

## 1108 E. 4th Street

Historic Name: Hamilton & Catherine Roddis House, also later as the Augusta D. Roddis House. This is the finest example of the Dutch Colonial Revival in Marshfield, located on a large lot and is also one of the city's best period revival style houses. The home, with a portecochère and a ballroom on the third floor, was designed by Marshfield architect Gus Krasin in 1914. A large garden area, fruit trees and grapevines are located behind the house and are part of its historic setting.



The building rests on a stone foundation, which rises forty inches above the ground. A deep overhanging eave which is edged with classical cornice molding, projects from the main body of the house at the base of the roof. The eave continues across the gambrel ends delineating the base of the third floor. A central two-story entry bay projects from the main body of the house. The bay is fronted by a flat roofed portico. Hamilton was the head of Roddis Lumber and Veneer Company and showcased his company's wood products in finishing his home's interior. The Roddis family was one of the city's most prominent families.

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### MR. RODDIS CALLED TO HIS REWARD

DIED NOVEMBER 6TH AT AGE OF 76 - BORN AT TROY, N. Y. - CAME HERE IN 1894.

Prominent Churchman and Manufacturer; Ex-Mayor and Philanthropist.

Marshfield is mourning. The reason is she has lost one of her most highly honored citizens and foremost manufacturing men, namely, Hon. W. H. Roddis, ex-mayor, prominent churchman and philanthropist, who passed away at his home shortly after midnight Friday. In honor to his memory the flag has been raised to half-mast on the city hall.

Mr. Roddis had been waging a fight for some months against the disease which claimed his life and once he apparently had conquered, for he was able to be out and around again, but recently he was again overcome and forced to take to his bed, since which time he continued to fail. Every thing possible



*William Henry Roddis*

was done to save his life, but it was of no avail. During a number of days before he breathed his last he was unconscious most of the time. During his lucid moments, however, he was able to recognize relatives and friends. He passed over the great divide firm in the belief of entering the many roomed mansion of our Savior, to whose cause he was so devoted in this life.

A sad incident in the passing of this grand old man was the inability of his son, Hamilton, who was called home by wireless before completing his sojourn in the West Indies, to reach here, owing to the great distance away, before the end came. Hamilton and his wife were due to land in the states last Monday. The calculations were they would reach home yesterday or today.

William Henry Roddis was born at Troy, N. Y., January 5, 1844. At the age of four years the family moved to Milwaukee. He graduated from the Milwaukee academy. After completing his educational training he became bookkeeper, then a cashier and later entered the real estate business. In 1894 he came to this city and purchased the Hatteburg veneer factory which he developed into one of the largest industries of its kind in the country, now owned by the Roddis Lumber & Veneer company, of which he was president. Besides its plant here, the company has a large sawmill at Park Falls.

Mr. Roddis was one of the most prominent laymen in the Episcopal church circles in Wisconsin and did much to advance this branch of Christ's kingdom on earth, actively as well as financially. He gave freely and liberally, but his benefactions always were in an unostentatious manner, for he never sought publicity. In Milwaukee he was a vestryman and Sunday school superintendent for years at the Cathedral. It was through his efforts and work that St. Edmund's Mission in Milwaukee was established. Locally, he was the senior warden of St. Alban's church the past 26 years.

In recognition of his zealousness in the work for his Master he was rewarded with various high honors in the councils of the church in general. He was elected four times as a delegate to the general convention, was a member of the board of missions, a member of the board in charge of the nationwide campaign and a trustee of Nashota theological seminary, Nashota, Wis.

Besides being an ex-mayor of the city, he also served as an alderman.

Surviving him are his widow and one son, Hamilton, and one daughter, Miss Frances. He also leaves a sister, Miss Mary Roddis, New Orleans. His surviving widow was Miss Sarah L. Denton, whom he married in Mendham, N. J.

Marshfield will not seem the same without Mr. Roddis. For many years, he was a prominent figure in the city, sympathizing with our people in their trials and misfortunes and rejoicing with them in their successes. There are many in town who owe their well being to him, for he was ever ready to help those in need or distress and give advice to those in quandary. This is especially true of some of his employees, all of whom love him, in fact, his unassuming, kind and generous traits endeared him to all who knew him.

