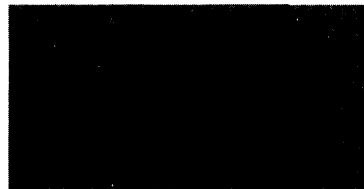


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Wright, Ely, House

and/or common Gooding House

2. Location

street & number 901 Sixth Street^{6th} not for publication

city, town Wausau vicinity of congressional district Seventh

state Wisconsin code 055 county Marathon code 073

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Val and Carolyn Immel

street & number 901 Sixth Street

city, town Wausau vicinity of state Wisconsin 54401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marathon County Courthouse

street & number Forest Avenue

city, town Wausau state Wisconsin 54401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places (continued) has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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 Ely Wright House is one of the pivotal elements in a neighborhood settled in the late nineteenth century by prominent Wausau business and civic leaders. The prime residential sector is located northeast of the central business district. Location at the corner of Sixth and McIndoe Streets shows the striking details of the house to full advantage.

Crowned by a fully-glazed cupola, the main mass of the house is near cubic in shape and two stories in height. A lower two-story wing (original) adjoins the north side of the cube, with one-story screened porch to the front (west) and one-story service wing to the rear (east). Thin pilasters mark the corners of the building, merging with incised brackets under the cornice overhead. Asbestos shingles cover the hipped roofs of the cube, cupola, and north wing, and the gable roof of the east wing. Incised tendrils cover the wood hoodmolds and keystones over each of the three windows per story on the front (west) and south sides of the house, and in the center of the upper story of the north wing. The multi-paned door in the north end of the front facade is enclosed by an elliptical fanlight and sidelights, and served by a small open porch with Doric columns and roofline balustrade. The three-sided bay on the west end of the south side of the building also carries a balustrade. Screened porches front and rear on the north-west wing enclose secondary entrances. All windows are divided double-hung sash. Interior brick chimneys rise from the east slope of the roof of the north wing, and the south slope of the roof over the cube. A two-course painted stone foundation supports the house.

Alterations on the interior have been limited to modernization of the second-floor bath, addition of a half-bath on the first floor, conversion of the original pantry to a utility room, and routine painting and wallpapering. A living room and parallel hall fill the southwest half of the first-floor plan, linked to the northeast half by an open dining room; a den and kitchen occupy the north side. Simple profiled wood mouldings and baseboards trim the papered walls. Oak and maple floors are now carpeted. Simple chimney breasts in the living room and den are of painted brick. The single-run stair, with large oak newell and balustrade, faces the entrance in the front hall. Four bedrooms, a hall, a bath, and the attic stair (to the cupola) compose the L-shaped second-story plan.

A two-car, gable roof garage of recent vintage lies several feet to the rear of the house. It does not contribute to the nomination.

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 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 1881¹

Builder/Architect John Mercer²

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Cubic in form, with hallmark glazed cupola, decorative window caps, and brackets, the Ely Wright House is a well-preserved representative of Italianate residential design. One of a dozen remaining frame and masonry Italianate houses in the city, the house rivals any in the elaborateness of its decoration and the retention of its integrity. The three-unit system of fenestration and Greek Revival-derived doorway with elliptical fanlight and sidelights recall the historical lineage of the type.

The Ely Wright House was listed among architect-builder John Mercer's "Improvements of the City of Wausau" in the Wausau Wisconsin River Pilot of November 19, 1881, at a value of \$2,500. Called "one of the most prominent architects and contractors of Wausau,"³ Mercer (1837-1894) was born, raised, and educated in Mona Mills, Canada. Before studying architectural drawing, Mercer learned cabinet-making and worked as a carpenter. From 1862-63 he worked as a contractor and builder in Saginaw, Michigan, moving then to Superior, Wisconsin for two years; Grand Rapids for seven years; and then to Wausau, where he lived until his death in 1894. Mercer, "...a most valuable and public-spirited citizen," was the architect and builder "of most of the handsome edifices which adorn the city of Wausau, noticeable among which are the Plumer residence, First National Bank, and many other handsome and substantial buildings, both public and private."⁴

¹ Wisconsin River Pilot, June 4, 1881.

² Wisconsin River Pilot, November 19, 1881.

³ Commemorative Biographical Record of the Upper Wisconsin, J. H. Beers & Co., 1895, p. 213.

⁴ Ibid.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Marchette, Louis, History of Marathon County, Richmond-Arnold Publishing Company, Chicago, 1913.
Wisconsin River Pilot, 1881.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Wausau East, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	6	2	9	1	3	0	4	9	8	2	0	9	10
Zone		Easting				Northing							

B

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H

Zone		Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The south 1/2 of Lots 1 and 2, Block 5, Warren's First Addition to the City of Wausau, Marathon County, Wisconsin

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 Diane H. Filipowicz, Architectural Historian (continued)

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date April 1980

street & number 816 State Street telephone (608) 262-2970

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Richard Henry

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 2/24/81

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

of Delores Byers Entered in the National Register date 3/1/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet

Item number 6

Page 1

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (continued)

Walking Tour of Historical Homes, Wausau, Wisconsin 1872-1972
1972

Wausau Chamber of Commerce
Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

Local

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 11

Page 1

FORM PREPARED BY

Research Assistance by:

Carolyn Immel
901 Sixth Street
Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

April, 1980