

PH0150827

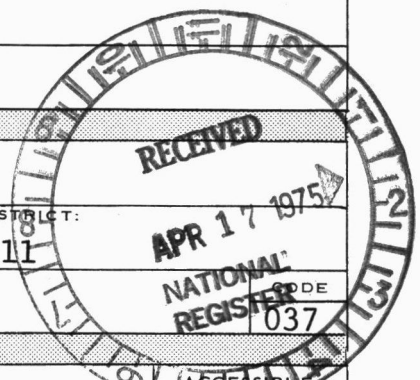
STATE: <b>Illinois</b>
COUNTY: <b>De Kalb</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>JUN 1 3 1975</b>

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

<b>1. NAME</b>	
COMMON: <b>Ellwood Mansion</b>	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>509 North First Street</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>De Kalb</b>		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: <b>15th-Tim Hall</b>	
STATE <b>Illinois</b>	CODE <b>17</b>	COUNTY: <b>De Kalb</b>	CODE <b>037</b>



<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>			
CATEGORY (Check One)  <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buildings <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	OWNERSHIP  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	PUBLIC ACQUISITION: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	STATUS  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	

<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>			
OWNER'S NAME: <b>De Kalb Park District</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>150 East Lincoln Highway</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>De Kalb</b>		STATE: <b>Illinois</b>	CODE <b>17</b>

<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: <b>De Kalb County Courthouse</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>State and Main Streets</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Sycamore</b>		STATE: <b>Illinois</b>	CODE <b>17</b>

<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>			
TITLE OF SURVEY: <b>Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey</b>			
DATE OF SURVEY: <b>1973</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <b>Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>P. O. Box 986</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Carbondale</b>		STATE: <b>Illinois</b>	CODE <b>17</b>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Illinois  
COUNTY: De Kalb  
ENTRY NUMBER: JUN 1 3 1975  
DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ellwood House property contains several buildings built between 1879 and 1910. There were originally nine structures associated with the property, five of which remain: the house, the carriage house, the museum, the water tower, and the little house.

HOUSE

Isaac Ellwood had his new home constructed in 1879 at a cost of \$50,000. At the time it was the largest and finest home in De Kalb. In 1899 he ordered some alteration of the facade. When his son, E. Perry Ellwood, moved into the house after his father's death in 1910, he ordered further, much more extensive alterations for the entire structure.

The brick house is three stories plus a full, elevated basement. The mansard roof has steeply pitched gable dormers, rather plain corbelled chimneys, and iron grillwork surrounding the top. Upon its completion the house had a slate roof. The dormers had some ornamentation with tall finials. The windows were all double hung and of fairly regular size, occurring singly or in pairs with a variety of lintel shapes. The main entrance on the front (east side) was a one story portico of stone supported by two pilasters and two polished granite columns attached to a square projecting bay. A dozen stone steps descended to the ground. The southeast corner of the house had a square tower projecting at forty-five degrees the same height as the rest of the building. The original driveway lay along the south side of the house with an entrance in and rear and side.

In 1899 Isaac Ellwood had the bracketed cornices replaced on three sides by a classical cornice with small dentils and simple projecting moulding. Similar moulding covered the lintels over many of the windows. The two first floor windows of the tower on the southeast corner were replaced by one large window. The portion of the projecting bay over the east portico was removed and made flush with the front wall. The spaces between the columns and pilasters were filled with brick to create a vestibule. The windows over the portico were replaced with a double door surrounded by four pilasters and a heavy architrave. These doors opened onto the roof of a veranda which was built at the south end. The veranda had a wood railing with a semi-circular projection in the center.

The alterations of 1899 were superficial, but the changes made by E. Perry Ellwood in 1910 added rooms and changed the shape of others. The exterior alterations made in 1910

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Illinois	
COUNTY	De Kalb	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	JUN 13	DATE 1975

(Number all entries)

Description - continued

included moving the porte cochere from the south to the north end of the veranda, adding a large brick veranda to the south side, removing the conservatory from the southwest corner and building a new one in the rear, and removing completely the square tower from the southeast corner.

