La Crosse County Historic Sites Preservation Commission Attn: Cheryl Stephens 400 4th St. N. La Crosse, WI 54601

LA CROSSE COUNTY SITES SURVEY NOMINATION FORM No.

1.) Name of site (also original name, if known) or property name:

Howard/Kumm/Schwalbe House

2.) Current Location: 4115 Bank Drive, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 54601 County: La Crosse Name of Township: Shelby

Township No: 15 North

Range No: 7 West

Section: 21

NW 1/4 NE 1/4

The s. 75 ft., except the e. 160 ft. of Lot #7, Block 3 of Joseph Bochert's Suburban Addition to the Town of Shelby, La Crosse County, Wisconsin

2a.) Historic Location: 315 South 3rd Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin Lot 3 Block 11 Dousman and Cameron Addition, City of La Crosse

3.) Classification of site or property to be nominated:

Category	Ownership of Property	Status of Property	Present Use
*Legend Geology Historic Event Archaeology Historic District X Building(s) Site Object (s) Theme: Describe: _ir	Public X Private Both ntact relocation	Occupied Unoccupied	Agricultural Commercial Educational Entertainment Government Industrial Military Museum Park Private Residence Religious Scientific Transportation Other:

4.) Owner of Property to Be Nominated

Name: Laura Schwalbe

Street and Number: 4115 Bank Drive

City: La Crosse

State: WI

Zip: 54601

Telephone: 608-787-6450

5.) Photos included & Sketches attached

6.) SIGNIFICANCE

The nominated property is a well-preserved example of a modest Civil War era home built near the center of historic downtown La Crosse. Research of tax roll records at the Area Research Center on the UW La Crosse campus indicates the dwelling was built in 1864 for George Howard, a clerk for the Martindale Druggist also located in downtown La Crosse. The simple two-story rectangular wood frame structure is typical of many homes of the time period and was possibly built by the owner or local carpenters. City Directory entries indicate that by the mid 1880s the dwelling was used as a boarding house. The building was sold at auction in 1954 for \$1000 according to a previous owner and moved that year by Ralph Kumm to its present site and placed on a new foundation. (see photo) In 1997 the home was purchased by Laura Schwalbe and has been well maintained inside and out with great sensitivity to the historic character of the building.

The original location of the home was determined by matching the names of adjacent business that were evident in the moving photos from 1954 with the City Directories 1950-1953. The 1884 Sanborn map confirms the location of a dwelling at 315 South 3rd Street of similar size and shape to the dwelling with additions that appears on the 1906 Sanborn map. The 1906 Sanborn Map indicates a footprint for the home that is essentially the same today.

The Howard/K umm/Schwalbe home is significant because it represents a style of residential construction popular in the mid-19th century in a mostly intact and unaltered condition. The successful relocation of the dwelling from the commercial center of downtown La Crosse to the growing suburban area just south of the city nearly 100 years later is indicative of social and economic patterns and growth in La Crosse. The choice of siding and architectural detailing of window trim, eaves and open porch is consistent with mid-19th century ornamentation of vernacular and local Italianate style homes of the period. The symmetrical nearly cubic mass with hip roof, tall windows, paired brackets and dentiling are typical of the transitional Italianate style.

DESCRIPTION

The original condition of the exterior is unknown but the current exterior reflects period appropriate roof, window and door openings and placement as well as the open porch and ornamentation described above. The interior floor plan (see attached) is apparently unaltered. Placement of entry, staircase, living and dining rooms, kitchen and pantry area

are all period appropriate. Wood floors and trim appear to be mostly intact and there are leaded glass windows in the living room that may be original and likely date from the late 19th century. The interior of the home is modest but well maintained.

Because the home has been relocated, has vinyl siding and is not clearly associated with a significant person or event in La Crosse history, it is unlikely that it is eligible for the National or State Register of Historic Places. However, it is significant locally for the Town of Shelby and La Crosse County. It is possibly one of the oldest non-farm residences in the Town of Shelby and clearly the oldest and most intact home of its time period in the immediate and surrounding area. Also, it is a well preserved working class home that was part of the earliest residential neighborhood in La Crosse. The Howard/Kumm/Schwalbe House represents a fine example of how the majority of settlement era La Crosse citizens may have experienced residential life.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Home being moved down South Ave (?) c1954 black and white photo
- 2) Recent color photos showing exterior of home from different perspectives
- 3) Close-up color photos showing current but period appropriate details
- 4) Location map with original and current location
- 5) 1906 (updated 1940) Sanborn map with historic location, address and foot-print
- 6) Current floor plan

8) REFERENCE AND COLLECTIONS

Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Maps 1884 and 1906 La Crosse City Directories 1950-1954 La Crosse City Tax Rolls 1863-1865 Photo Collection of owner

9.) Nomination submitted by:

Name: Eric J Wheeler

Street: 223 23rd Street North

City: La Crosse

State: WI

Zip: 54601

Telephone: 608-785-7383

For Information/Questions, Contact Committee Members:

