

PH0503312

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 29 1977
DATE ENTERED JAN 30 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

**

Marnach, Nicholas, House

AND/OR COMMON

Marnach, Nicholas, House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

NE 1/4 NW 1/4 Section 33
Whitewater Twp.

CITY, TOWN

Elba

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

22

COUNTY

Winona

CODE

169

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER/vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

STREET & NUMBER

390 Centennial Building

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds - Winona County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Third and Washington

CITY, TOWN

Winona

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1973

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society - Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Nicholas Marnach House is located approximately two miles north of the present community of Elba; it is within lands under the jurisdiction of the Whitewater Wildlife Management Area. The house is situated on a steeply sloping site with the rear set into the hillside and the front facing on an abandoned township road which winds along the slope. Due to its location, the Marnach House is relatively secluded and inaccessible.

The Marnach House is rectangular in plan with a stone and frame lean-to to the rear; the rear wall of the lean-to forms a retaining wall in the hillside. The structure is of uncut limestone laid in a random fashion and sheathed on the exterior with a thick coat of a stucco/grout. Walls range in thickness from two-and-one-half to three feet. With the exception of a rear door to the lean-to and two attic windows, all openings are located on the south facade of the house and face onto the township road. While the door is of low proportion, the six windows are large and square in shape. The window casings are fashioned of hand-hewn timbers, on which the adze marks are plainly visible. The walls of the window openings are chamfered inward to provide a large sill of a trapezoidal plan; a similar treatment is employed in the attic windows.

The interior of the two storey house is arranged to accommodate three rooms on each floor. The exterior doorway provides access to the central room; the former rear access door links the central room with rear lean-to. Floors are of wide planking nailed with cut nails to a heavy timber joist system. Timbers are joined by mortise-and-tenon with pegs. Walls throughout are plastered and whitewashed. In later years a second wall of lath and plaster over furring strips had been affixed to the original stone/plaster walls in several rooms.

The second floor is reached via a narrow staircase which rises through the east room. Under this staircase was the access to the cellar (the cellar is under only the east room). The floor in the east room has partially collapsed.

The second floor is a mirror image of the first floor with the exception of a staircase in the center room which provides access to the attic. This staircase has been constructed to fit into the southwest corner of the room.

The attic is incorporated under a low jerkin-type roof. All structural members are exposed; the roof is sheathed with wide planking over which has been nailed split cedar shingles. The stone chimney rises through the center of the room to the ridge of the roof. A square window of smaller proportion than those on the lower floors is found in each gable. A unique feature of the attic is the construction of the floor system. It is of heavy timbers and planks upon which a two-inch layer of cement was poured; oral accounts state that this was done as a safety measure soon after the house was constructed, in order that, should the roof burn, the remainder of the house would be protected.

(see continuation sheet)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 29 1977
DATE ENTERED	JAN 30 1978

Marnach, Nicholas, House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Constructed ca.1857, the Nicholas Marnach House is stylistically unique in that it incorporates a predominance of Germanic/Medieval design features, such as the massive stone walls covered with stucco/grout, square windows, jerkin roof, mortise-and-tenon timber framing, and choice of site. Although the house has been vacant since ca.1940 and has lost windows and doors through vandalism and deterioration, it retains a substantial degree of integrity such as the finishing treatment of exterior and interior walls, door and window casings, and traces of original colors (a Prussian Blue and ochres are evident on remaining woodwork). With the exception of the rear wall of the lean-to (not original to the house), and the collapsed floor over the cellar section, the house is in sound structural condition, although deterioration is accelerated through lack of maintenance and vulnerability to the elements.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES ca.1857

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Nicholas Marnach

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed ca.1857, the Nicholas Marnach House is the earliest known extant example of German/Medieval influence and technology transposed into the pioneer residential architecture of Southeastern Minnesota. The area in which the Marnach House is located was formerly associated with the now extinct settlement of Whitewater Falls. This community, as others in Whitewater Twp., was settled primarily by immigrants of Germanic extraction. These people often constructed vernacular, subsistence-type of dwellings, although a rare example of "old country" building could be found. The Nicholas Marnach House is such an example of "old country" building, resulting in a direct transposition of the stone dwelling of the hilly northern European countryside into the similarly hilly, and yet untamed, countryside of Southeastern Minnesota. Although deteriorated, this massive, fortress-like house remains an excellent example of a rare type of architecture and a testament to the German immigrants that settled the area.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bennett, L.G. & Smith, A.C. (publishers), Map of Winona County, Minnesota: 1867.
 Bunnell, Lafayette H., Winona and Its Environs. Winona: Jones & Kroeger, 1897.
History of Winona County, Chicago: H.H. Hill & Co., 1883.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	57, 74, 4, 0	4, 818, 54, 2, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charles W. Nelson, Architectural Historian/William D. Gernes, Director

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Minnesota Historical Society/Winona County Historical Society 1 June 1977

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Building 25, Fort Snelling/165 Johnson Street 612-726-1171/507-454-2723

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

St. Paul/Winona

Minnesota

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Russell W. Fridley

TITLE Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 8-22-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOL. AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: *Charles W. Nelson*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 1 30 78
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 1-24-78