The general floor plan of the home has remained the same since it was built; all rooms on every floor are entered from a central hall which terminates at the rotunda in the rear. In 1910 the following interior changes were made: the wall between the family room and sitting room was removed to create the large living room; the Caen stone fireplace was retained and a vaulted ceiling added in the living room; the parlor was converted into the library; the library was extended to become the dining room; and a large kitchen added on the north-west corner. The second floor room above the kitchen became the servant's quarters.

Today, the exterior appears as it did in 1910 with the exception of a shingle roof replacing the slate. The interior is maintained as a museum and contains much of the original Ellwood furniture, including carpets. The museum attempts to represent the house as it appeared around 1910. The original architect of 1879 was George O. Garnsey of Chicago. The 1910 remodelling was done by the Chicago firm of Perkins, Fellows, and Hamilton. The interior decorator was George Terwilliger of Marshall Field. The fireplace mantel was carved by Joseph Dux, also of Chicago.

WATER TOWER

Lying to the west of the house is the circular limestone water tower rising about 50 feet and about 18 feet in diameter. The windows occur singly at various levels and are three-piece limestone segmental arches with keystones. The sheet metal roof is flat.

When it was built in 1879, the top quarter of the tower was a wooden water tank with a conical roof. Between 1897 and 1910 the wooden water tank was removed and replaced with about 30 additional courses of limestone in the same manner and same material as the original part of the structure. The arched doorway at the base was replaced with a larger, square double door. The roof was still conical and made of wood. Around 1950 this second roof was replaced by the present sheet metal cap.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		Illinois
COUNTY		De Kalb
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	JUN 13 1975	

(Number all entries)

Description - continued pg. 2

CARRIAGE HOUSE

Although commonly called the Carriage House, this building was never used for carriages, but for automobiles. Built between 1908 and 1910, this one story stucco, mansarded building now houses antique carriages donated to the museum. The upper floor was, and is, used for storage.

MUSEUM HOUSE

The plain, one-story red brick museum house was built in 1905 to accommodate the antiques and curiosities Mrs. Isaac Ellwood acquired in her extensive travels around the world. The building measures about 25 feet on each side and has a doorway in the center of the north and east sides. Some of the original oak display cases are still intact. Preservation work is in progress.

LITTLE HOUSE

The little house is a miniaturized stick style house made of wood and painted white. It measures 13 x 15 feet and stands about 14 feet high. It rests upon a concrete foundation. It has a new cedar roof that is an exact duplication of the original.

In 1892 all of the carpenters in De Kalb participated in the construction of the house which was to be used as a float in a local parade. When the parade was over another son of Isaac Ellwood, Will Ellwood, bought the house and had it set on a brick foundation on the Ellwood property in the same location where it is today. Between that time and 1973 the house was moved around town by four or five subsequent owners. The last owner donated the little house to the Ellwood House Association. Early photographs indicate the little house was not white, but of two other colors. When those colors are determined it will be repainted.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1879 and 1910

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Isaac Leonard Ellwood was born in New York State in 1833. For several years he was employed as a clerk and a teamster on the Erie Canal. In 1851 he traveled to California to make his fortune in the gold fields. Failing that he left for De Kalb, Illinois in 1855 and entered the hardware business with his brothers. By the early 1870s he was a successful merchant and with the financial backing of his father-in-law, he also became involved in real estate and the breeding of Percheron horses.

In 1873, Joseph Glidden, also of De Kalb, and an old friend of Ellwood's, invented barbed wire. Recognizing the need for such a device for fencing the vast, treeless areas of the West, Ellwood was immediately taken with the potential of Glidden's invention. Late in 1873 he formed a partnership with Glidden for the manufacture of barbed wire. As the demand for the wire began to grow, the Ellwood-Glidden company built the world's first barbed wire factory in De Kalb in 1875 and De Kalb became the chief center of its production. Soon the large firm of Washburn and Moen of Worcester, Massachusetts, manufacturers of the plain wire required for producing barbed wire, took an interest in the Ellwood-Glidden product. In 1876 Glidden sold his interest to Washburn and Moen and Isaac Ellwood became the chief executive. In the late 1880s, Ellwood took over the production of barbed wire altogether with the I.L. Ellwood Manufacturing Company.

