

## COURTHOUSE NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

January 21, 1994

Dear Courthouse Neighbors and Friends,

Just a brief note to let you know that your Courthouse Area Neighborhood Association Steering Committee is forging ahead with active plans to protect our neighborhood. We have attended Appleton City Council meetings and Outagamie County Supervisor Board meetings to learn more about the situation and to keep these city and county representatives aware of our position.

At this point, we feel fairly confident that we are keeping abreast of the ongoing happenings and would like to assure all of you that the situation does not seem quite as bleak as it did when we first met as a group. Surprisingly enough, we have discovered supporters within the city and council members who are sympathetic to our cause, and we were extremely pleased to learn that the county executive was quite shocked by our initial group response to his proposal to acquire a five-block area in our neighborhood for Justice Center surface parking purposes. Some "insiders" agree it "caused the largest, loudest uproar ever heard in response to a county proposal." (Three cheers for us!)

As you know, the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission has been asked to do a study of courthouse area parking needs. We are equally pleased to report that East Central is interested in meeting with our group in the near future for our input. In addition, Alderman Kalata has introduced a resolution in the City Council to "use the courthouse neighborhood as a prototype for a city-wide neighborhood preservation program." This is where matters stand at this time.

Currently, we are pursuing several areas surrounding this issue, including:

- \* applying to the Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation for nomination to the 1994 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties and Preservation Watch Designations

- \* investigating the feasibility of calling for an environmental impact study on the effect of additional traffic congestion on the neighborhood area
- \* establishing neighborhood goals
- \* pursuing legal easements or deed restrictions to obstruct purchase of private property for Courthouse parking purposes
- \* gathering and compiling historical information on individual homes in the area in preparation for nomination as an historic neighborhood.

This newsletter accompanies a letter/questionnaire that addresses and initiates the latter item. We are asking for your help in documenting our historic properties, and aware that much of the lore connected to our area is passed down orally from one generation to the next. Please help us record this valuable knowledge and supply us with names of former residents or relatives who might provide additional information. Even the smallest tidbit of information could prove helpful.

In the future, we will share interesting news about our historic homes and keep you abreast of upcoming events. To whet your appetite for historical research, we have included a copy of the Courthouse Walking Tour Map done by the Outagamie County Historical Society in 1980. We hope to fill in the blank spaces you see in the blocks very soon. Happy hunting!

The Historical Committee

Sally Johnson 733-0879  
 Frank Council 733-5766  
 Linda Muldoon 730-8954  
 Jackie Dungar 739-4656  
 Joyce Anderson 734-7484  
 Ann Sager 733-2370

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COURTHOUSE NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORICAL SURVEY  
January 20, 1994

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer the following questionnaire and return it to  
Sally Johnson  
325 West Prospect Avenue  
733-0879

Since our time to complete this project is limited, we would like  
your response by February 3, 1994

- To aid you in this task we suggest that you check:
- \* your property abstract (available at the Courthouse)
  - \* the library (newspaper articles, plat books, insurance maps, city directories, etc., in the Wisconsin Collection)
  - \* the Courthouse (Register of Deeds, tax assessment rolls, Courthouse records)
  - \* the Outagamie County Historical Society.

Also, talk to neighbors if they have lived in the area a long time.

Owner(s) of land previous to home construction: \_\_\_\_\_

Year home was built \_\_\_\_\_  
Architect and/or contractor \_\_\_\_\_

Material of which home is constructed \_\_\_\_\_  
Significant architecture (or style) \_\_\_\_\_

Please list owners (family members if known) in chronological order from first to immediately preceding your purchase. The State surveyors are particularly interested in **PROMINENT** people who have occupied the residence (community leaders and individuals well known for significant community or other contributions).

