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NPS Form 10-900
(Expires 5/31/2012)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name **Whiton-Parker House**
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number	1000 East Milwaukee Street						N/A	**not for publication**	
city or town	Janesville						N/A	**vicinity**	
state	Wisconsin	**code**	WI	**county**	Rock	**code**	105	**zip code**	53545

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _ nationally X statewide _ locally. (_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Daina Lenhuma 12/21/2015
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _ meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Whiton-Parker House	Rock County	Wisconsin
Name of Property	County and State	

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

✓ entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet
___ removed from the National Register
___ other, (explain:)

Elsa N. Ball 2.8.16

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as as apply)

x private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

x building(s)
district
structure
site
object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

contributing	noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century/Greek Revival
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls brick
roof asphalt
other wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

_ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

x B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

_ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

_ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

_ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

_ B removed from its original location.

_ C a birthplace or grave.

_ D a cemetery.

_ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

_ F a commemorative property.

_ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Law
Industry

Period of Significance

1852-1859
1925-1960

Significant Dates

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Whiton, Edward Vernon
Parker, Kenneth S.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Riley, Frank

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:
X State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property **less than one acre**

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	335200	4727900
2			
3			
4			

☐ See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Carol Lohry Cartwright, consultant				
organization	For the City of Janesville			**date**	2/6/2015
street & number	W7646 Hackett Rd.			**telephone**	262-473-6820
city or town	Whitewater	**state**	WI	**zip code**	53190

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	Tobin and Oakleigh Ryan				
organization				**Date**	2/6/2015
street & number	1000 E. Milwaukee St.			**telephone**	608-758-1513
city or town	Janesville	**state**	WI	**zip code**	53545

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Start description on line below

DESCRIPTION

Site

The Whiton-Parker House is located on a large, landscaped lot of just over three-quarters of an acre in the historic east side residential neighborhood of Janesville, Wisconsin, a small city in far south-central Wisconsin. The house sits on a corner lot fronting East Milwaukee Street, a main thoroughfare through Janesville's east side. Garfield Street, a less traveled neighborhood street, runs along the west side of the lot.

Until 1992, the Whiton-Parker House property included almost three acres, but in that year, the large parcel was subdivided into six lots. Two of the lots make up the current parcel of this house, while the other lots have been developed with new houses. Because the Whiton-Parker House has retained almost an acre parcel of land, it retains most of its original estate-like setting.

Located on a small rise from East Milwaukee and Garfield streets, the Whiton-Parker House's site is relatively flat and is made up of large lawn spaces punctuated with trees, shrubs, and planting beds. Surrounding much of the property is a decorative modern metal fence. Concrete steps lead up from East Milwaukee Street to a sidewalk that accesses the main entrance of the house. A walkway extends around both sides of the house to the rear yard and asphalt-paved driveway. The driveway connects Garfield Street to the 1993-built attached three-car garage that sits at the southwest edge of the house.

There are many mature trees and shrubs that dot the landscaping around the house, including a number of large trees between the side of the house and its immediate neighbor. Planting beds are located both along the house's foundations and to the east and south of the building.

Exterior
General Characteristics

The Whiton-Parker House was originally built in1852 in the Greek Revival style popular at that time. The original plan included a two-story square block and a rear one and one-half story ell. In 1927, a two-story sun room addition was constructed on the east side of the house. Designed by Madison architect Frank Riley, this addition was completed in the Colonial Revival style. Some interior alterations were also made by Riley, including a colonial style library remodeling. The roof dormers and, although not on the extant 1927 plans, the front porch appears to have been added at that time. In 1993, a modern garage with details that suggest the colonial style was added to the southwest corner of the rear ell.

The main block of the house is square in plan with a projecting rectangular rear ell. Covering the main block is a low-pitched hip roof and a low-pitched gable roof covers the ell. Projecting from the roof of the main block are four large brick chimneys. Wide wooden friezes are under the roof eaves of both sections of the house. The eaves of the rear ell are returned on the south elevation.

The entire house is clad with vermillion-colored bricks except for the two-story sun room addition, the dormers and front porch. The sunroom is clad with wide wood clapboards and has a flat roof; the dormers and porch are also of wood. The 1993 garage is also clad with wide wood clapboards and has a combination hip and gable roof. The main block and rear ell are on a limestone foundation, while the foundation of the sun room addition is clad with cream bricks. The garage addition has a concrete slab foundation.

Fenestration of the main block, the rear ell, and the sun room addition is highly regular. The main block and the rear ell feature primarily six-over-six-light double-hung sashes decorated with flat stone lintels and sills. Operational shutters are attached to most of these windows. The fenestration of the sun room addition is a combination of eight-over-eight-light, double-hung sashes on the second floor and eight-light casements with transoms on the first floor. Almost all of the windows of the house are fitted with detachable wooden storm windows.

Main Elevation

The main elevation faces north. Along with the details mentioned above, it features a dormer with a Palladian-type window, centered on the hip roof. It has a central round-arched opening filled with a round-arched window with nine square lights topped with a pane with arched mullions. Flanking this central opening are two small rectangular openings filled with six-light casement windows.

The windows of the main block are symmetrical and the entrance sits at the northwest corner of the house. The entrance is filled with a heavy six-panel wood door covered with a period wooden storm door. The entrance is flanked by sidelights having paneled bases and topped with a multi-light transom. Flanking the sidelights are fluted pilasters.

A portico covers the main entrance. It is colonial in style and probably added around the time of the 1927 remodeling of the house. The very low-pitched, hip roof of the portico has wide eaves and a plain frieze supported by two fluted columns and two fluted pilasters. The portico has on a concrete base with a set of concrete steps that lead up from the sidewalk.