In the meantime, John W. (Bet-a-Million) Gates, who began his business career as a salesman for the Ellwood-Washburn and Moen Company, had been busy consolidating the barbed wire industry by combining most of the small competitors into the Consolidated Steel and Wire Company. In 1899, after several years of industrial warfare, licensing disputes, and legal battles, between themselves and other competitors (the largest and most obstreperous being Jacob Haish, also of De Kalb) Gates and Ellwood combined to form the American Steel and Wire Company which soon had a virtual monopoly of the production and sales of barbed wire.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Biographical Record of De Kalb Co., Ill. Chicago: S.K. Clarke. 1898.  
 Harriet W. Davy. From Oxen to Jets. A History of De Kalb Co., 1835-1963. De Kalb County Board of Supervisors, 1965.  
 Lewis M. Gross. Past and Present of De Kalb Co. Chicago: Pioneer Pub. 1902.  
 Henry and Frances McCallum. The Wire that Fenced the West. Norman, Okla: Univ. of Okla. Press, 1965.  
 Joseph McFadden. From Invention to Monopoly: The History of the Consolidation of the Barbed Wire Industry, 1873-1899. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Northern Illinois Univ. De Kalb, Ill., 1968.

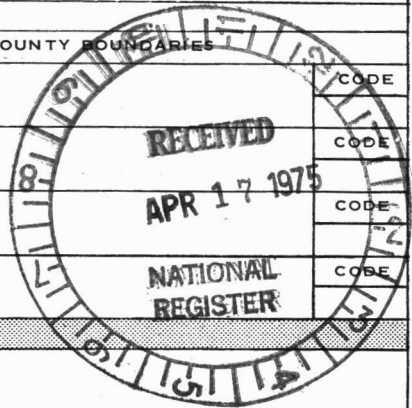
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	°	' "	° ' "
NE	° ' "	° ' "	°	' "	° ' "
SE	° ' "	° ' "	°	' "	° ' "
SW	° ' "	° ' "	°	' "	° ' "

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **8.19**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Mr. Ted Hild**

ORGANIZATION: **Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey** DATE: **2/20/75**

STREET AND NUMBER: **P. O. Box 986**

CITY OR TOWN: **Carbondale** STATE: **Illinois** CODE: **17**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: *Anthony Dean*  
 Title: SHPO

Date: December 21, 1974

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

*A. Montrose*  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/13/75

ATTEST:  
*W. Hunter*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: JUN 12 1975

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Illinois	
COUNTY	
De Kalb	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 18 1975

(Number all entries)

Significance - continued

Between the time of his retirement from the barbed wire industry and his death in 1910, Ellwood served on the staff of Illinois Governor John Tanner and later served as Railway and Warehouse Commissioner. When he was not in the service of the State he led the life of retired gentleman in De Kalb where he exhibited a great interest in civic affairs, as he had always done. One of his greatest contributions to the community was his role in securing De Kalb as the site for the state normal college, which is now Northern Illinois University.

Some authorities have given Ellwood part of the credit for the invention of barbed wire, but as Joseph Glidden's design and patent was the earliest, Ellwood's contribution to the initial invention is at best vague. However, there is no disputing the fact that Ellwood's greatest contribution was the organization of the barbed wire industry which was of critical importance in the development of the agriculture of the Trans-Mississippi West. Ellwood made his influence felt further through his association with John Gates and J. P. Morgan. Morgan used Gates a great deal in helping him bring together the United States Steel Corporation. Through Gates, Morgan met Ellwood and relied upon his opinions and knowledge of the wire industry to advance further the monopolization of the steel industry.

