

PH0368512

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 2 1976
DATE ENTERED	APR 11 1977

**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

Carl Ben Eielson House (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Osking House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

405 Eighth Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Hatton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

North Dakota

CODE

38

COUNTY

Traill

CODE

097

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 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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

Mrs. Elma Eielson Osking

STREET & NUMBER

405 Eighth Street

CITY, TOWN

Hatton

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Dakota 58240

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Traill County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 148

CITY, TOWN

Hillsboro

STATE

North Dakota 58045

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

North Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of North Dakota
Liberty Memorial Building

CITY, TOWN

Bismarck

STATE

North Dakota 58505

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
<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 Carl Ben Eielson House is a white frame residence measuring approximately 50 by 70 feet, with 2½ stories and a full basement. The first-floor plan consists of reception hall, library, and kitchen on the northeast side; and parlor, living room, and dining room on the southwest side. The large kitchen was converted from a smaller original kitchen, butler's pantry, and utility room ca. 1940, and during the same remodeling the open back porch was enclosed. The formal first-floor rooms retain their original wood finish, which consists of variations on the theme of elaborately paneled, carved, and turned oak. The decorative screens spanning the soffits of openings between the rooms are particularly fine, with beaded spindles forming latticework, spoked wheels, and ribbed fans in assorted combinations. The door frames which hold the screens have head casings enriched with egg-and-dart molding and carved wreaths and ribboned swags. The same classical elements adorn the built-in china cupboard in the dining room, a handsome assembly of glassed and mirrored shelves, bracketed recesses, and drawers with ornate pulls. Mantelpieces in the living room and the library repeat the garland motif in their facings, and also feature mirrored chimney breasts, shelves supported by columns, and surrounds and hearths of ceramic tile. Floors are oak bordered in ebony and oak parquetry, and original bellflower gas ceiling fixtures have been electrified. A number of windows have transoms of beveled glass set in lead muntins, and in the southwest wall of the dining room is a small rectangular window of lavender, green and yellow stained glass. The stairway in the reception room is a three-quarter turn with landings and paneled soffit, slender turned balusters, carved tread-ends, and molded handrail and stringer. The paneled newel posts are heavily carved in dentils, rosettes, acanthus leaves, and bead-and-reel molding. The second floor consists of a hallway with cedar-lined closet, several bathrooms, and six bedrooms, all of the latter being entered by paneled doors beneath 1-light transoms. The attic story was originally finished for servants' quarters and also contains a tank which collected water pumped by a windmill formerly located in the southwest yard.

The exterior of the house is dominated by a polygonal turret atop the west corner of the front porch. The first stage of the turret emerges from a parapet of shingles and balusters, while the second features carved panels and prominent brackets supporting a flaring domed roof. Additional visual interest in the upper levels of the house is provided by shingled skirting as a string course and by the interruption of the main hipped roof by a large chimney and several gables. The latter are emphasized by bracketed cornice returns, Palladian-type windows, and pronounced ridge rolls and finials. In the east corner of the second story is a small balcony with a latticework soffit screen borne by Doric columns. Slightly larger versions of the latter support the bracketed roof of the front porch and are raised on paneled pedestals joined by a balustrade with gooseneck railing. The porch terminates in a circular configuration on the north corner, topped by a shallow conical roof.

The yard of the house is planted in grass and tall trees and earlier was enclosed by hedges. A building in the rear serves as a garage and tool shed, and also once contained a year-round icehouse. The former barn was purchased by neighbors, moved to an adjoining lot at the back of the property, and remodeled into a residence.

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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT T.E. Nelson (Builder)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Because of its size, exterior massing, and interior finish, the Carl Ben Eielson House is an outstanding example of residential Queen Anne architecture. It is chiefly notable, however, as the home of Colonel Carl Benjamin Eielson (1897-1929), a hero in American aviation history. The house was built by T.E. Nelson, owner of a general store in Hatton, probably around the turn of the century, although the exact date and the source of the design are undetermined. It was purchased from Nelson by Ole Eielson, merchant, banker, and father of Carl Ben Eielson, in 1908, since which time it has remained in possession of the family.

