

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 28 1975
DATE ENTERED MAY 21 1975

**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

~~The~~ Octagon House

AND/OR COMMON

Lawther, James L., House (Tea House Antiques)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

927 West 3rd Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Red Wing

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

27

COUNTY

Goodhue

CODE

049

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Morris Callstrom

STREET & NUMBER

927 West 3rd Street

CITY, TOWN

Red Wing

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds, Goodhue County

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Red Wing

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1972

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society, Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

Saint 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The James L. Lawther 1857 octagon house was originally strictly an octagon structure, built of red brick. It is believed to have had a central spiral stairway leading up from the basement kitchen to the dining and living rooms on the main floor and to the bedrooms on the second story. In 1870 an addition was built at the rear, which added a large dining room, kitchen and servants' quarters, and later the porch railing was added. It is not known at what time the central stairway was changed, but the house now contains a winding stair from the side of the main floor to the second story, and a smaller winding stair to the cupola. After the removal of the central spiral stair, several fireplaces occupied the center of the main floor, and one still remains, following the remodeling (not extensive) which was done when the house became the Hilleren Rest Home.

The original octagon had two flights of wooden steps outside descending to the lawn and street level. These were replaced with the present more imposing cement approach and under this can still be found the grade entrance to the basement under the octagon portion of the structure.

The foundation is 18 inches thick, of heavy stone. Ornamental iron grill work made by the Red Wing Iron Works and decorative wooden brackets trim the cupola, from which a fine view of the river was possible in 1857 before the trees were planted in Red Wing.

The house is well kept and many original features still remain. It is a two story brick veneer building with an eight-sided frame cupola at the third floor. The porch is not known to be original but is pictured, unchanged from its present appearance in a late 1860s birds-eye photograph of the community.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Built 1857
Additions 1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This octagon house is a very fine example of the type of building recommended by Orson Fowler in the 1850s in his book A Home for All or the Gravel Wall and Octagonal Mode of Building, 1854. Only a half dozen are known to survive in the state of which the Lawther House is one of the two or three finest examples existing.

The structure is in excellent state of preservation and is not much altered on the outside from the days it was occupied by members of the Lawther family, who built it originally. It is now the home of the Morris Callstroms who appreciate and respect its importance and seek to maintain its character. They conduct an antique business in part of the building.

The house is located on a crossing which has been described as "probably the most important architectural intersection in the state: the Lawther Octagon is at one corner, and Purcell and Elmslie's famous Hoyt house of 1914 is on another." ¹

The Sprague house is on the third corner and the fourth corner marks the former site of the residence and laboratory of Dr. C.W. Hewitt, nationally famous medical doctor and researcher. This fact is important because the Lawther House was the first of these residences to have been built at this intersection, and since it is considered by local historians to have been the first house of major stylistic distinction to have been built in the city, its location likely had a significant influence in the location of the other houses. It has also likely had an influence in this area of the city becoming the higher quality residential area with excellent stylistic examples of every period through World War II.

The Octagon House is also, locally, an important site for James L. Lawther who was one of Red Wing's leading nineteenth century citizens; serving as mayor, county treasurer, state constitutional convention representative as well as one of its foremost real estate dealers. Therefore, the house is important to the community for historical reasons in addition to its importance to the state for architectural value.

Minnesota Historical Society Note: Enclosed with the nomination form is a copy of "The Octagon House" by Mrs. Milton I. Holst the preparer of this form. It is enclosed as a source of additional background information regarding the Lawther family as well as the house.

1. Roger Kennedy, Minnesota Houses, An Architectural & Historical View, 1967.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Octagon House in Goodhue County,
Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 75000982

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Goodhue

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Lawther, James L., House

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988
Date