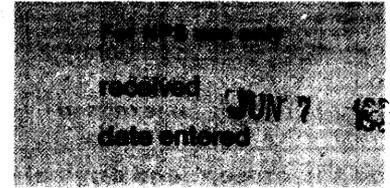


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# 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 Enoch J. Fargo House

and/or common E. J. Fargo House (preferred)

## 2. Location

street & number 406 Mulberry Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Lake Mills \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district

state Wisconsin code 55 county Jefferson code 055

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name Ralph W. and Susan Yont

street & number 1020 E. Windsor Drive

city, town Waukesha \_\_\_ vicinity of state Wisconsin 53186

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number 320 S. Main Street

city, town Jefferson state Wisconsin 53549

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1974 \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in a spacious residential area of the village of Lake Mills, the E. J. Fargo House is a large three-story cream brick Queen Anne residence with a lantern-topped polygonal corner tower (on the north), full-length decorated wood verandas on the northwest and northeast facades, cross-gable porte cochere, and a profusion of shingle-faced gables and tall cream brick chimneys on all sides. The slopes of the various gables on the roof, tower, porch, and porte cochere are now covered with composition shingles rather than the original slate. An ashlar foundation supports the building. Openings vary in size, shape, and distribution; generally, those in the tower, sides of the two-story bay on the northwest side, and in the third-story gable ends are rectangular and filled with double-hung sash; others are larger rectangular openings (intended for single plates of glazing) or segmental-arch openings filled with single or paired double-hung windows with segmental-arch upper sashes. The house is thought to be a large-scale remodelling (essentially a rebuilding) of the earlier large two-story cream brick Italian Villa which previously stood on the site. The site includes a two-story-plus-attic frame carriage barn some fifty feet to the southeast of the house, and decorative iron fence along the northwest and southwest edges of the property; both are considered significant to the nomination.

All exterior trim is of wood. The original wood window frames and single paneled doors at the front and side entrances are intact. The porch decoration consists of turned valences and balustrades spanning curved (tower) or straight expanses between pairs of wood columns; entrances are marked by scalloped segmental arches trimmed with pendants. Shallow decorative brackets underline the projecting cornice. Wide, baluster-filled arches rise into the "half-timber" gables of the porte cochere roof, supported by single columns; ashlar pedestals match the house foundation. The narrow rectangular porch on the rear (southeast) facade is likewise composed of turned valences and balustrades and columns. Only a small number of the porch elements is missing.

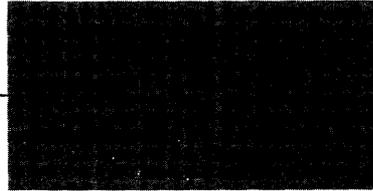
Plans of all floors of the interior vary. The front (northwest) half of the first floor is broken into a parlor (in the northwest corner), music room, library, and stairhall and polygonal window seat (in the tower); the rear half (at the back of the house) is composed of the dining room and solarium, kitchen, and subsidiary pantries, baths (early twentieth century alterations) and closets. Although the kitchen has been remodeled and original light fixtures, fireplaces, and pier glasses have been removed from the dining room, library, and front stairhall, many of the original appointments remain: in the parlor, a (painted) plaster floral border around the upper walls, and the glazed tile fireplace with oak mantle, flanking fluted columns, and mirror; between parlor and dining room, an open oak-framed screen with oak balustrade; in the dining room, the high panelled oak wainscoting and glazed china cabinet; in the solarium, the bordered tile floor; sliding oak doors between parlor and stairhall; and in the stairhall, the oak stair with ornately carved newels, oak-framed pier glass on the landing, and panelled window seat in the adjoining "tower" section. Throughout the formal rooms of the first floor, profiled (painted) wood moldings are intact near the ceiling, and oak door and window frames, trimmed with bead-and-reel moldings and applied leaves, are characteristic. On the second and third floors, the plans have been slightly altered to allow introduction of kitchens and baths when the interior of the house was divided into apartments, but the larger original spaces are still evident. Generally, oak door

(continued)

EXP. 12/31/84

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and window frames have been retained in the second-story curved hall and master bedroom suite, as have simpler wood frames, with carved wood molding blocks, in the secondary bedrooms and servants' quarters. Many of the ornamental brass door knobs and hinges are in place, and sharp corners are still protected by the original oak spools. The master bedroom suite in the northwest corner of the second floor is still composed of bedroom, large parlor, porch, and dressing room and bath; again the original fireplace and light fixtures were removed, but the dressing room retains its painted wood cabinets and the tile floor and marble washstand remain in the bathroom. Although the third-story spaces are undecorated, the former ballroom, billiards room, and servants' bedrooms are recognizable, all compressed in height and breadth by the sharp slopes and angles of the roof gables. (As late as 1945 when the house left Fargo family ownership, the ballroom was still painted in the original pastel shades and decorated with Oriental lanterns.<sup>1</sup>) Window seats still fill the windowed tower sections of the third and second stories, as on the first. The basement of the house once included wine and root cellars as well as storage and services.

