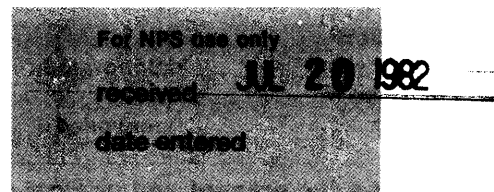


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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  R. Percy Ward House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 804 East Elm Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Waseca N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~ N/A

state Minnesota code 22 county Waseca code 161

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Vera L. Ward

street & number 804 East Elm Avenue

city, town Waseca N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds -- Waseca County Courthouse

street & number 307 North State Street

city, town Waseca state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Minnesota Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society -- Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

---

## 7. Description

---

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The R.P. Ward House is located on the southeast corner of Elm Avenue East and Eighth Street S.E. in Waseca, Minnesota. It is in an area of town in which several large homes were built by prominent businessmen around the turn of the century.

The two and a half story clapboard-sheathed house utilizes classical detailing. The residence was designed by Minneapolis architect, E.S. Stebbins. It is symmetrical with a two-story portico in the Ionic order on the north facade. There is a pediment over the portico with a Paladian window in the tympanum. Modillions are located under the eaves.

The front entry is an unadorned single-wide entry. The two middle windows on the second story on the north facade are enclosed by a wrought-iron balcony. There is a wrought-iron railing around the portico. The windows are double-hung sash; many of them have ornamental shutters on the sides. The east facade has a one-story screened porch added during remodeling in 1930, and a second-story arched window with stained glass in the top section. A back porch, originally open, was enclosed in the 1930 remodeling. An interior chimney pierces the gable roof on the west side.

The interior of the house contains oak woodwork. A paneled oak staircase leads to a landing by the east side stained glass window. Several bedrooms are on the second floor, and a ballroom is on the third floor. The interior has undergone some remodeling.

## 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1896–1897 **Builder/Architect** E.S. Stebbins, Minneapolis

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Since the procurement of the county seat in 1870, the city of Waseca dominated commercial and industrial development in the county. This dominance produced a significant number of large residences around the turn of the century. The R. Percy Ward House is the most prominent residential structure of this group of houses. In 1896 R.P. Ward engaged family friend and architect, E.S. Stebbins, to design his Elm Avenue residence, on the main east/west artery in Waseca.

W.G. Ward, along with his father-in-law, Ira Trowbridge, were the principal townsite developers and early entrepreneurs of Waseca. W.G. Ward was the city's first mayor and he served two terms as a state senator. Ward's son, Roscoe Percy, continued the family's influence in the financial and political spheres of Waseca as president of the People's State Bank of Waseca (later Farmer's National, now part of the First Bank System). In addition, he was active in city politics, real estate, farming, lumbering. He was a director of the Waseca Creamery Association for 30 years, and owner of the Ward Dry Milk Company.

The R. Percy Ward House is significant as the best preserved "large residence" in Waseca and a representative index of the town's commercial and industrial activity around the turn of the century.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bendix, Dee. "A House That's A Reflection of Gaiety and Style of 1890s", Waseca Daily Journal, Oct. 3, 1978, pp. 1 and 3.  
 Child, James E., Child's History of Waseca County, Whitney & Luers, Pbl., Owatonna, MN., 1905.  
History of Steele & Waseca Counties, Minnesota, Union Publ. Co., Chicago, 1887.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Meriden Quad, Minn.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

### UMT References

A 

1	5
---	---

4	6	0	2	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	8	8	0	3	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
 Zone Easting Northing

B 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1 and 2, except south 20 feet; the west 1/2 of lot 3, except south 20 feet; Block 2, Ward's Addition, City of Waseca.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peggy Korsmo-Kennon, Director; Jan Brown, Curator

organization Waseca County Historical Society date May 1, 1982

street & number P.O. Box 314 telephone 507-835-7700

city or town Waseca state 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 State Historic Preservation Officer

date

7/9/82

For NPS use only

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

Delores Byers

Keeper of the National Register

date

8/19/82

Attest:

Chief of Registration



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Note: These changes apply to  
Ward, R. Percy, House in Waseca  
County, Minnesota.**

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** 82003069

**STATE:** MINNESOTA

**COUNTY:** Waseca

**RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):** Ward, Roscoe P., House

**CITY:**

**VICINITY OF:**

**ADDRESS:**

**CERTIFICATION DATE:**

**REMOVED DATE:**

**COMMENTS:**

*Nina M. Archabal*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Nina M. Archabal**  
**State Historic Preservation Officer**

**JUN 17 1988**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**