East Elevation

The east elevation of the house is dominated by the 1927 sun room addition. It takes up most of the east wall of the main block. It is set back slightly from the front of the house and two windows of the original east elevation are extant. They are identical to the windows on the main elevation.

The 1927 alterations feature colonial-style motifs. The clapboard walls are accented at the corners and between the three bays of the east wall with fluted wood pilasters topped with capitals featuring bull's eye decoration. The second story openings are filled with eight-over-eight-light, double-hung sashes and covered with storm windows. Below the second story opening on the north wall of the sun room there is a window unit that features a pair of eight-light casements flanked by sidelights and topped with transom lights. The same types of windows fill the openings along the east wall of the first story, except they do not have the sidelights. In between the first and second story openings are simple molded wood panels decorated with plain medallions.

The south wall of the sun room addition has a second story opening that is identical to those of the rest of the second story. Under this opening lies a similar molded panel, and below this detail is an entrance that has similarities to the large window on the north wall. The entrance has a set of multi-light French doors covered with simple wood storm doors that are flanked by sidelights and topped with transom lights. A set of concrete steps leads from the foundation to this entrance.

South Elevation

The south elevation of the house consists of the one and one-half story rear ell and the rear wall of the main block. A large wooden deck is attached to both the east wall of the rear ell and the south wall of the main block. Projecting from the southwest corner of the ell is the three-car garage. The rear ell and south elevation have some altered openings.

Projecting from the roof of the main block of the south elevation is an early-twentieth century dormer that has a hip roof, wide eaves and two six-light casement windows. Two openings are visible in the south wall of the main block, an area not covered by the rear ell. Both openings date from the 1927 remodeling designed by architect Frank Riley. The second story opening is similar to the openings of the second story of the sun room addition. It is filled with an eight-over-eight-light, double-hung sash window. This window had been replaced sometime in the twentieth century, but was returned in a recent restoration. Below this window is a set of three eight-light casements that are similar to those of the sun room.

Along the east wall of the rear ell, there are both original and altered openings; the windows are not original. Several of the second story openings of the rear ell have 3-over-1 sash windows. A similar

window sits in the first story at the south end of the east wall of the rear ell. A modern set of French doors that date from 1992 sit in the first story and lead out to the wooden deck. The wooden deck, also added in 1992, has a plain balustrade, a set of wooden steps, and a lattice-covered apron.

On the south wall of the rear ell, there are two second story openings that are filled with twentieth century single-light, double-hung sashes. An entrance is located in the southeast corner of the first story of the rear ell. It is filled with a wood and glass door covered with a storm door. A small porch sits in front of this entrance and has the same features as the wood deck. The porch also runs in front of a modern exterior entrance into the garage addition.

West Elevation

The west elevation of the house has three components; the original main block, the rear ell, and the 1993 three-car garage.

The west wall of the main block has similar fenestration to the front façade, having the same multi-light sashes. The first and second story openings at the north end of the west wall of the main block are set off a bit from the other four openings, creating a longer wall space between the openings at the north end and those of the south end. The openings in the west wall of the rear ell include two six-light sashes on the first story that are similar to those of the main block and two sashes with single lower lights and vertically divided upper lights.

Attached to the west wall of the rear ell at the southwest corner is the large three-car garage. The garage has two parts, a two-bay, hip roof section and a one-bay, gable roof section set back from the two-bay section. The garage has wide clapboard siding, a wide frieze with returned eaves on the gable end, and plain pilasters at the corners and between the two-bays of the hip roof section. Dark varnished multi-panel garage doors occupy all three of the garage openings.

Interior
First Floor

The main entrance leads into the foyer that features the original, curved, open staircase to the second floor. Entrances into the formal living room and dining room also open from the foyer. In this area of the house are details that are found throughout much of the first floor, including a narrow board maple floor, plain wood moldings around doors and windows (unless otherwise noted), plaster walls and ceiling, a crown molding, and six-panel wood doors.

A wide framed opening at the east wall of the foyer leads into the living room. On the foyer side, the opening is framed with plain moldings, but on the living room side, the opening is decorated with a

heavy entablature featuring a pronounced cornice and wide frieze and flanked by wide fluted pilasters. This decorative element was probably added during the 1927 alteration of the house although it does not appear on the extant 1927 plans. The living room has similar features to the foyer and dining room, including a narrow board maple floor, plaster walls and ceiling, plain wood moldings around windows and doors, and a crown molding. Under the windows are wood panels and along the east wall of the living room there is a fireplace with a dark marble mantel and surround. The fireplace features an arched molded opening decorated with a shield.

At the south end of the living room and the foyer, there are two, six-panel wood doors that lead into the dining room. This room has the narrow board maple floor, plaster walls and ceiling, and moldings that are seen in the living room and foyer. Along the west wall is a fireplace with a colonial style wooden mantel that features a simple entablature with pilasters. At the southwest corner of the dining room, two six-panel wood doors lead into the library and the kitchen, respectively.

A six-panel wood door located in the southeast corner of the living room also leads into the library. The library was entirely remodeled in 1927 with details from architect Frank Riley's plan. The library features raised oak paneled walls with built-in bookshelves. The bookshelves are elliptically arched and decorated with rosettes. A heavy crown molding runs along the entire ceiling and it is decorated with a row of dentils. Simple colonial style wall lamps are interspersed throughout the room and at the south end of the library, there is an alcove that has a desk area and bookshelves. The floor is covered with a continuation of the narrow board maple flooring seen elsewhere on the first floor.

At the northeast corner of the library there are two doors, one that leads back into the living room and one that leads into a small powder room with only a sink. Above both of these doors are transom-like panels of small vertical pieces of oak paneling. A similar decoration is located over the door that leads into the dining room. A set of bookshelves flanks the entrance at the southeast corner of the library that leads into the sun room addition.

