

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JUL 29 1985
date entered AUG 29 1985

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

1. Name

historic Ephriam C. Gile House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 311 8th Avenue South N/A not for publication

city, town Princeton N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Mille Lacs code 095

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Karen A. Snyder

street & number 311 8th Avenue South

city, town Princeton N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 55371

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Mille Lacs County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

street & number 635 2nd Street Southeast

city, town Milaca state Minnesota 56353

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Minnesota Statewide Historic

title Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society
Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____ N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Gile house is a one and a half story Gothic Revival-detailed house sited on a corner lot in the city of Princeton. It is el-shaped in plan, with a squared-columned porch extending the width of the front of the inside of the el. The foundation and exterior walls are of brick. The roof is moderately sloped and covered with asphalt shingles. Two narrow dormers face the street. Windows are six-over-six double hung sash throughout the house.

The original scrollwork beneath the eaves of the house is its primary exterior feature and is in good and intact condition, as are the heavy Gothic Revival pattern-book window cornice mouldings and finials. On the interior, most of the window and door mouldings remain intact.

Several alterations, which do not adversely affect the architectural integrity of the house, have occurred. The porch was enclosed ca. 1965 by encasing the original paired squared wooden columns with plywood, and installing aluminum-framed storm windows in the openings. This alteration could be easily reversed without damage to the original porch material. In the 1950s the original summer kitchen, which protrudes in a wing from the rear of the house was extended six feet and converted to a single car garage. Substantial interior changes were made at this time.

A wrought iron fence which appears to date from the time of construction of the house has been retained on the Eighth Street side of the site.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca.1872 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ephriam C. Gile house in Princeton is a rare example of a Gothic Revival style in the part of Minnesota to the north of Minneapolis-St. Paul. Built circa. 1872, its date of construction and location define the late geographic and temporal boundary of the use of the style in Minnesota. Except for interior alterations, the exterior and all Gothic detailing is in excellent condition. The house is one of the few surviving structures which features brick from the Duncan Brickyard, established in 1866, the first of several brickyards near Princeton that constituted an important part of Princeton's economy in the late 19th century.

The Gothic Revival was the first architectural style in America to be popularized through published plan books. Alexander Jackson Davis in 1837 published Rural Residences, which showed complete three-dimensional views complete with floor plans. His book was followed by the more popular Cottage Residences (1842) and The Architecture of the County House (1850) by Andrew Jackson Downing. These works had a broad influence -- within a decade of their publication, Gothic Revival-styled houses and cottages were being built in most of the then-settled parts of the country.¹

Ephriam Gile was born in 1836 and raised in Addison, New York. After receiving his training at the Bennet Medical College in Chicago, he began practicing medicine at Cambridge, Minnesota in 1871. Shortly after his arrival in Cambridge he ran for the state legislature but was unsuccessful in his bid for elected office. He also engaged in real estate speculation, purchasing two blocks within the city. Following his defeat, but for reasons most likely unassociated with it, in 1872 he moved to Princeton.²

Lacking authoritative sources which would provide details of the activities of Dr. Gile upon his move to Princeton, it must be inferred that the house was constructed in 1872 following his arrival. The Gothic Revival detailing of the house probably reflect Gile's notions of appropriate house ornamentation based upon his experience growing up in central New York state, where the Gothic Revival style was common. Despite the stylistic trim, the house itself is in shape and plan similar to the common vernacular el-shaped front-facing gable with side extension houses that were being constructed in the upper midwest at the time.

¹Virginia and Lee McAlister, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984), p. 200.

²On the Banks of the Rum: A Centennial History of Cambridge, Minnesota (Cambridge, Minnesota: Cambridge Centennial, Inc., 1966).

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Princeton, Minn.

Quadrangle scale 7.5' Series

UTM References

A 15 454350 5045760
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

All of Lot 1 and the south one-half of Lot 2; Block 2; Murray's Addition to the city of Princeton.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas Jenkinson and Norene Roberts

organization Historical Research, Inc.

date January 15, 1985

street & number 5535 Richmond Curve

telephone (612) 929-2921

city or town Minneapolis

state Minnesota 55410

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 7/5/85

For NPS use only

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

for Delores Ryan
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 8/29/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet

Significance (Cont'd.)

Item number 8

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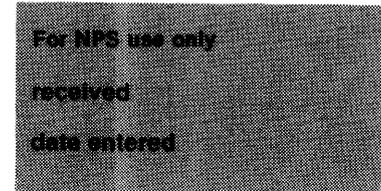
The construction of the house uses the distinctive orange-red colored brick produced in the Princeton area. This particular brick was hand produced at the Duncan brickyard, the first brickyard in Princeton, established in 1866.³ The Gile house is one of the few surviving structures in the Princeton area in which this brick can be found.

Despite interior alterations, the Gile House retains all the exterior features which give it its unique form and character. The current owner of the house recognizes its significance and intends to maintain the house in accordance with generally accepted preservation principles.

³Kathy Becker, "From a Ribbon of Clay: Brickton, Minnesota." Unpublished typescript, 1979. Filed at the Minnesota Historical Society Reference Library, St. Paul, Minnesota.

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Ephriam C. Gile House, Princeton, MN; Mille Lacs County
Continuation sheet Bibliography Item number 9

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Becker, Kathy. "From a Ribbon of Clay: Brickton, Minnesota." Unpublished typescript, 1979. Minnesota Historical Society Reference Library, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Interview, Karen Snyder, Princeton, Minnesota, November 17, 1984.

On the Banks of the Rum: A Centennial History of Cambridge, Minnesota.
Cambridge, Minnesota: Cambridge Centennial, Inc., 1966.

Winchell, N.H.; Neill, Edward D.; Williams, J. Fletcher; and Bryant, Charles S. History of the Upper Mississippi Valley. Minneapolis: Minnesota Historical Company, 1881.