

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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, Dr. Charles Laboratory

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 216 Dakota St. _____ not for publication

city, town Red Wing _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district First

state Minnesota code 22 county Goodhue code 049

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input 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 Cloakroom Inc.

street & number 216 Dakota

city, town Red Wing _____ vicinity of _____ state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office - Goodhue County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Red Wing _____ state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society - 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

city, town St. Paul _____ state Minnesota

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

Dr. Charles Hewitt's laboratory and office is located at 216 Dakota Street, on the west side of Dakota between West Main and West Third Streets. It is situated slightly north and east of Red Wing's Historic Residential District and west and south of the major commercial areas of the town. Being one of only two saltboxes in town, the building is unusual. Its location between large residences on one side and commercial buildings on the other additionally makes it stand out from its surroundings.

The 1½ story frame building sits on a foundation of local limestone. The main part of the building measures 31 feet across and 34 feet deep. A smaller enclosed porch attached to the rear dates later than the rest of the building. Early insurance maps indicate that similar lean-to structures have existed at the rear of the building since 1884. The building is symmetrical with a central entry hall. Two double hung windows flank either side of the entry on the street level. On the second floor are three windows. A small gabled hood covers the front entry. The original clapboard siding has been covered with later, wider siding.

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 checked="" 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/ 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Medicine
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1866

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Dr. Charles N. Hewitt's early laboratory is significant because of its association with this pioneer in the field of public health. Dr. Hewitt was a prominent doctor in early Red Wing, known locally as an outstanding physician and surgeon. His pioneering work in the field of public health and sanitation gained him state and national acclaim.

Dr. Charles N. Hewitt was born in Vergennes, Vermont. He was educated at Hobart College, Geneva, New York and received his medical education at Albany Medical College. After practicing medicine in Geneva for four years, in 1862 Dr. Hewitt became assistant surgeon in the 50th Engineer Corps. His outstanding service during the war was honored with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Dr. Hewitt came to Red Wing in 1866, shortly after the Civil War had ended. He resided in Red Wing until his death in 1910. Here he pursued a private medical practice while making significant strides in the field of public health. He was one of the founding members of the Goodhue County Medical Association in 1869, an organization designed to organize local doctors, to establish professional standards that would guard against quackery and fraud, to stimulate excellence in the field, and to improve the public health. Dr. Hewitt was responsible for preparing the bill for the legislature which provided for a state board of public health. As a result, Minnesota's first board of public health was formed in 1872, among the first organizations of its kind in the nation. Dr. Hewitt served this organization in the position of executive secretary for nearly twenty-five years. He was also instrumental in passing an act providing for boards of health in all incorporated villages, towns, and cities, and for the appointment of health officers. In 1874 Dr. Hewitt was elected non-resident professor in the new field of public health at the University of Minnesota. Some years later he was made professor of preventive medicine in the University's newly formed College of Medicine. For twenty-seven years he taught at the University while continuing his private practice in Red Wing.

Dr. Hewitt's initial attack was upon catagious diseases -- typhoid, smallpox, diphtheria, cholera, and tuberculosis. In 1889 he travelled to England, France, and Germany for five months to familiarize himself with foreign methods of vaccine production and bacteriological research. While there he studied with some of the medical giants of the era -- Dr. E. Klein, an English biologist and with Pasteur, Roux, and Alexandre Yerson of the Pasteur Institute in Paris. He returned to Red Wing in 1890 with a knowledge of the latest therapeutic methods and advanced laboratory techniques. In his own laboratory he later produced a smallpox vaccine for distribution to Minnesota physicians.

In 1885 he founded a monthly magazine, Public Health in Minnesota and was its editor for the nine years of its existence. It was designed to be a link between state and local boards of health and to inform the public of medical practices and current health news. In 1882 he was elected president of the Minnesota State Medical Association,

(see continuation sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet - page 2

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Red Wing

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A

1	5	5	3	6	7	2	5	4	9	3	4	3	9	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

NLY 31 feet of Lot 5, Block 34, Original town, a parcel measuring 31 feet by 60 feet.

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Britta Bloomberg

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date April 1979

street & number 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

telephone 296-0101 (612)

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9/18/79

For HCRS use only

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

Carol O. Shuck
Keeper of the National Register

date 11-15-79

Attest: Christine O'Connell

date 11/13/79

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED	OCT 2 1979
DATE ENTERED	NOV 15 1979

Hewitt, Dr. Charles Laboratory

CONTINUATION SHEET

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and in 1888 he was elected president of the American Public Health Association. His achievements were honored by the Society of Health Officers of England and the Society of Hygiene of France as well. In 1901-02 he was a delegate to the International Medical Congress in London.

Dr. Hewitt's medical career in Red Wing is outstanding. He carried on a thriving private practice for over forty years while pursuing research in epidemics and other health factors. A 1909 history of the county aptly summarizes his achievements:

In the medical history of the county he takes a high place as physician and surgeon. As sanitarian, it is difficult adequately to estimate his great services to the commonwealth of Minnesota. He has left the imprint of his work upon the whole subject of public health.

This small saltbox is significant for its association with Dr. Hewitt. He built the building in 1866 to serve as an office and laboratory in which to carry out his research. Although he utilized other sites for his office and laboratory at later dates, this is the only building remaining clearly associated with his local research and career.

The building is presently being used as a clothing shop. The owners have done considerable work on the interior, retaining the original woodwork, floors, and plan where possible. They are interested in removing the present exterior sheathing and restoring the original clapboard siding.

¹Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, ed., page 322.

PLEASE NOTE: The manuscript for this nomination was prepared before the one paragraph limit for significance statements was stipulated.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Angell, Madeline, Red Wing, Minnesota, Saga of a River Town, Dillon Press,
Minneapolis, 1977.

Curtiss-Wedge, Franklyn, ed., History of Dakota and Goodhue Counties, Minnesota,
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Hawley, George M.B., M.D., "The Man and His Profession," Goodhue County Historical
News, February, 1972.

Stone, Mrs. John Jr., "Charles Nathaniel Hewitt, 1836-1910," Goodhue County
Historical News, February, 1972.