Except for the introduction of an overhead garage door on the front facade, the two-story-plus-attic frame carriage barn to the southeast of the house appears as originally constructed. The rectangular form is covered by a cross-gable roof (now covered with asbestos shingles). Several six-over-six-light double-hung windows provide light on the ground story and in the loft, and over-size sliding freight doors cover vehicle and supply entrances on two lower stories.

The grounds of the Fargo House appear to be largely original, except that no evidence of the bear pit, which was a part of the property into the early twentieth century, remains. The low iron fence, composed of fleur-de-lis newels spanned by short lancet-like balusters has survived; openings at the far northeast and northwest ends suggest the curved configuration of the original drive around the rear of the house through the porte cochere. The thick screen of overgrown trees and shrubs around the house and side yard (to the east) suggest that most of the major landscaping remains. The former E. J. Fargo House was recently condemned by the City of Lake Mills for code violations, including lack of hot running water, a leaking roof (resulting in some falling plaster inside), and lack of proper exists from the second and third story apartments. Despite those considerations and improper maintenance, the house is in good structural condition. Currently vacant, the ownership of the house is in flux, and renewed use is anticipated.

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<sup>1</sup>Lake Mills Leader, September 6, 1945.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> assoc. with significant person

1881 (construction),<sup>1</sup> 1893–96 (alteration)<sup>1</sup>

**Specific dates** 1893–1921 (significance) **Builder/Architect** Paul Henningson/E. J. Fargo<sup>2</sup>

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

One of Lake Mills's most important cultural resources, the former Enoch J. Fargo is both architecturally and historically significant. E. J. Fargo, the son of one of the original settlers and a prominent member of Lake Mills's "first family," was a partner in the locally-vast E. B. Fargo Co. enterprises and chief executive officer of the Creamery Package Company. It is accepted that Fargo himself designed the extensive Queen Anne additions to the former Italian Villa that the family acquired, making it Lake Mills's most awesome house and a prime representative of its period of construction.

### Architecture

It was between 1893 (when the Fargo family acquired the existing Italian Villa on the Mulberry Street site) and 1896 (when E. J. Fargo himself acquired title to the property) that the Enoch J. Fargo House attained its present appearance. The previous house had been built for W. R. Harvey,<sup>1</sup> an early settler in the village, and a carpenter and partner in the R. Fargo & Company general store, founded by E. J.'s uncle. When Harvey and his family moved to Milwaukee in 1893, the Fargo company bought the property, and remodeling the house became the hobby of resident Enoch J. Fargo. Fargo who "liked to build"<sup>3</sup> is linked with the construction or expansion of a number of buildings for the various Fargo enterprises, including the original E. B. Fargo Company dairy equipment factory (1870) and its subsequent additions (1885 and later). "His building talent is evident in his residence 'one of the finest in Southern Wisconsin.'"<sup>4</sup> Unequaled by several smaller, more conventional Queen Anne houses in Lake Mills, the E. J. Fargo House is easily the largest house in Lake Mills, and includes the picturesque masses, plan and elements (tower, porches, chimneys) that are characteristic of the period. Retention of the most formal and important parts of the interior (including the parlor, dining room and solarium, stairhall, and master bedroom suite) strengthens the significance of the building as an evocative illustration of the architectural and social tastes of the day.

### Association with Significant Person

Enoch J. Fargo (1850–1921) was born the second son of Enoch B. Fargo, one of the four Fargo brothers who moved from New York State to the Wisconsin Territory in the 1840s. The family, who had emigrated from Wales shortly after the turn of the century, included the eventual founders of the Wells-Fargo Stagecoach Company. The Fargos of Lake Mills, who were among the early settlers of the area, were also to become the community's strongest financial and social force well into the twentieth century. Their various interests and enterprises from the 1840s through 1900 included the E. B. Fargo Store, Agricultural Company, Foundry, the Fargo & Griswold Company (foundry), R. Fargo & Company (dry goods), E. B. Fargo & Son General Store, F. B. Fargo Company (dairy equipment), Frank Fargo Turkey Feather Duster Company, Kaltenbrunn's & Fargo

(continued)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Keyes, Elisha W., A Reminiscent History of the Village and Town of Lake Mills, Jefferson County, 1894, available at L. D. Fargo Library, Lake Mills.