An entrance from the southeast end of the living room leads into the sun room, as well. This room is dominated by the five sets of openings along the north, south and east walls. These openings, filled with casement windows and transoms, along with a set of French doors, are decorated with thick moldings. The baseboards and crown moldings of this room are narrower than seen in the rest of the first floor and the room does not have the maple flooring seen in the rest of the house, but a modern pegged pine floor. Along the west wall of the sun room there is a large built-in cabinet and a fireplace. The fireplace features a brick surround and wood mantel decorated in the colonial style with a paneled frieze and fluted pilasters.

A door in the far southeast corner of the dining room leads into a small pass-through pantry with built-in cabinets. Passage through the pantry leads into the large kitchen; the kitchen has details from its

mid-twentieth century remodeling. These details, including cabinets, have been updated with some modern fixtures and countertops, and a kitchen island has been installed. The floor is covered with modern wood flooring.

Along the east wall of the kitchen is a set of modern French doors that lead to the wood deck. Along the south wall of the kitchen is an entrance into a pantry area that is now used as a mud room. This room has modern vinyl flooring; doors lead to the back yard and to the large garage addition.

Second Floor

The curved staircase in the foyer leads to the second floor in the main block. The staircase has a walnut balustrade with turned balusters and a simple turned newel post. At the top of the staircase there is a small landing off of which are doors to three bedrooms and a bathroom. The bathroom is also attached, via a second door, to the northeast bedroom. A bathroom is also attached to the northwest bedroom, but does not have an exterior hall door. The bedrooms have plain decoration, including simple wood moldings around doors and windows. Each bedroom has a wood floor and a ceiling decorated with narrow moldings. In the northwest bedroom, these moldings form a geometric pattern on the ceiling. The bathroom with doors leading to both the landing and the northeast bedroom has a tile floor and subway style wall tiles that suggest the 1920s era. It is updated with modern fixtures.

The rest of the floor of the main block consists of a large master suite that includes the second floor of the sun room addition. The 1927 Frank Riley design reconfigured the original bedroom space into a large dressing room and bedroom. In the second floor of the sun room, he added a child's room, bathroom, and "sleeping room" or sleeping porch. A recent remodeling has divided this same space into a large bedroom with built-in closets, a master bathroom, and a small sitting room. The master suite has been modernized with wood and tile flooring, new built-in closets and bathroom fixtures, and single French doors that lead from the bedroom into both the bathroom and into the sitting room.

Alongside the master suite is a hallway off of which are a closet and the enclosed staircase to the attic. Down three steps is another hallway into the rear ell, off of which are a bathroom, office area, bedroom, and partially enclosed staircase to the kitchen. The office space is in an area that was a former bedroom. Walls have been cut down to half size so that the office is open to the hallway. Across from the office is a small, narrow bathroom with a mid-twentieth century tile décor, shower stall, and other older fixtures. At the end of the hallway is a modern door leading into the intact maid's room. This small bedroom has simple moldings around windows, carpeting, and plaster walls and ceiling.

The finished attic is decorated with exposed rough-hewn structural beams of the main block. The ceiling and walls have modern dry wall surfaces and the floor is carpeted. A cove is cut into the ceiling in the Palladian style dormer that showcases the period windows. There are also built-in cabinets near the other dormer in this room. The attic is used for exercise and recreation.

End of Description of Physical Appearance

Insert Statement of Significance

SIGNIFICANCE

The Whiton-Parker House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the state level of significance for its association with two notable Janesville residents: Edward V. Whiton and Kenneth S. Parker. The property is eligible under Criterion B, in the area of Law for its association with Edward V. Whiton. Whiton was a pioneer resident of Janesville, a noted early legislator, and the first chief justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Wisconsin. He is significant in the area of law because he was instrumental in the development of American legal institutions in Wisconsin's early statehood period. The period of significance is 1852-1859, the years he lived in this house up until his death in 1859, which also coincides with the peak of his legal career and the period during which he was most influential.

The house is eligible under Criterion B, in the area of Industry for its association with Kenneth S. Parker, one of the most important twentieth century industrialists in Janesville. Parker led the Parker Pen Company to the height of its success in the twentieth century. Although Parker was the second generation in the family to lead the company, he oversaw the development of the domestic and international growth of the company, which culminated with the construction of a modern factory in 1951. The Parker Pen Company became synonymous with the highest quality writing implements throughout the world. Kenneth S. Parker oversaw this successful period while living in this house. And, since the home of the founder and first generation leader of the company is not extant and the historic office building and factory of the company no longer has its historic features, this house takes on added significance in the history of the company. The period of significance is 1925-1960, the years Parker lived in this house, which also coincides with the peak of his influence in the pen manufacturing industry.

Development of the House

The Whiton-Parker House has a long and interesting history of development. The date of construction has been suggested in several sources as pre-1850 as well as 1852. In 1988, Richard P. Hartung, then director of the Rock County Historical Society, intensively researched historic tax assessment rolls from 1849-1854 for the house's site. He found that although Whiton owned between 7 and 17 acres between 1849 and 1852, and was assessed taxes for the land; he was not assessed any personal property taxes for this site, suggesting he did not yet live there. In 1852, Whiton not only paid taxes on land whose value had risen by $400, he also paid taxes for personal property at this site. This strongly suggests that the house was built in or around 1852, as subsequent assessment years indicate that the higher value seen in 1852 remained constant. Therefore, the date of 1852 is considered the most accurate date of construction available.

Whiton had his house built in the Greek Revival style of architecture, still popular in Wisconsin at that time. Although the most elaborate of Greek Revival houses were often built with a "temple with wings" plan, the square form of this house was also a popular plan for this style. While the formal plan of the house is typical of the style, its distinctive exterior red brick construction, unusual in this mostly cream brick community, reflects Whiton's Yankee heritage.

