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CONTINUATION SHEET

Princeton Downtown Historic District, Princeton, Green Lake County, Wisconsin  
Section number 7, Page 5

Ferdinand T. Yahr Building (Contributing) 525 West Water Str. 1875<sup>9</sup> Map No. 7

The two-story Italianate style F. T. Yahr Building was built in 1875 and makes an interesting contrast to the similar-sized building next door (Map No. 6) built for the next generation of the Yahr family. The F. T. Yahr Building measures 25-feet-wide x 65-feet-deep and its once symmetrical cream brick-clad main façade faces north onto W. Water Street. This façade is framed by two-story-tall pilaster strips and it is crowned by a corbelled brick parapet. An early photo taken around 1910 shows that the appearance of the façade's first story storefront today is totally different than the original. The original storefront consisted of an arcade having six equal-width semi-circular-arched openings, which were separated from each other by wrought iron columns. A continuous masonry bulkhead ran beneath these openings, two of which contained entrance doors and four, display windows. Now, all of these elements have been replaced by a modern asymmetrical storefront having smaller modern display windows enframed by panels of brick veneer that are surmounted by a large full-width metal signboard.

The second story of this façade, however, is still largely intact. This story is four-bays-wide and consists of four semi-circular-arched window openings whose corbelled brick heads are all connected, forming a second arcade. Broad brick mullions separate these openings, which originally contained four-over-four-light double hung wood sash windows but now contain modern flat-arched one-over-one-light double hung metal sash. Stone keystones are centered on the window heads and the façade is crowned with one of Princeton's more elaborately corbelled brick parapet walls.

Ferdinand T. Yahr was born in Prussia in 1834 and emigrated to America with his family in 1849. Yahr eventually learned the blacksmith trade, which brought him to Princeton in 1861, where he worked as a foreman in the wagon shop at August Diehl. After two years spent running his own shop, he became a dealer in agricultural implements. In 1874, Yahr opened a hardware store and the following year built this building to house his store, in the rear of which he also operated the Village's first private bank.

<sup>9</sup> History of Northern Wisconsin. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1881, pp. 360-361.

