup>11</sup>Morken, "Galesville University," (March, 1973), p. 69.

<sup>12</sup>Meyer, H. W., "Iron Truss Bridges," Unpublished manuscript, 1984; Meyer, H. W., interview, January, 1984.

<sup>13</sup>Holand, p. 284.

IV. PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES/USE OF SURVEY

The City of Galesville, in cooperation with the County Resource Agent, has begun to use survey data in developing a central business district revitalization strategy as well as other community planning activities. The effort at downtown revitalization will focus on the Downtown Historic District, as described herein, and the fact that the survey has ascribed significance to this area--as well as to the other districts and structures throughout the city--is beginning to generate a stronger sense of an already high level of local heritage and pride.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet      Historic Resources of  
Galesville, Wisconsin      Item number      9      Page      1

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet      Historic Resources of      Item number      Page  
   Galesville, Wisconsin      9      2

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Historic Resources of  
Galesville, Wisconsin

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 3

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Historic Resources of  
Galesville, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 4

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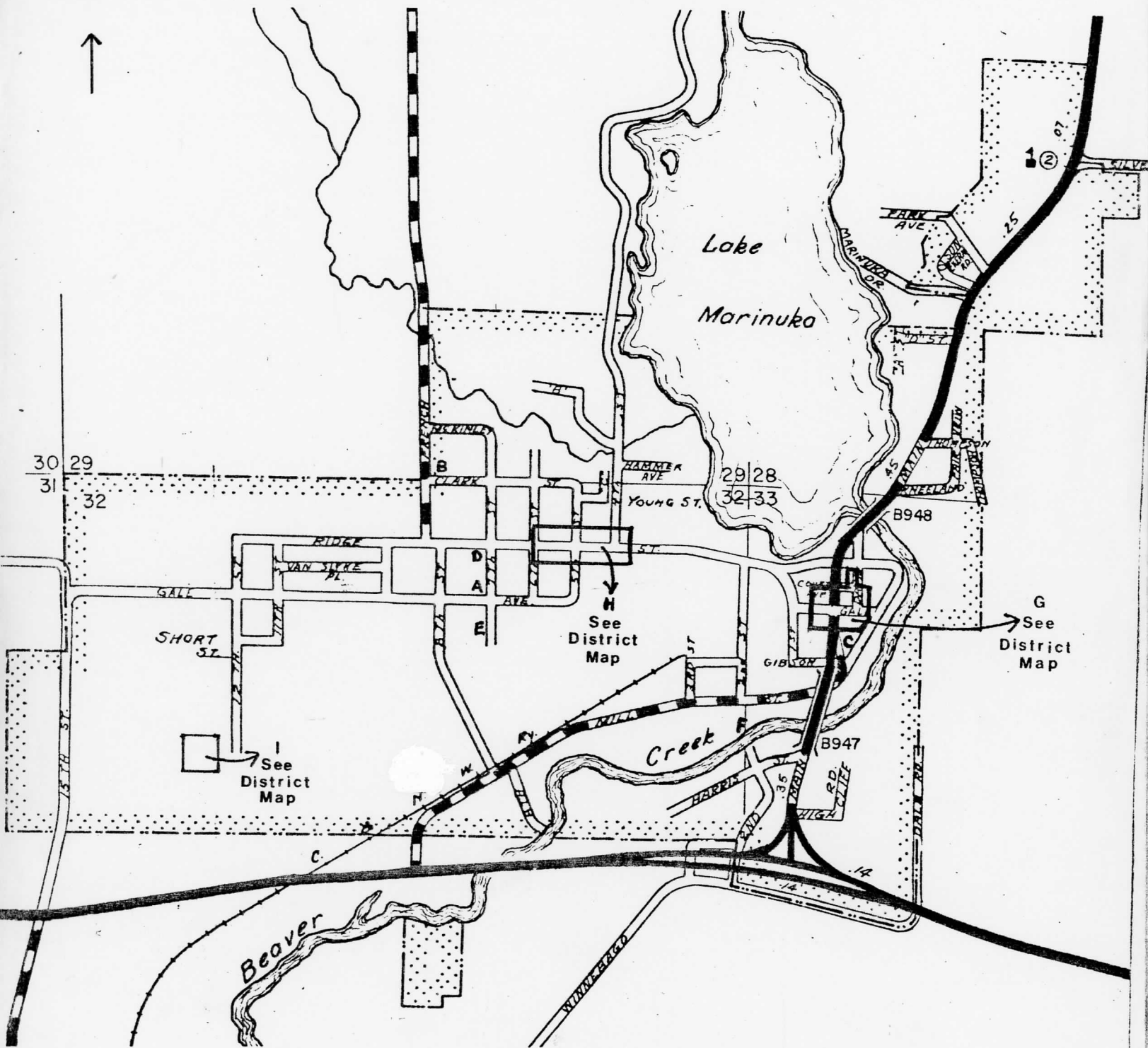
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# GALESVILLE, WISCONSIN

N




## HISTORIC RESOURCES OF GALESVILLE

### Key:

- A - 806 W. Gale Avenue (Tollef Jensen House)
- B - 830 Clark Street (John Bohrnstedt House)
- C - 218 E. Mill (Bartlett Blacksmith/Boarding House)
- D - 807 W. Ridge Avenue (John F. Cance House)
- E - South Seventh Street (Old Trinity Lutheran Church)
- F - Second Street Bridge

### Key:

- G - Downtown Historic District
- H - Ridge Avenue Historic District
- I - Gale College Historic District

1 City, Village or Town: Galesville ✓		County: Trempealeau ✓	Surveyor: Kriviskey/ Cartwright	Date: 15 Aug 81 1 Dec 83	Mill Road (E.) Street Number 218
Street Address: ✓ 218 E. Mill Road,		USGS Quad and UTM Reference: Galesville 15/632250/4882090		Acreeage: less than 1.0	
Current Name & Use: Residence		Current Owner: Henry Van De Maat			
Film Roll No. TR-42			Current Owner's Address: 218 Mill Road		
Negative No. 24-			Legal Description: Part lot 7, Block 3, less W. 60' and alley, original plat		
Facade Orient. Northeast					

2 Original Name & Use: ✓ Bartlett Blacksmith Shop/Scandinavian Hotel	Source	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source	Town Range Section
	Dates of Construction/Alteration 1871-1874/c. 1900 (addition)	Source ABC				
	Architect and/or Builder: Unknown	Source				

3 <u>Architectural Significance</u>	4 <u>Historical Significance</u>	Section Map Name Galesville
<input type="radio"/> Represents work of a master <input type="radio"/> Possesses high artistic values <input type="radio"/> Represents a type, period, or method of construction <input type="radio"/> Engineering <input checked="" type="radio"/> None	<input type="radio"/> Assoc. with lives of significant persons <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with significant historical events <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with development of a locality <input checked="" type="radio"/> Other: <u>Commerce</u> <input type="radio"/> None      Period of significance: <u>1870-1934</u>	

Architectural Description and Significance:  see back	Historical Background and Significance:  see back	Map Code C/
Interior visited? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		

5 Sources of Information (Reference to Above)	6 Representation in Previous Surveys	Map Code C/
A Sanborn-Perris Maps-Galesville, 1894-1932	<input type="radio"/> HABS <input type="radio"/> LDMK <input type="radio"/> WIHP <input type="radio"/> NRHP <input type="radio"/> other: _____	
B Wilson Davis to H. C. Bartlett, 9/12/1871 Deeds, vol. 11, p. 333	7 Condition <input type="radio"/> excellent <input checked="" type="radio"/> good <input type="radio"/> fair <input type="radio"/> poor <input type="radio"/> ruins	
C H. C. Bartlett to C. L. Hood, 9/18/1874, Mortgages, vol. 5, p. 383	8 District: _____ <input type="radio"/> pivotal <input type="radio"/> contributing <input type="radio"/> non-contributing	
D "New Dairy Plant Ready to Operate," The Galesville Republican, July 19, 1945	9 Opinion of National Register Eligibility date: <u>12/1/83</u> initials: <u>CLC</u>  <input checked="" type="radio"/> eligible <input type="radio"/> not eligible <input type="radio"/> unknown <input type="radio"/> national <input type="radio"/> state <input checked="" type="radio"/> local	
E		


