John Hart Whorton was an Appleton pioneer and one of the city's most influential businessmen. Over a working career that spanned 45 years he was connected with the lumber, wood-working, flour, paper and banking industries. He started life in Wisconsin in 1855 as a lumberman and ran a successful saw mill in Appleton's Third Ward with his brother William. In 1881 he helped organize the Commercial National Bank of Appleton and served first as vice-president and then president of this enterprise. Mr. Whorton was also instrumental in the organization of the Fox River Paper Company and served as general manager of this corporation for years. He was a member of the board of trustees of Lawrence University and president of the board of the Methodist Church of Appleton.

The Whorton house at 315 W. Prospect Ave. was built in 1870 and is one of the finest examples of a High Victorian Italianate Villa style home in Appleton. It was designed by noted architect William Waters of Oshkosh, Wis. The home added was added to the National and State Registers of Historic Places on November 19, 1974. The following is a description of the house as written in the National Register nomination form:

"The Whorton house is a two-and-one-half story house with a three-story tower. Constructed of cream-colored brick it is decorated with carved wood details. The front facade is asymmetrical. On one side of this facade is a two-story bay with a heavily corniced gable. There is a round othic window decorated with prominent stone keystones and raised bricks. The cornice is supported by elaborately carved wooden brackets. On the other side of the facade is a three-story bay, the third being a square tower with a flat roof visually supported by wooden brackets. Across the front of the house is a one-story porch supported by six wooden columns. The roof above overhangs and is decorated with dentils. Above there is a balustrade marked by posts topped with ornamental finials. The house has a wide variety of fenestration. The main entrance is through arched double doors. There are paired stilted arch windows to one side of the door and a single stilted arch window on the other side, all ornamented with hoodmolds."

References-
Appleton Crescent, July 23, 1870.
HISTORIC STRUCTURE OR HISTORIC SITE DESIGNATION
APPLICATION TO THE
CITY OF APPLETON
100 N. APPLETON STREET
APPLETON, WI 54911

File Date
Pages in Application 2 of 2

HISTORIC or COMMON NAME: (if any) JOHN HART WHORTON HOUSE

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
9 day of November 2000
Notary Public, Winn County
Signature

My Commission Expires 4/13/2001 (SEAL)
Date 11/19/00

Preapplication Conference 11/15/00 Application Complete 11/16/00 Donald Hart

Fee $ Acct # NA Receipt # NA Date Paid 11/16/00

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made upon request and if feasible.
January 24, 2001

Ann, Kristene and Kenneth Sager
315 West Prospect Avenue
Appleton, WI 54911

Dear Sagers:

This is to inform you on January 17, 2001, the Common Council adopted the following recommendation of the Community Development Committee:

Designate the John Hart Whorton house located at 315 West Prospect Avenue as a local historic structure as it complies with Section 23-337 Historic Structure Designation Criteria BE APPROVED.

(5-0)

Please be so advised.

Sincerely,

Don Harp
Principal Planner II

DH:bb

cc: Cindi Hesse, City Clerk
Jim Dallman, Inspections Supervisor
Dawn Washatka, City Assessor