

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

MAR 2 1982

HISTORIC NAME: _____ COUNTY: Houston
 CURRENT NAME: Sprague (Ellsworth Ara & Robert David) Houses CITY/TWP.: Caledonia City
 LEGAL DESC.: Lots 1-2 (R.D.), 3-4 (E.A.), ADDRESS: R.D.: 204 West Main
 Block 17, Original Plat, Caledonia City E.A.: 224 West Main

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent <u>X</u>	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Commerce</u>
Structure _____	Good <u>X</u>	State _____	Secondary _____
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes ___ No X Restricted ___ PRESENT USE: Residences
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No ___
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No ___

DATE CONSTRUCTED: E.A.: 1900-01; R.D.: 1903-05 ORIGINAL USE: Residences
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Ellsworth Ara & Robert David Sprague ARCHITECT/ ~~XXXXXXXX~~ R.D.: unknown
 E.A.: C.G. Maybury & Son, Winona, MN

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Winifred & G.S. Branch 224 W. Main, Caledonia, MN	Janet Soell 1309 Main LaCrosse, WI 54601	ACREAGE: Less than one acre approx. 1
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LOCAL CONTACT/CRG.: N/A UTM REFERENCE: Caledonia, Minn. Quad.
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 FORM PREPARED BY: Robert M. Frame III, Ph.D.
 DATE: June 1, 1981

DESCRIPTION:
 The Sprague Houses are situated side by side, occupying the width of one block, along the north side of Main Street in Caledonia, a short distance from the downtown business district. They are both rather plain examples of domestic Georgian Revival style executed in red brick. The Ellsworth Ara Sprague House (224 West Main) is a three-story rectangle with hipped roof, largely symmetrical, employing Neo-Colonial decorative motifs. Gabled bays project on the east and west facades and a porch with Tuscan columns wraps around the south (front) and east sides. Prominent on the front facade is a dormer with Palladian window. Other than the dormers, fenestration consists of one-over-one double-hung sash sash in rectangular openings with stone sills and lintels. Immediately to the east is the Robert David Sprague House (204 West Main), a three-story, hipped-roof square, with several hipped-roof dormers. The most prominent feature of the house is the large, brick-columned porch extending across the south (front) facade and halfway across the east facade, surmounted in the front by a small enclosed wood porch at the second story. Fenestration consists of one-over-one double-hung sash in unornamented rectangular openings except for the third-story dormer windows which are casement type with diamond lights. A dentillated cornice unifies the roof lines.

SIGNIFICANCE:
 Located side by side not far from the Sprague National Bank, are the houses of Ellsworth Ara and Robert David Sprague, two of the sons of Ara David Sprague whose own house is gone. The houses are significant for the many commercial and financial activities of the Sprague family as established by A.D. and carried on by E.A. and R.D. As the 1919 history of the county stated, "Ara David Sprague, pioneer merchant of Caledonia, was for many years one of the most influential men in the whole county, and his life and work are an inseparable part of the business, financial, agricultural, religious, educational, and social life of the community." Although he became the county's largest landowner, A.D. Sprague is most remembered for founding, with Jason Easton of Chatfield, the county's first bank. The bank was incorporated in 1908, a year before his death, as the Sprague State Bank, with E.A. as president and R.D. as cashier. Today the bank continues as the Sprague National Bank although ownership is out of the family. The daughters of E.A. and R.D. Sprague, however, continue to own and occupy the houses built in 1900-01 and 1903-05, respectively, by their fathers.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:
History of Houston County. 1919. Pp. 196-97.