

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received FEB 16 1982
date entered MAR 19 1982

See Instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name Lewis Farmhouse

historic Willow River Farm

and/or common Lewis Farmhouse (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Farm Drive, County Road A not for publication

city, town Boardman MN vicinity of congressional district Third

state Wisconsin code 55 county St. Croix code 109

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Rental Property (residential)

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Gerald E. McKay

street & number 5600 Clinton Avenue, South

city, town Minneapolis vicinity of state Minnesota 55719

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Croix County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Hudson state Wisconsin 54016

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1980 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

Protective forest screens the Lewis Farmhouse from view from County Road A near Boardman in rural St. Croix County, Wisconsin. Set on a four hundred-acre rolling farm, the house is oriented east-west, with ruins of a privy and the original barn to the east. A small frame granary with gable roof stands at a distance to the rear (south) of the house. The Willow River crosses the property to the east of the farm buildings. Only the house itself is included in the nomination.

The plan of the house is forty by twenty-two feet in size, with a one-story kitchen wing appended at the northeast corner of the rear. An additional shed which once extended from the kitchen wing to the west end of the house has been removed. The one-story-plus-attic building is covered by a low gable roof of cedar shingles. A short extension of the roof overhangs the white pine clapboard walls. A single-door entry, with plain entablature overhead, is centered on the front (south) facade; two rectangular window frames are regularly-set to each side. The attic level of the south and north sides is lighted by two small rectangular windows (recently added) corresponding to openings below. A second entrance in the center of the east gable end is framed by a rectangular window to each side, and surmounted by two windows centered in the attic above. The west gable end contains similar windows on the attic level, and a single window in the north half of the ground story. When completed, alteration of the kitchen wing to the rear will include a projecting bay window and third entrance beneath the wide west overhang of the gable roof. Two chimneys, recently stabilized, remain of three once in place on the house: one on the southeastern end of the ridge, and the other on the kitchen wing to the rear. The third chimney, at the northwestern end of the ridge, though once similar to the southeastern stack, has been replaced by a larger brick chimney recently constructed to serve the fireplace installed in the living room of the interior. On-going rehabilitation of the structure has included exterior paint scraping and some replacement of deteriorated elements and windows.

The regular plan of the interior, with two rooms to the west of the center living room and a parlor and pantry to the east, has been retained in the restoration (see included plans). The attic story, also regular in plan, includes three bedrooms and baths on the ends of the floor with a center dormitory space, closets, and stairhall along the north wall. Alterations on the interior have been minimal, confined largely to kitchen modernization and installation of bathrooms and closets. Original fabric has been retained or replicated whenever possible.

The cellar contains the house's only original "fireplace," a firebox constructed of stone and formerly used for rendering.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
___ 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates 1867¹ Builder/Architect Charles Dowle

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In form, the Lewis Farmhouse appears to be a typical New England-Canadian Maritime vernacular house of the nearly nineteenth century.² Of an austerity of design "quite apart from Victorian or Greek revival types."³ the Lewis House is significant as the only known example of its kind in Wisconsin.

According to University of Minnesota geographer Eugene Cotton Mather, counterparts of the Lewis House in their native New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and New England seem to be a New England type which was taken by the United Empire Loyalists to the Canadian Maritime Provinces or was used contemporaneously in both the Provinces and New England. Either theory of origin would be supported by testimony of Lewis's descendants who maintained that carpenter Charlie Dowle was a descendant of the loyalist Kings Men, and a native of the Merry Machee River area of Nova Scotia. Polk County census records of 1850 list Charles Dowle, age thirty-five, as a carpenter of Scotch nationality. His February 1, 1890 obituary in the Polk County Press states that he had been a resident of the county for more than forty years. The St. Croix Republican of January 22, 1890 states that Dowle was a "well-known citizen of considerable wealth." Attribution of the Lewis farmhouse to Dowle was made by the daughter of the original owner Daniel Lewis.

A native of Swansea, Wales, Lewis (1821-1887) arrived in St. Croix County from Green Bay in 1854. Upon his arrival, Lewis purchased the two hundred ninety-acre property which was to become Willow River Farm. A lumberman, Lewis worked in the St. Croix River region until he turned to farming in 1860. With a partner he founded the Lewis & Beers Cheese Factory, one of the first such enterprises in St. Joseph Township. His civic services to the community included several terms Town Chairman and membership on the Board of Supervisors.

The Lewis farm is still in family ownership.

