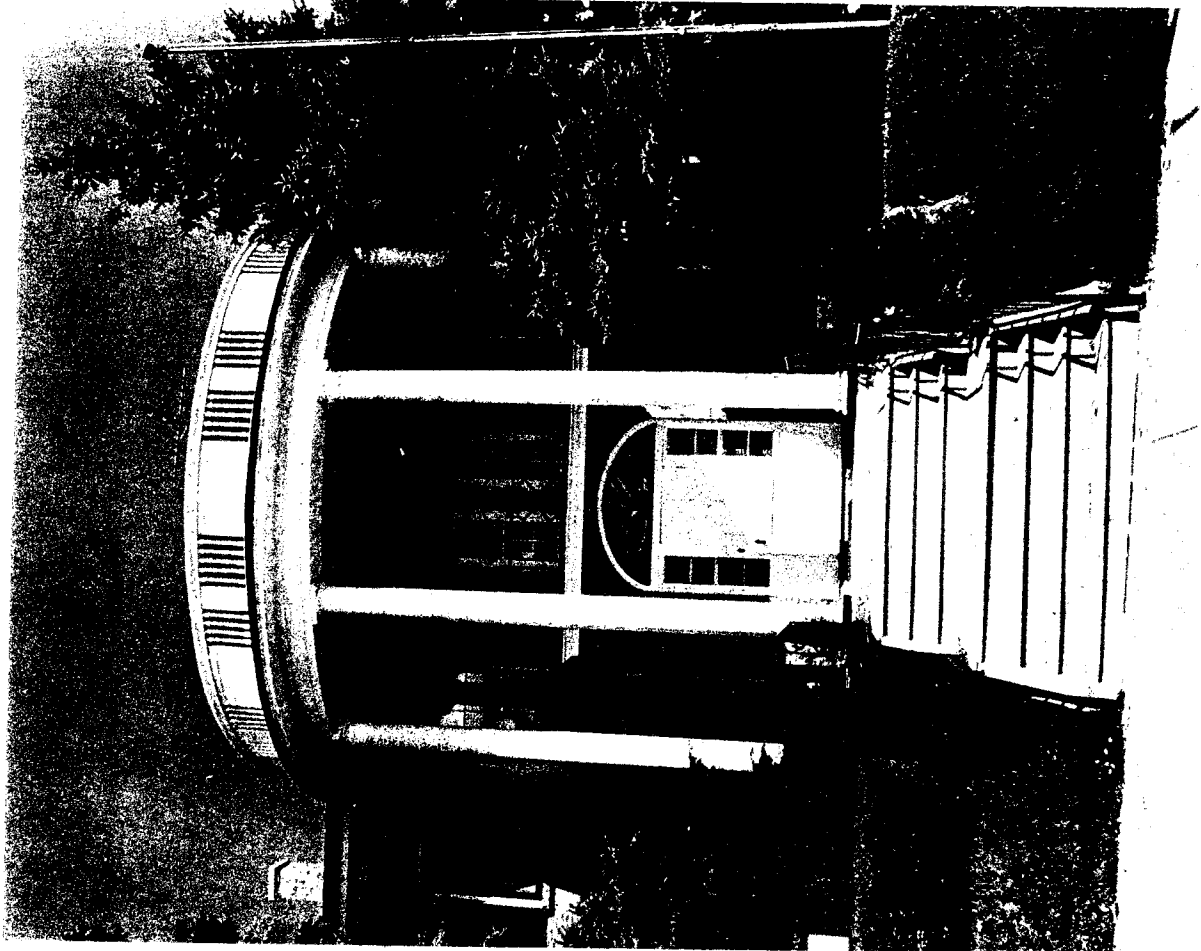


# 10 Rogan Home

314 W. Main St.  
(Owner: Weber Realty Co.)



Many abstracts for properties west of the Rock River began with the names of James and Patrick Rogan, brothers who came to Watertown in 1837. James, for the sum of \$1, received the deed for the property that included the site of the Rogan House in 1836, a year before he came to Watertown.

The Rogans set up camp in a two-room shanty, which became headquarters for the earliest arrivals in town. The Rogan House, a Federal style square house, with Italianate influence, was built in the 1860s and began as a square house with central hall and main rooms on both sides. Arched front windows and a cupola were on the original house, but the porch, two-story pillars and the addition on the east side of the building were completed in 1941 when the home was converted into a funeral home.

Old letters written by James related that 400 Winnebagoes were his good neighbors. Patrick was a member of Wisconsin's first constitutional convention, helped organize a school system, was a four-time member of the state legislature, and postmaster for eight years. He was known as a most public spirited citizen. Peter Rogan, a younger brother who joined his brothers in Watertown, also served as postmaster. The Rogans, from Watertown, New York, were instrumental in getting the name of Johnson's Rapids, Watertown's early name, changed to Watertown for their home town.

Patrick and his wife donated the land on which St. Bernard's first church was built in 1846. The present church cornerstone was laid in 1873 and the church was completed in 1875 on the same property. The Rogan home, in later years, was owned by the James Boyle family, and later by Bernard Helser. Both operated it as a funeral home.

T. W. Weber, president of Weber Realty, said to be an authority on the Civil War, purchased the building in 1978, and personally supervised its renovation. Marble flooring is now in the foyer, porcelain knobs are on the doors, and different types of lighting fixtures were installed. Weber has submitted an application for Rogan House to be officially proclaimed a historic landmark.