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. Nam	le		eller var er o	
historic Elden	rwood			
and/or_common	The House in	the Woods		
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	6789 North Elm	Tree Road		not for publication
city, town	Glendale	vicinity	of congressional distri	ct Fifth
state Wisco	onsin	code 55	county Milwaukee	code 079
3. Clas	sification			
Category districtX building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Status X occupied unoccupied work in pro Accessible yes: restrict yes: unrest	gress educational entertainment ted government	museum park X private residence religious scientific transportation other:
name Tom	and Ginny Jenkins			
	lendale	vicinity		te Wisconsin 53217
5. Loca	ation of Le	gal Descri	iption	
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc. Mi	llwaukee County (Courthouse	
street & number	901 North Ninth	Street		
city, town	Milwaukee		stat	te Wisconsin 53233
6. Repi	resentatio	n in Existi	ng Surveys	
title Wisconsi	n Inventory of H	istoric Places has	this property been determined	l elegible? yes _X_ no
date 1980			federal X	state county loca
depository for su	irvey records State	e Historical Soc	iety of Wisconsin	
city, town M	adison		sta	te Wisconsin 53706

7. Description Condition Check one Check one — excellent — deteriorated — X unaltered — x original site — moved date — mo

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

ELDERWOOD

Elderwood, "The House in the Woods," is a large, two-story, rectangular stucco-covered concrete cottage with enveloping red clay tile jerkinhead roof. Its pantile ridges are carried down to the exposed rafters under wide overhanging eaves. Three clay tile stacks top the stucco-faced concrete chimney on the center ridge. A large balcony of heavy, dark-stained pine timbers is suspended from the second story on the south end of the building; deeply incised and carved brackets support the eaves overhead. An included porch in the southeast corner is enclosed by a large, semicircular cut-out arcade. portion of the porch and projecting bay on the east side are faced with higher courses of the lannon stone veneer which forms the foundation around the house; the concrete upper course is edged in a scallop-and-bead motif, a personal touch of the mason. treatment decorates the top of the north and south walls under the eaves of the hip of the jerkinhead roof. Fenestration is varied; picturesque projections of grouped windows on the east side dominate the facade. Leaded sash and fixed panels with geometric Jugenstil motif fill the turreted bay and heavy pine overhang. On the second story, two windows of four large panes each light the large shed dormers on the east and west sides. Less-exposed sides of the house are set with utilitarian double-hung and fixed sash. Fine decorative features include the carved frame of the east side overhang and flanking metal downspout, and tiny ceramic tiles imbedded in the jambs of the porch. Begun in 1945 and finally completed in 1979, the garage at the north end is constructed of the same stuccoed concrete with clay tile roof.

Little has been done to alter the interior from its original design. The vestibule from the main entrance at the south end, and hall to the butler's pantry and closets occupy the approximate center of the plan. The short oak stair with newel-motif cut outs parallels the main hall. Box-beam ceilings and oak plate rails distinguish the large living and dining rooms in the east half of the ground story. The large fieldstone fireplace in the living room was altered in the 1940's. Kitchen and bathroom remodelling undertaken in the last year has included lowering of the ceilings. Four bedrooms with intervening baths and closets open into the center hall upstairs. The plaster walls are unadorned except for the plain picture moldings across the surfaces.

The present owners intend to continue restoring and replacing the worn and missing finer elements of both the interior and exterior (windows, gutters, moldings, wood finishing, roof tiles, etc.). With this purpose in mind, they have kept the original drape designed by the first owner to divide the living and dining rooms; gold embroidery worked on the panne velvet panels matches the Jugenstil motif in the leaded glass windows in both rooms.

Originally located to escape Milwaukee congestion and subsequently used as a summer residence, Elderwood is now part of a wooded surburban area in northern metropolitan Milwaukee. The house is equidistant from Nicolet High School to the east and the Milwaukee River to the west. A lush overgrowth of the trees and flowers planted by owner Gustav Trostel over sixty years ago shades the one-acre property and much of the surrounding area which once was part of the thirty-six acre Trostel estate. Tall, mature blue spruce, white cedar, black walnut, white ash, box elder, American elm, chokecherry, American beech, and shagbark

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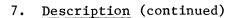
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ELDERWOOD, Glendale, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

