

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

May 19

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic N/A

and or common Washington Avenue Historic District

Location

street & number See Inventory ___ not for publication

city, town Oshkosh ___ vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Winnebago code 139

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Various

street & number N/A

city, town N/A ___ vicinity of N/A state N/A

Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Winnebago County Courthouse

street & number 415 Jackson Avenue

city, town Oshkosh state Wisconsin 54902

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oshkosh Intensive Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

year 1981 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Washington Avenue Historic District is a large, principally residential district on the east side of the City of Oshkosh, Wisconsin. It was delineated in 1981 as part of an intensive historic resource survey of the entire City. It is one of two districts identified along an east-west spine through the City characterized by large impressive homes dating from the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, originally owned by many of the City's leading families. The Washington Avenue District is bounded on the east by Lake Winnebago and on the west by Bowen Street. It includes the homes along Washington Avenue on the north and south sides of the street as well as homes for one block on Linde and Hazel Streets to Merritt Avenue and homes on both sides of Merritt.

The District, as proposed, consists of 242 structures, all but one of which are residential-oriented. There are 135 contributing and 107 non-contributing buildings, primarily garages, in the District. Non-contributing status was conferred on properties which did not meet the 50-year test, or which had lost much or most of their original architectural integrity. Although some of the other properties which are considered contributing have been altered over time, their basic form and presentation still contributes to the overall historic impression of the District. These homes were designed as, and most continue to be, single family structures. The notable exception is the Oshkosh Yacht Club (Map No. 1) located at 1395 Washington. Homes in the Washington Avenue Historic District are characterized as being principally large, frame, 2-1/2 story homes of the late Queen Anne and Colonial Revival periods as well as early 20th Century examples of Prairie-influenced and European Revival styles. In addition, there are scattered examples of Italianate influenced homes in the District. However, these latter are not nearly as prevalent. Most of the homes in the District are of frame construction which corresponds with Oshkosh's long history as a lumbering and woodworking city.

Homes in the Washington Avenue District are generally characterized by a high degree of maintenance and an obvious pride in ownership. The Washington Avenue area had declined somewhat by the mid-1950's into the early 1970's, but any visitor to the District today can see that, in the past ten or 15 years, homes have been refurbished, restored or rehabilitated; in most cases, following their historic lines and features and, as such, the Washington Avenue neighborhood gives one a feeling of prosperity as well as sensitivity to the historical past. This nomination was, in fact, supported by the residents. A local neighborhood group has been active for the past three or four years working to upgrade the character of the neighborhood, remove multi-family residences, and re-establish those residences as single family homes. Indeed, the Washington Avenue area has developed a true sense of community and, as such, appears to be unique in the City of Oshkosh.

The following inventory indicates the map number, street address, historic name and use (if known), construction date (if known), and classification code of each building in the District. Dates of construction were determined by property abstracts, tax records, contemporary newspaper articles, and historic maps.
HNTB No. 9094/4

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<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 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
Specific dates	1870 - 1929	Builder/Architect	Various	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Washington Avenue District represents one of the most prominent residential areas in the City of Oshkosh. Washington Avenue and, west of Main Street, Algoma Boulevard comprised a line of fine residential properties which cut across the City from Lake Winnebago to the western edges of the City. The Washington Avenue District is being nominated as the eastern portion of that line. The buildings on Merritt Avenue continue in the same architectural traditions and together, comprise a unified residential area.

The buildings in the Washington Avenue District include several notable architectural styles, along with several designs by noted local architects. The impression the visitor gets when in the District is of a very fine neighborhood which has been and continues to be well maintained by its owner-occupant residents. When walking through the District, one gets a sense of neighborhood; a sense of belonging to that particular area. One also gets the impression that homeowners in the District take a special pride in their homes. The District is also characterized by several rehabilitations and restorations of the older homes.

The Washington Avenue Historic District is being nominated for its architectural merit; however, as noted in the Inventory, some of the original owners are of local historic interest.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The area encompassing the Washington Avenue Historic District was originally part of three early claims in what became the City of Oshkosh. The homes on the south side of Washington Avenue were on two farmsteads claimed by Chester and Shipley Gallup. The area on the north side of Washington Avenue was originally claimed by David Evans. In the very early years, all of this land was farmed and it was not until the 1870's that some of the land began to be sold off for residential size parcels. The early development of the City of Oshkosh began in the vicinity of the present day Main Street on the north side of the Fox River in the late 1830's. The early village area developed along the present Main Street and for a block or two on either side. By 1842, some 135 people lived in this small village or had farms on its edges. Within a few years, the first sustained boom period in the City's settlement began. In 1846, the population had jumped to 2,787 and by 1850 to 3,392. As the growth of the lumber milling industry continued into the 1860's and 1870's, Oshkosh's population continued to boom, exceeding 25,000 by 1880.

Settlement patterns during this period largely stayed to the west of the Washington Avenue District. As stated, the earliest settlement was in the vicinity of the Main Street corridor. As the City grew, the population moved to the east of Main Street only as far as the vicinity of the present