He was an ardent lover of his country and a true patriot. During the war he used his plant to help the cause of humanity.

His relations with his customers were notably just. If there was a legitimate doubt he believed in giving the patron the benefit of the doubt. In dealing with his employees his cardinal maxim was that justice and liberality will be answered by loyalty and efficient services. He held that every employee deserved from his employer encouragement and generous aid in order to develop the best there is in him.

The funeral will be held tomorrow. A requiem mass will be celebrated in St. Alban's church at 10 o'clock a. m.. Father Link will be the celebrant, assisted by Archdeacon Story of Ripon acting as deacon and Archdeacon Gear as sub-deacon. Bishop Weller will pontificate and preach the sermon.

Dean Larrabee of Nashota will attend representing Nashota House, Bishop Weller the diocese of Fond du Lac, Father Story the board of missions. The following priests are expected: Archdeacons Story and Gear, Fathers Rockstroh of Wisconsin Rapids, Reader of Owen, Slade of Waupaca, Ruth of Ashland, Gray of Rhineland, Hopkins of Big Suamico, Wis., Canon St. George of Nashotah House and Frederick C. Morehouse, editor of the Living Church.

Father Link announced that the bishop will celebrate at 7 a. m. Friday and that masses will be said at 7:30, 8 and 9 o'clock.

Kindly omit flowers. This is the request of the family.

The pallbearers will be Reinhold Steffen, Louis Korth, Frank Stauus, George A. Zimmer, Don S. Miller and E. C. Dickerson, all employees of the Roddis Lumber & Veneer company. The honorary pallbearers will be F. C. Morehouse of Milwaukee, George C. Campbell of Park Falls, Ex-Gov. W. H. Upham, E. S. Bailey, R. L. Kraus, E. E. Winch, John F. Cole of Marshfield, Alfred Neumann of Los Angeles, Cal., G. M. Palmer of Chicago and F. K. Pinkham of Grand Rapids, Mich.

*(from The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, 11 November 1920, pg. 1)*

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## **Industry Leader Hamilton Roddis Dies**

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Illness Fatal to Board Chairman Of Major Firm

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Rites Wednesday for Prominent Church And Civic Leader

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Marshfield's industrial leader for more than a generation is dead.

Hamilton Roddis, chairman of the board of Marshfield's largest industry, the Roddis Plywood Corp., died at St. Joseph's Hospital at 2:05 p.m. Sunday.

He was 84 years old.

Death was due to a long standing heart ailment complicated by a gastro-intestinal disorder.

While he had been ill for some months, his death was unexpected. Only last week his condition had improved to the point where it was hoped he could return to his home at 1108 E. Fourth St.

Mr. Roddis had become ill while vacationing about the first of the year at the Hillsboro Club in Pompano Beach, Fla., and flew home for admission to the hospital here Feb. 22.

Funeral services will be held at 10:45 a. m. Wednesday at St. Alban's Episcopal Church.

The Rt. Rev. William H. Brady D.D., bishop of Fond du Lac, will officiate, assisted by the Rev. Francis Tatem, rector of St. Alban's, and the Rev. Howard A. LePere, also of Marshfield.

Interment will take place in Hillside cemetery.

The body of Mr. Roddis will lie in state at the Hansen Funeral Home from Tuesday noon until 9 a.m. Wednesday.

Six grandsons will serve as pallbearers. They are Roddis S. Jones, Jarl H. Jones, David S. Jones, Gordon P. Connor, Thomas Beggs Jr. and David Connor.

In respect to the memory of the city's foremost industrialist, the Roddis Plywood Corp. plant here will be closed all day Wednesday.

He had been identified with the Roddis Lumber and Veneer Co., forerunner of the multi-million dollar Roddis Plywood Corp., since 1897, when he left a position in Milwaukee to help his father, William H. Roddis, rebuild the plant that had been destroyed by fire.