¹ Verbal report of Marie Durning.

² Letter of February 23, 1981 from Eugene Cotton Mather to Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, regarding significance of the Lewis Farmhouse, St. Croix County, Wisconsin.

³ Ibid.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Family records of the Lewis family, currently held by Mrs. Gerald McKay of Minneapolis.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one
Quadrangle name Somerset South, Wis.-Minn.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	1 5	5 2 9 5 2 0	4 9 8 7 8 9 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property shall consist of a square one hundred feet by one hundred feet in size, centered on the center of the house, said property being located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 36, T30N, R18W, Town of St. Joseph, St. Croix 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

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date November, 1980; February, 1981

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 Wewey

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 5/29/81

For HCRS use only

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

for book
Deloris Byers
Keeper of the National Register

date 3/19/82

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

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

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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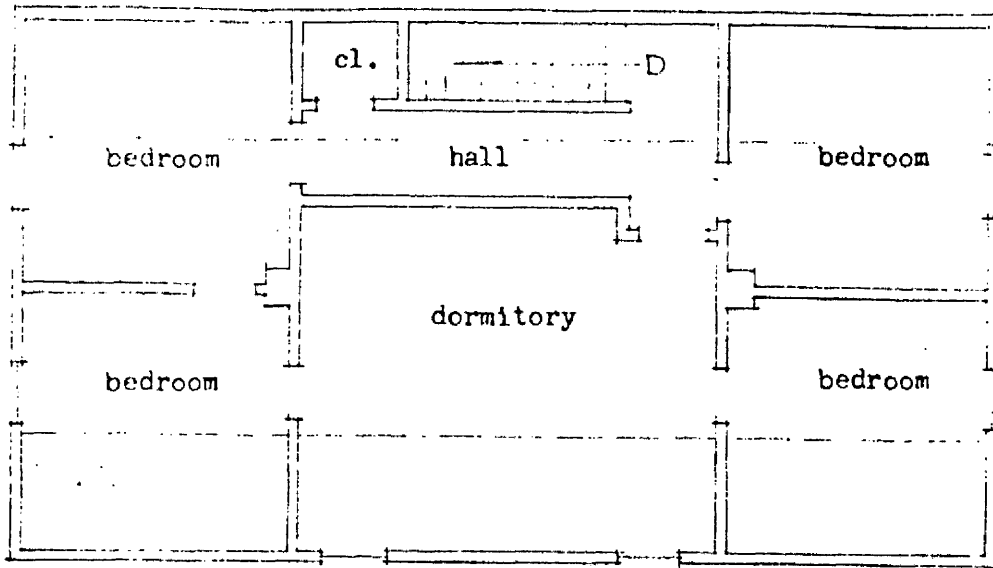
1