Whiton, whose significance will be discussed shortly, died in 1859 and his widow married physician Joseph B. Whiting. They lived in the home until 1905, when merchant F. H. Sheldon purchased the residence. In the mid-1920s, Kenneth S. Parker, Vice-President of the Parker Pen Company purchased the house for himself and his wife Mildred as their new family home.[1]

In 1927, Parker hired noted Madison architect Frank Riley to add a two-story sun room to the east side of the house and to make some interior alterations. Riley's plans show that on the first floor, the sun room was added with entrances from both the living room and library of the house. He designed the interior of the sun room and also completely remodeled the library with oak paneling and colonial details. Although not on the plans, the dining room fireplace and front entrance appear to have been remodeled at the same time, along with the entryway from the foyer into the living room. The narrow-board maple flooring was probably also added at this time. On the second floor, the sun room addition added a modern bathroom, a bedroom with a large dressing room with built-in cabinets, and a sleeping porch. The remaining rooms of the second floor were kept relatively intact, but at various times during the twentieth century, additional bathrooms were added to this floor.[2]

Physical details of the home show that some additional remodeling took place during the mid-twentieth century, including a remodeled kitchen, but much of the house remained as it appeared in 1927. In the early 1990s, a new owner began a renovation of the property that has continued under the present owners. Photographs of the house from 1993 demonstrate that the house has been updated since that year. While much of the house's 1927 interior appearance were retained, updates continued. Floors were refinished, woodwork repaired and painted, and a modern deck was attached between the main block and the rear ell, with access from the kitchen. Also added was the three-car garage.

In 1999, the current owners acquired the house and during the 2000s, they have used the State of Wisconsin home-owners' historic tax credit program to update mechanical systems, repair exterior features, and restore windows. They also converted space on the second floor into a modern master suite and office. The result is a beautiful historic home that reflects three eras of development: the

[1] Information from the owner.
[2] Frank Riley, "Alterations to Kenneth Parker Residence, May 16, 1927, in possession of the owner.

original Whiton era, the 1927-remodeling designed by architect Frank Riley, and the modern era that maintains the historic integrity of the property while it is being used as a modern family home.

Area of Significance: Law

The Whiton-Parker House is historically significant for its association with early Wisconsin jurist Edward V. Whiton, who played an important role in the development of the state's highest court, the Supreme Court of Wisconsin, and in early legal precedents. Pioneers from the eastern United States brought legal and governmental institutions with them when they came to Wisconsin in the 1830s, a process that expanded the constitutional ideas of the United States westward and allowed new territories to eventually become states within the larger country. Edward V. Whiton was one of these pioneers that helped establish American institutions in Wisconsin during the territorial era and helped them mature during early statehood.

Edward Vernon Whiton was a native of Massachusetts who was born in 1805 and spent 30 years in that state. He received a good early education and began to study the law under a lawyer in his hometown of Lee, Massachusetts. He spent seven years studying law and had the reputation as somewhat of a recluse, reading classic literature during this time. In 1836, Whiton decided to go west to Chicago, but after becoming ill and realizing that the economic downturn that would result in the financial panic of 1837 had stalled Chicago's growth, he decided to go northwest, into the Rock River valley and in 1837, he ended up at the place that would be developed as Janesville, being among the earliest settlers there. Continuing his reclusive life, he purchased some land where this house stands, built a log cabin, and it is reported that he spent his first months in Janesville secluded with his books. This somewhat romantic description of Whiton belies the fact that he was soon seen as a community leader and was elected to the second territorial legislature, where he took an active role.[3]

While Whiton was taking part in the political process that resulted in Wisconsin's statehood, he practiced law and after statehood in 1848, he was elected circuit judge for the 1st Judicial Circuit. The new Wisconsin constitution provided for five circuit courts. Each year, the circuit court judges met to form a "Supreme Court" to deal with appeals from the lower courts. This system operated until 1852, when the state legislature created a permanent three-member state supreme court to hear appeals.

[3] William Fiske Brown, *Rock County Wisconsin* (Chicago: C. F. Cooper & Co., 1908), 718-719; *History of Rock County, Wisconsin* (Chicago: Western Publishing Co., 1879), 440; Orrin Guernsey and Josiah F. Willard, *History of Rock County, and Transactions of the Rock County Agricultural Society and Mechanics' Institute* (Janesville: Wm. M. Doty and Brother, 1856), 159; "Biographical Sketches of the Judges of the First Supreme Court of the State of Wisconsin," in S. U. Pinney, *Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of the State of Wisconsin Vol. III* (Chicago: Callaghan and Company, 1876), 611-612.

Whiton ran for the position of Chief Justice of the new, separate, Supreme Court and was elected despite being a member of the Whig Party in a state then dominated by the Democratic Party.[4]

As Chief Justice, Whiton played a significant role in a case that defined Wisconsin's attitudes about the abolition of slavery in general and the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, in particular, *Ableman v. Booth*. Milwaukee abolitionist Sherman Booth had helped free Joshua Glover, a fugitive slave, who had been captured in Wisconsin by his former master. Booth was arrested and his conviction for aiding a fugitive slave under the Fugitive Slave Act was appealed to the Wisconsin Supreme Court in 1854. The Wisconsin Supreme Court, under Chief Justice Edward Whiton, ruled that the law was unconstitutional and released Booth. Although this pleased many citizens of Wisconsin, and may have played a role in getting Whiton re-elected as chief justice in 1857, it became a controversial decision that was eventually appealed to the United States Supreme Court. The U.S. Supreme Court overturned the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling in 1859.[5]

In 1847, Whiton married Amoret Dimock and they had one son, also named Edward. In 1852 they constructed and moved into the house that is the subject of this nomination, and in 1853 Whiton became the first Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. He remained in this house for the duration of his term on the Supreme Court, which ended upon his death in 1859.[6]

The court system often relies on precedent in making decisions, particularly at the appellate level. Although Edward Whiton only served seven years as Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, he was involved in significant precedent-setting decisions affecting the legal history of the state for years to come. Among these was the notable case *Ableman v. Booth*, a Fugitive Slave Act case that was significant in the state of Wisconsin's legal history and represented the state's abolitionist sentiments in the run-up to the Civil War.

