



**United States Department of Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

**historic name** Fulmer, David M. and Lottie, House  
**other names/site number** Sells, Max and Nellie, House

**2. Location**

**street & number** 209 Central Avenue **N/A** **not for publication**  
**city or town** Town of Florence **N/A** **vicinity**  
**state** Wisconsin **code** WI **county** Florence **code** 037 **zip code** 54121

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jim Daegen Signature of certifying official/Title Date 3/18/14  
State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Fulmer, David M. and Lottie, House

Florence

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

*Edson H. Beall*

*5.5.14*

*[Signature]*

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- structure
- site
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

contributing	noncontributing
2	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
2	0 total

**Name of related multiple property listing:**  
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

DOMESTIC/hotel

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Prairie School

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation CONCRETE

walls STUCCO

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

### Period of Significance

1899

### Significant Dates

N/A

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.18 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 403440 5085920  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Timothy F. Hegglund  
organization  
street & number 6391 Hillsandwood Rd.  
city or town Mazomanie

state WI

date May 18, 2013  
telephone 608-795-2650  
zip code 53560

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional Items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	date
organization	telephone
Street & number	zip code
city or town	state

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet

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Fulmer, David M. and Lottie, House  
Town of Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin

**Description:**

The two-story-tall, rectilinear plan David M. and Lottie Fulmer house is a very fine, free-standing, stucco-clad, Prairie School style single family residence that is set back on a large parcel in the town of Florence that occupies an entire city block on the shore of Fisher Lake.<sup>1</sup> This house was built in 1899 for David M. Fulmer, who was the president of the D. M. Fulmer Lumber Co., which in 1899 was one of the largest of the several logging operations and saw mills that had been a major factor in the creation of Florence County and its subsequent growth. Fulmer's substantial new house was one of the largest houses in the town when it was built but he lived there only until 1903, and then sold it to Florence County attorney Max Sells, who lived there until his death in 1935. His widow, Nellie Sells, continued to occupy the house until her death in 1937. The house was subsequently inherited by their daughter, Verle E. Sells, who was the first woman to serve as a circuit court judge in Wisconsin and who died in office in 1940. The house then passed through several hands and it was also used as a nursing home for several years before being purchased by the current owners, who have restored it and now run it as a restaurant and inn. Fortunately, the house was in largely original condition when the current owners purchased it and they have done very little to change it, except only what has been necessary in terms of upgrading appliances and utilities and repairing the historic fabric of the house. As a result, the Fulmer house is still highly intact and its architectural integrity has been preserved by the high standard of maintenance that it receives.

The Fulmer house's irregular-shaped parcel consists of a city block that is located at the east end of Central Avenue (USH 2), the principal east-west thoroughfare in the town. Most of the length of Central Avenue comprises the historic commercial core of Florence with both sides lined with nineteenth and twentieth century commercial buildings. The easternmost two blocks of Central Avenue consists of a late nineteenth-early twentieth century residential neighborhood. The Fulmer house occupies the easternmost parcel on the south side of Central Avenue in this neighborhood. The front of this parcel faces north onto Central Avenue, the west side of the parcel faces onto Vulcan Street, and the parcel's irregular south side consists of 325 feet of the shoreline of Fisher Lake. The north side of the Fulmer house's parcel is edged with a concrete sidewalk and gutters and a grass-covered terrace. The house itself is located on the edge of steep hillside that descends to the south from a broad terrace behind the house to the lake shore. The land in front of the house is now given over to a graveled driveway and parking area that serves the needs of the building's current function as a restaurant and inn. The remainder of the parcel is now given over to beautifully landscaped and terraced grounds that feature shrubs, mature trees and lawn, and there is also a historic rustic style water feature located to the west of the house that has recently been restored. This water feature is not

<sup>1</sup> The population of the Town of Florence was 2,002 in 2010. The population of Florence County in 2010 was 4,423.

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included in the resource count due to its small size and scale. In addition to the house, there is also a large stucco-clad freestanding garage built in 1903 that is a contributing resource. It is located at the west end of the parcel. Access to it is from Vulcan St., and it too is surrounded by a graveled driveway.

Exterior:

The Fulmer house consists of a 44.5-foot-wide by 42.5-foot-deep, rectilinear plan, two-story-tall main block to whose west-facing side elevation is attached an 18.5-foot-wide by 17-foot-deep, one-story-tall rectilinear plan sun porch wing that was added to the house during its years as a nursing home. A full basement story underlies the main block of the house and it has a poured concrete floor and poured concrete foundation walls. All the exterior walls of the house are clad in painted stucco, and these walls are sheltered by wide overhanging boxed eaves that have soffits covered in narrow beaded boards. The main block's shallow-pitched hipped roof is clad in asphalt shingles as is the hipped roof that shelters the sun porch wing. All the window openings throughout the house have a rectilinear design (as do the door openings) and with the exception of the windows in the sun porch wing, all the windows are original wood sash, and are protected by original wooden storm windows.

Main Facade

The north-facing façade of the Fulmer house consists of the main block and also the north-facing elevation of the sun porch wing. The 44.5-foot-wide two-story-tall main facade faces north onto Central Avenue and its first story is sheltered by a nearly full-width, open, hip-roofed front porch. This porch is encircled by a solid, stucco-clad half-wall and its roof is supported by four regularly spaced groups of wood posts that each have simple, stylized, Prairie style-influenced geometrically shaped capitals. Each of these groups sits on a slightly flared plinth that projects out several inches from the porch wall. The floor of this porch consists of varnished hardwood tongue-and-groove boards, its ceiling consists of varnished beaded boards, and the soffits of the wide overhanging boxed eaves are also clad in beaded boards.

The façade is asymmetrical in design and three-bays-wide. The first story's left-hand (east) bay consists of a large quadruple window group that lights the dining room inside and each window consists of a tall one-over-one-light wood sash whose much taller lower sash is operable. The center section consists of a slightly wider, bay window that provides light to the living room inside. It also has a tall one-over-one-light wood sash window with much taller operable lower sash placed in each of its two sides while the wider center window consist of a large, fixed, plate glass picture window that is

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surmounted by an equally wide fixed transom light. The right-hand bay contains the house's main entrance, which consists of a heavy three-light-over-one-panel wood door that retains its original handle and whose three lights each consist of a single piece of beveled plate glass. This entrance is reached by ascending a flight of three wooden steps that are recent replacements for the deteriorated originals. The landing is part of a new S-plan wood handicapped access ramp that has been built along the west end of the porch and the north elevation of the sun porch wing.<sup>2</sup>

A narrow wood belt course encircles the entire main block of the house and it is placed at the sill level of the second story windows. The second story of the façade's left-hand (east) bay contains a single, tall one-over-one-light double hung wood sash window that provides light for one bedroom. An identical window in the second story's right-hand bay provides light for a second bedroom, and the triple window group in the second story's center bay, which has two narrower one-over-one-light double hung wood windows flanking a wider middle window, provides light for a third bedroom. A narrow wood fascia board encircles the house just below the main eaves, and a large hip-roofed, stuccoed dormer that contains four small four-over-one-light windows is centered on the slope of the roof above.