FORM PREPARED BY

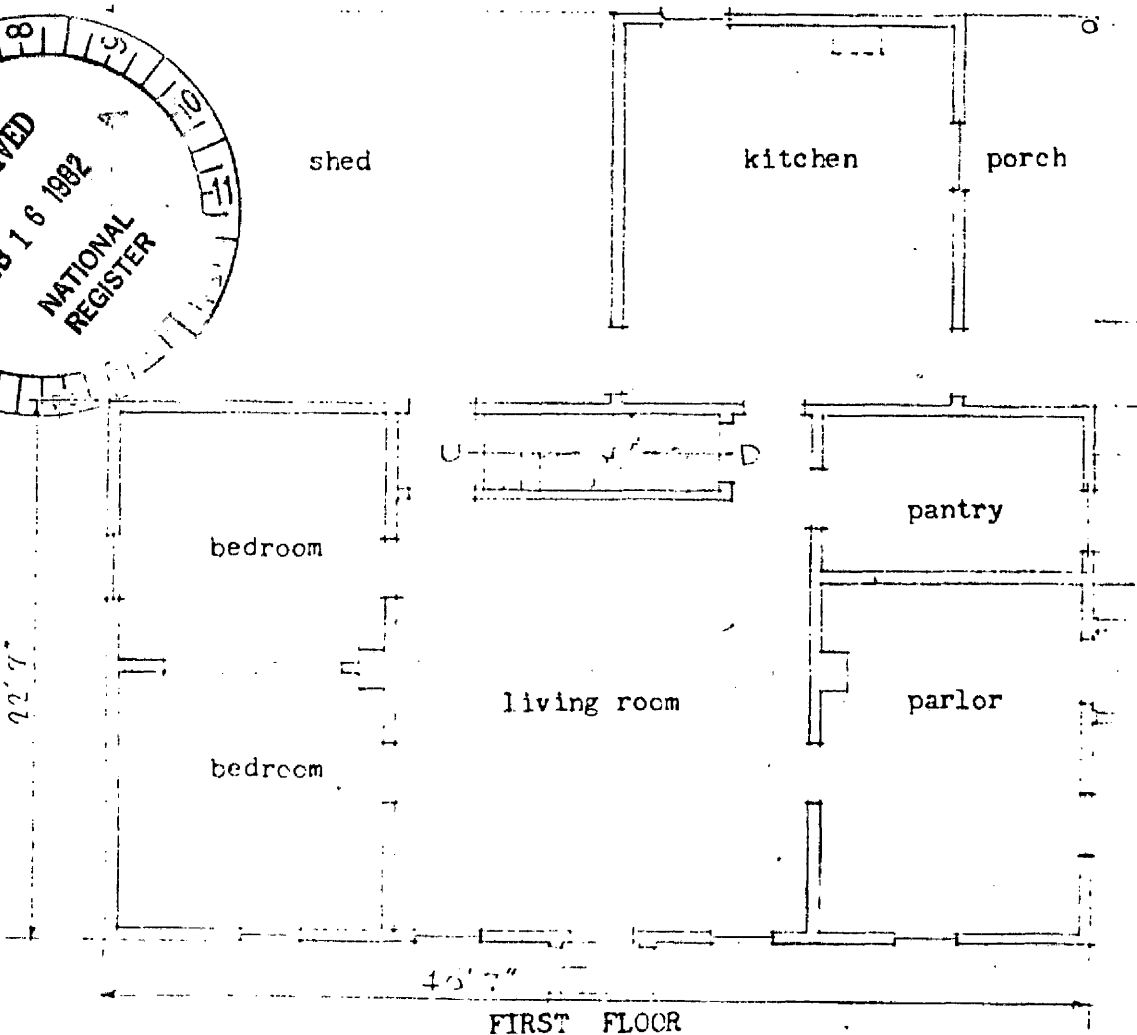
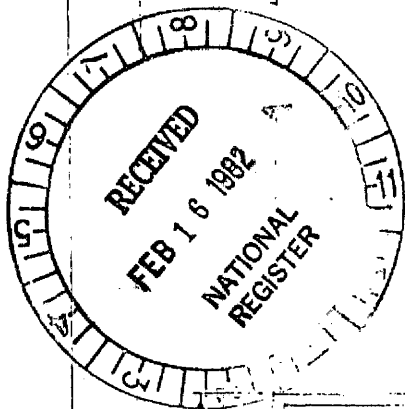
Research Assistance by:

Mrs. Gerald McKay
5600 Clinton Avenue, South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419

November 1980
(612) 866-0926



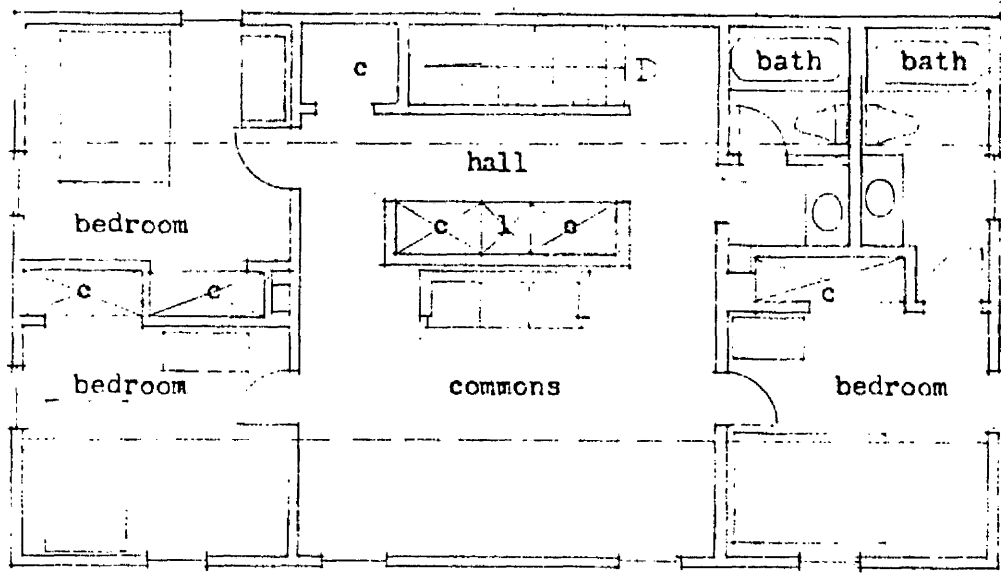
SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

