

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



984

**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 Ellsworth, Benjamin House

and/or common Ellsworth, Cecil Residence

2. Location

street & number U. S. Highway 14 at State Trunk Highway 33 N/A not for publication

city, town Utica N/A vicinity of congressional district N/A

state Minnesota code 22 county Winona code 169

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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" 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 Cecil Ellsworth

street & number Box 356

city, town Utica N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Winona County Courthouse - Recorder's Office

street & number West 3rd Street

city, town Winona state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date August 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 deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Benjamin Ellsworth House sits atop a knoll overlooking U.S. Highway 14 and the small community of Utica - platted by Ellsworth in 1866 on land which was part of his farmsite. The two storey Italianate style house was constructed in 1873 of brick fabricated on the site. The plan is formed by joining simple cubes, creating a modified ell shape. The house sits upon a limestone basement and is capped by a low hipped roof.

The primary entrance features double wooden entry doors set into arched wooden frames, punctuated by glass lights. Steps formed by handcrafted limestone slabs are sheltered from the elements by an elaborate bracketed canopy. A secondary entrance is through an enclosed porch. Windows are segmented arch capped by stone keystones with two over two sash set into wooden frames.

The interior of the spacious house (originally seventeen rooms) contains much of its original fabric. Woodwork and doors are all of pine or butternut, many retaining their original false grained finish. Wainscot, in the original dining room as well as the staircase, has its original grained finish. Other woodwork is painted. An upstairs bedroom remains virtually unchanged, containing original wallcovering, woodwork, furniture and family heirlooms accumulated over the past century.

A two storey kitchen, bath and bedroom addition on the building's northeast corner was added in 1940, replacing an earlier one storey wood shed. The addition is sheathed in asbestos, matching that used on the front porch.

Other alterations include removal of the eave brackets and installation of modern metal soffits; rebuilding of the brick bay in 1973, which included replacement of the original windows; and partial infilling, with brick, of two windows on the west facade necessitated by the replacement of the fireplace and chimney about 1920.

In 1950, a garage and storage building was added on the east side of the house joining the kitchen addition. The new buildings were constructed from materials salvaged from an earlier carriage barn which was located on approximately the same site.

The house is in good condition and stands on its original site.

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 checked="" 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 1873

Builder/Architect Attributed: Benjamin Ellsworth

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Benjamin Ellsworth House is significant for the architectural integrity of its original design and for its association as the homestead of the founder of Utica. Benjamin Ellsworth was born on July 8, 1826, in Franklin County, Maine. He spent his early years working the family farm. Upon reaching maturity, Ellsworth made his way west eventually arriving in Winona County. He engaged in the grain business and, in 1860, purchased several quarter sections of farmland in Utica Township. In 1863, the Winona & St. Peter Railroad made its way to the area and Ellsworth built a warehouse on his land near the railroad tracks. The warehouse served as a grain market - from which Ellsworth shipped the first carload of grain over the newly completed line - and as a depot for the railroad. In 1866, Ellsworth platted the Village of Utica on land he owned which lay south of the railroad tracks. Seventy lots, 60 feet wide and ranging in depth from 132 to 160 feet, were arranged at right angles to the railroad line. To boost the fledgling town's development, Ellsworth built the first structure - a grain elevator. As the town flourished, land for a school, church and cemetery were also donated by Ellsworth. In 1866, he married Emma Campbell, a Franklin County native. Seven years later they built their spacious home on a knoll overlooking the town. The grand style of the house clearly set a standard of excellence for the community. Its cube-like form, low pitch hipped roof and segmental arch openings all express the restrained elegance of the Italianate style. In 1885, fire destroyed the town leaving only the Ellsworth home and one other intact. The community rebuilt after the fire and again prospered. Benjamin Ellsworth died in 1890, but the roots he set down have continued to flourish. Three successive generations of Ellsworths have operated the family farm and lived in the home he built, and each has left his mark on the community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"History of Utica Township." Lewiston Journal, August 1, 1958.

History of Winona County. Chicago: H. H. Hill & Co., 1883.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. one

Quadrangle name Utica

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A

1	5	5	8	3	7	4	0	4	8	6	9	8	5	0
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

See continuation sheet - page 1

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 Camille Kudzia, Preservation Consultant

organization N/A

date February 1984

street & number 2110 - 24th Avenue South

telephone 612/338-6123

city or town Minneapolis

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley

title Russell W. Fridley, State Historic Preservation Officer

date

6/28/84

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

8/9/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

Benjamin Ellsworth House, Winona, Winona County, MN

For NPS use only
received
date entered AUG 9 1984

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description:

Commencing at the northwest corner of the intersection of U.S. Highway 14 and State Highway 33; thence northwesterly to the west corner of the private service road of the Ellsworth property and the true point of beginning of the parcel described herein; thence north 300 feet; thence west 300 feet; thence south approximately 300 feet to the northerly edge of U.S. Highway 14; thence easterly along said U.S. Highway 14 to point of beginning.