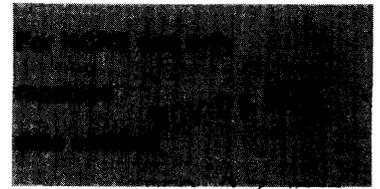


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Ticknor, Heman L., House

and/or common Mattson House

**2. Location**

street & number 1625 Third Avenue South      not for publication

city, town Anoka      vicinity of      congressional district 8th

state Minnesota code 22 county Anoka code 003

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<u>    </u> district	<u>    </u> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u>    </u> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<u>    </u> unoccupied	<u>    </u> commercial
<u>    </u> structure	<u>    </u> both	<u>    </u> work in progress	<u>    </u> educational
<u>    </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>    </u> entertainment
<u>    </u> object	<u>    </u> in process	<u>    </u> yes: restricted	<u>    </u> government
	<u>    </u> being considered	<u>    </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>    </u> industrial
		<u>    </u> no	<u>    </u> military
			<u>    </u> museum
			<u>    </u> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<u>    </u> religious
			<u>    </u> scientific
			<u>    </u> transportation
			<u>    </u> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. Al Mattson

street & number 1825 Third Avenue South

city, town Anoka      vicinity of      state Minnesota

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anoka County Courthouse

street & number     

city, town Anoka state Minnesota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources

has this property been determined eligible?      yes      no

date 1978, 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**

The Ticknor House is prominently situated on a large wooded lot atop a hill at 1625 Third Avenue South in Anoka.

The exterior design of the house is the result of major building and remodeling projects in 1867, 1901, and 1930. The house that Heman L. Ticknor built in 1867 was designed in the Gothic Revival style. This wood frame house, with narrow clapboard siding, formed a "T" and faced west, overlooking the confluence of the Rum and Mississippi Rivers. The Gothic Revival features, which are still intact, include Gothic arched windows in the projecting gable on the front facade, bargeboard on the porch and in the gables, and a full front veranda.

In 1901 the house was divided into three sections -- the front and back sections were switched, leaving the middle section intact. This switch changed the orientation of the house from the Rum River to Third Avenue South. It has been speculated that this elaborate project was undertaken largely for the purpose of an "address change." (A Third Avenue South address at the turn of the century indicated that you lived on Anoka's most fashionable street.) Exterior "remodeling" consisted of the addition of a conical tower, a full front porch with Corinthian columns, a porte cochere, and a projecting bay window on the south facade. These additions represent architectural design features characteristic of the Queen Anne and Neo-Classic styles.

In 1930 a one-and-one-half story addition was made to the rear of the house and the interior was divided into three distinct living units. In 1977 the house was extensively restored and converted into a duplex.

The interior of the house has undergone numerous alterations since its construction. Despite this fact, interior wood floors, woodwork, and lighting fixtures, which date from the turn of the century, are in an excellent state of preservation.

## 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 checked="" 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** 1867, 1901, 1930      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ticknor House is historically significant due to its association with three generations of a family that contributed to the historic development of Anoka from 1855 throughout the 1920s. Additionally, the design of the house incorporates well-preserved design features of the Gothic Revival style (evident in the 1867 design of the original house), and the Queen Anne and Neo-Classic styles (evident in the 1901 "remodeling"). The design of the house represents an interesting evolution of three generations of the Ticknor family's architectural tastes.

The builder of the house, Heman L. Ticknor, was a native of Massachusetts who moved to Anoka in 1855, one year after the town was surveyed and platted. In that year, Ticknor opened the first dry goods and grocery store on the east side of the Rum River. Ticknor was the first merchant to note the strong settlement trends to the north and east of the river. He operated this store until 1860, at which time he began the manufacture of cigars.

From 1864 until his death in 1897, Ticknor operated Anoka's first drugstore. In addition to these commercial interests, Ticknor owned several brick blocks, stores, and dwellings in Anoka. He served as a county commissioner in 1864. For a number of years, Ticknor served as president of the First National Bank of Anoka, and as director and treasurer of the Anoka Boot and Shoe Factory.

After Ticknor's death, his daughter and son-in-law, Zale and John H. Niles, inherited the house. Zale was instrumental in establishing the Anoka Library. John H. Niles, a native of New York, was, for many years, a prominent lawyer in Anoka who specialized in abstract law. It was during the Niles' ownership that the house was extensively remodeled. In 1930 the house was further remodeled by the third generation of Ticknor's to own the house.

Architecturally, the Ticknor House represents an interesting juxtaposition of three historic architectural styles. The original design of the house, best defined as Gothic Revival, was popularized by Andrew Jackson Downing through his widely distributed book, The Architecture of Country Houses. The Gothic Revival design that remains intact from 1867 includes the overall verticality of the house, its conspicuous gables with elaborately decorated bargeboards, and the Gothic arched windows in the projecting gable on the front facade. The 1901 "remodeling" of the house involved an elaborate plan that included the division of the house into three sections, with the front and back sections switched, leaving the middle section unchanged. This resulted in a new orientation of the house -- prior to this, the house overlooked the Rum River. After the interchange of sections, the house faced Third Avenue South, the fashionable street to live on in Anoka at the turn of the century. Further remodeling in 1901 involved the addition to Queen and Neo-Classic architectural features.

The current owners of the house have recently completed extensive restoration of both the interior and exterior of the house.

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