The original appearance of the 18.5-foot-wide north-facing elevation of the one-story porch wing is uncertain but it is believed that it was also originally stuccoed, just as it is today. A slightly projecting triple window group is centered on this elevation and it contains three identical one-over-one-light windows, each of which has a taller, operable lower sash. A pair of simple pilasters, that sit on flared plinths and have capitals that are identical to the ones that ornament the front porch, decorate the northwest corner of the wing and a third pilaster is placed just around the corner on the west-facing side elevation of the porch wing.

#### West Facade

The west-facing facade of the house consists of two parts, the side of the main block of the house and the narrower one-story-tall sun porch wing. The porch wing covers the left (north) half of the first story of the main block and its 18.5-foot-wide west elevation is one-bay-wide. Both ends of the addition terminate with a pair of simple pilasters that have capitals that are identical to the ones that ornament the front porch. These pilasters sit on flared plinths. A third pilaster wraps the corner between the north-and south-facing facades. The centered bay on this elevation now contains a pair of modern nine-light French doors and these doors open onto an open polygonal plan deck that has a

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<sup>2</sup> This ramp is self-supporting and does not touch the house itself.



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flight of stairs that descends to ground level and a balustrade that is identical in design to the handicapped access ramp located on the main façade. This elevation is crowned by a wood fascia board and it is sheltered by the wide overhanging boxed eave of the porch wing's shallow-pitched hip roof.

The 42.5-foot-wide side elevation of the main block of the house is asymmetrical in design and four-bays-wide. As was noted above, the left (north) half of its first story is now covered by the sun porch wing and the original appearance of its two left-hand bays is not known. The third bay from the left, however, is original and it contains a single large window consisting of a single sash. It is surmounted by a transom that features a clear oblong center light that is encircled with a band of smaller multi-color art glass lights. The first story's right-hand (south) bay is also original but it now contains a pair of modern nine-light French doors and these doors open into the house's rear porch. Placed just above these French doors but below the belt course that encircles the house is a wide, flat, overhanging cornice that shelters the wall surface below. This cornice also extends around the southwest corner of the block and across the rear elevation. The cornice and a narrow wood fascia serves to demarcate the block's full-width rear porch.

The second story of the main block contains a single tall one-over-one-light double hung wood sash window in its left-hand bay and in both of its two right-hand bays and these windows provide light for two of the second story bedrooms. The second bay from the left, however, contains a much smaller oblong window opening that is located just above the belt course and this opening contains eighteen clear art glass-filled lights and it provides light to the house's main staircase. This elevation is then crowned by the narrow wood fascia board that encircles the main block of the house just below the wide, overhanging, boxed eaves. A large hip-roofed, stuccoed dormer that contains three, small, four-over-one-light windows is centered on the slope of the roof above.

#### Rear Facade

The rear facade of the house consists of two parts; the two-story-tall rear of the main block of the house, and the one-story-tall sun porch wing.

The 18.5-foot-wide south-facing elevation of the one-story porch wing is a mirror image of the corresponding north-facing elevation of the wing. A centered, slightly projecting triple window group contains identical one-over-one-light windows, each of which has a taller, operable lower sash. A pair of simple pilasters that sit on slightly projecting flared plinths and have capitals that are identical to the ones that ornament the front porch decorates the southwest corner of the wing. A third pilaster is placed just around this corner on the west-facing elevation of the porch wing.

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The 44.5-foot-wide first story of the rear elevation of the main block consists of a full-width formerly screened-in porch that stretches across the entire elevation. The porch is symmetrical in design and three-bays-wide. Each of these bays contains a window opening that originally contained screens but which now each contain a modern triple window group comprised of two narrower one-over-one-light wood sash windows that flank a wider middle window, all three of which have much taller operable lower sashes. These bays are divided from one another by paired simple pilasters that sit on flared, slightly projecting plinths and which have capitals that are identical to the ones that ornament the front porch. Additional pairs of these pilasters are also placed at the east and west ends of the porch, and a third pilaster wraps both corners on the east and west-facing sides of the block. Placed just above this window group but below the belt course is a continuation of the wide, flat, overhanging cornice that was described above. The cornice and a narrow wood fascia serves to demarcate the flock's full-width rear porch.

The second story of this elevation is four-bays-wide but it is not symmetrical. The south-facing wall surface of the left-hand (west) bay is in the same plane as the wall surface of the porch below and it contains a pair of one-over-one-light double hung wood sash windows that provide light for the master bedroom inside. The south-facing wall surface of the other three bays is set back some eight feet from that of the left-hand bay, which creates a flat roof over that portion of the porch in the story below and it also gives the left-hand bay an exposed east-facing wall surface. This wall surface has a single door opening centered on it and retains its original nine-light over-one-panel wood door. This door opens from the master bedroom onto the roof deck. Placed in the second bay from the left on this set back south-facing wall surface is a one-over-one-light window that provides light for a bathroom. Another nine-light-over-one-panel door that opens onto the roof is placed in the third bay from the left, and a pair of one-over-one-light windows is placed in the right-hand bay.<sup>3</sup> This elevation is then crowned by the narrow wood fascia board that encircles the main block of the house just below the wide, overhanging, boxed eaves. A large hip-roofed, stuccoed dormer contains three small four-over-one-light windows and is centered on the slope of the roof above.

The entire south elevation of the main block now looks out onto a, modern, concrete floored terrace that spans the entire width of this elevation. This terrace is edged with a metal balustrade and it overlooks Fisher Lake and was built to serve the guests that stay at this inn.

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<sup>3</sup> Ventilation equipment for the restaurant's kitchen and air conditioning units are placed on the roof above the first story porch and these units are screened from view by a tall, solid wall made of painted wood boards that outlines this portion of the porch roof.

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East Facade

The east-facing side of the house consists of the two-story-tall main block of the house, and the two one-story-tall side elevations of the front and rear porches.

The side of the flat-roofed, rear porch is eight-feet-wide, one-story-tall, and one-bay-wide and its wall surface is in the same plane as that of the main block. The single bay now contains a pair of modern nine-light French doors that open into the house's rear porch. Access to these doors is via a straight run of modern wood stairs of the same design as the other exterior first story stairs described earlier. Placed to the left of this porch bay is a pair of tall, simple pilasters that sit on flared, slightly projecting plinths. These pilasters have capitals that are identical to the ones that ornament the front porch and a third pilaster of identical design is placed just around the corner of the porch on the rear elevation. Placed just above this porch is a continuation of the wide, flat, overhanging eave that was described above. This eave extends around the southeast corner of the block, has a narrow wood fascia and it serves to demarcate the block's full-width rear porch.

The 42.5-foot-wide side of the main block of the house is asymmetrical in design and three-bays-wide. The first story of the left hand (south) bay contains a tall, single, one-over-one-light double hung wood sash window that helped light the kitchen and an identical window is located in the second story above. A shorter one-over-one-light double hung window is located in the second story of the center bay while the first story of this bay contains an entrance door opening that still contains its original nine-light over one-panel wood door. This door is surmounted by a tall one-light transom and both the door and its transom opened into the kitchen inside and into the basement staircase. The first story of the third bay from the left contains a large quadruple window group that lights the dining room inside and each window consists of a tall one-over-one-light wood sash window whose much taller lower sash is operable, while the second story contains another tall, single, one-over-one-light double hung wood sash window that helps light a second story bedroom.

This elevation is then crowned by a narrow wood fascia board that encircles the main block of the house just below the wide, overhanging, boxed eaves. A large hip-roofed, stuccoed dormer contains three small four-over-one-light windows and is centered on the slope of the roof above.