Edward V. Whiton is a significant person in the history of legal opinion, precedence, and the formation of the judicial branch of state government in Wisconsin. During the most important phase of his legal career, he lived in this house; because of Whiton's association with this house, it is historically significant under National Register criterion B, in the area of Law.

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[4] Brown, 720; *History of Rock County, Wisconsin*, 440; "The Wisconsin Supreme Court Celebrating 150 Years in 2003," flyer produced by the Wisconsin Supreme Court in possession of the owner; "Edward V. Whiton," Wisconsin Court System, Supreme Court, Former Justices, from web site https://www.wicourts.gov/courts/supreme/justices/retired/whiton.htm

[5] "Edward V. Whiton," Wisconsin Court System.

[6] Brown, 720.

Area of Significance: Industry

The Whiton-Parker House is historically significant for its association with one of the most important industrialists in Janesville, Kenneth S. Parker. Kenneth Parker served as Vice-President, President, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Parker Pen Company while he lived in this house from the mid-1920s to the 1960s. During that time, he led a medium-sized pen company into an internationally important pen manufacturer that at the midpoint of the twentieth century was employing almost 1,500 people and was known as the world's largest pen manufacturing company. The original office building and factory of the Parker Pen Company has been remodeled so that its historic appearance has been lost, and the home of the founder and first president of the company, George S. Parker, is not extant, making this house the most important historic building associated with the company in Janesville.

The Parker Pen Company, which became Janesville's second largest industry, only after the General Motors plant, began with George S. Parker, who came to Janesville in the mid-1880s to learn telegraphy. He paid his tuition by becoming an agent for the John Holland Pen Company of Cincinnati. After familiarizing himself with these fountain pens, he concluded that he could make an improved product. In 1888, Parker designed the "Lucky Curve" fountain pen, and began making the pens in Janesville. With investors W.P. Palmer and C. Bassett, Parker incorporated the Parker Pen Company in 1892. For the first 20 years, Parker consistently grew his business, moving several times to larger spaces on the second floor of buildings in downtown Janesville. By 1908, Parker employed 100 people at several locations.[7]

In 1920, the Parker Pen Company built a three-story office/factory building in downtown Janesville, but as sales continued to rise during the 1920s, more space was needed and an addition was built in 1930. At that time, the company had a workforce of 700 people. It may have been the largest employer in Janesville but for the location of a General Motors automobile factory in town in the mid-1920s. Nevertheless, the Parker Pen Company had considerable prestige in the community, especially since it began to branch out into an international market during the 1920s. By the mid-twentieth century, Parker Pen had offices in Canada, England, France, Scandinavia, and Africa and Parker brand pens were considered among the highest quality and most prestigious writing instruments in the world.[8]

It was in the 1920s that Kenneth S. Parker began to make his mark on the company. In 1923, Kenneth S. Parker married his wife, Mildred, and at the time, he was referred to as the company's advertising

[7] Carol Lohry Cartwright, Scott Shaffer, and Randal Waller, *City on the Rock River: Chapters in Janesville's History* (Janesville: Janesville Historic Commission, 1998), 86.
[8] Cartwright, Shaffer, and Waller, 87.

manager, suggesting he was working his way up the ladder of the company hierarchy. Soon, Parker would be promoted to Vice-President, and he and Mildred would make this house their family home. In 1927, Parker hired noted Madison architect, Frank Riley, to remodel and update parts of this house. Riley, a well-known architect in the Period Revival styles of the twentieth century, added a Colonial Revival two-story sun porch and other colonial-influenced details to the Greek Revival house that had changed little since its 1852 construction date.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, when pen purchases declined, the Parker Pen Company developed an improved fountain pen ink. This brand, "Quink," became a best seller. In 1933, founder George S. Parker retired as president of the company, turning over the reins to his son, Kenneth S. Parker. It was Kenneth Parker who ushered the Parker Pen Company into its most successful period. He negotiated the company through the Great Depression and its continued success through this economically challenging period is shown in the purchase of 20 acres of land on the north side of Janesville that the company was going to use for a new manufacturing plant just prior to World War II. The war and post-war shortages delayed the construction of the facility, but in April of 1951, Parker company president Kenneth Parker announced that it would build a $2,000,000 plant on its north-side site. In the same announcement, it was noted that at that time there were 1,460 employees working in six different buildings. The new factory would consolidate manufacturing, but offices would remain in the downtown Janesville building.[9]

Recognizing the more complex workings of a multi-national company in 1952, the Parker Pen Company reorganized its executive offices. Kenneth S. Parker became Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company, Bruce Jeffris became the President of the company, and Kenneth's son, Daniel Parker, became Vice-President of the company. Kenneth Parker held the top executive position in the Parker Pen Company until 1960, when he resigned. At that time, Daniel Parker became President of the company, becoming Chairman of the Board in 1966. In that year, it was reported that Daniel Parker was the chief executive of the "world's largest pen manufacturer."[10]

Daniel Parker only was active in the company for a few years. In 1986, when the company was sold, Daniel Parker became honorary Chairman of the Board of Directors." In fact, Daniel Parker's interests were primarily outside of the company. In 1962, while he was working for Parker Pen, he founded Omniflight Helicopters, a private maintenance firm servicing helicopters for medical use, law enforcement, and utility companies. This company became a very successful business that Parker continued to operate after he left Parker Pen. He also spent much of the 1970s as director of the

[9] Cartwright, Shaffer, and Waller, 87; "Parker to Build $2,000,000 Plant," *Janesville Gazette*, April 21, 1951, 1.
[10] "Daniel Parker Elected to Fill Vacancy as Firm's Board Head," *Janesville Gazette*, June 16, 1966, 1.