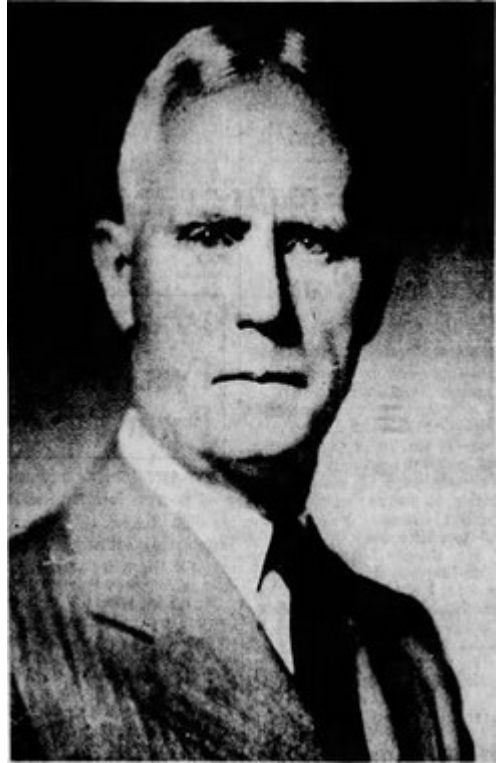
Mr. Roddis was back in Marshfield at the turn of the century as secretary and treasurer of the firm, to establish his lifelong career in the plywood industry.

In 1920 he became president of the firm and served in that capacity for 38 years until Feb. 18, 1959, when he was named to the newly created position of chairman of the board.

Mr. Roddis was prominent in civic and church activities.

He served over a decade (1912-17, 1920-21) as alderman of what was then Marshfield's Fourth Ward. Immediately following World War II, he was active of the Water Advisory Board during the period when the municipal utility was finding and developing new water resources.

As a prominent lay member of the Episcopal Church, he had attended virtually every national



*Hamilton Roddis*

and international Episcopal convention over the past three decades.

At times in his career he was a trustee of the Nashotah Theological Seminary in Nashotah, Wis.; a trustee of Grafton Hall, Fond du Lac; a member of the University Commission of the Episcopal Church; a trustee of the diocese of Fond du Lac; and a member of an early executive board of St. Joseph's Hospital here.

He was a member of the Masonic Order and the Elks; a member of the Union League, Chicago; a member of the United Commercial Travelers; a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. He was an honorary Rotarian, and is listed in "Who's Who in America."

He was an avid traveler and historical scholar and on numerous occasions toured Europe, the Holy Land, Africa and the West Indies.

Some years ago he set up a philanthropic foundation, a religious and educational trust known as the Hamilton Roddis Foundation.

The Roddis Plywood Corp. which he guided for four decades today has 3,500 employees in the United States and Canada. About 1,000 employees are connected with the plant in Marshfield.

The company, which has a net worth of \$20,000,000 and last year had sales in excess of \$59,000,000, has more than 2,000 shareholders.

The plant here produces hardwood plywood and doors.

At Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, the Roddis firm operates a plant which is primarily a producer of single-ply birch veneer and lumber; and a plant in Arcata, Calif., produces fir plywood and timber, a wood shavings board.

Recent acquisitions include hardwood door and hardwood plywood plants at North Troy and Hancock, Vt., and a single-ply birch veneer plant in Princeville, Quebec.

Its products are marketed through 78 distribution centers in metropolitan and secondary markets throughout the United States.

Hamilton Roddis was born in Milwaukee June 26, 1875. He graduated from high school there in 1893.

His father, William H. Roddis, came to Marshfield in 1894 to take over as general manager of the Hatteberg Veneer Co., which was founded in 1891, but Hamilton Roddis remained in Milwaukee for a time and entered the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1896.

In Marshfield a disastrous fire struck the Roddis mill April 20, 1897, and the youthful Hamilton left school to help his father rebuild the plant.

He continued to study law nights and Sundays and achieved his goal of a law degree with his original class in 1899. Shortly after his graduation he headed west, intending to establish a law

practice in the Spokane area.

But a year later his father induced him to return to Marshfield and a career in the plywood industry.

In 1903 the company began to acquire extensive timber tracts in Northern Wisconsin and a sawmill was built at Park Falls. At that time the name of the firm was changed to the Roddis Lumber & Veneer Co. to draw attention to the lumber aspects of the business. That name continued until 1951, when the firm became the Roddis Plywood Corporation.

Hamilton Roddis was secretary and treasurer of the firm until 1920, when he took over the reins as president. His father died in November that year.