Owner (family members): \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Owner (family members): \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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Owner (family members): \_\_\_\_\_

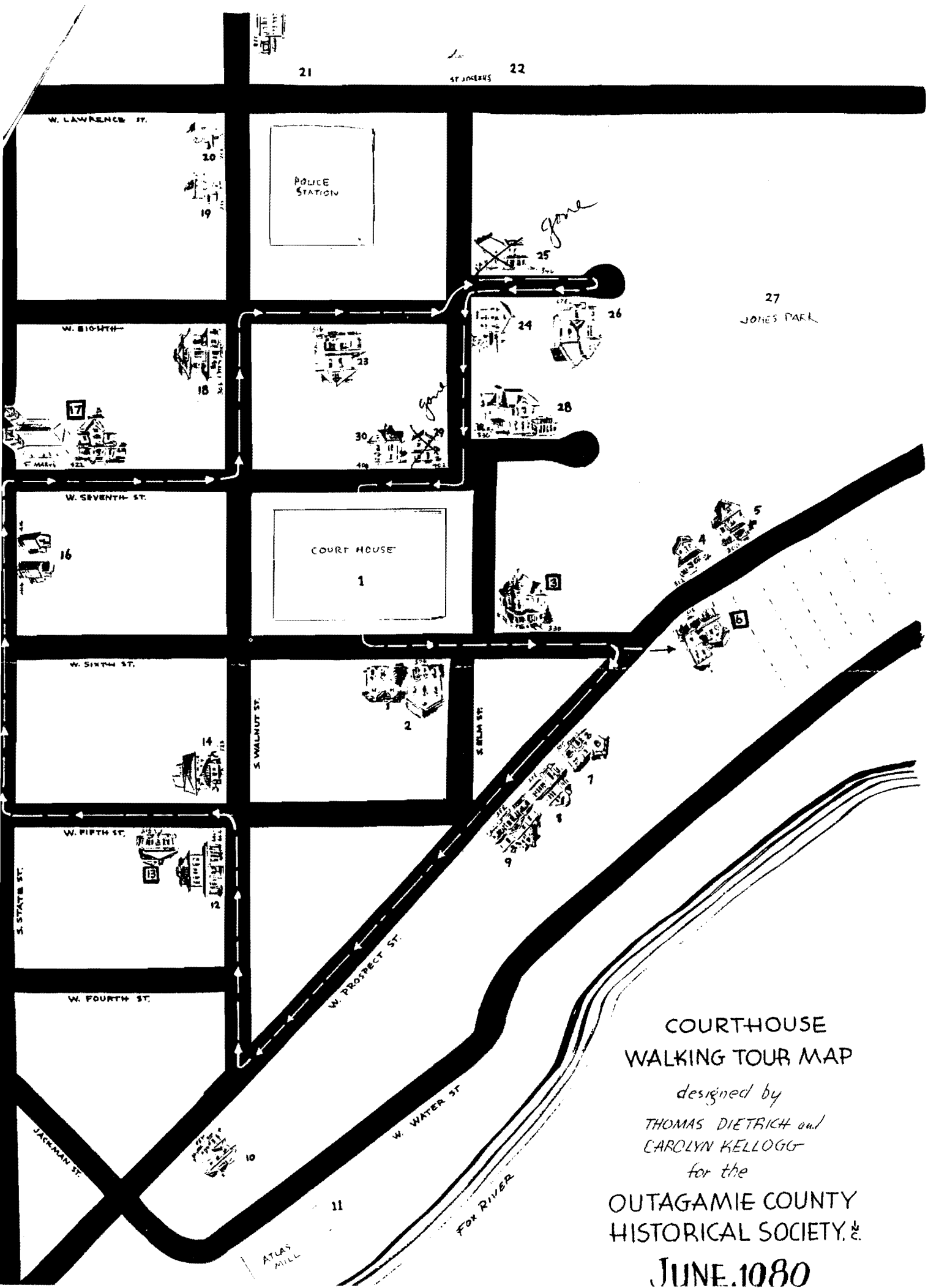
Occupation(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Are there other individuals you could recommend to our group as reference sources (for your home or others)? \_\_\_\_\_

Any unusual occurrences or stories or anecdotes or events associated with your residence? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Please attach extra sheets, if necessary.)