King Holley - The Table 1

Brenda Jordan -

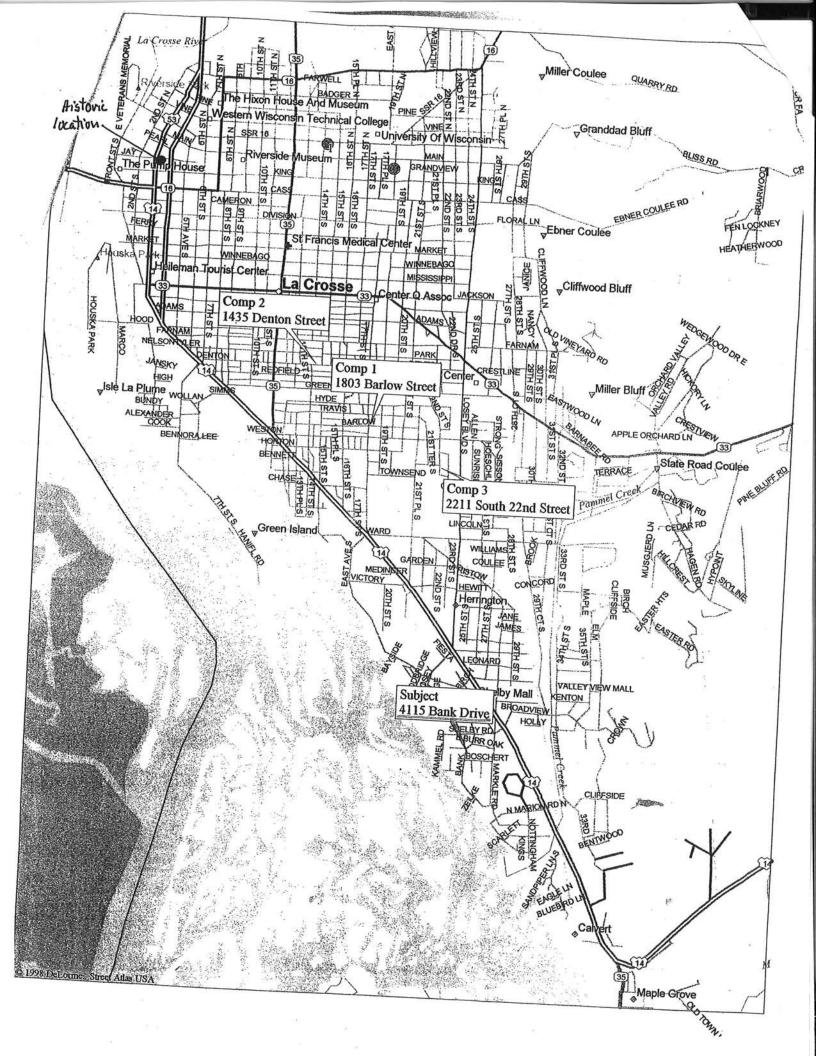
Richard Bedessem -

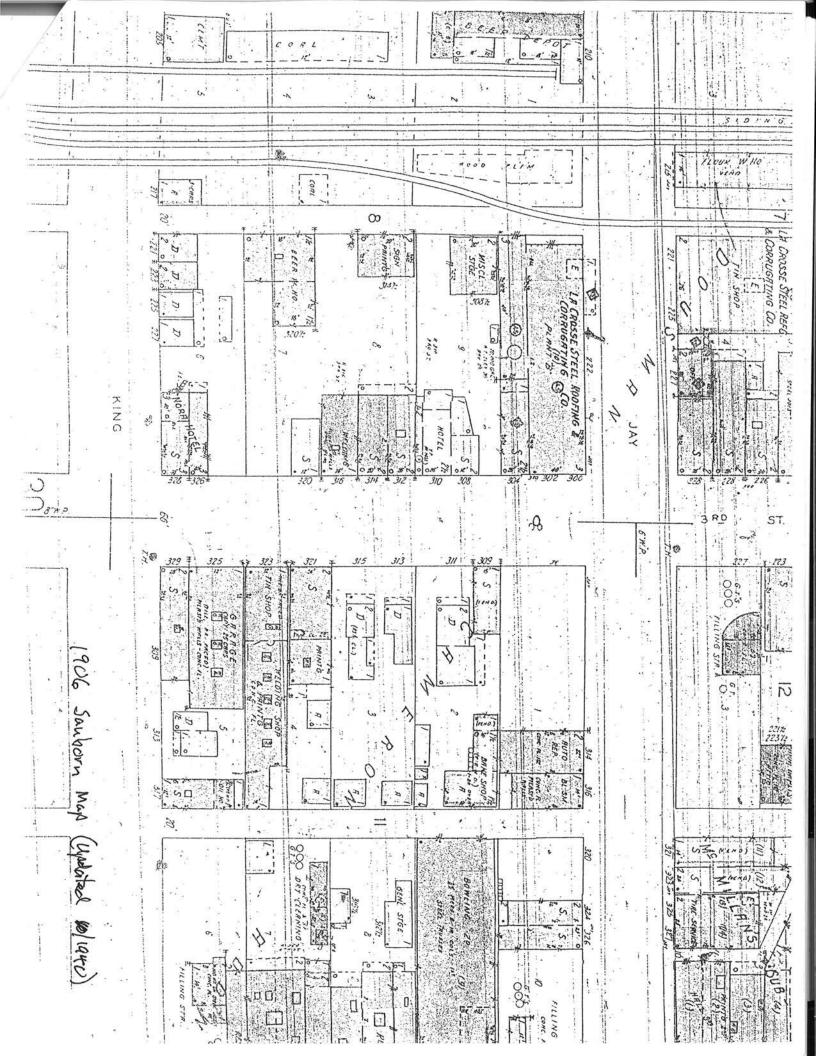
Barb Kooiman Sharon Mahlum -

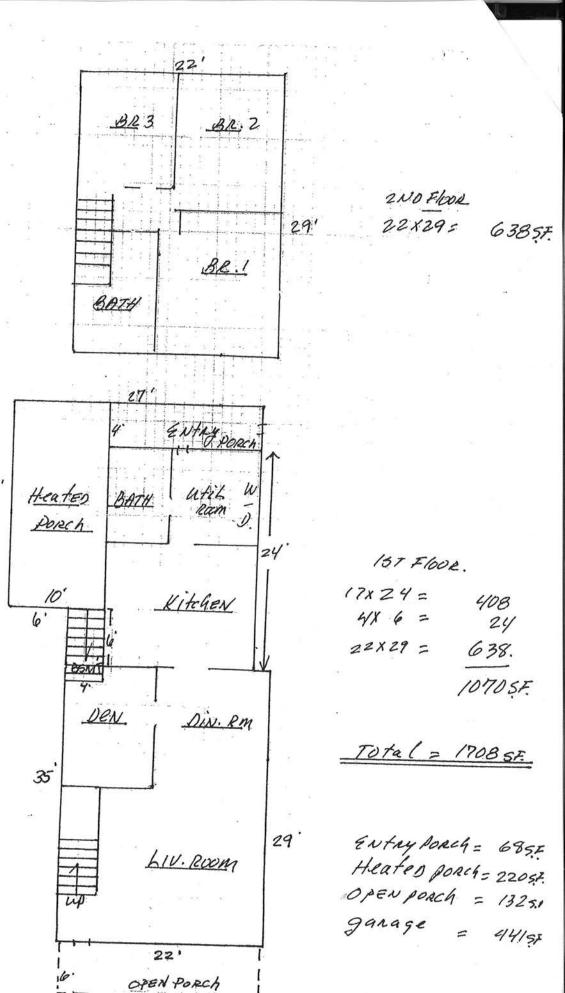
Harriet Schuppel - 7

Vicki Twinde-Javner - Tariffic

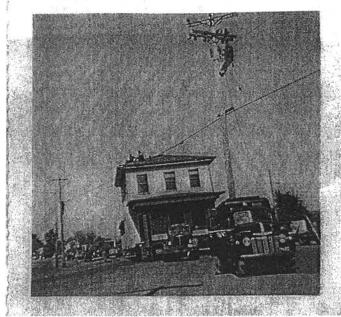
revised October 2002