### Architectural Description and Significance:

This building is a 2-story brick commercial/residential building which has a "boomtown" storefront and a rear section constructed as a camelback. The facade is corbelled at the cornice and conceals the moderately pitched gable roof. The rear section gable is raised above the front section giving the camelback appearance. According to the Sanborn-Perris Maps for Galesville, the front section of the building was constructed earlier than the rear section, which can be dated to about 1900. Most of the windows and doors of this building have segmental arches. A large segmental arch extends over the front entrance and window. The exterior has had few changes since its use as a boarding house, as reflected by a historic photograph. The large garage door on the southwest side of the building is a later addition, and the enclosed second-story porch is an alteration of the original non-enclosed porch shown on the historic photograph. The interior first floor is a relatively open plan with a front room once used as a dairy plant office. The garage-like appearance of the first floor is due to the remodeling the building went through in 1945 when it was converted to a dairy plant. The second-floor interior is divided into two sections, reflecting the exterior sectioning of the building. The interior plan of the second floor is one of numerous small rooms with low ceilings. The ceilings have accoustical tile and a narrow staircase which leads from the ground floor separates the two interior sections of the building. Aluminum windows cover the original windows of the building except on the front facade. (A,D)

### Historical Background and Significance:

Located in the early industrial section of Galesville, this is one of the earliest commercial buildings in the city. Originally built as a blacksmith shop with upstairs residence, the building was converted into a boarding house about 1900 with the addition of the rear section. The boarding house was known at one time as the "Scandinavian Hotel" and was one of several boarding house/hotels in the downtown Galesville area. In 1945 the building was converted into a dairy plant and office. Today it is a residence. (A,D)

This building is historically significant because it is strongly associated with several periods of commercial activity in Galesville. As a blacksmith shop (c.1874-1900) in the early industrial/commercial section of the community, it was important in the development of Galesville's early business strength. Since it was located only one block away from the prosperous mill, it benefitted and assisted in the activity around this mill during the period before the turn of the century. By 1900, it was converted into a boarding house, one of several in this area and housed workers or travellers who participated in the commercial/industrial activity of this neighborhood. Today, it stands as the only identifiable remnant of the boarding houses which were a thriving part of Galesville's commercial community at the turn of the century.

1 City, Village or Town: Galesville ✓		County: Trempealeau ✓	Surveyor: PHA-Kraviskey / Cartwright	Date: 15 Aug 81 10 Dec 83	Street Clark Street Number 830
Street Address: 830 Clark Street		USGS Quad and UTM Reference: Galesville 15/631340/4882450		Acreage: Less than 1.0	
Current Name & Use: Residence		Current Owner: Robert E. Tuttle			
Film Roll No. TR-42		Current Owner's Address: 830 Clark Avenue			
Negative No. 14		Legal Description: Lot 11-12, Block 2, Clark's Addition			
Facade Orient. South					

2 Original Name & Use: ✓ John Bohrnstedt House	Source BC	Previous Owners .	Dates	Uses	Source	Town
Dates of Construction/Alteration 1901/1972	Source A/D					Range
Architect and/or Builder: Unknown	Source					

3 Architectural Significance <input type="radio"/> Represents work of a master <input type="radio"/> Possesses high artistic values <input checked="" type="radio"/> Represents a type, period, or method of construction <input type="radio"/> Engineering <input type="radio"/> None	4 Historical Significance <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with lives of significant persons <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with significant historical events <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with development of a locality <input type="radio"/> Other: _____ <input checked="" type="radio"/> None Period of significance: 1901	Section
Architectural Description and Significance:  See back	Historical Background and Significance: John Bohrnstedt acquired lots 11-12 in Block 2 of Clark's Addition in 1896 for \$250. There was no house on the property. City tax records note that a building was constructed on the site in 1901. In 1909, John Bohrnstedt sold the place to Mary Bohrnstedt for \$3,000. The Bohrnstedts moved to North Dakota	
Interior visited? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		


5 Sources of Information (Reference to Above) A Office of City Assessor, Tax Records, Galesville	6 Representation in Previous Surveys <input type="radio"/> HABS <input type="radio"/> LDMK <input type="radio"/> WIHP <input type="radio"/> NRHP <input type="radio"/> other: _____	Map Code B
B Eugene F. Clark & Emily, his wife to John Bohrnstedt May 13, 1896, Deeds, vol. 40, 587	7 Condition <input checked="" type="radio"/> excellent <input type="radio"/> good <input type="radio"/> fair <input type="radio"/> poor <input type="radio"/> ruins	
C John Bohrnstedt to Mary Bohrnstedt, Sept. 6, 1909, Deeds, vol. 58, p. 139	8 District: _____ <input type="radio"/> pivotal <input type="radio"/> contributing <input type="radio"/> non-contributing	
D Interview with owners	9 Opinion of National Register Eligibility date: 12/10/83 initials: clc <input checked="" type="radio"/> eligible <input type="radio"/> not eligible <input type="radio"/> unknown <input type="radio"/> national <input type="radio"/> state <input checked="" type="radio"/> local	
E		
F		

### Architectural Description and Significance:

This 2½ story red brick home sits on a spacious corner lot near the west edge of Galesville. The house has a substantial stone foundation with small segmentally arched basement windows with stone sills. First floor windows are original but second floor windows have had aluminum storm windows added to their exterior. The intersecting gable roof consists of four gables, each with identical decorative infill in the peak of the gable. A prominent feature of this house is the twin porches of the front eaves and the identical porch at the rear of the house. Each porch frames an entry to the house and they are identically decorated with tapered round posts, and a spool-and-spindle balustrade and valence. Each porch has wooden steps and the base is decorated with lattice skirts. The original basement access and interior basement door are intact.

The interior plan has remained relatively unchanged. The original wooden entry doors are in place and match the cherry-stained original woodwork which exists throughout the house. In 1972, interior walls were rebuilt and a few structural changes were made. The interior T-plan was maintained with the kitchen and living room at each end of the T. The T base was originally a dining room and separate bedroom. The adjoining wall was removed to make this area one large dining-living room. A staircase was added in a harmonious style from this large room to the second floor. The second floor T-plan has three bedrooms and a small bathroom with a central hallway. The changes which were made in 1972 have not significantly altered the integrity of the interior as they were not major and were done in a manner harmonious to the original style and plan of the house. The basement has not been altered and is used for utilities and storage.

This residence is significant because it is the most sophisticated vernacular turn-of-the-century home built in Galesville. The size of this house and the materials used in its construction reflect many of Galesville's more vernacular late picturesque houses which dominate the housing stock in the community. But its elaborate use of spool and spindle decoration is unique the community. Its interesting T-plan, fine brickwork and high level of preservation and integrity make it the best example of this type of construction in Galesville.