The one-story-tall side elevation of the open front porch is inset slightly from the wall surface of the main block. It has a solid, stucco-clad wall, and its shallow-pitched hipped roof has wide, overhanging boxed eaves supported by a pair of wood posts that each have simple, stylized, Prairie style-influenced

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geometrically shaped capitals. These posts appear to sit on a slightly flared plinth that projects out several inches from the porch wall.

Interior:

Impressive as the highly intact exterior of the Fulmer house is, it is equaled by the house's intact interior. Not surprisingly, since this was, after all, the home of a lumberman, the interior of the Fulmer's new Prairie School style house makes good use of fine wood products that, while subdued in design, are of outstanding quality. All the floors in the main rooms of both stories of the main block consist of narrow varnished hardwood boards, and all the walls and ceilings in the house are plastered. In addition, all the doors found in both stories of the main block are of quarter-sawn oak, as are the casings that surround them. These rooms have tall oak baseboards and the first floor rooms have large, coved, oak crown moldings.

First Story:

One passes through the main doorway having a three-light-over-one-panel oak door into a 5.50-foot-wide by 3.50-foot-deep entrance vestibule. The vestibule has hardwood floors and much of its east wall is covered by a large hanging oak cabinet that has two side-hinged one-panel oak doors that cover shelves inside. One then enters the stair hall through a doorway having a solid oak inner door whose single panel is outlined in inlaid marquetry. The stair hall is 11-foot-wide and 17-foot-deep, and a single door opening in the south wall of the hall gives access to the library, while a larger door opening filled with a pair of fifteen-light French doors is located on the east wall of the hall and opens into the main living room. Another door opening on the north wall, placed immediately to the right (west) of the entrance door, contains another solid oak one-panel door that opens into a 5.5-foot-wide by 3.5-foot-deep powder room while yet another door opening in the hall's west wall opens into the sun porch. The main staircase of the house is also fashioned out of oak and it ascends along the west wall of the hall until reaching a landing, turns 90-degrees and continues up the south wall of the hall to the second story. This staircase's balustrade begins with a large, angled, square plan oak newel post and both runs of stairs have an open balustrade whose balusters each have a square plan and these oak balusters support a molded oak handrail. In addition, the spandrel below the first run of stairs is paneled in oak and the lower portion of this spandrel consists of a built-in bench seat that has a radiator installed underneath the seat, and the spandrel below the second run of stairs is paneled in oak.

As was noted earlier, the 18.5-foot-wide by 17-foot-deep sun porch that is located to the west of the entrance hall dates from the period when the house was used as a nursing home and its original appearance is not known. The present owners have kept this room's original function but have

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remodeled it so that it is now in keeping with the appearance of the other rooms in this floor of the house. To this end, a triple window group has been installed in each of the room's north and south walls and these one-over-one-light double hung sash windows repeat the original window design found in the other rooms. In addition, a new pair of nine-light French doors having a Craftsman Style design that is compatible with original doors found elsewhere in the house has been installed in the room's west wall. Both these window groups and the French doors have been enframed with oak casework that is identical to that used in the original part of the house and the tall oak baseboards that circles the base of the room's walls also match the design of the original ones. The major changes that have occurred in this room include the partitioning off of its southeast corner to make a public bathroom and the raising of the original ceiling, which now has a tray design.

The 12.50-foot-wide by 16-foot-deep living room is located to the left (east) of the entrance hall and it is entered by passing through the French doors that were described above. The north end of this room consists of a nearly full-width three-sided bay window that contains a very large plate glass one-light window surmounted by a plate glass transom in its center and two narrower one-over-one-light windows in each of its sides. Placed in the east wall of this room is another broad door opening that leads into the dining room, while the north end of the living room space consists of a nearly full-width opening that is enframed in oak casework and which opens directly into the library.

The library is a single 12.50-foot-deep by 24.50-foot-long rectilinear plan room. One can enter this space either through the broad opening that separates it from the living room or from the single entrance that is placed in the north wall of the stair hall. A chimney breast projects from the center of the east wall of the library and the fireplace that it attached to it has a brick surround, a molded oak mantel shelf, and a hearth that is covered with elaborately decorated tiles. A door is placed to the right (south) of the fireplace and it contains a swinging one-panel oak service door that opens into a rear service hall. A large triple window group is located on the south wall of the library and it has two one-over-one-light windows that flank a wider center window of the same design, and all three windows have taller lower sash. Placed to the right (west) of this window group is an entrance door opening that opens out onto the rear porch and this opening contains an original nine-light oak door. The west wall of the library has a large one-light window centered on it that is surmounted by a transom that contains a single large clear oblong light that is encircled with fourteen colored art glass lights. Flanking this window are two semicircular-arched paneled oak niches that hold shelving and the upper portions of these niches each contains a sunburst pattern.<sup>4</sup>

The northeast corner of this floor contains the dining room, which measures 18.50-foot-wide by 15.50-

<sup>4</sup> A modern oak bar has been built in front of and across most of the width of this west wall.

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feet-deep. One can enter this room either through the broad opening in the room's west wall that separates it from the living room or through a single door opening that contains a swinging one-panel oak service door to the kitchen. A large triple window group is centered on the north wall of the dining room and it has three one-over-one-light windows that all have taller lower sash and a quadruple window group of identical design is centered on the east wall of the room. Of special note is the tall, beautifully crafted paneled wainscot that encircles the entire room. This paneling is fashioned from quarter-sawn oak, the same wood used to encase the room's window and door openings, and also to fashion the room's wide, coved crown molding.

The southeast corner of this story is occupied by the house's 16.5-foot deep by 15.5-foot-wide kitchen. This room has a single one-over-one-light double hung window located in its east wall and a side exterior entrance door opening that is surmounted by a single transom light is located to the left (north) of it. This door opens onto a small landing, the basement stairs are located directly ahead opposite the door, and a short flight of steps to the left of the landing ascend to the kitchen floor level.<sup>5</sup> Another door opening that is located on the south wall of the kitchen contains a three-light over two-panel oak door and this door opens onto the rear porch, and still another door that is placed in the kitchen's west wall opens into the rear stair hall of the house. This stair hall has a closed straight run of stairs that ascends to the second story. While a door opening in the hall's east wall opens into the kitchen, another one that is placed opposite it on the stair hall's west wall opens into the library. In addition, an oblong window that contains a single clear light that is encircled with colored art glass is placed high up on the stair hall's south wall opposite the staircase and looks out onto the rear porch.

The rear porch spans the entire width of the rear elevation of the house and it is 44.5-foot-long by 8-foot-deep and it overlooks Fisher Lake. This was originally a screened porch and the three large openings in its south wall contained screens and the door openings that are located at either end of the porch contained screen doors. After the present owners bought the house they decided to turn it into an inn with a full restaurant. They turned the porch into an additional dining area with lake views. Consequently, since the inn operates year round, the decision was made to enclose the porch and make it suitable for year round use. In order to do so, the porch's screened window openings were filled with triple window groups that contain modern double glazed windows whose design is identical to those in the triple window group that opens onto the porch from the library.<sup>6</sup> These new windows exactly match the original windows, which all have taller lower sash, and the porch openings were enframed with oak casework that exactly matches the casework that surrounds the house's original windows. In

<sup>5</sup> Because this kitchen now serves the restaurant it has been greatly altered to suit this new use and it retains very little of its original cabinetry and none of its original appliances.

