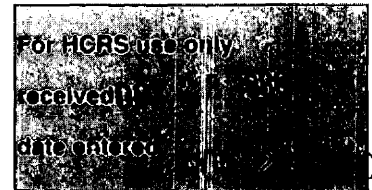


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Single, Benjamin, House

and/or common Single House

**2. Location** W of Wausau at

street & number 4708 Stettin Drive not for publication

city, town Wausau vic.  vicinity of congressional district seventh

state Wisconsin code 055 county Marathon code 073

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Marie Dix

street & number 4708 Stettin Drive

city, town Wausau vicinity of state Wisconsin 54401

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marathon County Courthouse

street & number Forest Avenue

city, town Wausau state Wisconsin 54401

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
Places

date 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State St.

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

## 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**

Now located in an area of new residential construction with intermittent open spaces on the western edge of Wausau, the Benjamin Single House still retains the appearance of a classic high-style Greek Revival house with two-story center pedimented pavilion and one-story wings to either side. The entrance, whose original overlight has been replaced by a low fanlight, is off-set to the left in the three-unit facade. Accented by corner pilasters, paired brackets "supporting" the cornices of the projecting pediment and wings, and a small oculus in the peak, the clapboarded structure is raised on a low stone foundation. Once identical to the north wing, the 2/3-length open porch on the south was enlarged and screened in 1947. In the same year, thin columns punctuating the open porches were removed, and the rear porch on the south wing was enclosed to enlarge the kitchen area inside. Bellcast gable roofs on the wings terminate in returning eaves on the ends of the building's north-south axis. All windows, with the exception of a large picture window installed to the south of the entrance, are 6/6 double-hung sash covered by wood hood molds. A single brick chimney rests to the south of the ridge of the roof on the center pavilion; secondary chimneys on the wings were removed in 1947.

As finely detailed inside as out, the Single House was fitted with tapered wide, temple-like wood door and window moldings which are still in place in each room. An elegant single-run stair with turned balusters and large newel fills half of the hall inside the entry. Maple and oak flooring, and white pine moldings and trim are still in evidence throughout. Subtle alterations in plan (closing some entrances and creating others, alterations in porches) and changes in room use have been made to accommodate current needs. Otherwise, the basic symmetrical disposition of rooms, with living areas in the first floor of the pavilion and south wing and bedrooms to the north and upstairs, has been maintained.

Well-planted with pines, spruces, and maples, the property includes a small storage shed (original) in the northeast corner, and a two-door garage (1951) at the end of the drive to the southeast. Neither building is included in the nomination.

# 8. Significance

<b>Period</b>	<b>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</b>			
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) assoc. with significant person
<b>Specific dates</b> 1849 <sup>1</sup>	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Unknown		

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Long recognized as the home of one of Marathon County's pioneer settlers and admired for its enduring elegance, the Benjamin Single House ranks with the essential historical and architectural assets of the area. Predating the high style homes in the center of Wausau, the finely-proportioned structure is a fitting legacy of one of the Pinery's earliest lumberman.

Architecture

Designed as a high-style Greek Revival residence, the Benjamin Single House is one of the rarer forms of the genre that more often took the shape of simple two-story brick or fieldstone houses in the southern and eastern parts of the state. A regional survey revealed the house to be the finest and best surviving example of its kind, playing an important part in the architectural history of the area and complementing the variety of later Victorian styles in the city of Wausau. Contrasted with the recent construction in its locale, the Single House takes on added importance as an early landmark in Marathon County.

Association with Significant Person

Benjamin Single was born on August 20, 1820 in Bayford, Hertfordshire, England.<sup>2</sup> In 1836 he came to Milwaukee with his stepfather and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Youles, and his brothers, Charles, Thomas, Joseph, and James Single. Shortly after his arrival, Benjamin, along with his brother Charles, cleared 40 acres of land near Milwaukee. Single then worked as a carpenter and a joiner in Madison and Blue Mounds until the winter of 1839 when he moved to Grand Rapids (now Wisconsin Rapids) where he operated a mill until 1844.<sup>3</sup>

In 1844 Single moved to the Wausau area, acquired title to government pine lands, and built a sawmill on the Little Rib River in Stettin Township. This was one of the first mills in Marathon County.<sup>4</sup> The mill was powered by an undershot waterwheel until 1852 when it was abandoned in favor of a steam powered one. In July of 1871 the mill was destroyed by fire at a loss of \$20,000 but was rebuilt the summer of 1873. Today only a few pilings from the landing deck remain.

In 1849 Single had his millwright, William W. DeVoe, construct a two-story high-style Greek Revival house from white pine cut from Single's holdings.<sup>5</sup> It is one of the few remaining structures of its type in Marathon County . . . .

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Northern Wisconsin, Western Historical Co., Chicago, 1881.

Marchetti, Louis, History of Marathon County, Richmond-Arnold Publishing Co., Chicago, 1913.

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED  
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 0.83

Quadrangle name Wausau West, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	6	2	8	7	3	5	0	4	9	8	1	8	7	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

NE corner lot, 200' x 180', at the intersection of Stettin Drive and 48th Street South in the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 29, Town 29N, Range 7E.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Marie Dix

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date November, 1979

street & number 4708 Stettin Drive telephone (715)845-1696

city or town Wausau state Wisconsin 54401

# 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 Richard Kurey

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 10/3/80

For HCERS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>W. W. Ray</u> Keeper of the National Register	date <u>11/24/80</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Benjamin Single House

Continuation sheet

Item number

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

Association with Significant Person (cont.)

Benjamin Single was one of the early permanent settlers of Marathon County, and in addition to his lumber interests he has been credited with the establishment of the first large farm (80 acres) in the county.<sup>6</sup> Single also held an interest in railroad promotion. In 1856 he was listed as one of the sixteen incorporators of the Wisconsin River Valley Railroad Company.

In 1884 Single sold his sawmill and moved to a farm near Ripon, Wisconsin where he lived with his daughter, Rose, and son-in-law, Lyman W. Thayer. Benjamin Single died there on January 22, 1906.

- 
1. Reminiscences of Letitia Single Dunbar, 1930, p. 2. A pamphlet available at the Marathon County Historical Museum.
  2. History of Northern Wisconsin, Western Historical Co., Chicago, 1881, p. 567.
  3. Ibid.
  4. Ibid., p. 546.
  5. Reminiscences of Letitia Single Dunbar, 1930, p. 2. A pamphlet available at the Marathon County Historical Museum.
  6. Louis Marchetti, History of Marathon County, Richmond-Arnold Publ. Co., Chicago, 1913, p. 112.
  7. Ray Specht and John Cline, The Wisconsin Valley Line, Antiquarian Press, Stevens Point, Wisconsin, 1979, p. 1.
  8. B. Single Obituary, Wausau Pilot, January 23, 1906.

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Benjamin Single House  
Continuation sheet

Item number 11

Page 1

Form Prepared By:

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State Historical Society of Wisconsin June, 1980  
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Diane H. Filipowicz, Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Division  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin June, 1980  
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