<b>1</b> City, Village or Town: Galesville ✓	County: Trempealeau ✓	Surveyor: Cartwright	Date: 10 Dec 83	Street West Ridge Avenue Number 807	
Street Address: 807 W. Ridge Avenue ✓		USGS Quad and UTM Reference: Galesville 15/632380/4882220	Acreage: Less than 1.0		
Current Name & Use: Residence		Current Owner: John & Audrey McKeeth			
Film Roll No. TR-43		Current Owner's Address: 807 W. Ridge Avenue Galesville, WI			Town Range Section Map Name Galesville Code D
Negative No. 31		Legal Description: Gale's First Addition, Block 18, Lot 7, E. 148.5'			
Facade Orient. North					
<b>2</b> Original Name & Use: John F. Cance House ✓	Source A	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source
Dates of Construction /Alteration 1908	Source A				
Architect and/or Builder: G. H. Carsley, St. Paul, Minn. Cass Gilbert Architectural Office	Source A/B				
<b>3</b> Architectural Significance <input type="radio"/> Represents work of a master <input type="radio"/> Possesses high artistic values <input checked="" type="radio"/> Represents a type, period, or method of construction <input type="radio"/> Engineering <input type="radio"/> None	<b>4</b> Historical Significance <input checked="" type="radio"/> Assoc. with lives of significant persons <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with significant historical events <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with development of a locality <input type="radio"/> Other: <input type="radio"/> None Period of significance: 1908-1934				
Architectural Description and Significance:  see back  Interior visited? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Historical Background and Significance: This house was built for John F. Cance, a prominent 20th century Galesville businessman. When the house was constructed, Cance was Cashier at the Bank of Galesville, having rapidly worked his way up from an entry-level position. By 1930, he was named bank president and served in this capacity until his death in 1953. There is no evidence that he resided anywhere else in Galesville from the time this house was constructed until 1953. Besides his bank position, Cance was active in many community projects and businesses. (C)				
<b>5</b> Sources of Information (Reference to Above) <b>A</b> Blueprints in possession of owner, 1908 <b>B</b> St. Paul City Directories, 1896-1906 <b>C</b> Bank of Galesville, 100 Years 1883-1983 Bank of Galesville, 1983. <b>D</b> Murphy, P.A. Cass Gilbert. Minnesota Master Architect, pamphlet prepared for exhibition, no date. <b>E</b> <b>F</b>	<b>6</b> Representation in Previous Surveys <input type="radio"/> HABS <input type="radio"/> LDMK <input checked="" type="radio"/> WIHP <input type="radio"/> NRHP <input type="radio"/> other:				
	<b>7</b> Condition <input checked="" type="radio"/> excellent <input type="radio"/> good <input type="radio"/> fair <input type="radio"/> poor <input type="radio"/> ruins				
	<b>8</b> District: <input type="radio"/> pivotal <input type="radio"/> contributing <input type="radio"/> non-contributing				
	<b>9</b> Opinion of National Register Eligibility date: 12/10/83 initials: clc <input checked="" type="radio"/> eligible <input type="radio"/> not eligible <input type="radio"/> unknown <input type="radio"/> national <input type="radio"/> state <input checked="" type="radio"/> local				

### Architectural Description and Significance:

Built in 1908 in the then premier residential section of Galesville, this 2½-story house exhibits English Tudor details in its approximation of steeply pitched gables, its stuccoed half-timber second story, and its contrasting first story. The second story is covered in tan stucco with green painted wooden half-timbers. The first floor is red brick with a one-story screened porch framing the front entrance. Except on the attic half-story, aluminum storm windows have been installed. The house sits on a large open corner lot, typical for Galesville's larger turn-of-the-century homes. Directly to the south of the house is the original carriage house, a 1½ story shingled structure with a steeply pitched roof and decorative cupola. The carriage house has its original openings (except for the addition of a large aluminum garage door on the east facade), and is considered significant to the property.

The interior of this house has been little altered since its construction date. The central entry hall features a wooden staircase to the second floor. To the right of the entry hall is the dining room with the kitchen to the rear. The kitchen originally was small with a pantry room. At an unknown date, the kitchen and pantry were combined to form one large kitchen, which was tiled and remodeled. To the left of the entry hall is the living room with a small den/library to its rear. The upstairs includes four bedrooms and its plan mimics the downstairs plan, differing, however, in room size. The use of plain oak woodwork is extensive in this house, with woodwork not only surrounding doors and windows, but added to corners, ceilings and walls. The dining room is decorated with a matching oak built-in buffet and china cabinet.

This house is significant because it represents a style of house unique in Galesville, and because it may be linked with the architectural firm of Cass Gilbert, a noted turn-of-the-century architect. The Tudor Revival details of this house do not appear significantly in any other Galesville residence. Although it is not, by itself, an outstanding example of the architectural style, its uniqueness in Galesville, quality, and high level of integrity make it a significant property in the community. The architect, G. H. Carsley, worked for the Cass Gilbert firm from at least 1896 to 1906 (city directory available dates). At the time of this house's construction, most of the midwest work of the firm was being done by Gilbert's St. Paul staff, while Gilbert was working on major projects on the East Coast. The progressive nature of this design, however, suggests the progressiveism of the office, known to have disseminated popular eastern architectural styles to the midwest.

(B,D)

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet      Historic Resources of      Item number      Page  
   Galesville, Wisconsin      7      3

V. DESCRIPTION OF THE DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

This district includes the most significant architectural and/or historical commercial buildings in Galesville. The streetscapes of the district are clustered around the Public Square and Bandstand and extend along Gale Avenue. The buildings are sited close together along most of the streetscapes and possess a continuity of scale and design which gives the district its form and character. While some unsympathetic alterations have occurred, most of the buildings in the district have retained enough of their turn-of-the-century details to indicate what Galesville's commercial district was like during the height of the community's development. This turn-of-the-century character is evident throughout the district beginning with the Bandstand and Public Square, which forms the core of the district. While the Public Square, which was a slightly larger open space when it was originally platted in 1854, has been surrounded by pavement and parking, it and the Bandstand are significant reminders of the importance of the central commercial area at the turn of the century.

The continuity of design and scale of the buildings in the district is reflected in their form and architectural detailing. Most buildings are two-story, of various shades of red brick, have flat roofs, and simple to elaborate cornices of wood, stone, cast iron, or pressed metal highlighted with dentils, brackets, and modillions. Gable-roofed buildings in the district have "boomtown" false-fronts with cornices, which make these buildings highly compatible in scale and design with their neighbors. Many buildings have additional decoration, including belt courses; decorative brickwork; round, semi-circular, or segmental arched windows; polychromy; and parapets.

(continued on next page)

*Roughly Gale Ave., Main and Davis Sts.*

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet      Historic Resources of      Item number      Page 4  
Galesville, Wisconsin      7

DESCRIPTION OF DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT (continued)

Many of the district's storefronts have been altered in an effort to "modernize" their appearance. Wood and metal siding has altered many of the large windows and transoms, typical of turn-of-the-century commercial buildings. Some buildings and street-scapes have fared better than others in regard to alterations. Main Street, Court Street, and Davis Street have the most altered buildings, along with buildings from 130-230 E. Gale Ave. However, the remainder of Gale Avenue shows the least amount of alterations on storefronts and gives a much better sense of the original appearance of buildings of this period. Despite first-floor alterations, most of the upper floors of the buildings have retained their original architectural detail and this provides the district with much of its character and charm. It is at this level the cornices, in particular, some of them elaborate; the parapets; and decorative brickwork stand out. Unfortunately, most of the windows of the upper floors in the district have been covered with aluminum combination storm windows. Although the alterations to the buildings in the district contribute to a loss of integrity, overall, enough of the turn-of-the-century character of the district remains to make this district a good example of a small Wisconsin community which possesses a relatively intact example of a thriving commercial district over a century old.

This district is divided into three types of buildings. Pivotal buildings are the most elaborate and/or historically significant buildings in the district. Contributing buildings are the large group of buildings in the district which have less elaborate architectural detail or historical significance, but because of their compatibility of design and scale, contribute to the overall character of the district. Non-contributing buildings are the obvious intrusions into the district's historic streetscapes. Each of these categories will be fully explored in turn.

Pivotal Buildings

The pivotal buildings in this district were easily identified. The focal point in this district is the Bandstand, located in the small Public Square. The Public Square was laid out in the original plat of the city and was an open space used as a public park, market, and fairground into the twentieth century. The Bandstand was constructed in 1912 and is octagonal in plan with a concrete foundation and floor, and stuccoed square piers supporting a bell-shaped roof which is capped by a slender finial. The design of the Bandstand indicates the popular bungalow style of the period of construction. The Public Square has been significantly cut down in size for parking purposes, but the essential form and character remain making it a pivotal contribution to this district.

