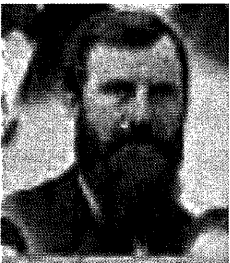




Photograph courtesy of Sylvia Schmitz.

The George Krouskop Mansion, 475 North Central Avenue, 1881.

George Krouskop was one of the pioneer settlers of Richland County and was a well-educated person who came to Richland County from Ohio along with his parents and siblings and settled in Sextonville in 1851. For a year or two he alternately taught school and ran his father's saw-mill. In 1865 he removed to Richland Center to engage in the mercantile business. In 1870 he opened one of the first banks in Richland Center and became quite prosperous; at one time he was the largest tax-payer in the city. Krouskop was one of the principle stockholders in the Pine River Valley & Stevens Point Railroad. Politically, he was a Democrat and served two terms as state senator in the Wisconsin legislature.



George Krouskop.

The Republican Observer newspaper described the Krouskop House as "An Elegant Residence" and that it was a wonder in the Richland Center of 1881. The great house stood on North Central Avenue and was two and one-half stories high, each story being 12 feet high. There were 24 rooms which included seven marble fireplaces and a large circular staircase. There were 44 large windows of which four were huge bays

made of French plate glass. The large house hosted many parties and elaborate balls with music provided by the massive grand piano. The house was deserted after Krouskop's passing and remained vacant for twenty years until it was razed for the construction of the William Schmitt House.