

PH# 366498

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 2 1977
DATE ENTERED	SEP 13 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

Carpenter, Elbert L., House

AND/OR COMMON

Clifton Court

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

314 Clifton Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Minneapolis

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

22

COUNTY

Hennepin

CODE

053

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

David Bueide

STREET & NUMBER

300 Clifton Avenue

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 interior	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered exterior	

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

The Elbert L. Carpenter House is situated on the edge of a small bluff overlooking Loring Park immediately south of the central business district of Minneapolis. The site is buttressed by limestone retaining walls at the rear which indicates roughly a three-storey differential between the Clifton Avenue facade of the house and the Oak Grove Street level of the properties below; likewise, Oak Grove Street is approximately three storeys above Loring Park.

Constructed in 1906 according to designs of Minneapolis architect William Channing Whitney, the E.L. Carpenter House is executed in the then-popular Georgian Revival mode. It is essentially a cubiform mass, three storeys in height and crowned by a low hipped roof hidden from street view by a balustrade. The Clifton Avenue facade (principal) is symmetrical and divided into five bays. The central bay contains the entry which is shielded beneath an ionic portico; above the portico on the second level is a large palladian-type window. Windows are shuttered and are a standard six-over-six double-hung type on first and second floors with the third floor level appearing lower in a three-over-six arrangement. The primary material of construction for both the house and carriage house is red brick; lintels are of concrete as are the ionic columns and pineapple finials on the perimeter fence posts; the cornice is of pressed galvanized metal.

Entry to the carriage house is gained through a porte-cochere on the west side of the house. This structure is supported by concrete columns in the ionic mode. The carriage house formerly contained quarters for servants on the second floor along with a hay loft, stalls for horses and carriages (later automobiles) on the first floor, and the heating plant for both carriage house and main house in the basement. A tunnel which is large enough for a person to walk upright provides the conduit for heating pipes between the two buildings.

The main house is arranged on the typical Georgian central hall plan. The staircase is located at the end of the hallway; it is balustraded and rises to a semi-circular landing at mid-storey. To the right of the hallway are the library and dining room; to the left are the parlor and "el" to the porte-cochere. At the end of the hallway (under the staircase) is an oval-ended breakfast room. Bedrooms for the owner's family are located on the second floor, while servants' quarters are located on the third floor along with a ballroom/playroom.

The E.L. Carpenter House was purchased by the present owner early in 1974 after several years of neglect and mis-use. It has been restored/rehabilitated for adaptive use as offices. Original woodwork and floor plan have been retained on the interior and the exterior is presently undergoing complete restoration.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Channing Whitney

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The E.L. Carpenter House at 314 Clifton Avenue in Minneapolis is significant for its association with lumber-businessman Elbert Lawrence Carpenter who was the prominent organizer and benefactor of the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra. In addition, it is an excellent example of the popular Georgian Revival style of architecture, designed and executed by prominent Minneapolis architect William Channing Whitney in 1906. Carpenter resided in the house for forty-one years.

Elbert Carpenter, born in Illinois in 1862, was raised in Clinton, Iowa. The son of a lumberman, Elbert's inclination was to study music but his father's illness caused him to move to Minneapolis in 1887 to manage a branch of the family lumber business. By 1915 Carpenter was president of his own company, the Shevlin, Carpenter and Clarke Company, with timber and lumber mill holdings in several states and Canada. He held the position of president until his retirement in 1932, but remained as chairman of the board until 1937. Active even after retirement, Carpenter's activities in the field of social welfare and associations with commercial and banking concerns continued until his death.

Carpenter inspite of his business responsibilities still maintained an interest in music. In the late 1890s Carpenter met a young organist by the name of Emil Oberhoffer. Impressed by the man's power and personality as a musical director, Carpenter set out and raised enough capital to organize a group of sixty-five musicians into what was to become the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Oberhoffer. Carpenter became chairman of the board and in 1905 he became a lifelong chairman of the orchestra's management committee. Without a man of Carpenter's stature, business acumen and determination the orchestra would not have weathered the financial difficulties that besets a new organization. Year after year he solicited pledges for the guarantee fund and repeatedly contributed his own funds if deficits appeared. Carpenter was present at every orchestra board meeting for forty years and because of his dedication he received an honorary music degree from the University of Minnesota. Carpenter's dedicated management of the orchestra insured its success after his death in 1945.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Castle, Henry A. Minnesota: Its Storey and Biography. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1915.  
 "Elbert Carpenter, Last Empire Builder, Dies," Minneapolis Morning Tribune, 30 January 1945, p.1 & 5.  
 Shutter, Marion Daniel, History of Minneapolis. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1923.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	4 7 7 6 2 0	4 9 7 9 0 4 0 <sup>060</sup>	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  
 STREET & NUMBER  
 Building 25, Fort Snelling  
 CITY OR TOWN  
 St. Paul  
 DATE  
 10 January 1977  
 TELEPHONE  
 612-726-1171  
 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 2-7-77

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: *Charles A. Brown*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 9/12/77  
 DATE 9-2-77