He held the post of president until Feb. 18, 1958, when he was raised to the position of chairman of the board, and Carroll H. Blanchard succeeded him as president.

Despite his advancing years, Mr. Roddis retained an active interest in the firm, and had been going down to his office regularly until a few months ago.

Mr. Roddis' marriage to the former Catherine Prindle took place in Kirksville, Mo., July 7, 1908, and they observed their 50th wedding anniversary here July 7, 1958.

Survivors include Mrs. Roddis; six children, Mrs. Gordon (Mary) Connor, Wausau, Mrs. Robert (Catherine) Beggs, Winnetka, Ill., Mrs. Glenn (Ellen) Lempereur, Weston, Mass., and Mrs. Henry (Sara) Jones, Miss Augusta Roddis and William H. Roddis II, all of Marshfield; and 19 grandchildren. William Roddis is secretary of the Roddis Plywood Corp.

The Roddis family is one of Wisconsin's "century families" Hamilton Roddis' grandfather, Thomas R. Roddis, came from England to Milwaukee in 1845 to establish a meat-packing business, a company which failed during the panic following the Civil War.

Hamilton Roddis had an interest in local history and served two terms as president of the Marshfield Old Settlers Club.

The community turned out to honor the president of Marshfield's largest and oldest firm June 11, 1956, at the first annual Industry Appreciation Night event.

*(from the Marshfield News-Herald, 28 March 1960, pgs. 1 & 6)*

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### **Mrs. Hamilton Roddis Dies in Florida at 81**

Mrs. Hamilton Roddis, a prominent figure in the life of Marshfield for 56 years, died shortly before 6 p.m. Wednesday in North District Hospital at Pompano Beach, Fla. She was 81 years of age.

Death was attributed to complications which developed after Mrs. Roddis had been hospitalized

since April 8 for a hip fracture suffered in a fall in Florida. She and a daughter, Miss Augusta Roddis, had arrived there at Eastertime.

Other members of the family at her bedside when death occurred were her son, William H. Roddis, Rock Island, Ill., and another daughter, Mrs. Gordon (Mary) Connor, Wausau.

Mrs. Roddis' husband, the late Hamilton Roddis, had been a leading Marshfield industrialist for years. Under his leadership the Roddis Plywood Corporation, founded by his father, flourished to a point where it became the city's major industry. Following his death in 1960 the industry was sold to the Weyerhaeuser Company.

The body of Mrs. Roddis will arrive in Marshfield this evening and will repose at the Hansen Funeral Home from Friday noon until 11 a.m. Saturday.



*The Keel Studio  
Mrs. Hamilton Roddis*

The Rt. Rev. William H. Brady, S.T.D., Bishop of Fond du Lac, and the Rev. R. J. Bunday, rector of St. Alban's Episcopal Church, will officiate at funeral services beginning in St. Alban's Church at 11:45 a. m. Saturday. Burial will be made in the family plot in Hillside cemetery.

A daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jason R. Prindle, Mrs. Roddis was born in Chicago Aug. 15, 1882 and received her early education in that city. A graduate of Northwestern University, she had lived in Marsh field since her marriage to Hamilton Roddis in Trinity Episcopal Church at Kirksville, Mo., on July 7, 1908.

A woman of wide - ranging interests, she was a past president of the Women of St. Alban's Church; a past regent of the Marshfield Chapter, Daughters of American Revolution; a past state DAR officer and a founder of the DAR Officers Club; a charter member of St. Alban's Altar Guild; a charter member of the AJ Chapter, P.E.O. Sisterhood, and a member of the North Wood County Historical Society.

She was a donor of Grafton Hall in Fond du Lac in memory of her late husband. Dedication of the building is scheduled for May 12.

Mr. and Mrs. Roddis were the parents of six children, all surviving. They are Miss Augusta Roddis, Marshfield; Mrs. Henry Stewart (Sarah) Jones, Marshfield; Mrs. Gordon (Mary) Connor, Wausau; Mrs. Robert (Catherine) Beggs, Portland, Ore.; Mrs. Glenn N. (Ellen) Lempereur, Weston, Mass., and William II. Roddis, Rock Island, Ill.