Throughout his career in the manufacture of barbed wire, Ellwood made his home in De Kalb. In 1964, his family donated the home and property to the city for use as a museum and park. Today the house serves as a monument to the barbed wire industry and Isaac Ellwood's contributions to De Kalb and the nation.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

*(Continuation Sheet)*

STATE	
Illinois	
COUNTY	
De Kalb	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 18 1975

*(Number all entries)*

Bibliography - continued

University Archives, Northern Illinois University,  
De Kalb, Illinois.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

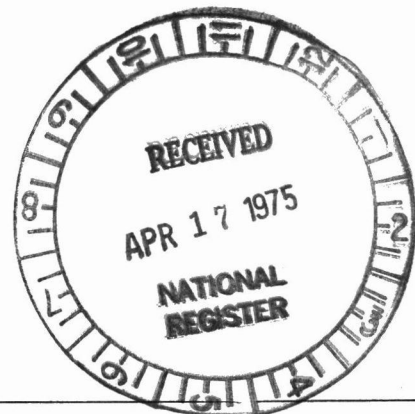
STATE	
Illinois	
COUNTY	
De Kalb	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUN 13 1975	

(Number all entries)

Geographical Data

U.T.M.

- A. 16-354,~~725~~-E - 580  
16-4,643,980-N
- B. 16-354,~~770~~-E - 580  
16-4,643,~~755~~-N - 700
- C. 16-354,860-E  
16-4,643,700-N
- D. 16-354,~~980~~-E - 860  
16-4,643,980-N



75002075  
DeKalb county

Property Ellwood Mansion

State Illinois Working Number 4.17.75.681

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 5  
Maps 1

*Painting appears uncorrected*  
*#12 date missing*  
*Called*

**CONTROL**

*OK* *pl*  
*4.23.75*

Name probably should be:

*"The Ellwood Properties"*

*There is the mansion, three other smaller houses and a water tower.*

**HISTORIAN**

*Accept*  
*E. Smith*  
*4-29-75*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

*ACCEPT*  
*LEBOVICH*  
*4-25-75*

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*Accept*  
*cole*  
*5.13.75*

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

*Wn*  
**JUN 19 1975** REC'D

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry 8-5-75

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered JUN 18 1975

INT:2106-74



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Illinois	
COUNTY	
De Kalb	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
344	1 3 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Ellwood Mansion  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
509 North First St.  
CITY OR TOWN:  
De Kalb

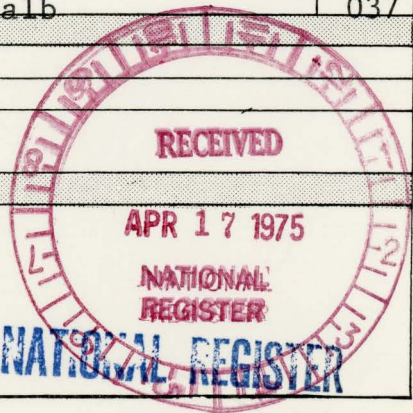
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Illinois	17	De Kalb	037

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Jay Elliott Photography  
DATE OF PHOTO: February, 1975  
NEGATIVE FILED AT: 420 W. Taylor St.  
De Kalb, Illinois 60115

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  
Water tower  
#1085





NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Illinois	
COUNTY	
De Kalb	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 18 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Ellwood Mansion  
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 509 North First Street  
 CITY OR TOWN:  
 De Kalb  
 STATE: Illinois CODE 17 COUNTY: De Kalb CODE 037

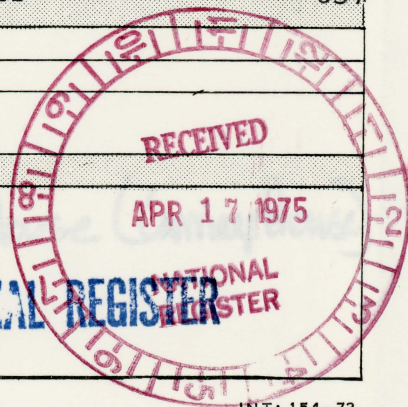
3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Jay Elliott Photography  
 DATE OF PHOTO: February, 1975  
 NEGATIVE FILED AT: 420 W. Taylor St.  
 De Kalb, Ill. 60115

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  
 Carriage House  
 # 295

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER





STATE	Illinois	
COUNTY	De Kalb	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		JUN 18 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:	Ellwood Mansion
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:			
509 North First Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
De Kalb			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Illinois	17	De Kalb	037

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT:	Jay Elliott Photography
DATE OF PHOTO:	February, 1975
NEGATIVE FILED AT:	420 W. Taylor Street De Kalb, Illinois 60115

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Little House, south (front)
# 395





NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	Illinois
COUNTY	De Kalb
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	JUN 3 1975 DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Ellwood Mansion  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

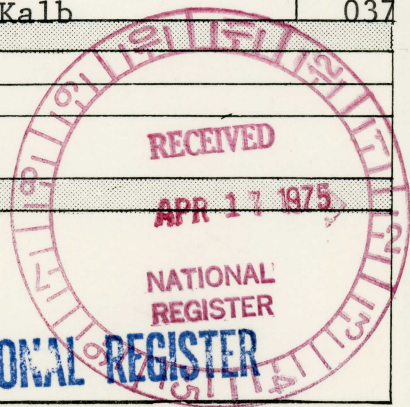
STREET AND NUMBER:  
509 North First Street  
CITY OR TOWN:  
De Kalb  
STATE: Illinois CODE 17 COUNTY: De Kalb CODE 037

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Jay Elliott Photography  
DATE OF PHOTO: February, 1975  
NEGATIVE FILED AT: 420 W. Taylor St.  
De Kalb, Illinois 60115

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  
Museum House from northwest.  
#405



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

## Missing Core Documentation

**Property Name**  
Ellwood Mansion

**County, State**  
DeKalb County,  
Illinois

**Reference Number**  
75002075

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

Nomination Form

Photographs (#5 of 5)

USGS Map

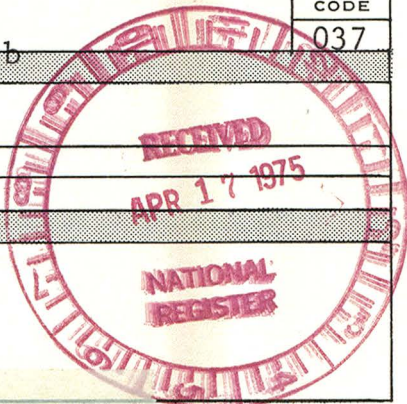
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