<sup>6</sup> The original screens are in storage.

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addition, new nine-light French doors whose design emulates the nine-light door that opens onto the porch from the library were placed into the door openings at either end of the porch, and the porch's original ceiling was plastered to match the walls of the porch.

**Second Story:**

The second story of the house contains a central hall and the narrow board flooring of this hall consists of light-colored varnished maple boards. The hall also features tall baseboards and crown molding. The master bedroom is the first one to the right as one enters the hall and there are four additional bedrooms and two full bathrooms situated around the perimeter of this hall. All of these rooms have plastered walls and ceilings and tall baseboards and they, like the first story rooms, all retain a very high degree of integrity.

**Attic Story:**

A second enclosed staircase that ascends to the attic story is located just to the right of the main staircase. This dog-legged staircase ascends to a large attic story hall and there are two more bedrooms with bathrooms located on this floor as well; one faces east and the other, north. All of these rooms are lit by the windows in the roof's four dormers.

**Garage (C):**

Besides the house itself there is also a one-and-one-half-story-tall garage located at the west end of the parcel. This nearly square plan building measures 22.25-feet-long by 24.25-feet deep and its walls are clad in stucco and they are sheltered by the overhanging boxed eaves of the building's hip roof, which is clad in asphalt shingles. The east and west elevations of this building are identical in design and feature two large garage door openings that each still contain their original pairs of side-hinged eight-light over six panel varnished wood garage doors. The result is a pass-through design wherein a car could be driven in the west side, which faces Vulcan St., and then driven out the east side and around the building and up to the house or vice-versa. The north and south elevations of the building are also identical to each other and they both have a triple window group centered on them that consists of three one-over-one-light double hung windows. In addition, each of the four slopes of the building's hip roof has a stucco-sided hip-roofed dormer that contains two oblong nine-light windows. These windows light the attic story of the building, which sometimes served as a playhouse for the family children.

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**Significance:**

The David M. and Lottie Fulmer House is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance under National Register criterion C. More specifically, the Fulmer house is being nominated because of its significance in the area of Architecture; a theme which is also identified in the State of Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP). Research was undertaken to assess the NRHP potential of the Fulmer house utilizing the Prairie School style subsection of the Architectural Styles study unit of the CRMP.<sup>7</sup> The results of this research are detailed below and confirm that the Fulmer house is locally significant under NR criterion C as a fine and highly intact example of a single family residence designed in the Prairie School style, the significance of which is further enhanced by the house's very fine interior and by its highly intact and well maintained state of preservation.

The Fulmer house was built in 1899 and no information has yet been found about either the designer of the house or about its builder. David Fulmer owned logging, lumber milling, and shingle and planing mill operations in Florence County and the nature of his business and his extensive travels on its behalf would most likely have kept him aware of current trends in architecture, which perhaps accounts for his choice of an early Prairie School design for his house.

David M. Fulmer was born in Pennsylvania in 1851 and moved to southwestern Wisconsin with his parents in 1856, where his parents engaged in farming. After graduating from school, Fulmer became a teacher and soon thereafter a school principal. In 1880 he purchased and refurbished a flour and saw mill in Sheldon Township in Monroe County and this experience appears to have changed the direction of his life. By 1899, Fulmer and his family had moved to the village of Florence, in northeast Wisconsin, and he had become the owner of a successful logging and lumber milling operation there that was one of the bigger employers in the county at that time. His success was embodied in the new house in Florence that he built for himself and his family in 1899 on a parcel in the village that comprises a whole city block having 325 feet of lake shore frontage on Fisher Lake. Three years later a disastrous fire that wiped out his saw and planing mill in Florence, and the death of his eldest son, combined to precipitate a move by the family to Evanston, Illinois. The Fulmer house was then sold to Florence County district attorney Max Sells in 1904, and Sells and his family occupied it until Sell's death in 1935. Subsequently, the house was inherited by his daughter, Verle E. Sells, who was also an attorney and who, in 1937, became the first woman to be elected as a judge in Wisconsin. Verle Sells occupied the house until her own death in 1940, after which the house passed through several more

<sup>7</sup> Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.) *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Vol. 2, pp. 2-21 (Architecture).



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hands and was, for a short time, a nursing home, before being purchased by the current owners, who embarked upon a full rehabilitation and now use the house as an inn and restaurant.

**History**

The centennial publication *Heritage of Iron & Timber: 1880-1980*, published in 1980, contains a good general history of Florence County and of the town of Florence.<sup>8</sup> Consequently, the historic context that follows, deals just with the relevant portions of that publication that pertain to the history of the home.

The north edge of today's Florence County borders the south edge of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, from which it is separated by the Menominee River. It was originally part of Brown County in 1851, then became part of Oconto County when that county was split off from Brown County in 1861, and in 1879 it became a part of Marinette County when that county was split off from Oconto County.

Florence County remained a region of hunting and trapping until 1877, when iron ore was discovered therein. The iron mines on the Michigan side of the Menominee River were discovered in 1873 by Dr. N. P. Hulst and other mining engineers. In 1876 the Menominee Mining Company was organized and the Chicago & Northwestern officials began the building of the Menominee River Railway, which in 1877, was extended to the Vulcan mine. The Florence mine was discovered in October, 1874, by Hiram D. Fisher. Work there was begun in the winter of 1879-80, when 30,000 tons of ore were taken out. The summer of 1880 the railroad reached the Florence mine. ... The Florence mine was named by Mr. Fisher for Mrs. N. P. Hulst.<sup>9</sup>

What is today the Town of Florence owes its existence to the Florence iron mine that was first established at this site in 1874. After a railroad was built to this mine site in 1879, the population in the area grew rapidly and in 1880 a town site was platted by H. D. Fisher on the north shore of Fisher's Lake, which lake was completely surrounded by land owned by the Florence mining company, and this settlement was named Florence. Subsequently, in 1882, what is now Florence County was split off from Marinette County. Both the township surrounding the settlement and the county itself were named Florence. The town of Florence was designated as the county seat and is the county seat today.

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<sup>8</sup> The Florence County Centennial Committee. *Heritage of Iron & Timber: 1880-1980*. Florence, WI: 1980.

<sup>9</sup> "Early History of Florence County." *The Florence Mining News*, May 14, 1938, p. 1.

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The history of the town is essentially the story of the boom and bust cycles that attended the fortunes of the mining industry in the area and of the lumber industry that also developed in the area at this time in order to harvest the huge stands of timber that covered most of the county.

Because of the mine people rushed into the region and by 1880 Mr. Fisher laid out the townsite, putting a number of lots upon the market. He said he would put the lots in at government prices selling the ordinary lots for \$100.00 while the corners sold for \$150.00. In sixty days Mr. Fisher sold \$60,000 worth of realty. The population at this time was 50 people. In a short time a blast furnace was put up as was a foundry, five coal kilns, a large sawmill and a cheese factory.

Through donations on the part of Mr. Fisher, "a progressive promoter," fifty town lots were given as church sites, school and other humanitarian purposes. News of the rise of the mining town was spread throughout the land.<sup>10</sup>

Once the railroad to Florence was completed, the population in the town boomed. This growth was accelerated by the development of both the mining and logging industries in the area.