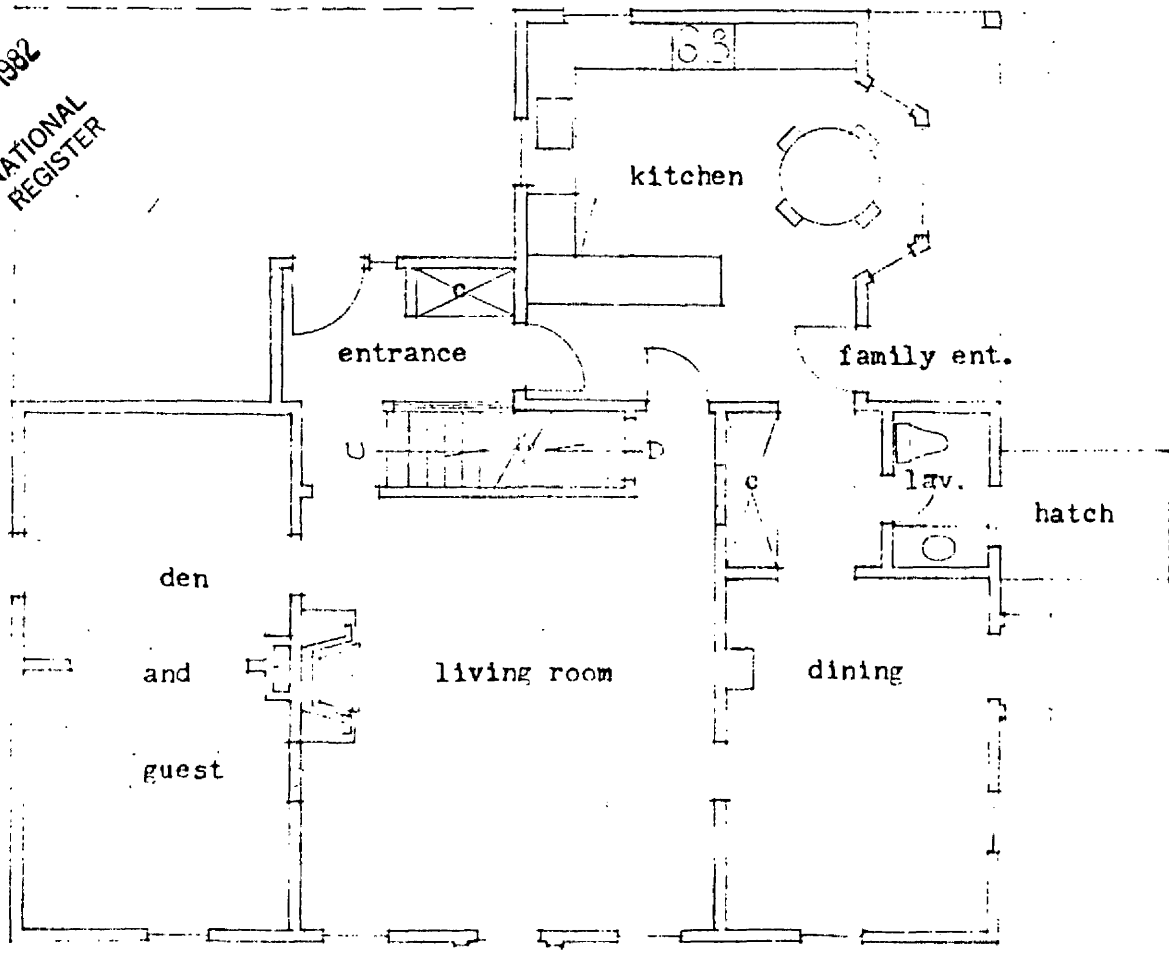
1/8" = 1'-0"

LEWIS FARMHOUSE c. 1867
St. Croix Co., Wisconsin



SECOND FLOOR

RECEIVED
 FEB 18 1982
 NATIONAL REGISTER



FIRST FLOOR

POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT

1/8" = 1'0"

LEWIS FARMHOUSE c. 1867
 St. Croix Co., Wisconsin