

W. Water Street 505-509 Historical

NPS Form 10-900a

Rev. 8-86

Wisconsin Word Processor Format

Approved 2/87

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Princeton Downtown Historic District, Princeton, Green Lake County, Wisconsin

Section number 7, Page 1

Tassler/Reetz Double Building (Contributing) 505-09 West Water St. 1905-1910³ Map No. 2

The Tassler/Reetz Double Store Building is a late two-story rectilinear plan Commercial Vernacular form building of very simple design that measures 25-feet-wide x 75-feet-deep. The building was constructed between 1905 and 1910, it rests on concrete block foundation walls, and the rear and side walls that rest on this foundation are also fashioned out of concrete block. The main façade which faces north onto W. Water Street, is clad in cream brick and it rises up to a simple corbelled brick parapet that is crowned by a fine sheet metal cornice whose end elements are decorated with raised rinceau ornament. An early photo taken around 1910 shows that this façade's first story was originally symmetrical in design.* An entrance door serving the second story was centered on this story and this entrance was surmounted by a tall one-light transom. The general layout of this story is still intact as is the original cast iron lintel that spans it and the original cast iron pilaster strips that flank the still intact centered entrance door. Both of the storefronts, however, have now been partially filled in with later materials.

³ Village and City of Princeton Tax Rolls. All surviving Green Lake County tax rolls are kept at the Area Record Center at UW-Oshkosh. Regrettably, the only ones that have been kept are: 1885-1900; 1905; 1910; 1915; 1920; 1925; 1930; 1935; 1940; 1945; 1950. Also see: Village (and City) of Princeton, Sanborn-Pettis Fire Insurance Maps, 1904, 1914.

*Unless otherwise noted, the historical photographs referred to in the text are in the possession of the Princeton Historical Society.

The original second story of the façade is still largely intact. This story is four-bays-wide and each bay contains a single flat-arched window opening that is still filled with its original one-

over-one light double-hung wooden sash window. Two rock-faced cut stone stringcourses span the façade, one at the sill level of these windows and the other just above the window heads. A small panel of dogtooth coursed brick is also placed in the spandrel below each of the windows.

This building replaced an earlier frame double building of the same width. The left-hand store (505) of both buildings contained a harness shop, perhaps one belonging to building co-owner Edward Reetz. The other original owner of the present building, Oscar Tassler, occupied the right-hand store, which housed his tavern.