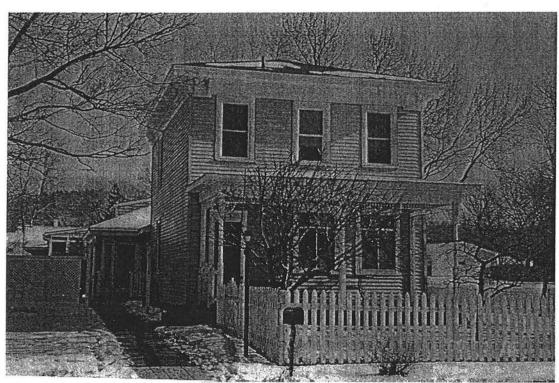




LaCrosse County Historic Sites Preservation Commission Nomination



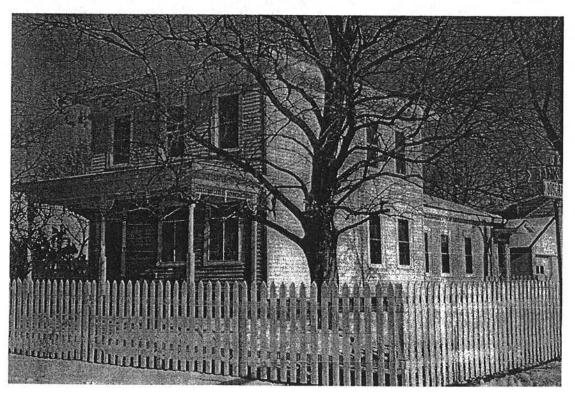
Howard House being moved by Kumm family, ca. 1954



Howard/Kumm/Schwalbe House

LaCrosse County Historic Sites Preservation Commission Nomination





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