

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JUL 23 1985
date entered AUG 23 1985

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

1. Name

historic Noah P. Ward House

and/or common Orleigh and Kay Pring House

2. Location

street & number 422 7th Avenue W. N/A not for publication

city, town Alexandria N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Douglas code 041

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Orleigh R. and Kay M. Pring

street & number 422 7th Avenue W.

city, town Alexandria N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 56308

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Douglas County Courthouse

street & number 320 7th Avenue W.

city, town Alexandria state Minnesota 56308

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1983-84 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

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	N/A
<input checked="" 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 Noah P. and Sally Ward House, constructed circa 1903, is situated at the southeast corner of 7th Avenue and Cedar Street in Alexandria. The house is located in an area which was once Alexandria's most exclusive residential neighborhood, nicknamed the "Silk Stocking District," and is surrounded by large brick and woodframe houses built circa 1885-1910. There is a circular drive in the yard east of the house, and a barn once stood east of the house adjacent to the alley.

The Ward House is one of the most architecturally sophisticated turn of the century houses standing in Alexandria. Unfortunately, the names of the architect and contractor are not known. The 2½ story house has an English Tudor/Craftsman-inspired design which features a steeply pitched intersecting gabled roof, projecting gable roofed bays and dormers, a small gable roofed oriel window projecting from the southwest corner of the house, wide bargeboards with pendants, and decorative half-timbering within the gables of the north and west facades. The house sits on a granite foundation and is sheathed in clapboard and cut wood shingles. It has a deep, L-shaped porch at the northeast corner which is supported by simple curving timber posts with square balusters. Most of the rectangular double hung windows have diamond-shaped leaded panes in the upper sash, and there is intricate stained glass throughout the house. The interior of the house features oak woodwork, sliding doors, ceiling beams, and wall panelling, and maple floors and sculptured plaster ornamentation on the walls. The Ward House is basically intact and in good condition. The only apparent exterior alterations have been the circa 1932 addition of a woodframe garage on the east facade and the installation of a new asphalt shingle roof.

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

Specific dates Circa 1903 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Noah P. and Sally Ward House, built circa 1903 in Alexandria, is significant as one of the most architecturally sophisticated turn of the century houses standing in Alexandria, as one of the city's largest, most ornate, and most intact Victorian houses, and as the home of Noah P. Ward, one of Alexandria's earliest and most successful businessmen and civic leaders.

Noah P. Ward was born in Illinois in 1855. His New York-born father was a wealthy Illinois farmer who made land investments in the Alexandria area and invested in the Bank of Alexandria, one of the town's first banks. N. P. Ward moved to Alexandria in 1875 to manage his father's financial interests, left to attend the University of Illinois at Evanston from 1876-78, and returned to Alexandria in 1878. From 1878-1880 he worked as a buyer and seller of wheat and, later, horses. In 1880 Ward established a grocery store which he owned in partnership from 1880-1886, and alone from 1886-1919. Known after 1886 as N. P. Ward, Groceries, the business grew to become the largest grocery store in Alexandria.

In 1881 Ward married Sally Busey (1862-1927) of Alexandria, with whom he had six children. Two years after their marriage, in 1883, the couple built a house on this site at the corner of 7th Avenue and Cedar Street. Their first house was demolished and replaced by the present Ward house circa 1903. The Wards also maintained a summer home on Lake L'Homme Dieu a few miles north of Alexandria. Ward served as president of the Alexandria Village Council for six terms, was the first president of the Douglas County Humane Society, served as chief of the Fire Department, and was an active Mason and member of the Republican party. N. P. Ward, his brother Gersham P. Ward, and their families, were active in elite social affairs in Alexandria and were well known as wealthy members of the community.

N. P. and Sally Ward lived in this house until 1919 when they sold their grocery business and moved to Minneapolis where they died in 1927 and 1945. From 1920-circa 1928 the Ward House was owned by John Wilken, and in circa 1928 it was purchased by Carl V. Anderson, then mayor of Alexandria and an undertaker and furniture store owner. Anderson attempted to establish a funeral home in the house in 1929, but was stopped by neighbors who brought suit against him for depreciating the value of their properties. The case was finally settled in the Minnesota Supreme Court in 1933 and Anderson traded the house to his sister, Alma Anderson, and moved to another part of the city. Alma Anderson, who lived in the house until 1979, operated an exclusive catering business in the house from 1934-circa 1955. Known as the "Hostess House", the Ward home was the site of many weddings, anniversary celebrations, special dinners, and other social functions. The house is now owned by Orleigh and Kay Pring and used as a private residence.

The Noah P. and Sally Ward House was included in a fifteen month historic sites survey of seven west central Minnesota counties conducted in 1983-84 by the State Historic Preservation Office. The survey staff identified the house as being Alexandria's most unusual and architecturally sophisticated turn of the century house, and as the house which best exemplifies stylistic innovations made by architects working in the city around 1900. The house is one of the largest and most ornate houses standing in Alexandria's "Silk Stocking District" and is unusually intact compared to other houses of similar scale and age in the city.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Illustrated Album of Biography of the Famous Valley of the Red River of the North and the Park Regions. Chicago: Alden, Ogle and Co., 1889.

Property deed records on N. P. Ward House, Douglas County Courthouse, Alexandria.
Information provided by Kay M. Pring, present owner of the Noah P. Ward House.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Alexandria West Quad.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A

1	5	3	1	5	1	0	0	5	0	8	3	7	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 5 and 6, Block 28, Original Townsite of Alexandria.

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 Susan Granger, Field Assistant

State Historic Preservation Office

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date September 1984

street & number Fort Snelling History Center

telephone (612) 726-1171

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55111

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 7/1/85

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register date 8/23/85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration