

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received FEB 16 1984
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Daniel Smith House

and/or common Mitchell House

2. Location

street & number 331 North Lake Street not for publication

city, town Prescott vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Pierce code 093

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 type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N.A.	<input 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 Dorothea Mitchell

street & number 331 North Lake Street

city, town Prescott vicinity of state Wisconsin

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds Office, Pierce County Courthouse

street & number 411 W. Main Street

city, town Ellsworth state Wisconsin

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin

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 Daniel Smith house, a well-preserved Greek Revival-style residence, is located immediately north of Prescott's small commercial district on two large rectangular-shaped lots. The lots slope from North Lake Street on the east to the bank of Lake St. Croix on the west. The heavily-wooded lots also contain a copper tower, garage, gazebo, and decorative rock walls.

The original section of this house, built in about 1855, is a two-story L-shaped residence with a one-story ell. This frame section is built on a stone foundation. Typical of the Greek Revival style are the low-pitch gable ends, fluted pilaster corner boards, boxed cornice with dentils and a plainfrieze, and a full-front porch with Doric columns. The interior of this section contains a living room, dining room, laundry, and kitchen on the first floor and two bedrooms and an attic space on the second floor. A basement is located under the dining room. In about 1870 a one-story clapboarded addition was made to the southwest corner of the house. This section now contains a bedroom and two bathrooms. In 1903 a porch was added to the rear or west facade and the living room was remodeled with the addition of oak woodwork, a new mantel, and stained glass windows. An enclosed porch with poured concrete foundation was added to the rear of the house in the early 1960's and does not contribute to the significance of the property.

A water tower, located to the northeast of the house; a gazebo, located to the west of the south, and rock walls were built in about 1903.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Associated with Significant Persons

Specific dates c. 1855¹ **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Period of Significance: 1855-1889

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Daniel Smith house is locally significant due to its association with Prescott, Wisconsin's early settlement and historical development. The owners of the house between its construction in about 1855 and 1889 were instrumental in the establishment and support of many of the city's earliest commercial, civic, social, educational, governmental, and political activities.

SETTLEMENT/ASSOCIATION WITH SIGNIFICANT PERSONS

In June, 1855, four years after the initial settlement of Prescott, Daniel Smith purchased the land on which this house stands. Soon after, Smith built this house.¹ During his ownership (1855-1864), Smith operated a gun shop; joined with other early settlers in the formation of Pierce and St. Croix counties' first agricultural society; chaired the organizational meeting of the Pierce County Democratic Club; and served as city assessor and county coroner. Smith's wife, Salome, operated one of Prescott's earliest schools in this house.

Norman S. Dunbar, who owned this house from 1864 to 1871, first settled in the Prescott area in 1849. In addition to operating a dry goods store and hotel, Dunbar held numerous municipal offices. He served as the county's first sheriff, city alderman, and county supervisor. He was also treasurer of the first school board and of Prescott's Masonic Lodge.

The third owner of this house, Matthew H. Dill, is locally recognized as Prescott's most prominent citizen from his arrival in 1862 until his death in 1929. Dill, who owned this house from 1871 to 1889, was a partner in a dry goods store, and was a highly successful grain merchant, cattle dealer, and land developer. Dill's philanthropy supported many of Prescott's social institutions and the construction of the First Congregational Church.

¹Assessment Rolls, Village/City of Prescott: 1854, 1858, 1859, etc., Prescott City Hall, Prescott, Wisconsin and Archives, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, River Falls, Wisconsin. See also Affidavit Number 103724, Volume J of Miscellaneous Records, Register of Deeds Office, Pierce County Courthouse, Ellsworth, Wisconsin.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre (two city lots)

Quadrangle name Prescott Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	5	1	5	5	8	0	4	9	5	5	0	4	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

Lots 8 and 9, Block 17, Copp and Maxson's First Addition to the City of Prescott, Wisconsin.

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By (continued)

name/title Lynne VanBrocklin, President

organization Heritage Preservation Assoc., Inc.

date February, 1982

street & number 446 Lafayette Avenue

telephone 612-474-7467

city or town Excelsior

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

title Director, Historic Preservation Division, SHSW

date FEB. 9, 1984

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 3/15/84

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Daniel Smith House, Prescott, Pierce County, Wisconsin
Continuation sheet MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL Item number 9, 11

Page 1

REFERENCES

Abstract of Title to Lots 8 and 9, Block 17, Copp and Maxson's First Addition to Prescott. Pierce County Bank and Trust Company, Prescott, Wisconsin.

Affidavit Number 103724, Volume J of Miscellaneous Records, Register of Deeds Office, Pierce County Courthouse, Ellsworth, Wisconsin.

Assessment Rolls: 1854, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1878, 1881, 1896. Prescott City Hall, Prescott, Wisconsin and University of Wisconsin-River Falls, Archives, River Falls, Wisconsin.

Babbidge, Caroline Hutchinson and Myrtle Bailey Meacham. An Unpublished History of Schools in Prescott, Wisconsin. Unpublished, June 1925.

Bailey, J. M. "Reminiscences," Prescott Transcript, 1856.

Cotter, Mary Beeler, Prescott: Past and Present. Prescott Journal, Prescott, Wisconsin, May, 1909.

Easton, Augustus B. History of the St. Croix Valley. H. C. Cooper & Company, Chicago, 1909.

Gibbs, Oliver and C. E. Young. "Sketch of Prescott and Pierce County," Third Annual Report and Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Volume III. Calkins and Webb, Madison, Wisconsin, 1857.

Williams, J. Fletcher. History of Washington County and the St. Croix Valley. North Star Publishing Company, Minneapolis, 1881.

11. Form Prepared By:

Additions and revisions made in December 1983 and January 1984 by owner Dortehea Mitchell, and by Richard Dexter and Diane Filipowicz, Wisconsin Historic Preservation Division staff.