By the year 1890 the town of Florence was estimated to have had a population of about 3,000 people. People came from all over the country to work in the mine, logging camps and start small farms. Workers in the area logging camps and nearby settlements gave the immediate area a population of nearly 5,000 people.

In 1889, the court house was built, Florence had five hotels, seven two-story boarding houses, 47 saloons and an estimated annual trade of almost \$1,000,000.00.<sup>11</sup>

Among those attracted to the opportunities that this booming logging area offered was David M. Fulmer. David M. Fulmer was born in Pennsylvania, the oldest son of Joseph and Caroline Fulmer, both of whom were Pennsylvania natives. In 1856, the family moved to Sheldon Township in Monroe County, Wisconsin, where the parents purchased and developed a 200 acre farm, and David Fulmer attended the local schools in this community.

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<sup>10</sup> The Florence County Centennial Committee. Op. Cit., p. 10.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, p. 12. The Florence County Court House and its adjacent jail building were both built in 1889 to a design by James E. Clancy, an architect then practicing in Antigo, Wisconsin, and they are both extant and are both listed in the NRHP (12/2/1985).

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Upon reaching his majority Mr. Fulmer entered the profession of teaching, and followed this useful vocation for a number of terms; he was principal of the Ontario schools in 1879 and 1880. In the latter year he purchased the mill property in Sheldon township, which consists of fifty-one acres; he improved the flour and saw mills by putting in modern machinery; the flour mill is furnished with the latest improved roller process. The patronage of both establishments is steadily increasing, and the business has paid a satisfactory dividend. Mr. Fulmer also has the agency for agricultural implements, farm machinery, wagons, and buggies, the commissions from which aggregate a nice sum in the course of a year. He is the owner of the Sidney Waite farm, a tract of 420 acres of rich, fertile land, having extensive improvements. Mr. Fulmer married in 1874, to Miss Lottie Douglass, a daughter of E. D. Douglass of Hillsborough, Vernon County, Wisconsin. Four children have been born to this union: Clarence L. a pupil of the Sparta high school; Joseph W., Junie and Vera.<sup>12</sup>

Between 1892 and 1899 Fulmer sold his Monroe County businesses and relocated to Florence County where he reinvested his gains in the logging and lumber milling industries. He settled in the unincorporated town of Florence, which is located in the far northeast corner of Wisconsin adjacent to the Upper Michigan border.

Fulmer's success at his new ventures soon prompted him to purchase a suitable site for a new house in Florence in 1899 that would provide a comfortable home for himself and his family.

D. M. Fulmer, president of the Fulmer Lumber Company, has purchased all of block 24, known as the "old Spread Eagle property." The block is situated at the upper end of Central Avenue, near the park, and is considered one of the very best locations for residences purposes in the city. It has several hundred feet of lake front, contains an elegant spring, and, all in all, is an ideal building spot. Mr. Fulmer will immediately begin the erection of a handsome and costly dwelling house upon his new site, which will be a great improvement to the eastern or residence part of the city. The building will be for Mr. Fulmer's own use and he expects to have it completed and ready for occupancy this fall. He purchased the property from the Pewabic Company, through H. D. Fisher, agent.<sup>13</sup>

Fulmer began breaking ground for his new house just a week later and its construction progress was closely followed by the local newspaper.

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<sup>12</sup> *Biographical History of La Crosse, Monroe and Juneau Counties, Wisconsin*. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1892, pp. 890-891.

<sup>13</sup> "Real Estate Transfers." *The Florence Mining News*, July 29, 1899, p. 1.

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D. M. Fulmer has broken ground for his new dwelling house on the old Spread Eagle property. It will be a handsome modern residence and an ornament to upper Central Avenue.<sup>14</sup>

Three weeks later the newspaper commented once again on the project.

The massive and elegant stone wall for D. M. Fulmer's new dwelling house on the old Spread Eagle block, has been completed and the carpenters began their work on Thursday. Mr. Fulmer expects to have the new building finished by November 1<sup>st</sup> when he will have one the neatest, prettiest, and best-located homes in the county.<sup>15</sup>

Fulmer must have pushed the construction vigorously because his predicted completion date was not far off.

D. M. Fulmer and family will take possession of their handsome new home next week.<sup>16</sup>

Fulmer's new 4000-square-foot house instantly became one of the showplaces of the town; it was then and is still one of Florence's largest and grandest houses.

Early in the following year the Fulmers celebrated the completion of their new home by hosting a house party for 48 of their neighbors.

Mr. and Mrs. David M. Fulmer gave a charming progressive whist party at their new and cosy [sic] home, "Englenook Cottage," Wednesday evening on the occasion of the twenty-sixth anniversary of their Marriage. ... Elegant refreshments were served by the hostess, assisted by Mrs. C. S. Hopkins and Miss Alice Fulmer.<sup>17</sup>

That same year, in the 1900 United States Federal Census, Fulmer described himself as a manufacturer of lumber and a lumber dealer, and a year later the success of his new enterprises and their importance locally made his the first name to be listed in an article about Florence businessmen in the local Florence newspaper.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> *The Florence Mining News*, August 5, 1899, p. 1.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid*, August 26, 1899, p. 1.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid*, December 2, 1899, p. 1.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid*, February 10, 1900, p. 1.

<sup>18</sup> "Commercial Success: Sketches of Enterprising Florence Business Men." *Ibid*, May 25, 1901, p. 5.

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D. M. Fulmer Lumber Company. In the progress of a city, its growth and enlargement of commercial interests, the people become aware that the lumber dealer plays a most important part, and in putting before the public an edition of the News devoted to a review of our business men and business interests, the name of D. M. Fuller should occupy a prominent place. This gentleman is a business man whom we all know and esteem for the many benefits conferred upon the town in the way of furnishing work for our people as well as for his progressive public spirit. In the development of the lumber interests of this section he has been foremost, the output from his mills reaching into millions of feet each year. The plant is equipped with the latest and most improved machinery and almost every description of building material is manufactured and a large wholesale business is done. They also carry a large stock of dressed lumber, sash, doors, blinds, mouldings, and are prepared to furnish to the local trade anything from the rough lumber to the finest finish and at prices that cannot be discounted at any similar concern in this section of the state. The business is in a flourishing condition and is one of the main factors in the upbuilding of our town.<sup>19</sup>

In June of 1901 a fire at Fulmer's manufacturing plant in Florence destroyed his shingle and planing mill operations.<sup>20</sup> Undeterred, Fulmer decided instead to concentrate on other aspects of his business, which included "logging, manufacturing of all kinds of lumber and buying and selling telegraph poles, posts, etc." and much of this activity was conducted at new mills that he established later in 1901 in Marenisco, Michigan.<sup>21</sup> Tragedy struck Fulmer once again in 1903 when his oldest son, Clarence L. Fulmer (1875-1903) came home ill from Chicago, where he had been working, and died of pneumonia.<sup>22</sup> This family tragedy, which happened late in January of 1903, combined perhaps with the fact that by this time the lumber industry in Florence County was on the decline and logging operations were rapidly decreasing, persuaded the Fulmers to leave Florence and resettle in Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Fulmer and family will remove to Evanston, Ill. about June 15, they having bought a home in that city. Mr. Fulmer has rented his fine residence in this city to E. N. Lepper, the local station agent, who will move his family to Florence from Iron Mountain [MI] some time next month.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>19</sup> "Commercial Success. Sketches of Enterprising Florence Business Men." *The Florence Mining News*, May 25, 1901, p. 5.