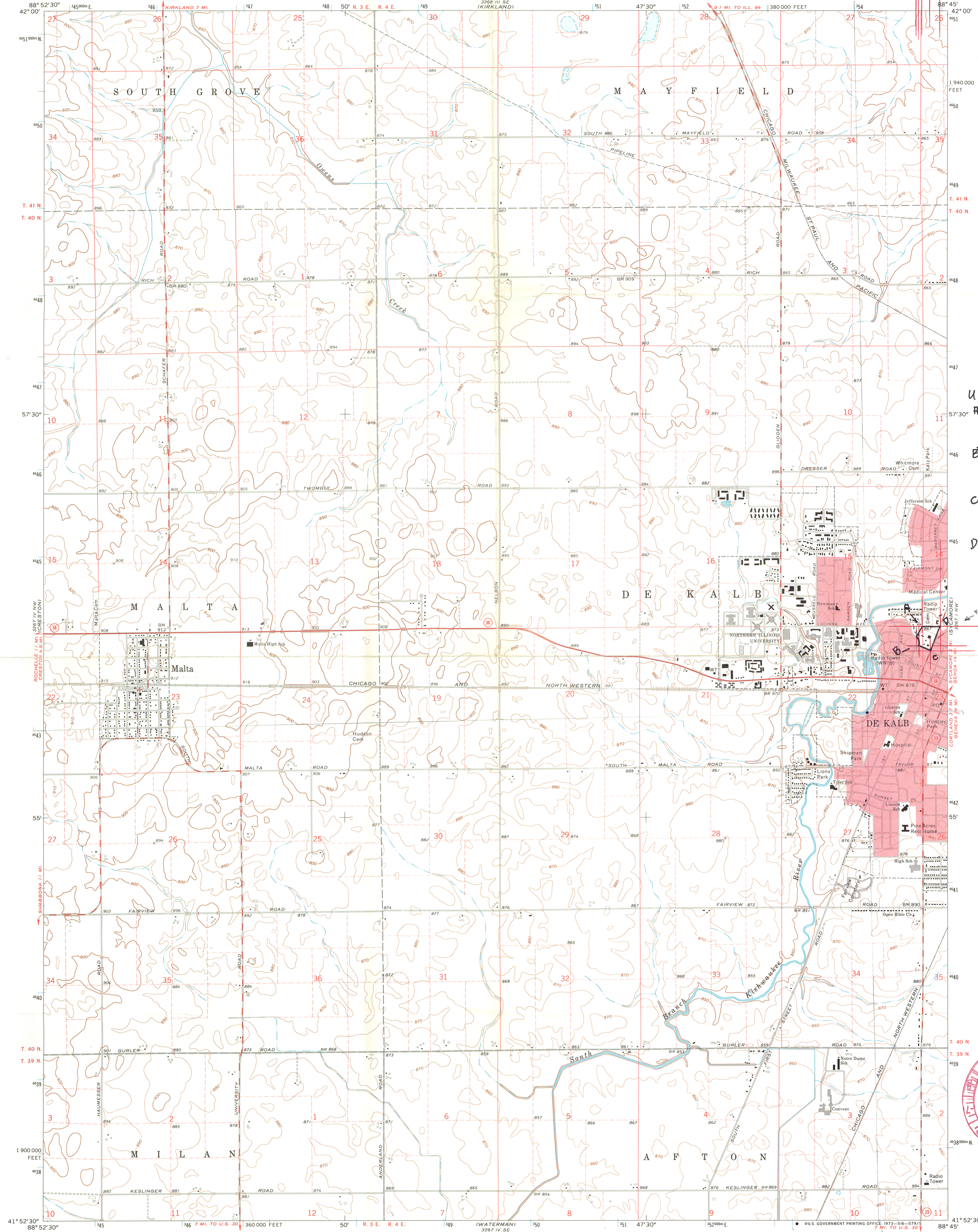
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE		Illinois
COUNTY		De Kalb
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	JUN 13 1975	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

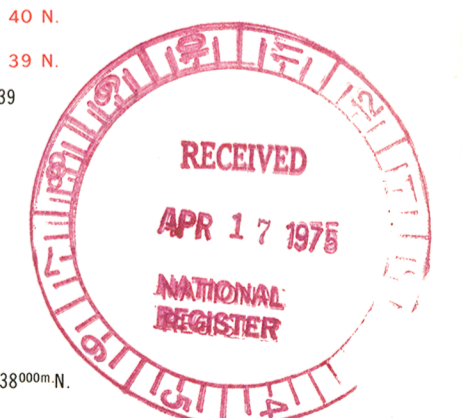
1. NAME			
COMMON:		Ellwood Mansion	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
509 North First Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
De Kalb			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Illinois	17	De Kalb	037
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
De Kalb Quadrangle			
SCALE:			
1:24000			
DATE:			
1971			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



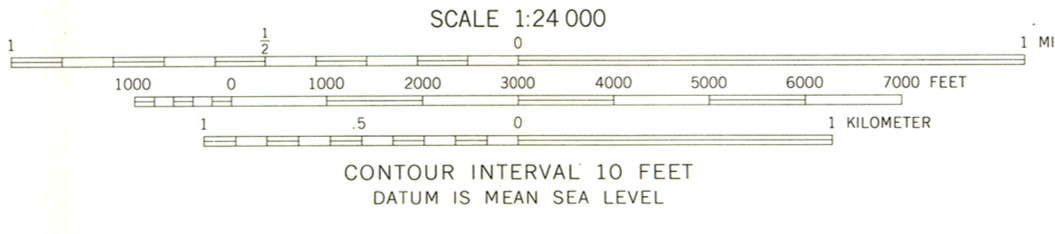
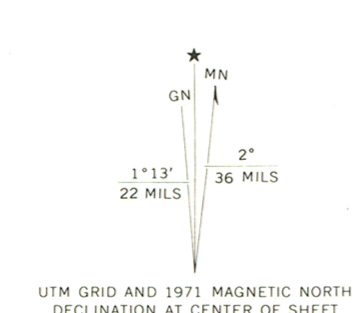