The most ornate commercial building in the district is the Clark Block, 143 S. Davis Street. Built in 1886, this building sits on a prominent corner lot and is a two-story, rectangular red brick structure with a flat roof. It is highlighted with a prominent wood cornice, compound brick corbelling, grouped windows with semi-circular arches and sunburst decoration or stone lintels, and stone belt courses. The centers of each street elevation are defined by vertical brick piers culminating in brackets and small sunburst pediments which are enclosed by the cornice. The building has a bevelled corner entrance with a small wooden cornice over the entryway which mimics the design of the large cornice. The exterior is largely unaltered, although the north section of the west first-floor facade has had its windows altered and vertical wood siding has been applied. The building's interior was

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet      Historic Resources of      Item number      Page 5  
Galesville, Wisconsin      7

DESCRIPTION OF DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT (continued)

first altered in 1925 when the outside stone steps were removed and the entrance was brought down to the street level. A marble staircase was built inside to provide access to the main floor. While these alterations remain, the interior was altered again in the 1960s when it was converted from a bank to two separate businesses. The Clark Block housed the Bank of Galesville from its date of construction to the 1960s. This bank was the most significant financial institution in Galesville, surviving to the present day. The building is now occupied by printing and insurance businesses on the first floor, and residential units in the upper floor.

The Galesville Building and Realty Company Building, 212 S. Main Street is the second most elaborate commercial building in Galesville. It is a plain interpretation of the commercial Neo-classical style and also sits on a prominent corner lot. It is a two-story, rectangular structure of red-orange brick with a flat roof with four prominent parapets separated on the front facade by shallow reveals. A bracketed cornice extends across the entire building and the ground and second floors are defined by a denticulated belt course. The storefront has been altered with metal siding and the entrances replaced with modern glass doors. The first-floor interior has also been completely altered by the current hardware business occupants. The upper floors are currently used as apartments and remain largely unaltered. This building was built in 1911 by the Galesville Building and Realty Company, an early twentieth century real estate and development company. A short-lived bank, the Farmer's and Merchants State Bank, occupied one section of the first-floor of this building. The building is now a hardware business with residential usage on the second floor.

A third pivotal building in the district is the Gilbertson-Myhre Company Store, 106 E. Gale Avenue. Originally built in 1884 as a two-story building with a mansard roof, turret and spire, after 1913 a third story was added and the building took on its current appearance. It is a three-story building with a flat roof, belt courses, a large, semi-circular polychrome arch over the central second-story windows, and an early twentieth century intact storefront which features a small bracketed cornice, tall windows, and a full span multi-paned glass transom extending across the storefront. The interior retains its turn-of-the-century details and the first-floor is highlighted with a mezzanine with a wooden railing. This building housed the Gilbertson-Myhre department store, and for a short time, an "Opera House", and public hall. Later, a roller skating rink replaced the hall, until in the 1890s the business expanded its merchandise selection taking up the space these recreational facilities possessed. In the early twentieth century, this store was a large, thriving department store and continues to exist as such today, known now as Casberg's Department Store.

The final pivotal building in the district is a good example of an attempt to use popular Romanesque commercial design elements in a small-town, small-scale building. Jensen's Cafe, 112 E. Gale Ave. was built in 1902 and designed by the Racine architectural firm of A. L. Flegal and Company. It is a two-story building of brown brick with a flat roof and simple step parapet at the top of the building. The second floor windows have semi-circular corbelled arches springing from paneled brick "capitals". The storefront has been slightly altered with wood panels around the entrance, although the decorative cornice between the first and second floors remains. The building was built as a confectionary-ice cream parlor and is still used today as a cafe.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet      Historic Resources of      Item number      7      Page      6  
   Galesville, Wisconsin

DESCRIPTION OF DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT (continued)

Contributing Buildings

The contributing buildings help maintain the character of the district by their continuity of scale and design. While not as detailed as the pivotal buildings, they possess, as a whole, a turn-of-the-century character important to the overall look of the district. They are best described in groups as they occur in their streetscapes, as that is where they contribute the most to the district. The best streetscapes of contributing buildings are the Davis Street group and the W. Gale Avenue group. With the pivotal Clark Block on the corner, the Davis Street buildings (121-135 Davis St.) possess the most elaborate upper story architectural details in the district, including cornices with brackets and modillions and window decoration. Most of the storefronts have been altered, with the notable exception being 127 Davis St.; however, together, these buildings form the most attractive group in the district. The buildings on both sides of W. Gale Ave. (107, 115, 119, 120 W. Gale Ave.) are much plainer in detail (simple cornices, segmental arch windows), but their relatively intact storefronts with large windows and transoms, original entrances, and few alterations are the best examples of turn-of-the-century storefronts in the district. The streetscapes of Court Street and 118-124 Main Street have suffered from more inappropriate alterations than the previously mentioned areas. However, the scale of these buildings and their compatibility of design with the better examples in the district make them contributing to the overall character of the downtown. The elaborate cornice, for example, of 118 Main Street rivals any in the district. The group of buildings on East Gale Avenue (212, 218, and 230) are contributing even though they have suffered the most from alteration and neglect, and are the buildings, unfortunately, which have been punctuated with the intrusions of the district. Even with these shortcomings, though, they add to the overall character of the district by their use of similar construction materials (brick), their size and form (two-story, rectangles), and their detail, such as the bay window, bracketed cornice, and end piers of 230 E. Gale Ave.; and the Queen Anne decoration over the entry of 212 E. Gale Ave., along with the building's corbelled brickwork and polychromy visible above the deteriorated porch. All of the contributing buildings have housed a wide range of commercial and/or service enterprises during the period of significance for the district and continue to do so today.

Non-Contributing Buildings

The two non-contributing buildings in the district (130 & 224 E. Gale Ave.) are clear intrusions into the streetscape where they occur. The building at 130 E. Gale Ave. has been given an inappropriate "colonial" exterior which neither fits in with the design of the other buildings in the district, nor adds to the turn-of-the-century character the other buildings possess. The small, more recently constructed building at 224 E. Gale Ave. is also intrusive because it lacks the scale and design appropriate to the rest of the buildings in the district and is devoid of any significant architectural detail.

Of the 20 structures located within the Downtown Historic District, 5 (25%) are pivotal, 13 (65%) are contributing, and 2 (10%) are non-contributing to the district. Details of this district are shown on the accompanying district map.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet      Historic Resources of      Item number      Page  
Galesville, Wisconsin      7      8

BOUNDARY OF DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT (continued)

east lot line of 121 Davis Street; thence running along the east lot lines of 121, 127, 135, and 143 Davis Street to the point of beginning. The area thus enclosed is equal to approximately 3.5 acres.

This area is shown on the District map that accompanies this inventory-nomination form.

VIII. INVENTORY OF DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPERTY OWNERS

<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>OWNER</u>	<u>LEGAL DESCRIPTION</u>
125 Court Street	Frank L. Smith 118 S. First St. Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat, Block 2, East 50' Lot 4 less street; W 33' of E 50' Lot 5, block 2.
121 Davis St.	John C. Quinn 913 W. Gale Ave. Galesville, WI 54630	Mons Anderson Sub-Div, Lots 6-7, Block 1; Lot 9
127 Davis St.	Alfred O. Anderson 125 S. Davis St. Galesville, WI 54630	Mon's Anderson Sub-Div, Lots 6-7 Block 1; Lot 9
135 Davis St.	Robert Krueger 1702 Wood St. La Crosse, WI 54601	Mon's Anderson Sub-Div, Lots 6-7 Block 1; Lots 6-7
143 Davis St.	Ristow Realty, Inc. Box 217 Galesville, WI 54630	Mons Anderson Sub-Div of Lots 6-7 Block 1, Lots 4 & 5
106 E. Gale Ave.	Kendall & Kathy Casberg Box 128 Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat of Galesville, Pt. Lot 2, Block 3, WN 40' of N 65' Lot 2
112 E. Gale Ave.	Borghild Jensen P. O. Box 143 Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat of Galesville, Pt Lot 2, Blk 3, E 21' of W61' of N 65'
130 E. Gale Ave.	A. T. Lahmayer Box 408 Black River Falls, WI 54615	Original Plat of Galesville, Pt. Lots 1 & 4, Block 3; com. at a pt. 6.2' E of NW Cor. Lot 1, S 90' E 18' N 22' E 25'3" N 68'.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Historic Resources of  
Galesville, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 9