Agency for International Development in the Nixon and Ford administrations, making Washington D. C. his home during this time. He later moved to South Carolina where Omniflight was located.[11]

The immediate post-World War II era was the peak of Parker Pen's popularity and success. Even though ball point pens were making inroads into the fountain pen market, Parker's international business remained high during the 1960s. In fact, in 1969, two-thirds of its production went to international sales. The Parker company introduced its own line of premium ball point pens during this period and remained fairly successful producing high-quality writing instruments. By the 1970s, cheap, disposable, and reliable ball point pens replaced both high-quality fountain pens and high-quality ball-point pens for much of the American market and Parker brand pens were purchased more as prestigious gifts rather than used in everyday life. The foreign market for fountain pens and high-quality ball point pens remained strong for a longer period of time, but by the 1980s, ever cheaper foreign-made pens flooded the market. Parker tried entering the lower-priced market in the 1980s, but could not compete with foreign manufacturers. In 1986, the Parker family sold the pen company to a group of European investors and with a smaller work force, the company continued to produce high-end writing instruments for a smaller and largely foreign market. Since that time, though, the Parker Pen Company changed ownership at least twice more and lost more workers. In August of 2009, the then corporate owner, Newell Rubbermaid, announced it would close all operations in Janesville. At that time, the once almost-1,500 employees had shrunk to only 153 people.[12]

According to a historical review of industry in Janesville, during its peak period, the Parker Pen Company was the second largest employer in the city, second only to the General Motors Plant. By 1950, General Motors and Parker Pen represented 75 percent of industrial employment in Janesville. Although the General Motors plant employed over 5,000 people at its peak of production in the 1960s, the employment of 1,500 people at the Parker Pen Company was no small number.[13]

Certainly George S. Parker, the founder and president of the Parker Pen Company until 1933, was a significant historical figure in Janesville's industrial history. From an idea in the 1880s that he could make a better pen, to a 700-employee company by the time he retired, George S. Parker is a significant figure in the development of the company. His son, Kenneth S. Parker, was also influential in the development of the company. During his almost 30-year tenure as President, and then Chairman of the Board, he doubled the number of employees at the company and was responsible for the

[11] Mireya Navarro, "Daniel Parker, 66; Ex-Parker Pen Chief Led Helicopter Firm," January 31, 1992; http://www.nytimes.com/1992/01/31/us/daniel-parker-66-ex-parker-pen-chief-led-helicopter-firm.html.

[12] Cartwright, Shaffer, and Waller, 87; "Parker Pen to Close in Janesville; 153 Jobs Lost," *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, August 18, 2009; http://www.jsonline.com/business/53575447.html.
[13] Cartwright, Shaffer, and Waller, 59.

construction of a large modern factory building. Within its area of manufacturing, the Parker Pen Company was an internationally recognized company. Kenneth S. Parker resided over the company's most successful period, a period when the company became the world's largest pen manufacturer.

George S. Parker and Kenneth S. Parker are the two most significant people associated with the Parker Pen Company in its history because they made the decisions that affected the growth and development of the company for the 100 years it was successful. Most of these decisions were probably made in the company's 1920s office building in downtown Janesville and it would be the most significant building related to the company. But, in the 1970s, the company decided to remodel the building and it was completely encased in stone veneer and given a contemporary appearance. It no longer reflects the important historic activities that once took place there. George S. Parker's home would also be a significant location related to the accomplishments of the founder of the company, but it was demolished in 1969, ironically, by Kenneth Parker. When Kenneth Parker's mother died in 1968, she left him the old house not too far from the site of this house. Kenneth Parker decided to donate the old house to the City of Janesville and have it demolished to create a small urban park named for the family.[14]

The demolition of George Parker's home and the remodeling of the historic factory and office building in downtown Janesville leaves only this house and the modern factory as resources related to the Parker Pen Company. The modern factory building may have some significance for its association with the company at the peak of its success, but does not represent Kenneth Parker's career as his offices remained at the now-remodeled headquarters building. Therefore, this house is the property most closely associated with Kenneth Parker, who, while he lived here, developed the Parker Pen Company into what became the world's largest pen manufacturer.

Conclusion

The Whiton-Parker House is historically significant under Criterion B for its association with persons who were significant in Janesville's and Wisconsin's history, Edward V. Whiton and Kenneth S. Parker. Edward V. Whiton was a pioneer leader who represented Janesville and Rock County's interests in the early territorial legislature of Wisconsin and who, while he lived in this house, served as the first Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. He was significant in developing American legal institutions in Wisconsin during early statehood. The house is also significant for its association with Kenneth S. Parker, who, while he lived here, was responsible for the growth of the Parker Pen Company into both one of Janesville's largest and most important industries and, as a specialty manufacturer of international renown.

[14] "Site of Old Parker Home Donated to City for Park," *Janesville Gazette*, August 7, 1969, 1.

Integrity

This fine home has undergone some alterations since Judge Whiton lived here. However, most of its exterior and interior is intact, and it occupies its original site on a large lot that still suggests the rural location it had when first built. The main block and rear ell are the same size as originally built and have retained the red brick walls, roof shapes, and wide frieze that Whiton would be familiar with. The historic multi-light sashes with original lintels and sills and period operational shutters of the main block would also be familiar to Whiton. The sun room addition and the changes to the rear ell are not part of the Whiton era, but overall, the house retains enough of its original historic appearance to be recognizable to Whiton.

