



Martin Van Buren Barron House

221 Washington Street
1871, Carpenter Gothic



One of the most striking remnants of Eau Claire's early decades, this picturesque residence was constructed by Eau Claire builders Bangs and Fish. Highlighting the steeply pitched gables are scalloped bargeboards, which became popular in the late nineteenth century with the advent of mass production of wood trim. The wraparound porch was common for houses in the Victorian era and served as a center for social activities.

Martin Van Buren Barron settled in Eau Claire in 1865 and initially operated a flour and feed store. From 1878 to 1891 he worked for the Rust-Owen Lumber Company. In 1872, he was elected a member of the first city council of Eau Claire, representing the lower Third Ward.