VIII. INVENTORY OF DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPERTY OWNERS (continued)

<u>ADDRESS:</u>	<u>OWNER:</u>	<u>LEGAL DESCRIPTION:</u>
212 E. Gale Ave.	Tom McMahon Box 153 Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat of Galesville, Pt. Lots 1 & 4, Block 3, E 26'9" of W 51.2' of Lot 1, com. SE cor. above desc. th. 514' W27' N12' E3" N 2' th. E to beg.
218 E. Gale Ave.	Myron & Betty Olson Box 413 Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat of Galesville, Lot 1, Block 3, E 24' of W 75.2' of N 62' lot 4, less part sold to Larson.
224 E. Gale Ave.	Dr. Leonard J. Larson Box 458 Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat, pt lots 1 & 4, block 3, E 20' of W 95.2' lot 1, E 20' of W 95.2' of N 14' lot 4, also incl. parcel 35' x 42' x 100.
230 E. Gale Ave.	Galesville Ind. Dev. Corp. Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat, pt lots 1 & 4, block 3
107 W. Gale Ave.	Galesville Building & Realty Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat, Block 5, Lot 1
115 W. Gale Ave.	Galesville Building & Realty Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat, Block 5, Lot 1
119 W. Gale Ave.	Kenneth Olson Rt. 1, Box 328 Blair, WI 54616	Original Plat, W 33' lot 1, block 5 East 12.5' lot 2, block 5
120 W. Gale	Bank of Galesville Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat, Block 4, lot 1
124 Main St.	Rolf Hammer 507 W. Clark St. Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat, Block 4, lot 1 N 31.5' of S 67'
212 Main St.	Galesville Building & Realty Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat, Block 5, Lot 4
118 Main St.	Norma Smith 322 S. Atwood Janesville, WI 53045	Original Plat, Block 4, Lot 1, beg. 66' N of SE cor. th. N 33' th. W 66' th. S 33' th. E to beg.
Bandstand/Public Square	City of Galesville Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat, Public Square

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Historic Resources of  
Galesville, Wisconsin

Item number 8

Page 3

SIGNIFICANCE OF HISTORIC DISTRICTS:

Downtown Historic District (Period of Significance: 1875-1934)

The Downtown Historic District is significant for both commerce and architecture. The Downtown District encompasses the heart of Galesville's commercial activity which was intimately connected to the prosperous flour mill located only a block away. Throughout its period of significance, the Downtown District included many kinds of commercial services to residents and travellers alike. Some of the most significant businesses were housed in the pivotal buildings of the district. The Clark Block (143 S. Davis St., 1886) housed the most important financial institution in the community, the Bank of Galesville, from its date of construction to the 1960's. The largest department store in Galesville, the Gilbertson-Myhre general store (106 E. Gale Ave., 1884) occupied the present building throughout its business existence, and provided not only a wide variety of merchandise but, briefly, recreational facilities for the community. Another significant business, the Galesville Building and Realty Company, was housed in the third pivotal building, 212 S. Main Street (1911), and for a time, included another Galesville bank. The Downtown Historic District today still is the center of Galesville's commercial activity, and unlike many other small Wisconsin communities, it is a fairly stable commercial center continuing to provide much needed services to residents of the community.

While the buildings of the Downtown Historic District do not necessarily reflect the highest form of commercial architectural design, there are several notable buildings in the district, and, as a whole, the district is a good example of turn-of-the-century commercial building practices in a small Wisconsin community. Again, the three pivotal buildings mentioned previously possess the most significant architectural details in the district. The Clark Block, with its ornate details, is the most outstanding example. Several of the district's streetscapes, moreover, possess a continuity of scale and design which lends itself to the overall character of the district, the best example being the Davis Street streetscape. With the Public Square as its focal point, the Downtown Historic District retains much of its turn-of-the-century character, particularly in the second floor facades of the buildings, where "modern" storefronts have not penetrated.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet      Historic Resources of      Item number      Page 13  
Galesville, Wisconsin      7

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

XIII. DESCRIPTION OF GALE COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Gale College Historic District consists of a closely knit group of three buildings and a gravesite located in a picturesque setting on the far southwest edge of Galesville. From the state highway which runs south of town, the District appears to be atop a ridge, but entering grounds from 12th Street, the District appears to be sited on the continuation of the flat area on which the major residential section of Galesville lies. The immediate area surrounding the District is largely undeveloped, which gives the District the appearance of an individual entity within the town.

The buildings of the district are grouped around a central courtyard with only Main Hall not facing into this courtyard. While each building is of a different date of construction and of different materials, the placement of the buildings and their scale gives the District harmony and compactness. To the south of the buildings, immediately behind Men's Dormitory, is the gravesite of George Gale. The site sits among a grove of pine trees and is surrounded by an iron fence. Gale's grave is prominently marked with a large stone marker. Several of Gale's relatives are also buried in this location, their graves marked with much smaller stone markers.

Each building in the District is "institutional" in design and reflects the period in which it was built. Main Hall (now Gale/Chaminade Hall) is a good example of a small school building built during the 19th century. Its exterior is the rough stonework of the mid-1800's, while its more elaborate cornice and porch reflect the style of the later 1800's. The interior is very typical of late 19th century school buildings with the prominent use of wainscotting throughout. The Men's Dormitory (St. Joseph's Hall) is a simple brick dormitory and its materials and scale complement the original Main Hall. Although built of red brick, Ladies' Hall (St. Ann's Hall) is scaled and placed on the site to harmonize with the two other buildings.

The integrity and level of preservation of the buildings in the district is quite high, owing to the quality of construction and the maintenance of the occupants through the years of occupancy. The district consists of one pivotal building (25%), two contributing buildings (50%), and a contributing landscape feature, the Gale gravesite (25%). Also on the grounds of the complex is St. Mary's Hall, the building constructed in 1965 by the current owners, the Society of Mary, but this building is not included in the district boundaries.

Pivotal Building

Main Hall, constructed from 1859 to 1862 (later altered) is the cornerstone of the district, just as it was the focus of the old Galesville University and Gale College. It was originally constructed as a two-story limestone building of Italianate design (bracketed eaves; small, decorative entry porch; elaborate cupola). In 1881, a third story of matching limestone was added, and in 1884, the building was remodeled after a fire to its current appearance. In the 1884 remodeling, the porch was given the more elaborate stick-work detailing, the bargeboard and cross pieces were added

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet      Historic Resources of      Item number      7      Page 14  
Calesville, Wisconsin

DESCRIPTION OF GALE COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT (continued)

to the gables, and the elaborate cupola was replaced with a less decorative one. The building retained its tall, narrow windows with simple stone lintels and these details are still visible. The hipped roof has been given a metal covering, as well. The interior is heavily wainscotted and resembles a typical turn-of-the-century school building because of it. Wide staircases and hallways occur on all floors with the third floor consisting mainly of a large auditorium. First and second floors have classrooms and offices of varying sizes. The building is now used primarily for storage and is in good condition.

Contributing Buildings/Landscape Feature

Both contributing buildings were built as dormitories for students at the Norwegian Lutheran-run Gale College. The Men's Dormitory was constructed in 1906 and is a three-story tan brick building with a flat roof with overhanging eaves "supported" with decorative modillions. The building has tall narrow windows and an ashlar foundation. The color and details of the building appear to be an attempt by the builder to harmonize with the already existing Main Hall. The entry porch is a more recent addition and consists of a brick story at basement level, concrete and brick steps, and iron railings. The interior of the building consists of three stories of dormitory rooms off a long, narrow hallway. A small frame building sits just to the rear of this building, but is considered a non-contributing structure. Ladies Hall, built in 1915 is an example of a common small-scale school building of its period. The building's design has simple Collegiate Gothic-like features with its symmetry, red brick massing, and reduced buttresses. The building also features entrances with cornices and piers and a cornice extends across the entire building. Windows are grouped in twos (with one exception) and have flat arches with keystones. This building also sits on a substantial stone foundation and has a small boiler room attached to the south facade with a large smokestack. The upper stories of this building's interior have small dormitory rooms off a long narrow hallway. The first floor/basement of this building has its original wood-paneled gymnasium, in excellent condition, along with shower rooms. Both contributing buildings are in excellent condition and have undergone only the slightest of remodeling.

