

MAR 15 1982

HISTORIC NAME: Ivory McKusick House

COUNTY: Washington

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Stillwater

LEGAL DESC.:

E. 75' of S. 150' of Block 7, original town

ADDRESS:

504 N. Second St.

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent _____	Local <u>X</u>	Primary Architecture
Structure _____	Good <u>X</u>	State _____	Secondary Commerce
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes ___ No X Restricted ___

PRESENT USE:

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No ___

Residence

OCCUPIED: Yes X No ___

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1868

ORIGINAL USE: Residence

ORIGINAL OWNER: Ivory McKusick

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Benjamin & Margaret Welshons
504 N. Second St.
Stillwater, MN 55082ACREAGE: Less than one acre X

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:

N/A

UTM REFERENCE:

Stillwater, Minn-Wis: 7.5

FORM PREPARED BY: Tom Harvey

15 / 515015 / 4989440

DATE: 3/81

DESCRIPTION:

The Ivory McKusick House, built on an L-shaped plan, exhibits many classic features of the French Second Empire style. The house is covered with a concave-sided mansard roof with round-arched dormer windows. On the main mass of the house, heavy window hoods are supported by ornate side brackets. The extended eaves are supported by carved brackets with pendants, a design repeated in massive door hood supports and in cornice brackets on a side bay window. Arched window hoods on the first level have small brackets similar to those of the dormer windows. Frieze design along the roof cornice is repeated on the bay window. The lower rear wing shows simpler elements in its mansard roof and window details. The ornate brackets are missing. An early servants quarters addition (pre-1888) was added to the north side of the rear wing. The two-story addition, unfortunately, shows none of the Second Empire elements.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Ivory McKusick House is a locally distinctive example of Second Empire architecture. The mix of ornate elements in the small house make it one of the most striking examples of the style in the region. Further, its original owner was a member of one of Stillwater's important early families. Ivory McKusick moved from Maine to Stillwater in 1847, four years after his older brother John established the first sawmill in the town and a year before John platted the town-site. Ivory spent two years working in the mill, then was engaged in lumbering until 1857. In 1864 he helped build Fort Wadsworth, Dakota, for the U.S. government, then returned to Stillwater in 1865. In 1867 he was appointed surveyor-general of the first district of Minnesota and shortly thereafter built his house on Second Street. After 1875 he was in the warehouse, agricultural implement, and lumber businesses.