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hickory testify to the botanical interests of Trostel. With time, the present owners plan to replenish the plantings of tiger lillies, peonies, bleeding heart, black-eyed susans, chicory, lillies-of-the-valley, tulips, squilla, wild geraniums, violets, daffodils, forget-me-not, phlox, wild strawberries, black raspberries, honeysuckle, dogwood, gooseberries, lilacs, hostea, Solomon's seal, trout lillies, daisies, and snow-on-the-mountain which were tended at Elderwood.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agricultureX architecture art commerce communications		landscape architecture law literature military music philosophy politics/government	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1909-10 ¹	Builder/Architect E.	R. Leibert ²	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Associated with a number of stylistic and cultural forces current at the turn of the century, Elderwood is a fascinating architectural phenomenon. Built for Milwaukee decorator, designer, and upholsterer Charles Solomon in 1909-10, the house was soon to come into sympathetic ownership by Gustav J. A. Trostel, who used the house as a summer home from 1912-36. Although such seasonal residence was typical of Milwaukee's aristocracy at the time, Trostel's development of the then five-acre site and surrounding thirty-six acre property as a private botanical garden and farm for the delight and nourishment of his family was exceptional. The son of "sterling German pioneer" and early industrialist Albert Trostel, Gustav continued to operate the Albert Trostel & Sons Company, Milwaukee's largest leather tannery, and was a noted benefactor of the Milwaukee School of Engineering.

The stylistic identity of the house is more intriguing and important than the cultural significance of its use. Bearing trademarks of the design mentality of Milwaukee architect Eugene Leibert, Elderwood has the appearance of a large picturesque German cottage with decorative touches in the Jugenstil mode. Leibert, German-born and educated, was the architect of choice of the Milwaukee's German upperclass. The Henry Harnischfeger Residence of 1905 testifies to Leibert's ability to incorporate formal German Renaissance elements into a domestic design, suggesting affluence and elegance while retaining the picturesque quality of Romantic design. Bearing a similar tile jerkinhead roof, arcaded porch, and turreted out-cropping, Elderwood is a more appropriately countrified work. The additional decorative delight of German Arts & Crafts Jugenstil motifs in the leaded glass windows and imbedded ceramic tiles marks the house as an ethnic adaptation of a national trend of the early twentieth century. An unexpected touch of modernism was accidental to the design: finding native clay too scarce at the site, Leibert chose poured concrete, covered with stucco, to create the old-world effect. The openness and austerity of the interior suggest association with American Arts & Crafts and Shingle Style design.

Testimony of Carl Leibert, architect, Rhinelander, Wisc., son of the architect. Original signed drawings for the Solomon House were destroyed. Probable attribution first made by H. Russell Zimmerman, Zimmerman Design Consultants, based on study of known Leibert works.

2 Ibid.

³Ellis Baker Usher, <u>Wisconsin</u>, Its <u>History and Biography</u>, 1848-1913, p. 872.

9. Major B	ibliographical	Reference	es	
	waukee: The History o	f a City, State	Historical	Society of
	r, Wisconsin, Its Hist sell, The Heritage Gui			
10. Geogra	aphical Data	ACREAGE 1	NOT VERIFIE	:0
Acreage of nominated pr Quadrangle nameT UMT References	•	TON MTU	VERLEGIO	gle scale <u>1:24000</u>
A 116 4 215 212 Zone Easting	10 417 716 51710 Northing	B Zone E	asting	Northing
C		D	·	
Verbal boundary desc (See continua	ription and justification tion sheet)			
List all states and cor	unties for properties overla	pping state or cou	nty boundaries	S
state	code	county		code
state	code	county		code
11. Form F	repared By			
name/title Tom and	Ginny Jenkins			
organization		date	November 1	979
(Y 1 71 m D 1	tolor		
0,00	North Elm Tree Road			352-5713
city or town Glenda		state		
12. State r	Historic Prese	rvation O	mcer C	ertification
_	ce of this property within the st			
665), I hereby nominate th	distoric Preservation Officer for his property for inclusion in the and procedures set forth by the	National Register an	d certify that it h	nas been evaluated
title Director S	111	of Minamia	date	8/17/160
For HCRS use only			date	12/4/80
Attest: Chief of Registration		Clellens	date	11.6 . 83

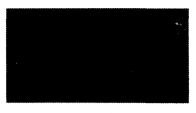
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10. Verbal Boundary Description

Parcel 1 in the Southwest 1/4 of Section 20, Town 8 North, Range 22 East, in the City of Glendale, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin. Commencing at a point in the North line of said section 1515.00 feet N 89°34'04" E along said line 370.14 feet to a point being the Southwest corner of Block 3, Green Tree Valley, a recorded subdivision; thence S 0°25'56" E 60.00 feet to a point; thence 89°34'04" W 36.71 feet to a point; thence S 73°36'37" W 40.59 feet to a point; thence S 50°34'04" W 60.00 feet to a point; thence S 61°34'04" W 60.00 feet to a point; thence 25°25'56" E 37.00 feet to a point; thence S 48°34'04" W 62.00 feet to a point; thence N 62°23'34" W 116.46 feet to a point; thence N 44°34'03" W 56.20 feet to a point; thence N 10°14'12" W 119.89 feet to the point of commencement.

11. Form Prepared by: (continued)

Diane H. Filipowicz, Architectural Historian Historic Preservation Division State Historical Society of Wisconsin 816 State Street Madison, Wisconsin 53706

February 1980 (608) 262-2970