Other survivors of Mrs. Roddis are 19 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren, and a sister, Mrs. J. Holcombe Holloway, Opelika, Ala. Two brothers preceded her in death.

Mrs. Roddis resided at 1108 E. Fourth St., in Marshfield. Contributions to commemorate her memory may be made to the Catherine P. Roddis Memorial Fund.

*(from the Marshfield News-Herald, 16 April 1964, pgs. 1 & 16)*

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## **Augusta Roddis**

Augusta Denton Roddis, 94, passed away in the home where she was born, Jan. 30, 2011.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, 2011, at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Augusta Marshfield. A Roddis time of visitation will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4, at Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home in Marshfield and from 10 a.m. until service time at the church Saturday. Committal services will follow at Hillside Cemetery in Marshfield.

Miss Roddis was the last descendant living in Marshfield of the family that founded the Roddis Veneer Co. in 1897. She fervently believed in the power of education to promote social change and worked tirelessly throughout her lifetime to improve the lives of others and to preserve history.



*Augusta Roddis*

Miss Roddis was the fourth of six children of Hamilton Roddis and Catherine Prindle Roddis. She was Valedictorian of the Class of 1933 at Marshfield High School, and after her graduation from Northwestern University, Miss Roddis worked in Chicago for a time but then came home to Marshfield, serving as her father's personal secretary and assistant secretary to the Roddis Plywood Corp. from 1948 to 1960.

She was an elected member of the Marshfield School District Board for 18 years, served on the Marshfield Public Library Board for 13 years and was a member of the Marshfield Public Library Foundation for seven years. She was instrumental in helping to establish the Hamilton Roddis Library at the University of Wisconsin-Marshfield. She was also a lifetime member of the board of directors of the North Wood County Historical Society and was instrumental in the purchase of the Upham Mansion and the Marshfield History Project.

She was very active in the Daughters of the American Revolution beginning in 1949, following a family legacy led by her mother, Catherine. She and her sisters Sara Roddis Jones and Mary Roddis Connor held chapter, state and national DAR positions and were committed to the DAR's dedication to patriotic, educational and historic preservation goals. In 2008, she was honored with a Lifetime Achievement award. Offices held by Miss Augustus Roddis included:

\*State History 1977-80

\*State Chairman of the American History Month Committee 1977-80

\*WI portion of the DAR nationally sponsored yearly history essay contest for students in fifth through eighth grades

\*National Defense 1983-86

\*State Resolutions Committee 1976-88

\*Chairman State Resolutions Committee 1989-97

\*Vice Chair National DAR Resolutions Committee 1976-97

\*Chapter Regent 2000



\*Assisted the Fort Winnebago Surgeons' Quarters through the Hamilton Roddis Foundation's funding of the Prairie Restoration.

She was a leader in local civic organizations and a lifetime member of the Marshfield Women's Club. She was a faithful sister of PEO Chapter AJ in Marshfield, a philanthropic educational organization supporting the education of women, for almost 60 years. She mentored a number of young women during the years, encouraging them to further their education and be involved in their communities. She was also an officer of the Hamilton Roddis Foundation, which was founded by her father in 1952 to continue the religious, educational and charitable deeds of Hamilton Roddis and his family. In addition, Miss Roddis sought to improve her world by supporting candidates and causes she believed in.

Miss Roddis was an active communicant at St. Alban's Episcopal Church where she taught Sunday school, served on the Women's Guild, was a former president of the Diocesan Altar Guild of the Episcopal Diocese of Fond du Lac and served for years on the Vestry and church governing board. She was a member of the board of trustees of the Living Church. Until recently, she attended the 7:30 a.m. service every Sunday.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Marshfield Historic Preservation Association, PO Box 423, Marshfield, WI 54449.

Online condolences may be made at [www.hansen\\_scliillingfuneralhome.com](http://www.hansen_scliillingfuneralhome.com).  
*(from the Marshfield News-Herald, February 2011, pgs. 1 & 2)*

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For additional information on this home check:

Property Records of Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin:  
<http://assessordata.org/reports/7069193417315.pdf>

Wisconsin Historical Society's Architecture and Inventory:  
<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI55548>

National Register of Historic Places  
<https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/AssetDetail?assetID=b3c54ab9-9ec0-4636-ad66-2118f66069f6>