Ott, John Henery, Jefferson County Wisconsin and Its People, S. J. Clark Publishing Co., Lake Mills Leader, February 10, 1921; September 6, 1945. Chicago, 1917.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1.07

Quadrangle name Lake Mills

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

116	3414	71210	417	711	41110
Zone	Easting				

B 

Zone	Easting				

C 


D 


E 


F 


G 


H 


### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 1, Block 1, E. B. Fargo Addition to the city of Lake Mills, except the NE 16.5 feet.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By (continued)

name/title Diane H. Filipowicz/Architectural Historian

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date March, 1982

street & number 816 State Street telephone 608/262-2970

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

## 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 National Park Service.

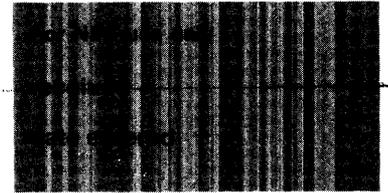
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Richard Menny

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 6/1/82

For NPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Delores Byers</u>	Entered in the National Register date <u>7/8/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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(store), Fargo Block (Bank of Lake Mills), and cheese factories; the Fargos sponsored paving of the first sidewalks and streets in the village, helped form the Baptist society and Lake Mills Women's Club, and acquired the light and water franchise. Enoch J. Fargo officially joined the family empire with the Agricultural Company in 1868 at age eighteen, and two years later, he and his brother Frank joined the F. B. Fargo dairy equipment Company. E. J. managed the office and factories, and planned and supervised construction of its buildings. Under his direction, the factory became the largest in Lake Mills, and as CREPACO (the Creamery Package Company) remains so today; E. J. Fargo stayed on as chief executive officer even after the factory was sold in 1898.<sup>5</sup> In addition, E. J. was a partner in F. B. Fargo & Company,<sup>6</sup> and the Bank, and was chiefly responsible for the improvement of the local school grounds, and building of the Middle School and the Methodist church.<sup>7</sup> At the time that Mrs. Fargo sold the house in 1945, it was said of her husband, "No one engaged as a regular builder in Lake Mills has done as much as he [E. J.] and his partners did to build up Lake Mills from a little village to a thriving little city."<sup>8</sup> Enoch J. Fargo died while wintering in Tarpon Springs, Florida in 1921.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Property abstract, Jefferson County Courthouse.

<sup>2</sup>It is accepted among the Fargo family and the city of Lake Mills that E. J. Fargo himself was responsible for the large-scale remodelling/rebuilding of his house; there is no evidence of the involvement of an architect. Further, the family assumes that Paul Henningson, who worked for the family in their Kraemer Package Company in the 1890s, executed most of Fargo's designs for the house.

<sup>3</sup>Lake Mills Leader, September 6, 1945.

<sup>4</sup>Obituary for Enoch J. Fargo, Lake Mills Leader, February 10, 1921.

<sup>5</sup>Wisconsin Necrology, vol. 18, pp. 254-255 (February 4, 1921 Fort Atkinson obituary).

<sup>6</sup>Ibid.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

<sup>8</sup>Lake Mills Leader, September 6, 1945.

<sup>9</sup>Wisconsin Necrology, vol. 18, pp. 254-255.

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E. J. Fargo House, Lake Mills, Jefferson Co., Wis.