COURTHOUSE  
WALKING TOUR MAP  
*designed by*  
THOMAS DIETRICH and  
CAROLYN KELLOGG  
*for the*  
OUTAGAMIE COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.  
JUNE.1080

## Courthouse Walking Tour



1. Theodore Conkey donated Courthouse Square in 1851 as the nucleus of the Village of Martin, later Grand Chute.
2. 403 W. 6th, 1878 home of County Treas. Nick Weiland.
3. Appleton tailor Henry Schuetter built 330 W. 6th in 1890 in the turreted Queen Anne style.
4. 312 W. Prospect was childhood home of noted artist Francis Scott Bradford, Jr. who painted our courthouse murals.
5. 300 W. Prospect was worth \$1,200 to pump manufacturer T. W. Brown in 1869, later owned by J. H. Whorton.
6. National Register 1870 home of financier lumberman John Hart Whorton, Italianate style, 315 W. Prospect.
7. #325 is pre-1873 home of Mayor E. C. Goff, '80's pres. of the Gas Light Co. and the Commercial Nat. Bank.
8. #329 is 1901-built home of church artist Wm. Scheer; his Stations of the Cross are at St. Joseph's.
9. Pillared arches and art glass decorate interior of 335 W. Prospect, built in 1903.  
Pre-1853 home of pioneer land developer Theodore Conkey who put Outagamie County before Legislature in 1851; 433 W. Prospect is center part of pioneer mansion.
11. 1878 Kimberly-Clark Atlas Paper Mill is on site of Theodore Conkey's 1853 Genessee Flouring Mill.
12. 601-603 S. Walnut is 1871 home of lime mfg. Adam Mertes.
13. 515 W. 5th, the Lester Balliet home, is reportedly the oldest house in Appleton, built 1851 on E. John Street and moved to present location in 1934.
14. 523 South Walnut is Turn of the Century home of lumberman Wm. Reilly, improved by Henry Reuter.
15. A Civil War era stonemason built 523 S. State for teamster James Tompkins. 1864
16. 414 and 416 State were built in early 1880's as one home, divided after 1925.
17. St. Mary Rectory designed 1885 by architect Chas. Hove.
18. 303 Walnut, 1870's home of Justice of Peace James Lennon, great-grandfather of singing Lennon Sisters.
19. This early 1870's saloon sold groceries in Gay '90's, soft drinks during Prohibition.
20. Century-old saloon/boarding house was childhood home of Viet Nam and football hero Rocky Bleier.
21. 118 S. Walnut is 1880 Alberty-Dohr Hotel on site of Anderson horse-drawn house-moving service.
22. St. Joseph Church was built 1874 by German Catholics who split from St. Mary Irish Catholic congregation.
23. This 1895 house and #409 were built by Peter Heid, grandfather of founder of Heid Music Co.
- ✓ 24. 302 S. Elm is 1871 gem owned in 80's and 90's by contractor-carpenter Henry Hoffman.
25. 340 W. 8th is Early Home (lumberman Wm. Early, 1871); notice paving on 8th Street, orig. called High Street.
26. Built in 1874, 327 W. Eighth was the home of banker, brewer and boot dealer Joseph Rossmessl.
27. In 1909 George C. Jones, an Appleton lawyer, donated the deep ravine behind his Prospect Ave. home "to be forever used as a public park and playground."
28. 330 W. 7th is early 1880's Eastlake Italianate home of dry goods and insurance salesman Julius Peerenboom.
- ✓ 29. 402 W. 7th is pre-1872 home of saddler Gerhard Kamps who built the horse-head harness shop, 207 W. College.
30. 408 W. 7th is 1894 home of J.H. Kamps of popular turn of the century Kamps-Sacksteder Drug Store.

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