



ALLEN HARRISON,  
WILLIAMS & McDONELL  
LAW OFFICE

# Landmark Nomination

## 1. Name

historic Engelbretsen Home

and/or common The Door Home

## 2. Location

street & number 622 West Main Street

city, town Whitewater

congressional district

state WISCONSIN

code 055

county Walworth

## 3. Classification

### Category

- district
- building(s)
- structure
- site
- object

### Ownership

- public
  - private
  - both
- Public Acquisition**
- in process
  - being considered

### Status

- occupied
- unoccupied
- work in progress

### Accessible

- yes: restricted
- yes: unrestricted
- no

### Present Use

- agriculture
- commercial
- educational
- entertainment
- government
- industrial
- military
- museum
- park
- private residence
- religious
- scientific
- transportation
- other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Stanley G. Yerges

street & number 16 W. Columbia Street

city, town Chippewa Falls vicinity of

state WI ZIP 54729

## 5. Location of Legal Description

(In County Courthouse)

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Walworth County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Elkhorn

state Wisconsin

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

omit

title

date

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

## 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**

An 1895, original and ornate Victorian-style home.  
The house is three-level with a tower, large front porch, and  
fantastic woodwork. Floor plans are the same as the  
original, but the kitchen is currently being remodeled  
to a modern, but authentic looking decor.

For further description, please feel free to contact me.

# 3. Significance

(Continue on separate sheets if necessary)

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates

1893

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (Give specific sources for all statements of fact.)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

# 10. Geographical Data

*omit*

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UMT References (Optional)

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title \_\_\_\_\_

organization \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_

state \_\_\_\_\_

# 12. Municipal Data

*omit*

Zoning District: \_\_\_\_\_

Aldermanic District: \_\_\_\_\_

Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Commission Actions

Hearing Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Hearing Date Set: \_\_\_\_\_

Landmark Designated (Date): \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Certified By: \_\_\_\_\_

Commission Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete items ✓

# Landmark Nomination

## ✓ 1. Name

historic Allen House

and/or common

## ✓ 2. Location

street & number 445 W. Center St.

city, town Whitewater

congressional district 1

state WISCONSIN

code 055

county Walworth

## ✓ 3. Classification

### Category

- district
- building(s)
- structure
- site
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### Ownership

- public
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  - government
  - industrial
  - military
- museum
  - park
  - private residence
  - religious
  - scientific
  - transportation
  - other:

## ✓ 4. Owner of Property

name Galen & Rose Smith

street & number 445 W. Center St.

city, town Whitewater, WI vicinity of

state WI ZIP 53190

## ✓ 5. Location of Legal Description (In County Courthouse)

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Walworth County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Elkhorn, WI

state Wisconsin

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title

date

federal  state  county  local

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# 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

Present - 2 main floors + basement + window's with tower.

The tower's walls, yellow brick with wood trim, wood decorative shutter boarding, two sides of tower rising in front of the house, floor ceiling windows (breaks) with oval light in living room across front of house.

Some of the decorative and other features of the original house are long gone - The decorative ornament on top of the tower, wooden balcony in front of 2nd story end tower windows, the ornamental woodwork flanking the front door, East and west facing side garden. The east porch is limited to a portion of the original at the Church of door. Part of the original porch is enclosed in a bay at the dining room. The original kitchen wing of the house has been worked for garage without changing the basic brick building. Otherwise, the basic structure maintains its original integrity and architectural beauty.

Over the years some interior remodeling has changed "original" uses. Information comes from previous owners and photographs.

The living room was opened up to make one large room from what used to be a parlor and sitting room. There are 2 marble fireplaces with iron fireplace covers and stokers. The front hall has a Queen Anne winding staircase going to the second floor. This was done in the late 1800's. The massive front door has a double etched glass window with the initials H, probably also done during that period. The floors in most of the house are narrow wght flooring. Exceptions are the tower and the smaller west bedroom which are wide board pine. Most of the hardware in the interior is original.

There used to be fireplaces in <sup>2 front</sup> the Regent's bedroom but these were removed when Mrs. Jamison was the owner.

The kitchen area probably dates from the Stein occupation.  
The kind the pantry area is original.

Interior redecorating and remodeling is comparatively  
modest considering the age of the house and modern  
needs. The woodwork and moldings are original.

# 8. Significance

(Continue on separate sheets if necessary)

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
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<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1856 Builder/Architect Porter, Hunter - Carpenter - J.M. Kuhn

Statement of Significance (Give specific sources for all statements of fact.) 1265011

Whitewater Gazette - May 15, 1856

"Saw a drawing of E.H. Smith's house rendered by a Milwaukeean.  
(E.H. Smith - a merchant) - in Annals of Whitewater

Dec. 25, 1856 "Mr. E.H. Smith has a new brick residence that is an ornament to the village and a gem of architectural beauty. Porter & Hunter were the carpenters - J.M. Kuhn, the mason."

From Walworth Co. Abstract Co.

Warranty Deed Dated Oct. 2, 1846 -

Recorded Oct. 3, 1846 v. 357 of Deeds page 311

to Robert C. & Elizabeth B. Williams

(held unt. e. Sept. 8, 1859 when property passed to Nancy V.D.E. Troedsson (Mrs. Jamieson))

Dr. Williams was President of UW-Whitewater during this period.

According to Patricia Buttram who did a term paper on the history of this house for a term paper in Wisconsin History for Dr. Edward Morgan, the Williams' entertained many celebrities in this house including Bennet Cerf.

Mrs. Lanna Lewis, age 106, and resident of Fairhaven lived in the house with her parents and grandparents, the Nathan Allens. The etched A in the front door stands for Allen.

(over)

Recently, a group of drawings by H. E. Rice were found.  
These drawings of interesting buildings in Whitewater  
are held by the Whitewater Historical Society.  
They include a picture of our town done in 1861.



Engebretsen/Dorr  
House

City of Whitewater Landmarks Commission

DESIGNATION STATEMENT

ENGEBRETSSEN/DORR HOUSE

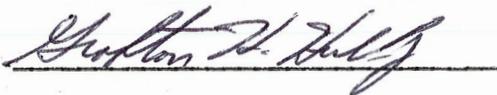
The Engebretsen/Dorr house located at 622 West Main Street was nominated by its owner, Mr. Stanley Yerges, for designation as a Landmark under Whitewater Ordinance 999. The Landmarks Commission designated the house on April 20, 1983 based on three criteria.

The house is a good, carefully preserved, example of victorian architecture and has a preponderance of original material. The structure is built in what is commonly known as a Queen Anne style having as noteworthy features a three story octogonal turret, along with a large wrap around front porch with tapering columns, double door entrance highlighted by an ornately decorated pediment, a second floor balustrade porch covered by a projecting gable and leaded and stained glass windows. The roof is of original tin composition.

The Engebretsen/Dorr house is identified in the public's mind with the history of Whitewater. It was built by an important community leader, Edward Engebretsen, who was the first treasurer and second Mayor of the City of Whitewater. It later became the home of Mr. Engebretsen's daughter, Ruth, and her husband, John Dorr. Mr. Engebretsen was a dry goods merchant during the later nineteenth century when Whitewater was at the peak of its importance and prosperity as a center of agricultural trade and manufacturing. The house he built, with the assistance of a professional architect, proclaimed his success in business and stature in the community and continues to exemplify the spirit of that period in the history of Whitewater.

Its location makes it highly visible to residents and visitors alike, to whom it represents the finer, old residences of Whitewater.

(Approved July 27, 1983)



Grafton H. Hull, Jr.  
Chairperson