Kenneth Parker would also clearly recognize his home, as most of the 1927 alterations he commissioned are extant. These include: the sun room addition, front porch, dormers and the library remodeling. The second floor sun room and master bedroom have had some modern alterations, but the general plan of the second floor would be familiar to Parker.

The modern alterations made to the house within the last 25 years have largely involved updating the mechanical systems and making the home functional for the twenty-first century. These changes do not overwhelm either the original historic details of the house or the important 1927 alterations, most of which are extant. With its historic exterior, an intact interior plan, and much of its historic character extant, this house stands out as an elegant family home significant to both Janesville and the state of Wisconsin as the home of two of Wisconsin's leading citizens.

Acknowledgements

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End of Statement of Significance

___Insert References

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___End of References

___Insert Boundary Descriptions

Verbal Boundary Description:

The Whiton-Parker House boundary is as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the south curb line of East Milwaukee Street and the east curb line of South Garfield Avenue, then 162 feet south along the east curb line of North Garfield Avenue to the south lot line, then 75 feet east along this south lot line to the point where the lot line begins traveling northeast, then continuing 228 feet along this line to the intersection of the east lot line, then northwest 163 feet along the east lot line to the intersection of the south curb line of East Milwaukee Street, then southwest along this curb line to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

For much of the twentieth century, this house was located on three acres of land. The house occupied the front of the acreage and the remaining acreage at the back was wooded. In 1992, the land was parceled off into six approximately half-acre lots. The Whiton-Parker house is on the front two lots, making up an almost one-acre site. New houses have been built on the back lots. The Whiton-Parker House is buffered from this new construction by landscaping and a long driveway. Therefore, the house has retained its historic setting even though it has lost some of its acreage. The mature lawns and trees around the house are similar to what has surrounded the house during its historic period.

___End of Boundary Descriptions

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

___Insert Photo Descriptions

Name of Property:	Whiton-Parker House
City or Vicinity:	Janesville
County:	Rock County
State:	WI
Name of Photographer:	Carol Lohry Cartwright
Date of Photographs	January, 2015
Location of Original Digital Files:	Wisconsin Historical Society, Division of Historic Preservation, 816 State St., Madison, WI 53706

WI_Rock County_Whiton-Parker House_0001	Site view, camera facing south
WI_Rock County_Whiton-Parker House_0002	North and east facades, camera facing southwest
WI_Rock County_Whiton-Parker House_0003	View of west facade, camera facing southeast
WI_Rock County_Whiton-Parker House_0004	View of south facade, camera facing northwest
WI_Rock County_Whiton-Parker House_0005	Interior, dining room
WI_Rock County_Whiton-Parker House_0006	Interior, foyer
WI_Rock County_Whiton-Parker House_0007	Interior, view looking into dining room
WI_Rock County_Whiton-Parker House_0008	Interior, living room
WI_Rock County_Whiton-Parker House_0009	Interior, Library
WI_Rock County_Whiton-Parker House_0010	Interior, sun room, first floor
WI_Rock County_Whiton-Parker House_0011	Interior, main block staircase
WI_Rock County_Whiton-Parker House_0012	Interior, second floor bedroom
WI_Rock County_Whiton-Parker House_0013	Interior, second floor master bedroom
WI_Rock County_Whiton-Parker House_0014	Interior, second floor office

___End of Photo Descriptions

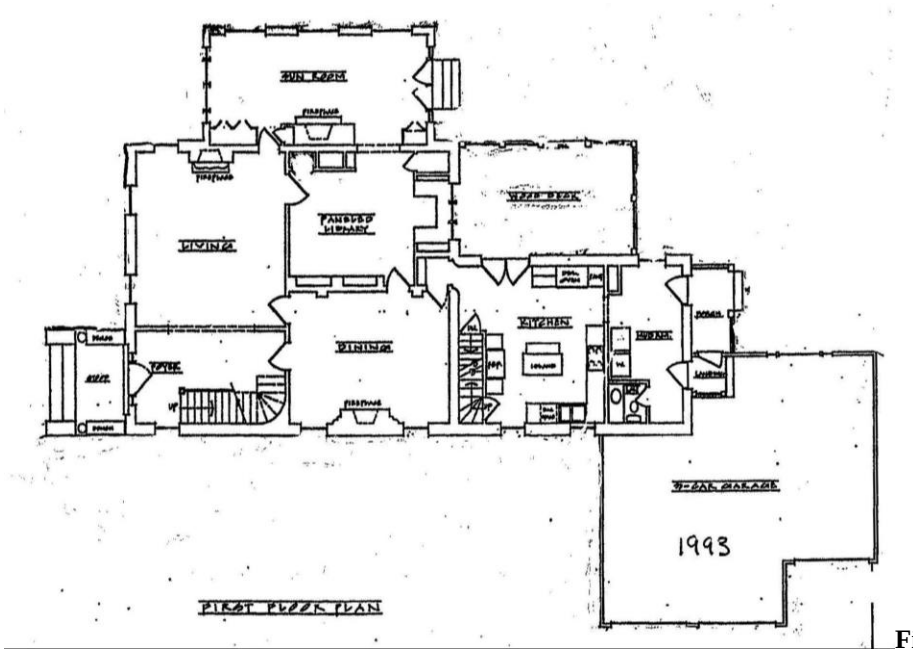
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