Carl Ben Eielson was born in Hatton and attended the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, and the University of Wisconsin, Madison. After the United States entered World War I, he joined the Army Air Corps, serving from 1917 to 1919, but was not sent overseas. Returning home after the war, he organized the Hatton Aero Club, which promoted passenger and stunt flying at county fairs in North Dakota and Minnesota. In the spring of 1921 Eielson was graduated from the University of North Dakota, his B.A. partly earned on the basis of his Army training. He spent the summer at his Hatton home, and after further study at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., he accepted a position as principal of a high school in Fairbanks, Alaska. His overriding interest in aviation soon led him to devote himself to proving the effectiveness of Alaskan air transportation by means of flights on which he carried passengers and medical supplies. In 1924 he was awarded a government contract for ten mail runs from Fairbanks to McGrath, which he successfully fulfilled, but Congress at the time remained unconvinced of the value of the innovative system.

Eielson spent the summers of 1924 and 1925 at home in Hatton, serving the interim year in the Army Air Corps. In the fall of 1925 he was hired by the Australian polar explorer, Sir Hubert Wilkins, as pilot for an aerial expedition "over the top of the world" from Point Barrow, Alaska, to Spitzbergen, Norway. Attempts in 1926 and 1927 failed, after which Eielson was again temporarily in Hatton, but a third successful flight in 1928 brought fame and honors to him and Wilkins. In the winter of the same year, the two men made flights in Antarctica which, by producing new discoveries and correcting previous misconceptions, altered the cartography of the region. On his return in the spring of 1929, Eielson was again in Hatton when he was summoned to Washington, D.C., and presented with the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Harmon Trophy. The latter, the highest honor which can be bestowed on an aviator, at that time had been awarded only to Commander Richard E. Byrd and Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Maddox, Dawn. Personal inspection, June 18, 1976.
 Osking, Mrs. Elma Eielson, Hatton, North Dakota. Personal interview, June 18, 1976.
 Wambheim, W.B. "Ben." The Life Story of Col. Carl Ben Eielson. Hatton, North Dakota, 1930.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 4	6, 1, 6, 0, 2, 0	5, 2, 7, 6, 9, 8, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Dawn Maddox, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of North Dakota

DATE

October 26, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Liberty Memorial Building

TELEPHONE

(701)224-2666

CITY OR TOWN

Bismarck

STATE

North Dakota 58505

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE X

LOCAL X

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

James E. Sherry

TITLE N.D. State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE October 28, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

4/11/99

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3 25 77

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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In August, 1929, Eielson returned to Alaska to study the possibility of consolidating individual airlines into a passenger and freight network to replace dog teams. Representing an American syndicate, he was successful in forming Alaskan Airways, Inc., of which he was named vice president and general manager. The close of Eielson's life came soon after with tragic suddenness. In late October the American trading ship Nanuk became icebound off North Cape, Siberia, with fifteen passengers and a million-dollar fur cargo aboard. Eielson was offered \$50,000 if his company would effect a rescue, and he and his mechanic, Earl Borland, successfully brought back six passengers and one hundred thousand dollars' worth of furs on an initial flight. Returning to the ship on November 9 in storm conditions, Eielson and Borland crashed into a hillside as a result of their plane's faulty altimeter and were instantly killed. Eielson's body was returned aboard a special train to Hatton, where it lay in state for two days prior to burial with full military honors in the family plot at St. John's Cemetery north of town. His name lives in an Alaskan mountain, Mt. Eielson, which rises in the shadow of Mt. McKinley, and in Eielson Air Force Base outside Fairbanks, home of the 5010th Air Base Wing. At the entrance to the base is a monument to him bearing the following inscription:

Father of Alaskan aviation and airmail service. First to fly an airplane around the North Pole from Alaska to Spitzbergen.

Eielson's sister, Mrs. Elma Eielson Osking, lives in the family home and has kept it much as it was during her brother's lifetime, with furnishings which include parlor and dining room suites which belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Ole Eielson. Medals, awards, photographs, and other memorabilia associated with Carl Ben Eielson and his career can be viewed by visitors who are always graciously welcomed by Mrs. Osking.