

**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 Elderwood

and/or common The House in the Woods

2. Location

street & number 6789 North Elm Tree Road _____ not for publication

city, town Glendale _____ vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state Wisconsin code 55 county Milwaukee code 079

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 Tom and Ginny Jenkins

street & number 6789 North Elm Tree Road

city, town Glendale _____ vicinity of state Wisconsin 53217

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Milwaukee County Courthouse

street & number 901 North Ninth Street

city, town Milwaukee _____ state Wisconsin 53233

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1980 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison _____ state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

ELDERWOOD

Elderwood, "The House in the Woods," is a large, two-story, rectangular stucco-covered concrete cottage with enveloping red clay tile jerkinhead roof. Its pantile ridges are carried down to the exposed rafters under wide overhanging eaves. Three clay tile stacks top the stucco-faced concrete chimney on the center ridge. A large balcony of heavy, dark-stained pine timbers is suspended from the second story on the south end of the building; deeply incised and carved brackets support the eaves overhead. An included porch in the southeast corner is enclosed by a large, semicircular cut-out arcade. The lower portion of the porch and projecting bay on the east side are faced with higher courses of the lannon stone veneer which forms the foundation around the house; the concrete upper course is edged in a scallop-and-bead motif, a personal touch of the mason. Similar treatment decorates the top of the north and south walls under the eaves of the hip of the jerkinhead roof. Fenestration is varied; picturesque projections of grouped windows on the east side dominate the facade. Leaded sash and fixed panels with geometric Jugendstil motif fill the turreted bay and heavy pine overhang. On the second story, two windows of four large panes each light the large shed dormers on the east and west sides. Less-exposed sides of the house are set with utilitarian double-hung and fixed sash. Fine decorative features include the carved frame of the east side overhang and flanking metal downspout, and tiny ceramic tiles imbedded in the jambs of the porch. Begun in 1945 and finally completed in 1979, the garage at the north end is constructed of the same stuccoed concrete with clay tile roof.

Little has been done to alter the interior from its original design. The vestibule from the main entrance at the south end, and hall to the butler's pantry and closets occupy the approximate center of the plan. The short oak stair with newel-motif cut outs parallels the main hall. Box-beam ceilings and oak plate rails distinguish the large living and dining rooms in the east half of the ground story. The large fieldstone fireplace in the living room was altered in the 1940's. Kitchen and bathroom remodelling undertaken in the last year has included lowering of the ceilings. Four bedrooms with intervening baths and closets open into the center hall upstairs. The plaster walls are unadorned except for the plain picture moldings across the surfaces.

The present owners intend to continue restoring and replacing the worn and missing finer elements of both the interior and exterior (windows, gutters, moldings, wood finishing, roof tiles, etc.). With this purpose in mind, they have kept the original drape designed by the first owner to divide the living and dining rooms; gold embroidery worked on the panne velvet panels matches the Jugendstil motif in the leaded glass windows in both rooms.

Originally located to escape Milwaukee congestion and subsequently used as a summer residence, Elderwood is now part of a wooded suburban area in northern metropolitan Milwaukee. The house is equidistant from Nicolet High School to the east and the Milwaukee River to the west. A lush overgrowth of the trees and flowers planted by owner Gustav Trostel over sixty years ago shades the one-acre property and much of the surrounding area which once was part of the thirty-six acre Trostel estate. Tall, mature blue spruce, white cedar, black walnut, white ash, box elder, American elm, chokecherry, American beech, and shagbark

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

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

ELDERWOOD, Glendale, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

7. Description (continued)

hickory testify to the botanical interests of Trostel. With time, the present owners plan to replenish the plantings of tiger lillies, peonies, bleeding heart, black-eyed susans, chicory, lillies-of-the-valley, tulips, squilla, wild geraniums, violets, daffodils, forget-me-not, phlox, wild strawberries, black raspberries, honeysuckle, dogwood, gooseberries, lilacs, hostea, Solomon's seal, trout lillies, daisies, and snow-on-the-mountain which were tended at Elderwood.