Contributing Landscape Feature

The George Gale gravesite is an important landmark feature of the district. It sits directly south of the buildings among a grove of pine trees. The gravesite is guarded by a delicate iron fence in the picturesque fashion of the nineteenth century. Highlighting the site is the George Gale monument, a substantial urn-topped stone column. Other Gale relatives are buried at this site, but their monuments are small, plain markers. While it is interesting that Gale is buried on the grounds of his college, the only tangible remnant of his influence in the community, Main Hall represents Gale's influence in the founding of the college, and, therefore, the gravesite is simply a contributing landscape feature in the district.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Historic Resources of  
Galesville, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 15

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

XIV. INVENTORY OF GALE COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPERTY OWNERS

<u>Property</u>	<u>Owner-Address</u>	<u>Evaluation</u>
Main Hall	Society of Mary Marianist Provincialate P. O. Box 23130 St. Louis, MO 63156	Pivotal
Men's Dormitory	"	Contributing
Ladies Dormitory	"	Contributing
George Gale Gravesite	"	Contributing Landmark Feature

XV. BOUNDARY OF GALE COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

The boundary of the Gale College Historic District is formed in the following manner: Commencing at the center line of 12th Street at the intersection of 12th Street and the driveway to the complex, running south along this center line behind the Ladies Dormitory to the intersection with an east-west line running 10 feet behind the grave-site of George Gale, thence west along this east-west line, behind the gravesite to the intersection of a north-south line running 10 feet west of Men's Dormitory, running along this north-south line past Men's Dormitory to the intersection with an east-west line running north of Main Hall, running along this line to the point of beginning. The area thus enclosed is equal to approximately 2 acres.

XVI. JUSTIFICATION OF THE GALE COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY

This boundary was selected because it encompasses the most significant historical and/or architectural structures of the district. The more recently constructed St. Mary's Hall was not included because it is not affiliated with the activities of Galesville University or Gale College during the period of significance (1859-1934).

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Historic Resources of  
Galesville, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

1

For NPS use only

received

date entered

III. AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE OF HISTORIC DISTRICTS:


Gale College Historic District (Period of Significance: 1859-1934)

The Gale College Historic District is significant for education, ethnic history, and association with George Gale. Main Hall (1859-1862) housed the original Galesville University, a frontier college established in 1854 by Galesville founder, George Gale. Gale's attempt to bring higher education to a frontier area is significant, and for a time the college's supporters hoped it would rival similar institutions in other areas of the state. Originally under the control of the Methodist-Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church acquired control of the university, holding it between 1876 and 1901. Under this administration, the Main building was remodeled and expanded but the college declined and in 1901 the college was taken over by the Norwegian Lutheran Synod. The Norwegian Lutheran Synod brought the school its largest growth and most stable period, and up to the 1930s, the college (by then mainly an academy and normal school) attracted a steady enrollment. The Norwegian control of the college during this period is significant because the Galesville area sat, at the time, in a geographic area with the highest concentration of Norwegian-Americans in the United States. Gale College under Norwegian Lutheran control is a significant example of this ethnic group's growth and subsequent effect on the area. During the Norwegian Lutheran period, the school built two dormitories, but by the Depression years, enrollment declined and in 1939 the Norwegian Lutheran college closed. In 1941, the Lutherans sold the grounds of the college to the Catholic Society of Mary religious order.

The buildings in the Gale College Historic District are the structures associated with both the early Galesville University (Main Hall) and the later Gale College (Men's Dormitory, Ladies Hall). They reflect the two important periods in Galesville's educational history. The first is the frontier college-founding era of George Gale; the second is the turn-of-the-century period when an increasingly populous ethnic group, the Norwegians, established a school of higher education to help perpetuate their cultural and educational goals.

The Gale College Historic District is also significant for its association with a locally significant person--George Gale. Main Hall is the only remaining remnant of Gale's importance to Galesville and the founding of the original school. And, the George Gale gravesite is a contributing landscape feature in the district.

The Gale College Historic District has statewide significance because of its early date of founding and its association both with George Gale in the mid-1800's, and the Norwegian ethnic population after the turn of the century. Galesville University's 1854 founding date make it one of the earliest colleges in Wisconsin. George Gale was not only a locally prominent citizen, he was well known in the more settled areas of the state having been a delegate to the Wisconsin constitutional convention and circuit judge. As Gale College, the District after the turn of the century was a reflection of the growing influence of the Norwegian ethnic group in Wisconsin along with being one of the few Norwegian institutions of higher education to survive into the twentieth century.

1 City, Village or Town: Galesville ✓		County: Trempealeau ✓	Surveyor: PHA-Kriviskey / Cartwright	Date: 15 Aug 81 10 Dec 83	W. Gale Avenue Street 806 Number
Street Address: 806 W. Gale Avenue		USGS Quad and UTM Reference: Galesville 15/631350/4882170		Acreage: Less than 1.0	
Current Name & Use: Residence		Current Owner: William Hampe			806 Range
Film Roll No. TR-43			Current Owner's Address: 806 W. Gale Avenue		
Negative No. 28			Legal Description: Lot 8-9, Block 18, Gale's 1st Addition		
Facade Orient. Southeast					

2 Original Name & Use: Tollef Jensen House ✓	Source D/E	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source	Town Range Section
Dates of Construction /Alteration 1913	Source B					
Architect and/or Builder: Unknown	Source					

3 Architectural Significance <input type="radio"/> Represents work of a master <input type="radio"/> Possesses high artistic values <input checked="" type="radio"/> Represents a type, period, or method of construction <input type="radio"/> Engineering <input type="radio"/> None	4 Historical Significance <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with lives of significant persons <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with significant historical events <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with development of a locality <input type="radio"/> Other: <input checked="" type="radio"/> None Period of significance: 1913	Map Name Galesville
Architectural Description and Significance: see back	Historical Background and Significance: Elias Jensen acquired the property in 1887 and his oldest son, T. E. Jensen, and the rest of the family held on to the property until 1953. City Tax Records indicate that the house was built in 1913. T. E. Jensen owned an ice cream and confectionary establishment in Galesville. His store was a center of local gatherings and social for a number of years.	
Interior visited? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No		Map Code A

5 Sources of Information (Reference to Above)	6 Representation in Previous Surveys <input type="radio"/> HABS <input type="radio"/> LDMK <input checked="" type="radio"/> WIHP <input type="radio"/> NRHP <input type="radio"/> other:	Map Code A
A Field Observation	7 Condition <input checked="" type="radio"/> excellent <input type="radio"/> good <input type="radio"/> fair <input type="radio"/> poor <input type="radio"/> ruins	
B Office of the City Assessor, Tax Records Galesville	8 District: _____ <input type="radio"/> pivotal <input type="radio"/> contributing <input type="radio"/> non-contributing	
C Edward S. Buncey to Elias Jensen, March 9, 1886, Deeds, Vol. 30, p. 159	9 Opinion of National Register Eligibility date: 12/10/83 initials: clc <input checked="" type="radio"/> eligible <input type="radio"/> not eligible <input type="radio"/> unknown <input type="radio"/> national <input type="radio"/> state <input checked="" type="radio"/> local	
D Marie Jensen to Frank M. Smith, Oct. 30, 1953, Deeds, Vol. 114, p. 551.		
E Galesville Industrial Review (n.p., 1913), p. 19.		