Continuation sheet

Item number 11

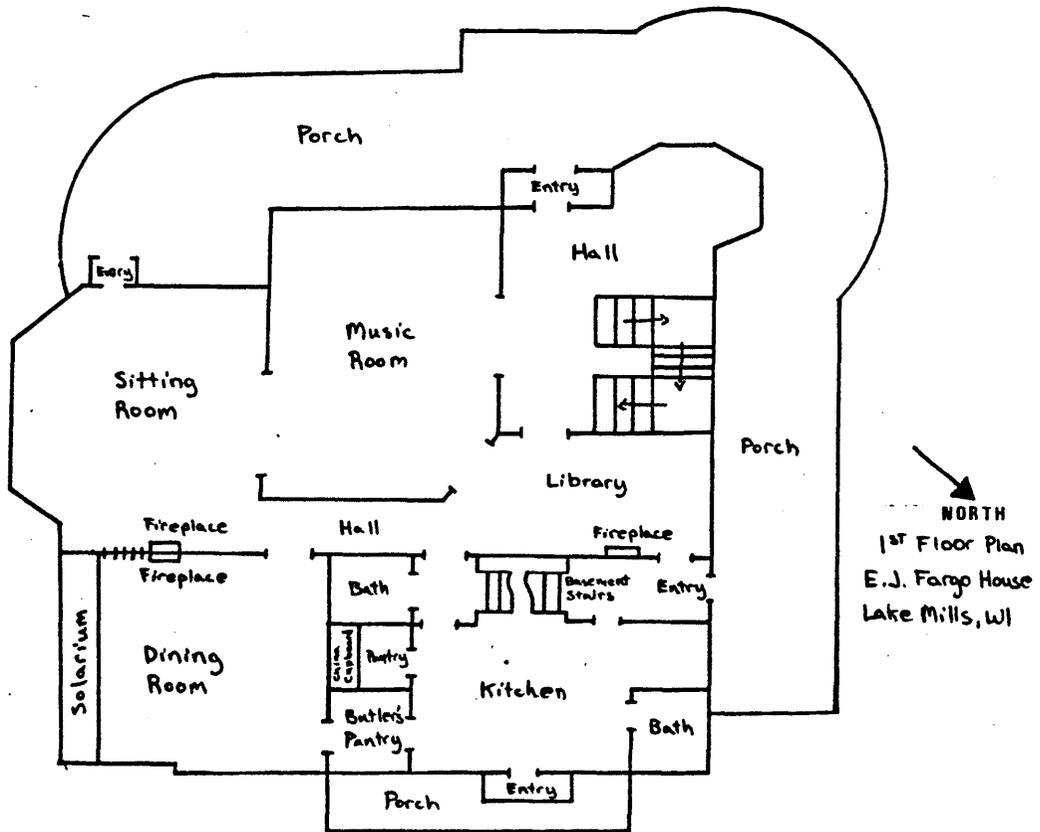
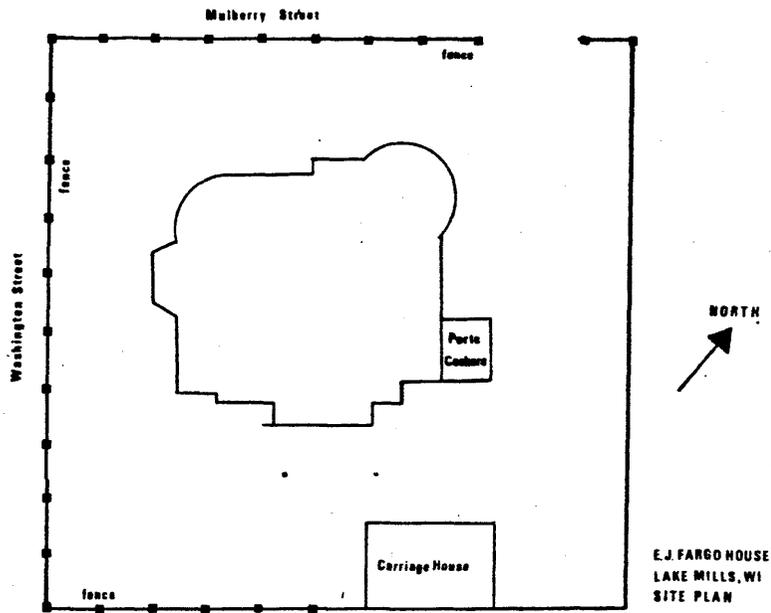
Page 1

Form Prepared By

Research Assistance By:

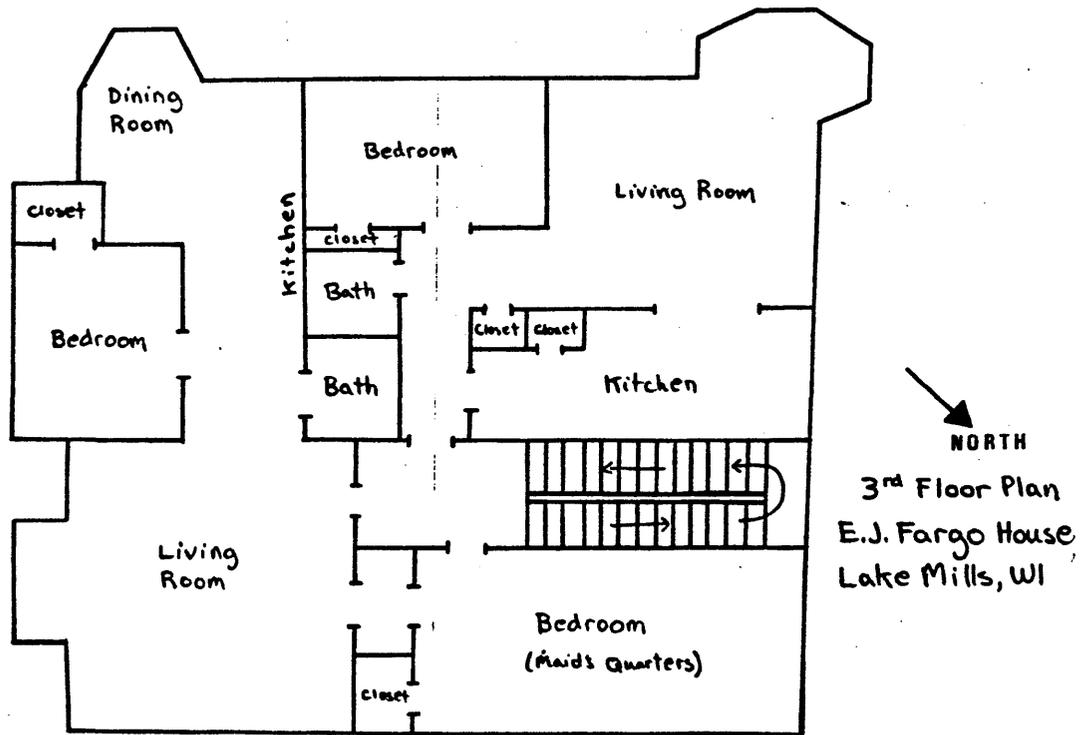
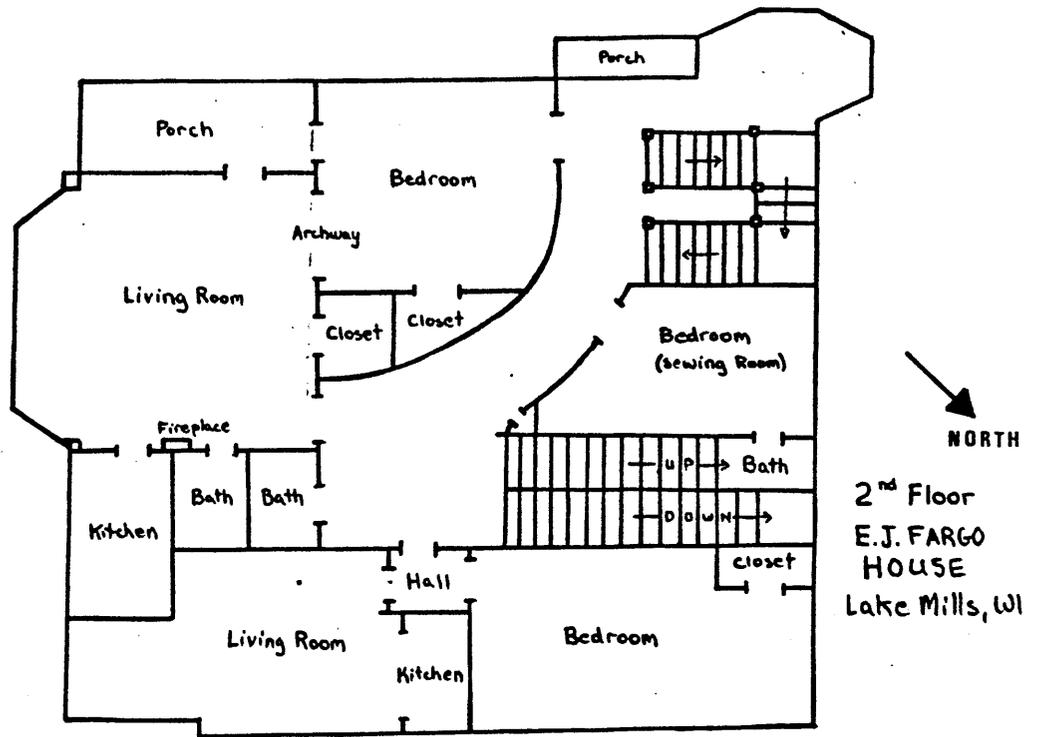
Lahna and Dale Anhalt  
529 College St.  
Lake Mills

February, 1982  
414/648-2696  
Wisconsin 53551



E. J. FARGO HOUSE, Lake Mills

(not to scale)



E. J. FARGO HOUSE, Lake Mills

(not to scale)