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

Specific dates 1909–10¹

Builder/Architect E. R. Leibert²

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Associated with a number of stylistic and cultural forces current at the turn of the century, Elderwood is a fascinating architectural phenomenon. Built for Milwaukee decorator, designer, and upholsterer Charles Solomon in 1909–10, the house was soon to come into sympathetic ownership by Gustav J. A. Trostel, who used the house as a summer home from 1912–36. Although such seasonal residence was typical of Milwaukee's aristocracy at the time, Trostel's development of the then five-acre site and surrounding thirty-six acre property as a private botanical garden and farm for the delight and nourishment of his family was exceptional. The son of "sterling German pioneer"³ and early industrialist Albert Trostel, Gustav continued to operate the Albert Trostel & Sons Company, Milwaukee's largest leather tannery, and was a noted benefactor of the Milwaukee School of Engineering.

The stylistic identity of the house is more intriguing and important than the cultural significance of its use. Bearing trademarks of the design mentality of Milwaukee architect Eugene Leibert, Elderwood has the appearance of a large picturesque German cottage with decorative touches in the Jugendstil mode. Leibert, German-born and educated, was the architect of choice of the Milwaukee's German upperclass. The Henry Harnischfeger Residence of 1905 testifies to Leibert's ability to incorporate formal German Renaissance elements into a domestic design, suggesting affluence and elegance while retaining the picturesque quality of Romantic design. Bearing a similar tile jerkinhead roof, arcaded porch, and turreted out-cropping, Elderwood is a more appropriately countrified work. The additional decorative delight of German Arts & Crafts Jugendstil motifs in the leaded glass windows and imbedded ceramic tiles marks the house as an ethnic adaptation of a national trend of the early twentieth century. An unexpected touch of modernism was accidental to the design: finding native clay too scarce at the site, Leibert chose poured concrete, covered with stucco, to create the old-world effect. The openness and austerity of the interior suggest association with American Arts & Crafts and Shingle Style design.

¹Testimony of Carl Leibert, architect, Rhinelander, Wisc., son of the architect. Original signed drawings for the Solomon House were destroyed. Probable attribution first made by H. Russell Zimmerman, Zimmerman Design Consultants, based on study of known Leibert works.

²Ibid.

³Ellis Baker Usher, Wisconsin, Its History and Biography, 1848–1913, p. 872.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Still, Bayrd, Milwaukee: The History of a City, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1948.
 Usher, Ellis Baker, Wisconsin, Its History and Biography, 1848-1913.
 Zimmerman, H. Russell, The Heritage Guidebook, Inland Heritage Corporation, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 1.125

Quadrangle name Thiensville, Wis.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	4	2	5	2	2	0	4	7	7	6	5	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
 (See continuation sheet)

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tom and Ginny Jenkins

organization _____ date November 1979

street & number 6789 North Elm Tree Road telephone (414) 352-5713

city or town Glendale state Wisconsin 53217

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 Murrey

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 8/27/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>for W. Ray Luce</u>	date <u>12/4/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Linda Hunt McClelland</u>	date <u>11-6-80</u>
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

ELDERWOOD, Glendale, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number 10, 11

Page 1

10. Verbal Boundary Description

Parcel 1 in the Southwest 1/4 of Section 20, Town 8 North, Range 22 East, in the City of Glendale, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin. Commencing at a point in the North line of said section 1515.00 feet N 89°34'04" E along said line 370.14 feet to a point being the Southwest corner of Block 3, Green Tree Valley, a recorded subdivision; thence S 0°25'56" E 60.00 feet to a point; thence 89°34'04" W 36.71 feet to a point; thence S 73°36'37" W 40.59 feet to a point; thence S 50°34'04" W 60.00 feet to a point; thence S 61°34'04" W 60.00 feet to a point; thence 25°25'56" E 37.00 feet to a point; thence S 48°34'04" W 62.00 feet to a point; thence N 62°23'34" W 116.46 feet to a point; thence N 44°34'03" W 56.20 feet to a point; thence N 10°14'12" W 119.89 feet to the point of commencement.

11. Form Prepared by: (continued)

Diane H. Filipowicz, Architectural Historian
Historic Preservation Division
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
816 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

February 1980
(608) 262-2970