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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	<b>DATA SHEET</b>
RECEIVED	OCT 18 1977
DATE ENTERED	APR 6 1978

**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

Hewitt, Edwin H., House

AND/OR COMMON

Hodroff & Sons Funeral Chapel

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

126 East Franklin Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Minneapolis

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

22

COUNTY

Hennepin

CODE

053

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

William A. Hodroff, 8200 W. 16th St., Minneapolis

Leo A. Hodroff, 1901 South Logan, Minneapolis

Mrs. Ruth Abry, 1137 Washburn Avenue South, Minneapolis

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Minneapolis

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hennepin County Government Center - Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

5th Street and 3rd Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Minneapolis

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 type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Edwin H. Hewitt House is situated on a spacious lot at the northeast corner of the intersection of Franklin and Stevens Avenues in Minneapolis. Designed by Hewitt in 1906, the residence is executed in the Medieval Revival mode popular in Minnesota at the turn of the century. It is three storeys in height; the first storey is faced in a buff-brown brick accentuated by deep mortar joints and the upper storeys are faced in a buff stucco.

The principal facade faces Franklin Avenue (south) and is divided into three distinct bays flanked by a one storey sun room to the west and a one storey porte-cochere to the east. The main entrance is located in the central bay and is incorporated within a shallow portico with low Tudor arch. Directly above is a balustrade which defines a narrow decorative, but unusable, balcony. The flanking bays are gabled and are decorated only by heavy barges and rude brackets; the windows on the third storey are of the oriel variety. Windows throughout the building are leaded glass casements. The building is constructed of concrete, brick and stucco and is said to be totally fireproof.

Hewitt sold the property during the Depression of the 1930s. It was then acquired by Hodroff and Sons for use as a funeral chapel. Shortly thereafter a substantial wing was added to the rear (north) side of the building on the site of the former gardens; the porte-cochere was also added at this time. The additions were made in accordance with the original surface treatment and proportions of building and are faced in brick and stucco. The addition now houses the chapel and casket display and storage facilities.

The interior of the Hewitt House has retained a substantial degree of original design integrity. Floors throughout the first floor are of a glazed tile in hexagon shapes. Fireplace hearths and mantels were designed by Hewitt and are embellished with picture-tiles in a Medieval flavor which are assumed to have been designed by Hewitt himself. The first floor is devoted to office and reception functions.

The second storey of the Hewitt House formerly served as family bedrooms and chambers. These now serve as an apartment, however the original plan and detailing are retained. The third storey is incorporated within the twin gables and is reached by a narrow staircase. This level formerly served as a ballroom/playroom and Hewitt's studio. Ceilings are covered with stucco and two-by-four wooden strips are affixed to the rafters to simulate a beamed ceiling. A large fireplace is located on the north gable of the studio. This area is also used as an apartment, however no major changes have been made in the floorplan or decorative treatment.

The building continues to serve as a funeral chapel and is maintained by the Hodroffs who purchased it from Hewitt. It is in an excellent state of repair and preservation.

# 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 1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Edwin H. Hewitt

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Edwin Hawley Hewitt was one of the most widely known and distinguished architects of Minnesota. Hewitt was born in Red Wing, Minnesota, in 1874. Privately educated, at home, Hewitt attended school at Hobart College in New York, but transferred to the University of Minnesota graduating in 1896. While at the University, he attended night classes at the Minneapolis School of Fine Arts and spent his summers in the office of architect, Cass Gilbert. He spent one year studying at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and entered the architectural firm of Shepley, Rutan and Collidge in Boston. In 1900 after placing first of all foreign entrance examinations and second in total French and foreign examinations, Hewitt attended L'Ecole des Beaux Arts, or the National School of Architecture in France. He remained until 1904 making trips to other European countries for additional study.

He opened his own architectural office in Minneapolis in 1904. In 1911 the firm of Hewitt and Brown was organized. Over the years the firm designed the Minneapolis Telephone Building which was selected by the American Institute of Architects for exhibit in Europe, the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Mark's, Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church, Metropolitan Bank Building, Gateway Building, the Northwestern Life Insurance Building, the Fort Snelling Chapel, Citizens Aid Building, the Minneapolis School of Fine Arts, the YWCA and numerous private residences.

Interested in the cultural growth of the Twin Cities, Hewitt became a major supporter of fine arts becoming a member of the Society of Fine arts and other architectural and art associations.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- "Edwin Hawley Hewitt, Noted Architect, Dies in Mill City," St. Paul Pioneer Press, 12 August 1939, p.4.  
 "Edwin Hewitt Rites Monday," The Minneapolis Tribune, 12 August 1939, p.13.  
 Holcombe, R.I. and William H. Bingham, History and Biography of Minneapolis and Hennepin County, Chicago: Henry Taylor and Co., 1914.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1, 5</u>	<u>4, 7, 8, 3, 4, 0</u>	<u>4, 9, 7, 8, 6, 6, 0</u>	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

Charles W. Nelson, Architectural Historian and Susan Zeik, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

10 January 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Building 25, Fort Snelling

TELEPHONE

612-726-1171

CITY OR TOWN

St. Paul

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

Russell W. Fridley  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

10-13-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*[Signature]*

DATE

4/6/78

ATTEST: Watson H. Cole

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE 4-4-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER