United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only								
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See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name								
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nistoric	Arthur W. V	Vright F	louse					
and/or common	N/A						,	5.
2. Loca						 		
street & number	300 4th Avenue N.W.				ı	N,	∕ <u>∧</u> not for pub	lication
ity, town	own Austin			N/A vicinity of				
tate	Minnesota	code	22	county	Mower		code	099
3. Class	sificatio	n						
district _X_ building(s) structure site	Ownership public private both Public Acquisiti //A in process being conside	on ered	Status X occup unocc work i Accessibl yes: re yes: u	upied n progress le estricted	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military		museur park X private religiou creatif transpo	residence s ic
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7. Description

Condition excellent deteriorated good { ruins fair unexposed	Check one unaltered x altered	Check onex original site moved date	N/A	
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The house is a two story frame Italianate residence facing south on the northwest corner of Fourth Avenue N.W. and Second Street N.W.. It has typically low-pitched gabled roofs, narrow gables, large paired scroll saw brackets at the eaves, both rounded and arched very narrow and tall windows, heavily corniced window and door moldings, and shallow rectangular bays, all representative of the Italianate style in its purist form.

The detailing and integrity of a house this age is unusual for this part of Minnesota, far from the Mississippi River. Clapboard facing is 3" wide with cornerboards. Arched windows have wooden keystones with 2-over-2 lights. The house has a heavily molded cornice and a dentilled course above the wide wooden frieze composed of four flush boards. Paired brackets at the eaves are worked with a scroll saw. The shallow bays on the east side of the house have flat roofs, paired windows with rounded corners, wooden rosettes, dentils under the window sills, and panelled bases. The foundation is rusticated limestone. The front first story window is leaded glass. The front-facing gable has paired windows with one wooden keystone per window. Rounded-arched windows have rounded-arched wooden screens. The interior of the house has high ceilings and an open staircase in walnut.

Exterior changes to the house have been minimal, and the architectural integrity is excellent. Shortly after 1905, Arthur Wright added a simple Classical Revival style front porch. The porch has 3" clapboards to match the house and Tuscan columns. The porch windows have fixed glass upper panes with two screens at each opening. The base of the porch crawl space is covered in wooden lattice. In the 1930s, Herald J. Williams purchased the house and changed the first floor library into a bedroom, remodelled the kitchen, and removed a back stairway. The house is now divided into three apartments, two at the rearrand east side. A small one—and—a—half story rear addition and an enclosed stairway to the basement on the east side are the only apparent changes to the back of the house.

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Arthur W. Wright House, Austin, Minnesota; Mower County Continuation sheet Resource Count

Item number

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Page

The Arthur W. Wright House nomination contains 1 contributing building.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture architecture art commerce communications	•	g landscape archited law literature military music	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater
Specific dates	ca. 1866-1874	Builder/Architect	unknown	
Statement of S	ignificance (in one paragi	aph)	7-87.5	

The house at 300 4th Ave. N.W. in Austin is significant as Mower County's earliest and most intact example of the Italianate style. Italianate style houses were the first high-style of architecture in the county and were used for farmhouse and town house designs alike. Most of the extant Italianate houses in Mower County date from the early 1870s. The first owner of the house is unknown, but the property is most closely associated with Arthur Winfield Wright, Austin realtor, banker, business man and city attorney. The house dates from ca. 1866-1874 and is in a neighborhood just northwest of the center of Austin which contained some of the earliest and finest residences in town, quite a few of which were originally designed in the Italianate style. Across 2nd. St. N.W. to the east is the Cook-Hormel house, on the National Register, which began as an Italianate style house similar to the one at 300 4th Ave. N.W., but was extensively remodelled and enlarged into its present Classical Revival style appearance. The juxtaposition of these two houses illustrates the way the Italianate style could be transformed into the popular Classical Revival style through turn-of-the-century remodelling.

Arthur Winfield Wright was born in 1861 in Ohio and came to Minnesota in 1875, completing his education at Carlton College. Wright lived in the house at 300 4th Ave. N.W. from the middle 1880s until his death. His son, Winfield Wright sold the house to Herald Williams in the early 1930s. Arthur Wright was married in 1885 and admitted to the bar in 1888. His first business was banking through his association with the First National Bank of Austin... In 1887 he formed a partnership with LaFayette French under the name French and Wright. Wright looked after the real estate end of the business until the 350. firm dissolved in 1898. Wright carried on an extensive law practice, was county attorney for eight years, city attorney of Austin for a number of years, and a trustee of Carlton College. Wright also served as a major in the Twelfth Minnesota Regiment in the Spanish War of 1898. In later years he was president and director of the Austin Weed Exterminator Company and treasurer and director of the Alliance Fire Insurance Company of Minnesota.

The Abstract of Title indicates that Julia Wheat and Dr. John N. Wheat warranty deeded the property to Julia Wheat's brother, John E. Cook in 1866 when the property was worth \$1,400. Julia and John F. were children of John F. Cook who built the Cook-Hormel house across the street. Bt 1874, the property was warranty deeded by W. L. Austin and his wife, Mary, to Converse L. Chase for \$6,000. Although the original owner of the house is not known, the jump in valuation suggests that the house was built ca. 1866-74. Commence of the

9. Major Bibliographical References

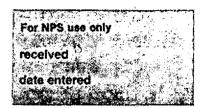
See attached continuations sheet, P. 1

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10.	Geograph	ical Dat	ta					
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street &	number5535 Richmo	nd Curve		4	telephone	(612) 929	-2921	
city or to	own Minneapolis				state]	Minnesota	55410	
12.	State His	toric Pro	esei	rvatio	n Offic	er Ce	ertifica	tion
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Arthur W. Wright House, Austin, Mower County, Minnesota Continuation sheet Major Biblio. References Item number #9



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Curtiss-Wedge, Franklyn, ed. The History of Mower County. (Chicago: H. D. Cooper, Jr. and Co., 1911), pp. 974, 975.

Little Sketches of Big Folks. (R. L. Polk and Co, 1907).

Progressive Austin (1904-05), n.p.

Williams, Donna. Written and verbal information on the property supplied between Nov., 1984-July, 1985.