### Architectural Description and Significance:

This house is a large, rambling 2½ story residence built in the late Queen Anne tradition. The house has an asymmetrical roofline with projecting gables. The gables form pediments and are decorated with fish scale shingles. There is little detail on this house, with the exception of scroll brackets with ornamental pendants on brackets in the attic soffits at the gable corners. There are many openings in this house, including most of the original double-hung sash type windows. The house is sided with clapboards and wood trim which are in excellent condition. Highlighting the first floor is a broad veranda with a simple stick ballustrade and widely spaced narrow columns supporting the veranda roof. The veranda base is decorated with a lattice porch skirt and broad wooden steps lead to two of the entrances. Over the east stair, the veranda is decorated with a shingled pediment; the front (south) stair is marked by a blank entablature.

Like many Wisconsin communities, much of Galesville's existing housing stock consists of residences built around the latter 19th century and early 20th century and feature elements of the Queen Anne style. While the best examples of the Queen Anne style in Galesville are the pivotal buildings in the Ridge Avenue Historic District, this building is the best example of the later Queen Anne residences in the community. The building's overall form and massing belong to the Queen Anne style, but its simpler, more symmetrical details and columned porch suggest the Colonial Revival style which was emerging at the turn of the century in smaller communities. The house's massiveness and siting make it stand out as a landmark in the area, and combined with its high integrity and state of preservation, it is the best example of the late Queen Anne style in Galesville.

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Continuation sheet      Historic Resources of      Item number      Page

Galesville      7      10

IX. DESCRIPTION OF RIDGE AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Ridge Avenue Historic District includes a three-block stretch of Ridge Avenue which features a concentration of Galesville's finest later nineteenth century residences and a church. This district was built through the turn of the century when Galesville was experiencing a peak development period. The residences were built by Galesville's prominent turn-of-the-century professionals and reflect their status in the community. The structures are adorned with various combinations of channel bays, octagonal bays, spindle porches, wrap-around porches, gables, dormers, turrets, and other features of the Italianate, Stick, and Queen Anne styles. Like most of the houses in Galesville, the district's residences are two-story, pitched-roofed frame or brick structures. Except for the church, which fills most of its corner lot, the buildings are set back from the sidewalk about 30 feet and have side yards of approximately 20 feet. The wide yards, open spaces, and nearby park give this residential district an elegant appearance which has not changed significantly since its turn-of-the-century beginnings. Buildings in the district were grouped into pivotal and contributing categories. There are no non-contributing buildings of significance in the district (only small garages). Pivotal buildings were determined to be the best and most elaborate examples of the Queen Anne style in the district. Contributing buildings were determined to be the less elaborate examples of the styles, or the more modest buildings in the district. These groups will be discussed in detail.

Pivotal Buildings

Three buildings stand out as the finest examples of the Queen Anne style in the district. The first is the W. S. Wadleigh House, 625 W. Ridge Ave. Built in 1908 it is a two-story asymmetrical structure with two octagonal bay windows, a round turret with a conical roof and a balustraded porch that wraps the northwest corner of the house. It is stuccoed and has a hipped roof with dormers. The main entrance to the house has concrete steps leading to a heavy-looking arched "portal" featuring a steeply-pitched decorative gable flanked by two large piers. The house retains its original windows which are mostly large sash-type. The building sits on a cut stone foundation and has a belt course and lattice-like porch skirt. The house was constructed for W. S. Wadleigh, a locally prominent attorney and nine-times mayor of Galesville.

The second pivotal building in the district is the Ole F. Myhre House, 612 W. Ridge Ave. This two and one-half story structure is clapboard-sided and sits on an ashlar foundation. Its asymmetrical roofline is hipped and gabled and features a corner turret with a conical roof. The gable ends are decorated with paneled bargeboards, lattice-peak trim and fish-scale shingles. The house has a shingled roof and a large veranda with columns and a spindle balustrade. The front and side entrances have wooden steps and decorative stick-work screen doors. The original windows have been covered with aluminum storm windows and are of various sizes throughout the house. A large screened porch sits at the back of the building behind which sits a carriage house/garage which is decorated with bargeboard and trim similar to that of the main house. The carriage house is considered pivotal along with the main house. This building was built for Ole F. Myhre, co-founder of the successful Gilbertson-Myhre department store in the Downtown Historic District.

*Roughly Ridge Ave. from 4th to 6th sts.*

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Continuation sheet	Historic Resources of Galesville, Wisconsin	Item number	7	Page	11
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DESCRIPTION OF RIDGE AVENUE HISTOIC DISTRICT (continued)

The final pivotal building in the district is the John A. Berg House, 524 W. Ridge Ave. Built in 1914, this building is an example of the later Queen Anne-eclectic style with its Craftsman and Jacobean references. The building is two and one-half stories, of red brick with a roof intersected by shouldered gables. The house features angular porches roofed with brick cornices supported by large brick piers. It has an octagonal corner tower with a crenellated parapet. There are stone belt courses and cartouches trimming the piers framing entrances throughout the house. The tower engulfs a shingled corner gable with a pointed arch window. Sitting on a stone foundation, the house has a heavy, massive quality; and with its varied style elements, is a unique house form in Galesville. The house was built for John A. Berg, founder of the Galesville Building and Realty Company, Director of the Farmer's and Merchant's Bank, local politician, and one-time president of the Gale College Board of Trustees. The garage is non-contributing.

Contributing Buildings

The contributing buildings in this district are smaller scale, less elaborate structures than their pivotal neighbors, yet they share many of the same details and contribute to the overall character of the district. The original section of the Presbyterian Church (519 W. Ridge) is a good example of the Queen Anne style as interpreted for a small church. The clapboard-sided corner bell tower, assymetrical roofline, steeply pitched gables and entry porch helps the building blend in with its similarly decorated neighbors. The non-contributing addition to the church (built in 1960) detracts from the original section of the building, but is not altogether unsympathetic in scale and design. The residence at 624 Ridge Ave. is a more symmetrical building that is more indicative of the later Queen Anne form. Yet it has the massing and veranda typical of the style and contributes to the overall character of the district. The small, frame house at 518 W. Ridge is not on the large scale of the pivotal buildings in the district, yet its two-story bay window, gable decoration and bargeboard are similar to other houses in the district. The house at 107 Fourth St. features a bay window, porches with columns and gable ends with fish-scale shingles extending from a hipped roof. Its scale and materials blend in well with three other brick houses next door and across the street. One of these houses is at 431 W. Ridge, a well-maintained house with an intersecting gable roof, dormers, decorative bargeboard and cross-pieces in the gable ends, segmental arch windows, and spool and spindle porches. It is across the street from 430 W. Ridge, a plain but well-constructed brick house with an intersecting clipped gable roof, enclosed porch with large piers, bay window, and segmental arch windows. The last brick house in this group, 425 W. Ridge was constructed around 1930 with a hipped, "spanish"-type tiled roof. This house, although newer, contributes to the district by its use of compatible materials and its scale. The oldest house in the district, 613 W. Ridge Ave. was constructed in two sections. The front section was once a simple frame structure with Italianate details. Although it has been significantly altered, it too is of a compatible scale and design which contributes to the district. These houses were also the residences of Galesville's prominent turn-of-the-century professionals.

Both the pivotal and contributing buildings of this district have a high level of integrity and preservation. Of the 11 structures in the district, 3 (27%) are pivotal, 8 (73%) are contributing, and none are non-contributing. The district is shown on the district map accompanying this nomination.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet Historic Resources of Galesville, Wisconsin Item number 7 Page 12

X. BOUNDARY OF THE RIDGE AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT

The boundary of the Ridge Avenue Historic District is formed in the following manner: Commencing at the intersection of the center line of W. Ridge Ave. with the east lot line (as extended) of 425 W. Ridge Ave., thence south along such lot line to the south lot line of said property, thence west along said line (as extended along the south lot lines of intervening properties) to the centerline of Sixth Street, thence north along said center line to the north lot line of 624 W. Ridge Ave., thence east along said line (as extended along the north lot lines of intervening properties) to the east lot line of 430 W. Ridge Ave., thence south along said line to the center line of W. Ridge Ave., thence east to the point of beginning. The area thus enclosed is equal to approximately 5 acres.