<sup>20</sup> "A Disastrous Fire." *The Florence Mining News*, June 1, 1901, p. 1.

<sup>21</sup> "D. M. Fulmer." *The Florence Mining News*, October 12, 1901, p. 1.

<sup>22</sup> "His Will Be Done." *The Florence Mining News*, January 31, 1903, p. 1. Obituary of Clarence L. Fulmer.

<sup>23</sup> "Social and Personal." *The Florence Mining News*, May 23, 1903, p. 1.

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Thus, the Fulmers only occupied their new Florence house for just about three and one-half years before leaving for Illinois and the Fulmer family has now largely faded from the collective memory of Florence.<sup>24</sup> The same is not true of the house's next owners, however. In July of 1904, the house was purchased by Florence attorney Max Sells.

Max Sells, of this city, has bought the handsome Fulmer cottage on upper Central Avenue from the former owner, D. M. Fulmer, of Chicago. The property has a lake front of fully a block in length and is considered one of the most desirable residence locations in the city. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Peerenboom are occupying the house at present and will probably remain there until fall.<sup>25</sup>

The Peerenboom's period of occupancy didn't last until the fall, however.

Max Sells moved in Wednesday last into the handsome and modern dwelling house which he recently purchased from D. M. Fulmer. Fred Peerenboom and bride now occupy the Sells cottage on Florence Avenue.<sup>26</sup>

Max Sells (1865-1935) was born in Milwaukee on December 22, 1865.

When a young man he [Sells] went to Eagle River, Wis. On January 30, 1889 he was united in marriage to Miss Nellie Hobart at Eagle River. In 1893 he was named sheriff of Vilas County and served one term. He then decided to take up the study of law and entered the University of Minnesota and graduated from the law course of that institution in June, 1898. He was immediately admitted to the bar of that state. That fall Mr. and Mrs. Sells came to Florence, Mr. Sells establishing himself in the law business in that city. On March 2, 1900 he was admitted to the Wisconsin bar.<sup>27</sup>

Sells' private office was in Simon's Block in downtown Florence and soon after arriving in Florence he was elected district attorney for Florence County, a public office that he would hold continuously

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<sup>24</sup> The 1930 United State Federal Census shows that by that time D. M. Fulmer and his two daughters were living in Sheridan, Wyoming. Fulmer was 79.

<sup>25</sup> "The Fulmer Home Sold." *The Florence Mining News*, July 9, 1904, p. 1.

<sup>26</sup> "General City News." *The Florence Mining News*, August 6, 1904, p. 1.

<sup>27</sup> "Death Takes Max Sells." *The Florence Mining News*, January 19, 1935. Obituary of Max Sells. Sells was Vilas County's first sheriff.

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for the next 20 years. Sells proved to be a highly effective private and public attorney and he was also a well known figure in state Republican Party politics.

During his lifetime Mr. Sells was identified with the Republican party and was one of the leading political figures of Wisconsin. He served on the Republican State Central Committee and held other offices of importance within the rank and file.

In the 1920s Sells brought his son and fellow attorney, Arthur Sells, into partnership with him in the firm of Sells and Sells and he was both a director and past president of the State Bank of Florence and was also an active participant in private and civic efforts to improve the town.

The town and county of Florence loses a true friend, citizen and booster in the death of Max Sells. Many of our modern civic improvements can be traced back to the hand of Max Sells. He had much to do with the establishment of our sewer, water and light systems; the building of the gymnasium, high school, cement walks, and the paving of Central avenue; the acquisition of the Schlisinger right-of-way for the present U.S.-2 and many other things we could mention.<sup>28</sup>

Sells died on January 16, 1935 and his obituary appeared in newspapers across the state. On the afternoon of his funeral all the business places in the town of Florence closed and flags flew at half mast in both the town and the county. His house on Central Avenue was then inherited by his wife, Nellie, who lived there until her own death in 1937.<sup>29</sup> The year before, however, a family event took place that Max Sells would surely have been proud to see. This was the graduation of his daughter, Verle, from Marquette University's law course in February of 1936, which made her one of the state's few woman lawyers.<sup>30</sup> Verle E. Sells (1889-1940) was born in Eagle River and moved to Florence with her parents and older brother, Arthur, in 1898. She graduated from Florence high school and subsequently, from Milwaukee Downer College in 1911, and then taught in public schools in both Wisconsin and Illinois before deciding to attend Marquette University's law school. After graduating from Marquette with high honors she joined her brother and fellow attorney, Arthur M. Sells, as a partner in the firm of Sells and Sells, which had been founded by their father. Verle was also almost immediately appointed to be circuit court judge for Florence County by Gov. Philip LaFollette on March 5, 1936. Sells was subsequently reelected to this office without opposition in April 1937, thus becoming the first woman ever to serve as a judge in the state of Wisconsin, and she died while still in

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<sup>28</sup> "Death Takes Max Sells." *The Florence Mining News*, January 19, 1935. Obituary of Max Sells.

<sup>29</sup> "Death Claims Mrs. Sells at Her Residence." *The Florence Mining News*, April 7, 1937. Obituary of Nellie Sells.

<sup>30</sup> "Florence Has a Woman Lawyer." *The Florence Mining News*, February 29, 1936, p. 1.

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office on April 23, 1940.<sup>31</sup> No other woman would serve as a judge in Wisconsin until Olga Bennett was elected in Vernon County in 1970.

After the death of Verle Sells, the family house passed through several more owners and it was, for a time, used as a nursing home, and was in deteriorated condition when it was purchased by its present owners in 2000. These owners then embarked on an extensive restoration of the house and its grounds and it is now open to the public, it houses a year-round inn named Maxsell's Restaurant and Suites, and it is once again one of Florence's finest, most intact historic houses.

### **Architecture**

The David M. and Lottie Fulmer house is eligible for listing in the NRHP because it is a fine, highly intact, early Prairie School style residence that was built in 1899 for prominent Florence County lumberman David M. Fulmer. As the Prairie School style subsection of the CRMP notes: "Horizontality was the essence of Prairie School design, emphasized by a low, long hipped or gable roof, ... and the use of an emphatic belt course or shelf roof between stories."<sup>32</sup> Both of these elements are to be found in the design of the Fulmer house, whose exterior also makes use of wood and stucco, which the CRMP further notes were materials that were generally used for Prairie School buildings. In addition, Prairie School houses are notable for the fact that both their overall and detail designs usually exhibit an almost total absence of historic precedent, and this is true of the Fulmer house.

The Fulmer house is an excellent representative example of the "Hipped Roof, Symmetrical, with Front Entry" subtype of the Prairie School style that was identified by Virginia and Lee McAlester in their classic work *A Field Guide to American Houses*. The McAlesters defined this subtype as follows:

This subtype, which is sometimes called the Prairie Box or American Foursquare, has a simple square or rectangular plan, low-pitched hipped roof, and symmetrical façade. One-story wings, porches, or carports are clearly subordinate to the principal two-story mass. The entrance, which may be centered or off-center, is a conspicuous focal point of the façade. This was the earliest Prairie form and developed into the most common vernacular version. In vernacular

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<sup>31</sup> "Florence County Mourns Death of Verle E. Sells." *The Florence Mining News*, April 27, 1940, p. 1, 4. See also: *Wisconsin Lawyer*. State Bar Assoc. of Wisconsin: April 2004, Vol. 77, No. 4.

