



Byron Buffington House

1500 State Street
1890, Queen Anne



Except for the simplified upper porches, this house appears much as it did in the 1890s. A prominent feature is the cut-stone foundation, characteristic of Victorian houses.

Buffington arrived in Eau Claire in 1856, when he was five years old. The family lived in a log house. His father, George, operated a steamboat and a sawmill that later became the Valley Lumber company.

Byron Buffington engaged in logging for several years and involved himself in a number of local enterprises, including the Eau Claire Grocery Company, the Chippewa Valley Bank, and the Chippewa Valley Light and Power Company, which later became Northern States Power Company and then Xcel Energy. He donated land overlooking Half Moon Lake for Lakeview Cemetery. His widow, Fanny Hoover Buffington, left the house to the Episcopal Diocese of Eau Claire as a home for the aged. It served this function until March 2001.