XI. JUSTIFICATION OF RIDGE AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY

The boundary was selected on the basis of the following factors: 1) the concentration of later Victorian styles is greater inside the district than outside of it; and 2) the architectural quality of the structures within the district is higher than that of buildings outside of it.

XII. INVENTORY OF RIDGE AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPERTY OWNERS

<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>OWNER</u>	<u>LEGAL DESCRIPTION</u>
425 W. Ridge Ave.	-Arne B. Thomsen 425 W. Ridge Ave. Galesville, WI 54630	Assessor's Plat #2, Block 2, Lot 3
430 W. Ridge Ave.	-Ronald Winn 430 W. Ridge Ave. Galesville, WI 54630	Hammer & Sagen Add., Block 1, Lot 1/2
431 W. Ridge Ave.	-William E. Pemberton 431 W. Ridge Ave. Galesville, WI 54630	Assessor's Plat #2, Blk 2, Lot 2
518 W. Ridge Ave.	-Scott Kromm W7530 McHugh Rd. Holman, WI 54636	Original Plat, Block 12, Lot 7
Presbyterian Church 519 W. Ridge Ave.	-Congregation 519 W. Ridge Ave. Galesville, WI 54630	Assessor's Plat #2, Lot 7, Block 1, Lot 1, Block 2
524 W. Ridge Ave.	-Ruth Anderson 524 W. Ridge Ave. Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat, Lot 8, Block 12, less N 25'
612 W. Ridge Ave.	-Ralph Myhre 612 W. Ridge Ave. Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat, Block 13, Lots 9/10
613 W. Ridge Ave.	-Herman Lehman 613 W. Ridge Ave. Galesville, WI 54630	Gale's 1st Add., Block 19, Lots 1-2
624 W. Ridge Ave.	-Edward Henseling 624 W. Ridge Ave. Galesville, WI 54630	Gale's Original Plat, Block 13, Lots 11-12
625 W. Ridge Ave.	-Hazel Wadleigh 625 W. Ridge Ave. Galesville, WI 54630	Gale's First Add., Block 19 Lots 3 & 4
107 N. Fourth St.	-George Crawford 260 Sanborn St. Winona, MN 55987	Original Plat, Block 12, Lot 5 less N50', Lot 6 less E 1/2 of N 50'

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Historic Resources of  
Galesville, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

2

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received

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SIGNIFICANCE OF HISTORIC DISTRICTS:

Ridge Avenue Historic District (Period of Significance: 1875-1934)

The most architecturally significant residences in Galesville are located in the Ridge Avenue Historic District. Built by some of Galesville's most prominent citizens around the turn of the century, the residences reflect the community's prosperity during this era. The Ridge Avenue Historic District is a compact group of buildings which include examples of the Queen Anne, Italianate, and Stick styles, as they were interpreted in a small community. The Queen Anne style is particularly evident in the residence at 625 W. Ridge Ave., 612 W. Ridge Ave., and the original section of the Galesville Presbyterian Church at 519 W. Ridge Ave. The residence at 524 W. Ridge Ave. exhibits an eclectic late Queen Anne form but also includes details from both the Craftsman and Jacobean styles. Because of its unique characteristics, it is one of the most architecturally significant buildings in the community. The contributing buildings in the district possess less elaborate detail, but they contribute to the district with their elements of Italianate, Stick, and Queen Anne details. Because of this district's high level of integrity and preservation, and its picturesque, turn-of-the-century quality, it is a good example of a small community's attempt at a "showplace" neighborhood during a peak period of a community's development.

The Ridge Avenue Historic District is also significant because it has associations with locally significant persons. This district was built by prominent turn-of-the-century professionals who left their mark on the development of Galesville. In part, these citizens were responsible for the growth of Galesville during the late nineteenth century and the stability of Galesville during the twentieth century. It is significant that these locally important persons lived in the more elaborate residences in this area in close proximity to each other. Persons living in this district during its period of significance include Eugene Clark (624 W. Ridge Ave.), banker, local politician, and two-term State Senator; banker and significant realtor, John A. Berg (524 W. Ridge Ave.); W. S. Wadleigh (625 W. Ridge Ave.), attorney and nine-times Galesville mayor; Ole F. Myhre (612 W. Ridge Ave.), retail businessman; G. O. Gilbertson (631 W. Ridge Ave.), significant local businessman; and Peter Enhagen (431 W. Ridge Ave.), retail businessman.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 1

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Galesville Multiple Resource Area  
State Trempealeau County, WISCONSIN

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gale College Historic District</p>   | <p><b>Determined Eligible</b><br/>DOE/OWNER OBJECTION</p>             | <p>Keeper <u>Beth Groves</u> <u>9/18/84</u><br/>Attest _____</p>       |
| <p>2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Downtown Historic District</p>       | <p><b>Substantive Review</b><br/>Entered in the National Register</p> | <p>for Keeper <u>Arlene Byers</u> <u>9/18/84</u><br/>Attest _____</p>  |
| <p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Bartlett Blacksmith Shop-Scandinavian Hotel</p> | <p>Entered in the National Register</p>                               | <p>for Keeper <u>Arlene Byers</u> <u>9/18/84</u><br/>Attest _____</p>  |
| <p>4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bohrnstedt, John, House</p>          | <p>Entered in the National Register</p>                               | <p>for Keeper <u>Arlene Byers</u> <u>9/18/84</u><br/>Attest _____</p>  |
| <p>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cance, John F., House</p>            | <p>Entered in the National Register</p>                               | <p>for Keeper <u>Arlene Byers</u> <u>9/18/84</u><br/>Attest _____</p>  |
| <p>6. <input type="checkbox"/> Jensen, Tollef, House</p>                       | <p>Entered in the National Register</p>                               | <p>for Keeper <u>Arlene Byers</u> <u>9/18/84</u><br/>Attest _____</p>  |
| <p>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ridge Avenue Historic District</p>   | <p>Entered in the National Register</p>                               | <p>for Keeper <u>Arlene Byers</u> <u>9/18/84</u><br/>Attest _____</p>  |
| <p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> Second Street Bridge</p>                        | <p>Entered in the National Register</p>                               | <p>for Keeper <u>Arlene Byers</u> <u>12/12/84</u><br/>Attest _____</p> |
| <p>9. <input type="checkbox"/></p>   |   | <p>Keeper _____<br/>Attest _____</p>                                   |
| <p>10. <input type="checkbox"/></p>  |   | <p>Keeper _____<br/>Attest _____</p>                                   |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

*Substantive Review*

Galesville MRA  
Trempealeau County  
WISCONSIN

Working No. AUG 9 1984  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/5/85  
Date Due: 9/6/84 - 9.23.84  
Action:  ACCEPT 9-18-84  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria Accept MRA  
Reviewer Ersvend  
Discipline Historic  
Date 9/18/84  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

---

**8. Significance**

Period      Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates                      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

---

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

---

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_  
Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title                      date

---

**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Missing Core Documentation

<b>Property Name County, State</b>	<b>Multiple Property Name</b>	<b>Reference Number</b>
Cover Documentation Trempealeau, WI	Galesville MRA	64000934

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

Nomination Form

Photographs

USGS Map



HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

TO: Jerry Rogers, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places

FROM:          Diane Filipowicz  
         William Green  
  X   Leonard T. Garfield

SUBJECT: National Register Nominations

The following materials are submitted on this   30   day of   July  , 1984,  
for the nomination of the Historic Resources of Galesville (Trempealeau Co., WI)  
to the National Register of Historic Places:

- 1   original National Register inventory-nomination form
- 6   supplementary survey forms
- district survey form(s)
- 1   original USGS map(s)
- 94  photographs   Downtown Historic District=38 photos  
                          Gale University Historic District=14 photos
- 4  sketch map(s)   Ridge Avenue Historic District=30 photos  
                          Individually nominated properties=12 photos
- 5  piece(s) of correspondence
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

         PLEASE INSURE THAT THIS NOMINATION IS REVIEWED

BW:ch

Enclosures

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

816 STATE STREET · MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706 RICHARD A. ERNEY, DIRECTOR