<sup>32</sup> Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 1986. Vol. 2, 2-21 (Architecture).



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Section 8 Page 10

Fulmer, David M. and Lottie, House  
Town of Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin

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examples, hipped dormers are common, as are full-width, single-story front porches and double hung sash.<sup>33</sup>

Typical features of the Prairie School style are present in the Fulmer house. These features include its box-like symmetrical main façade, its overall proportions, its low-pitched hipped roofs with their wide overhanging boxed eaves, its extra-wide front-facing hipped roof dormer, the belt course that encircles the house between the stories, and its full-width front porch. These elements combine to give the overall design a horizontal emphasis that is one of the character defining features of the style. There are other, smaller features that exhibit Prairie School style design. The front porch, for instance, has paired porch posts that have what the McAlesters call "Wrightian capitals" and these posts rest on slightly flared plinths that further accentuate the ground-hugging horizontality of the whole. Another feature that contributes, however subtly, to the house's overall sense of horizontality is the use of one-over-one light-windows in the first story of the house that have taller lower sash.

The elements that comprise the Fulmer house's interior are simple in design and make no attempt to invoke any previous styles which is typical of a Prairie School style interior. What is especially notable about this interior is the high quality of the materials that were used in its construction and the excellent craftsmanship that is in evidence; the solid oak exterior and interior doors, with their beveled glass lights and marquetry inlay, respectively, being especially notable examples.

No information about either the designer or the builder of the Fulmer house has yet been found but given the fact that this is a very early Prairie School design it is likely that it was the work of a professional architect and one who was also aware of what at that time would have been the latest trend in residential design. One possible candidate is James E. Clancy, who, by 1899, had moved from Antigo to Green Bay, Wisconsin. Ten years earlier, in 1889, Clancy had designed the Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style Florence County Courthouse and Jail in Florence and a Florence newspaper account in 1899 noted that Clancy was then back in Florence renewing old acquaintances. A few weeks later, the newspaper also noted that Clancy was back in Florence once again "on business," but the nature of that business was not specified and there is, unfortunately, no documentation that links him to the Fulmer house.

The David M. and Lottie Fulmer house is locally significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a fine, highly intact example of an early Prairie School style residential design that meets the test of Criterion C, which asks that a nominated property exhibit "Distinctive design or

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<sup>33</sup> McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984, p. 439.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 11

Fulmer, David M. and Lottie, House  
Town of Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin

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physical characteristics." Prairie School style houses of its time typically have a horizontal emphasis, grouped windows, wide overhanging eaves, and an emphatic belt course that is placed between the stories, and many examples also use stucco as a siding material. All of these elements are found in the design of the Fulmer house, and its significance is considerably enhanced by the high degree of integrity that is present in the fabric of the house today. In addition, the building's largely original, and highly intact interior adds considerably to the overall significance of the house as does the very fine physical condition of the building. When it was first built, the Fulmer house was the largest and most up-to-date house in both the town of Florence and in the surrounding area. It is the only local example of the Prairie School style and it is the most prominent house in the community; its size, design, and setting set it apart from the smaller, more ordinary, and typically less intact late nineteenth century houses that constitute the bulk of Florence's historic residential buildings.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 1

Fulmer, David M. and Lottie, House  
Town of Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin

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**Major Bibliographical References:**

Abstract of Title. All of Block 24 of the Recorded Plat of the Village of Florence.

*Biographical History of La Crosse, Monroe and Juneau Counties, Wisconsin.* Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1892.

The Florence County Centennial Committee. *Heritage of Iron & Timber: 1880-1980.* Florence, WI: 1980.

*The Florence Mining News.* Various issues.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

United State Federal Census Returns. 1880, 1900, 1930.

Village of Florence Real Estate Tax Assessment Rolls.

*Wisconsin Lawyer.* State Bar Assoc. of Wisconsin: April 2004, Vol. 77, No. 4.

Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (3 vols.). Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 1986.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 1

Fulmer, David M. and Lottie, House  
Town of Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

Block 24 of Plat of Village of Florence

**Boundary Justification:**

The parcel described above contains all the land that has historically been associated with the Fulmer house.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Fulmer, David M. and Lottie, House  
Town of Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin

Section photos Page 1

**Items a-d are the same for photos 1 - 25.**

Photo 1

- a) Fulmer, David M. and Lottie, House
- b) Florence, Florence County, WI
- c) Timothy F. Heggland, November 12, 2012
- d) Wisconsin Historical Society
- e) General View, View looking SE
- f) Photo 1 of 25

Photo 2

- e) Main Elevation, View looking S
- f) Photo 2 of 25

Photo 3

- e) General View, View looking SW
- f) Photo 3 of 25

Photo 4

- e) East Side Elevation, View looking W
- f) Photo 4 of 25

Photo 5

- e) Rear Elevation, View looking NNW
- f) Photo 5 of 25

Photo 6

- e) General View, View looking NE
- f) Photo 6 of 25

Photo 7

- e) West Elevation, View looking E
- f) Photo 7 of 25

Photo 8

- e) Garage, View looking NE
- f) Photo 8 of 25

Photo 9

- e) Main Entrance Detail, View looking S
- f) Photo 9 of 25

Photo 10

- e) Entrance Vestibule, View looking N
- f) Photo 10 of 32

Photo 11

- e) Stair Hall, View looking S
- f) Photo 11 of 25

Photo 12

- e) Stair Hall, View looking ESE
- f) Photo 12 of 25

Photo 13

- e) Living Room, View looking N
- f) Photo 13 of 25

Photo 14

- e) Living Room, View looking NE
- f) Photo 14 of 25

Photo 15

- e) Living Room, View Looking E to Dining Room
- f) Photo 15 of 25

Photo 16

- e) Dining Room, View looking W to Living Room
- f) Photo 16 of 25

Photo 17

- e) Dining Room, View looking NW
- f) Photo 17 of 25

Photo 18

- e) Living Room, View looking S
- f) Photo 18 of 25

Photo 19

- e) Library, View looking SE
- f) Photo 19 of 25

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Fulmer, David M. and Lottie, House  
Town of Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin

Section photos Page 2

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Photo 20

- e) Library Fireplace, View looking E
- f) Photo 20 of 25

Photo 21

- e) Rear Porch, View looking E
- f) Photo 21 of 25

Photo 22

- e) General View, View looking SE
- f) Photo 22 of 25

Photo 23

- e) Rear Porch Detail, View looking NW to Library
- f) Photo 23 of 25

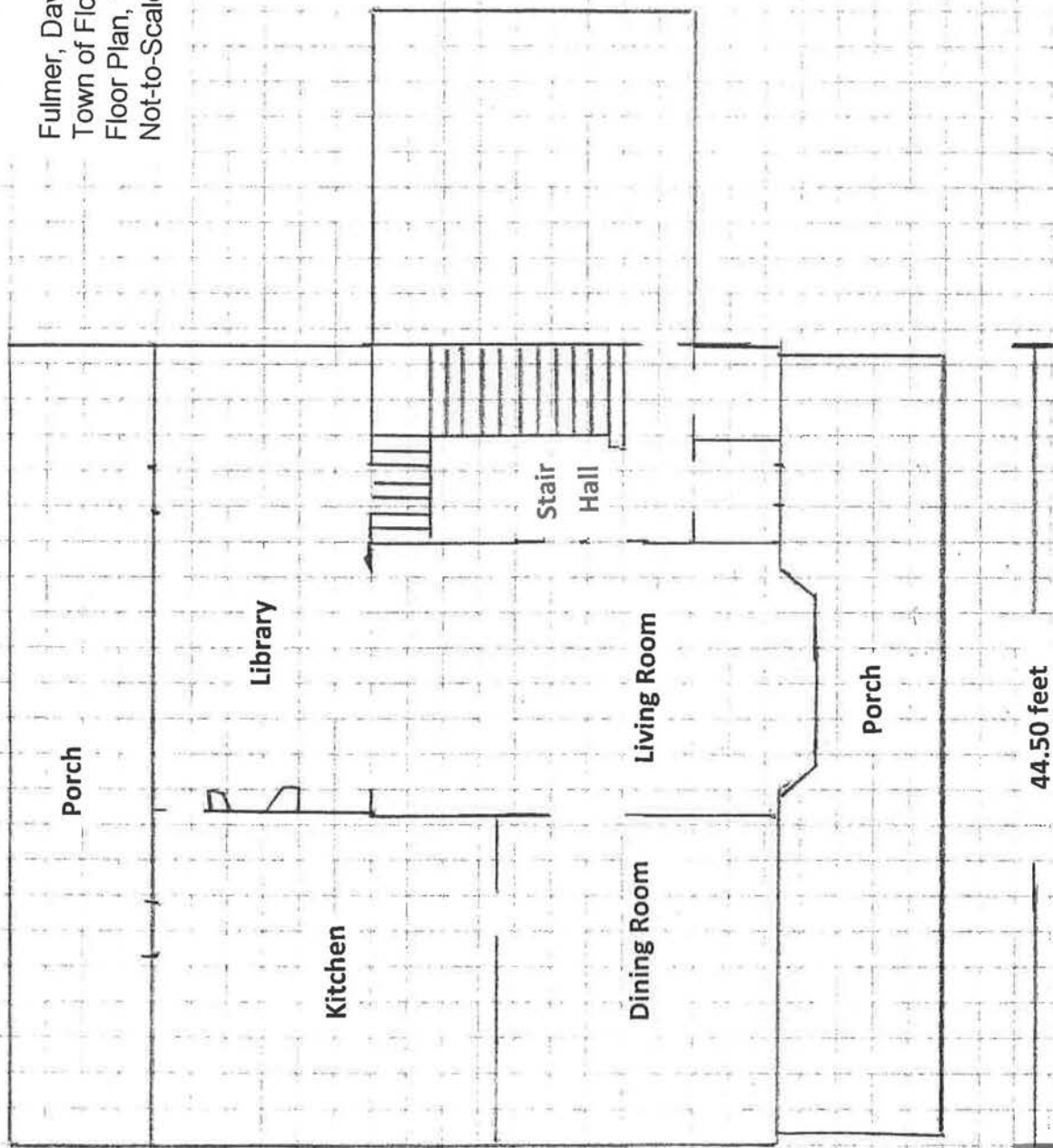
Photo 24

- e) Second Story Hall, View looking W
- f) Photo 24 of 25

Photo 25

- e) Master Bedroom, View looking SSW
- f) Photo 25 of 25

Fulmer, David M. and Lottie, House  
Town of Florence, Florence County, WI  
Floor Plan, 1st Floor  
Not-to-Scale



42.50 feet

44.50 feet

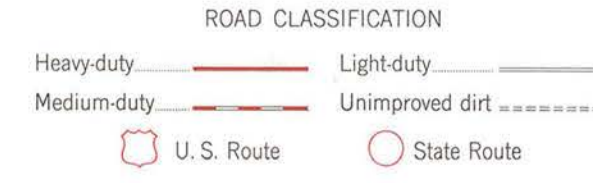
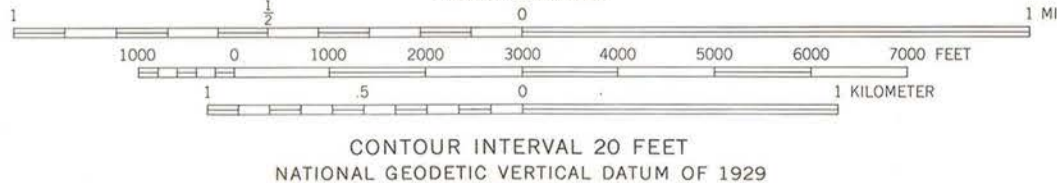


Fulmer, David M. and  
Lottie, House  
In of Florence, Florence Co.,  
Wisconsin  
UTM Coordinates  
Z E N  
16 403440 5085920

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Planimetry of Michigan area by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1958. Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1943. Field checked 1948. Revised 1962  
Topography of Wisconsin area by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1958. Field checked 1962

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Wisconsin coordinate system, north zone and Michigan coordinate system, west zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

FLORENCE EAST, WIS.-MICH.  
N4552.5-W8807.5/7.5  
1962  
AMS 3375 1 NW-SERIES W861





VULCAN  
CENTRAL

Massville  
RESIDENCE



















NEW  
MANAGER!

209

Maxwell's  
RESTAURANT  
MON & TUES CLOSED  
WED - THUR 4 - 9  
FRI - SAT 4 - 10  
SUNDAY 4 - 9





Smoke Free Facility

Welcome to Maxsells  
Please come to pub to be seated

Packer Fans



PRIVATE AREA





Smoke Free Facility

NO SMOKING  
SMOKE FREE FACILITY

















BON  
APPETIT













EXIT >





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Fulmer, David M. and Lottie, House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Florence

DATE RECEIVED: 3/21/14      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/11/14  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/28/14      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/07/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000196

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    5.5.14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



**TO:** Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places

**FROM:** Daina Penkiunas

**SUBJECT:** National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 19th day of March 2014,  
for nomination of the Fulmer, David M. and Lottie, House to the National Register  
of Historic Places:

1 Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

           Multiple Property Nomination form

1 CD with electronic images

25 Photograph(s)

1 Original USGS/NOAA map(s)

1 Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

1 Piece(s) of correspondence

           Other \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS:**

           Please insure that this nomination is reviewed

           This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67

           The enclosed owner objection(s) do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_\_  
constitute a majority of property owners.

           Other: \_\_\_\_\_



# TOM TIFFANY

STATE SENATOR • 12TH SENATE DISTRICT

August 21, 2013

Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board  
c/o Daina Penkiunas  
Wisconsin Historical Society  
816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board:

I am writing today in support of the Webb House, the Florence Town Hall, and the Fulmer House in the town of Florence, WI in their bid for recognition on the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and National Register of Historic Places. These three locations in Florence have served the community in various forms during the last century and deserve to be considered for such a prestigious honor.

I have had the fortune of individually visiting these historic buildings and have even attended events in the Webb House. The timeless architecture of each of these structures is a testament to the hard work and forethought that went into their construction. Through such an honorable designation, the proud heritage of Florence will be further preserved.

As you evaluate these historic structures, please note that they have played important roles in the development of Florence and life in this small, northern Wisconsin town. They are deserving of your consideration and I would once again like to express my support for their addition to the Wisconsin State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Tiffany".

TOM TIFFANY  
State Senator  
12<sup>th</sup> Senate District