



Waldemar Ager House

514 West Madison Street
1892-94, Victorian Cottage



This distinctive dwelling is lavishly ornamented by hand and machine detail provided by the original owner-carpenter, Brady Anderson, locally known for his carving ability. Within the gable at the front of the house are elaborately carved floral and leaf designs.

Waldemar Ager, a leading member of Eau Claire's Norwegian community, was editor of the Norwegian-language weekly *Reform*, and had a by-line for the *Minneapolis Tribune*. He augmented his newspaper work with lectures on both temperance and Norwegian-American affairs. His literary output included short stories, essays, two short novels and a history of the 15th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, all written in Norwegian. His novel *Sons of the Old Country* is set in Eau Claire and tells the story of the conflicts of Norwegian immigrants with their Irish co-workers and English bosses. His son Trygve, also a writer, has translated it into English. Waldemar Ager's writings earned him recognition from the King of Norway, the Norwegian Society of America and the Norwegian Literary Association. He died in Eau Claire in 1941.

The Ager House was moved to its present site from 429 Chestnut Street in 1994. It is maintained by the Waldemar Ager Association.