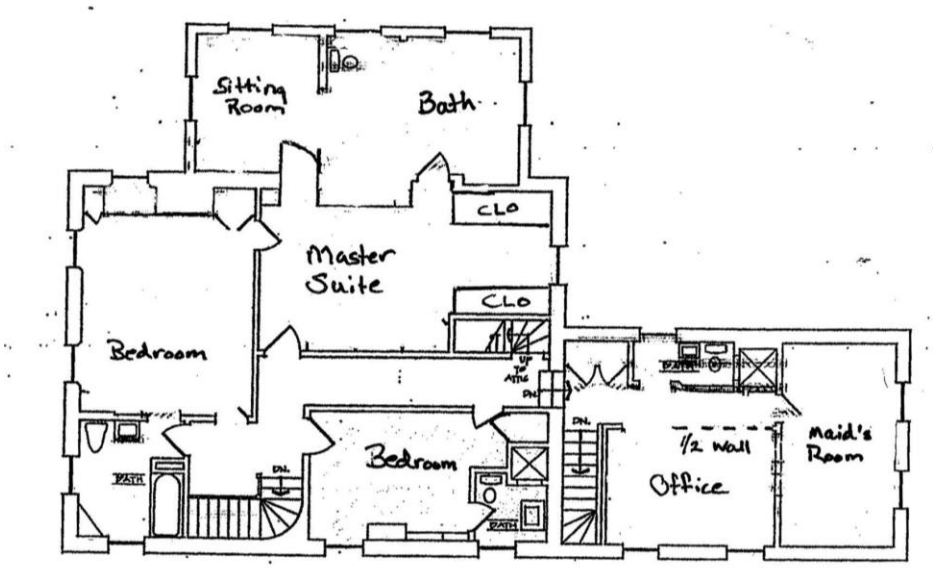
___Insert Figures

Not to Scale

⇦ **North**



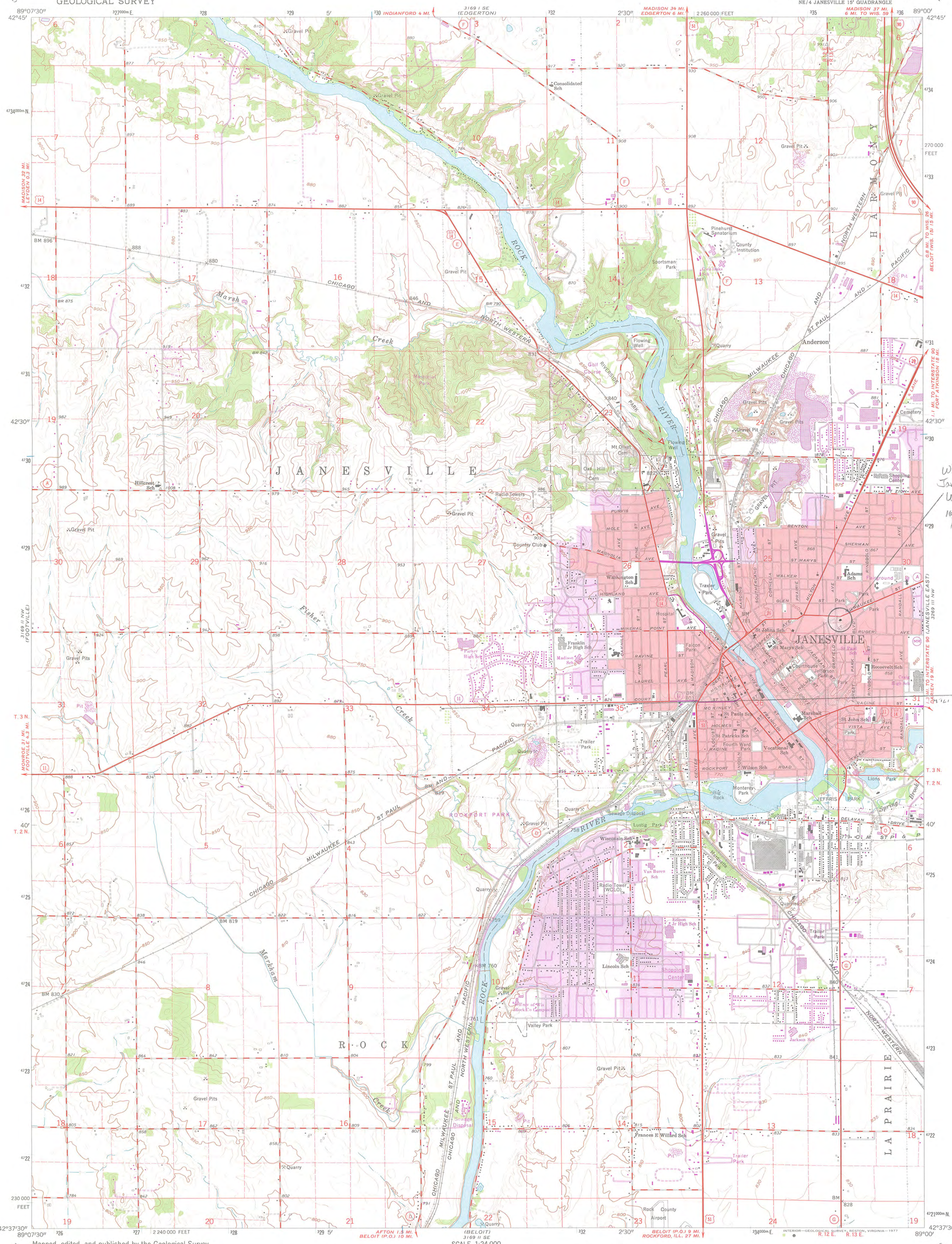
First Floor



Second Floor

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

JANESVILLE WEST QUADRANGLE
WISCONSIN—ROCK CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE/4 JANESVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with State of Wisconsin agencies

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1960. Field checked 1961

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Wisconsin coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1971 and 1976. This information not field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

UTM GRID AND 1976 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty — Light-duty
Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route — U. S. Route — State Route

JANESVILLE WEST, WIS.
NE/4 JANESVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE
N4237.5—W8900/7.5

1961
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