

100-218
L.A. 10/2/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received MAY 14 1986
date entered JUN 13 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Dr. Albert C. Wedge House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 216 W. Fountain Street N/A not for publication

city, town Albert Lea N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Minnesota code 22 county Freeborn code 047

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Mildred S. Jones (Bratten) and Mark J. Jones

street & number Wedge-Jones Building - 302 South Broadway

city, town Albert Lea N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 56007

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Freeborn County Court House

city, town Austin state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society-Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" 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 <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Dr. Albert Clark Wedge house faces south on Fountain Street in Albert Lea and is set well back from the street surrounded by spacious lawns and mature oak trees. Fountain Lake is at the rear of the property. The house is sited above the lake on a hill. It is surrounded by houses similarly sited and of approximately the same age. To the rear of the property is a single detached wood frame garage.

The Wedge house is a shingle-style Queen Anne in excellent condition. It is two and a half stories tall with 4" clapboard with stagger butt and fish scale shingle patterns. The house has a rusticated sandstone foundation and an asphalt roof.

The house has all the rich surface elements of a typical good example of the Queen Anne shingled style. It has a complicated gabled roof with a semi-circular two story bay on the west and a two story round, shingled tower with a bellcast roof on the east. At the west front corner of the house is a one story angled bay with a flat roof. The second story projects over the front entrance which is off-set to the east. An open porch in the form of a raised platform without roof leads up the the front door. A small open second-story porch leads off the front through a door. The main front entry door is original and contains small panels in oak. Balustrades are simple stick-style. Half timbering and plaster is simulated under the front second story windows. On the east side, the second story gable projects over the first story windows, which are cant-cornered with semi-circular spoolwork at the corners. A second story recessed sleeping porch on the east corner of the front has a semi-circular open arch with a balustrade.

The windows are done in the Queen Anne style to add variation and richness to the over-all effect. Most windows are simple 1-over-1, but windows on the first story have corniced window moldings and small 4 x 4" panes of glass at the tops of the upper light. Windows in the tower are 12-over 1 and windows in the upper front gable are 6-over 6. The two central windows on the front facade second story and on the east first story foyer are fixed light with small border panes. The second floor stair landing on the east side has a semi-circular window with small panes.

The house has been altered somewhat, mostly on the rear and these changes are not noticeable from the street because of the set-back and trees. As far as visible changes seen from the front of the house, only the Queen Anne chimney cap has been removed. The decorated chimney shaft is intact. The other change is the removal of the stick-style balustrade at the open porch leading to the front door. This is now wrought iron. Small one-story additions project out from the original walls at the rear of the east and west sides. These appear to have been added before 1910. The house has been altered considerably in the rear with a two story gabled addition of more recent vintage. This large addition extends the house straight back toward the lake. The addition is sheathed in clapboards, has a double tuck-under garage on the ground level and a projecting redwood deck and sliding glass doors on the second floor. It accommodates an apartment. The house was freshly painted in contrasting colors in the summer of 1984.

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

Specific dates ca. 1880 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Albert C. Wedge house is significant as a superior example of the Queen Anne shingled style and for its association with Dr. Albert Clark Wedge, pioneer settler and leading physician in Albert Lea for over 50 years, state senator and representative, livestock breeder, and leading state physician. Architecturally, the Wedge house is a superior example of the Queen Anne shingled style in Freeborn County. It is in excellent repair and has retained all of its original richness of texture and detail on the front and side facades.

Dr. Albert Clark Wedge (1834-1911) was born in Ohio, but the family moved west by stages, first to Indiana then to Wisconsin. Wedge spent three years at Ripon College and studied medicine under a local doctor there. He graduated in medicine from Cleveland (Ohio) Medical College in 1857 and was convinced by an uncle to settle in Minnesota. He arrived at Albert Lea by covered wagon when the settlement was a collection of four or five log houses and about 30 inhabitants. He took an active part in building up the city and practiced medicine for the next 50 years. When Albert Lea township was organized in 1858, Wedge was elected chairman of the first board of supervisors. He served with the Third Minnesota Regiment in the Civil War as an Army doctor.

After the War, Wedge served in the lower house of the state legislature in 1870-71, and as state senator in 1879-80, resigning to become collector of internal revenue under an appointment by President Garfield. Wedge was known for his outstanding ability as a physician and surgeon, and was a frequent contributor to scientific and medical journals and to the local newspapers.

Wedge served on many state boards and held numerous positions. . While a state legislator, he was chairman of the committee on railroads and on the state prison investigation committee. He was chairman of the Republican congressional committee of his district for a year, and for several years chairman of the county committee. He was a member of Governor Merriman's military staff and Governor Nelson's assistant surgeon general. Governor McGill appointed him a member of the state medical examining board, where he served for four years, one as president. In 1880, he was president of the State Medical Society, and for some years was president of the Albert Lea Central Medical Society. He was elected vice-president of the International Association of Railroad Surgeons and was a long-standing trustee of Albert Lea College for Women. He owned "Oak Park Stock Farm" a mile west of Albert Lea and became an extensive stock breeder. When he died, the Albert Lea mayor suspended business in the city and thousands of people followed the casket to the cemetery

9. Major Bibliographical References

Curtiss-Wedge, Franklyn, ed. History of Freeborn County Minnesota (H. C. Cooper, Jr. & Co, 1911), pp.525-529.
A. C. Wedge file, Freeborn County Historical Society, Albert Lea.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 1 acre

Quadrangle name Albert Lea East, Minn. 1982

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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

Lots 2 and 3 Sub Part SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, East of Armstrong's Addition and South of Fountain Lake, City of Albert Lea

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Norene A. Roberts

organization Historical Research, Inc.

date April 29, 1985

street & number 5535 Richmond Curve

telephone (612) 929-2921

city or town Minneapolis

state Minnesota 55410

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

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5/8/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

date 6-13-86

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Dr. Albert C. Wedge House, Albert Lea, Freeborn County, Minnesota

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date entered

Continuation sheet Resource Count Item number 8 Page 1

The Dr. Albert C. Wedge House Nomination contains
1 contributing Building.