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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 10 1977
DATE ENTERED	AUG 29 1977

**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

Dr. Ward Beebe House

AND/OR COMMON

Dr. Ward Beebe House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

2022 Summit Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

VICINITY OF

4th

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

22

COUNTY

Ramsey

CODE

123

**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 type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dr. and Mrs. James R. Little

STREET & NUMBER

2022 Summit Avenue

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ramsey County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

15 West Kellogg Blvd.

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1974

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society, Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Ward Beebe House is situated on a narrow, wooded lot at the intersection of the southern terminus of Wilder Street with Summit Avenue in St. Paul. Constructed in 1912 according to designs of Minneapolis architects Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie, this small residence is a well-preserved example of the Prairie School mode popularized by Frank Lloyd Wright. It is two storeys in height, capped by a deeply sweeping gabled roof. The entire wall surfaces are sheathed in pigmented stucco; the roof is of creosote-treated shingles. Window and door surrounds and casements are of both oak and cypress which is oiled and stained dark.

The Summit Avenue facade (north) is incorporated within the gable. The entry is located within a small "el" which also houses the staircase. An incised panel with organic motif is affixed to the corner of the "el" immediately to the right of the doorway. Windows on this facade are arranged in horizontal bands of narrow, vertical casements. Those on the first storey are shielded by diminutive cornices and wrap around each corner to create an unbroken perspective view from within. The windows on the second storey are centrally placed within the facade and comprise a band of six narrow casements. A semi-circular arched window marks the third (or attic) level.

The west facade is essentially symmetrical in arrangement with a three-part window grouping incorporated within a small gable at the second level; the center window of this grouping is an oriel which opens onto a small balcony. The first storey has a low open porch with a broad-eaved roof. To the rear (south) is an attached garage with space for two automobiles. A small sleeping porch at the second storey opens from the master bedroom.

The interior of the Beebe House is simple in plan and decor; although typical of Prairie School taste. A large fireplace/chimney mass constitutes the central element in the plan. Entry is made through a low vestibule to the right of which a short flight of stairs leads into the living room. This room comprises the entire length of the north facade. The east wall of the living room is devoted to bookcases and built-in radiator cabinets; all woodwork is of dark-stained quarter-sawn oak. The fireplace/chimney is of sienna-colored roman brick laid with three-eighths-inch mortar joints. The hearth and trim around the built-in flower box between the living room and dining room is of buff-colored stone. This feature provides an unobstructed view from the living room into the dining room. Along the west wall is a bank of floor-length casement windows which open onto the porch. Also in the dining room is a massive sideboard of oak which is finished in a similar fashion to the bookcases and other woodwork in the living room.

A small kitchen is also located on the first floor and is linked to the dining room via a pantry. Cabinets in kitchen and pantry are also of oak, however, these have been painted.

The second floor contains three bedrooms and a bathroom. The master bedroom is arranged as a suite with bed-chamber, dressing room and sleeping porch. There is also a bedroom and general-purpose room on the attic level.

The Dr. Ward Beebe House remains in an excellent state of maintenance and preservation. The only alteration to the original design integrity has been the removal of several light fixtures and sconces in the living room, this done by the present owners.

*I doubt that garage is original - Lebowich 5.10.77*

# 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input 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 1912

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Gray Purcell  
George G. Elmslie

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house designed for Dr. Ward Beebe of St. Paul in 1912 by the architectural firm of Purcell and Elmslie and built at 2022 Summit Avenue is an example of the "Prairie School" style of architecture and expresses the influence of the Sullivan-Wright tradition of architecture.

Purcell and Elmslie were pioneers of the modern movement in architecture. George G. Elmslie worked for the noted Chicago architect, Louis Sullivan, from 1893 to 1909. William Gray Purcell, who had grown up near Frank Lloyd Wright in a Chicago suburb, worked in Sullivan's Chicago office during 1903. The two men formed a partnership in 1909 and established an office in Minneapolis.

Elmslie's strength was his imaginative floor plans; Purcell's, the relationship of structure to site. The house they designed for Ward Beebe is one of several houses they built in Minneapolis and St. Paul and is typical of their endeavors in domestic architecture, the designing of inexpensive homes for ordinary people. An excellent example of their original work, the house has not been outmoded by changes in fashion or in building technology and represents one of the early functional solutions to the problems of housing.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Donald R. Torbert in Purcell and Elmslie, Architects, March, 1953; Prairie School Press by David Gebhart, January, 1965, p.96  
A History of the Arts in Minnesota, William Van O'Connor, ed., University of Minnesota Press, 1958, p.50.  
 The Twin Cities, by Carol Ryrie Brink. Macmillan Publishing Co., 1961, p.173.  
The Prairie School-Frank Lloyd Wright, H. Allen Brooks, University of Toronto Press, 1972, pp. 217-19 (see continuation sheet)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	4 8 5 3 8 0	4 9 7 6 2 2 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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	
Virginia B. Kunz, Executive Director	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Ramsey County Historical Society	12 January 1977
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
2097 Larpenteur West	612-646-8629
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
St. Paul	Minnesota

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ LOCAL X

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 Russell W. Fridley  
 State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 2/22/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST <i>Charles [Signature]</i>	DATE 8/29/77
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE 8.23.77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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The Twin Cities Perceived, Jean Adams Ervin. University of Minnesota Press, 1976,  
p. 42.

Historic St. Paul Buildings, H.F. Koepfer, A.I.A., St. Paul City Planning Board,  
1964, pp. 88-9.