UTM  
A) 16-354,725-E  
16-4,643,980-N  
B) 16-354,770-E  
16-4,643,755-N  
C) 16-354,860-E  
16-4,643,755-N  
D) 16-354,980-E  
16-4,643,980-N

UTM  
16-354740  
4643880  
HL



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Illinois coordinate system, east zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 16, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, hard surface  
Secondary highway, hard surface  
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface  
Unimproved road  
Interstate Route  
U. S. Route  
State Route



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
AND BY THE STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

DE KALB, ILL.  
NE 1/4 DE KALB 15' QUADRANGLE  
N41525-W88457.5  
1971  
AMS 3267 IV NE—SERIES V863

Rogers 11/28

H30-HR

November 28, 1967

Mrs. John Huntzicker  
Chairman, Ellwood House Board  
Ellwood House  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115

Dear Mrs. Huntzicker:

Thank you for your letter to Dr. Ernest Allen Connally describing the Ellwood House Project. In 1966 Congress enacted Public Law 89-665, the National Historic Preservation Act. It provided for a National Register of properties significant in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture, and authorized a program of matching grants for the preservation of such properties. The National Register is to be compiled through use of a statewide historic preservation plan prepared under the direction of a State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor of each state. This officer is also responsible for supervising the grant-in-aid program within his state.

All of the matching Federal monies appropriated by the Congress for the 1968 fiscal year under Public Law 89-665 have been earmarked for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, leaving no funds available for individual preservation projects. We are hopeful that the Congress will see fit to appropriate sufficient funds to initiate the Federal-State relationship during the 1969 fiscal year.

Your State Liaison Officer for Illinois is Mr. William T. Lodge, Director, Department of Conservation, State Office Building, Springfield, Illinois 62706. We suggest that you keep him informed of your plans.

We are enclosing materials which may be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

**William J. Murtagh (Sgd.)**

William J. Murtagh  
Keeper of the National  
Register

Enclosures

**BASIC FILE KEPTAINED IN HR**

JLRogers:jah 11-28

## ELLWOOD HOUSE

DeKalb, Illinois

323 Rolfe Road  
DeKalb, Illinois  
June 3, 1967

Dr. Ernest Connally  
503 Eliot Street  
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Dr. Connally:

Mrs. William Aspengren sent me the newspaper article about your appointment as chief of the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation in the Department of the Interior.

She said she spoke to you about Ellwood House and that you had expressed an interest. She suggested that I send a brochure. I am also enclosing a copy of the letter we sent to persons who are already members of Ellwood House about the dinner the night before our public opening.

Ellwood House was given to the city in 1964. There are grounds--eight acres--around the house. Since there was no tax-exempt group in the city to run a museum, the city gave the property to the Park Board. Since the members of this group were men who had no idea what to do with "an old house on their hands," rumors spread of tearing down the house and laying out more baseball diamonds. A group of interested people urged the Board to lease the house to them for five years to see what could be done to save it. The lease reads "the house and five feet of grounds around it." With misgivings, but determination, we took the house--leaking roof and all. What we didn't know at that time was that a granddaughter of the builder, Mrs. Joseph Towle of Chesterfield, Missouri, would become interested to the point of paying for a new roof, tuck pointing and painting the trim. She urged her two brothers to return furniture and art objects that had been in the house.

Thousands of hours of time have been given by interested people cleaning, painting, etc.--we have had a United Airlines pilot, Mr. Fant, who lives in DeKalb, sanding floors on his two days off this week. Professors and their wives from Northern Illinois University have been scrubbing and painting. Now, two years after we leased the house, we have convinced the Park Board members of the worth of this project and last Friday they announced that they have a five-year plan of beautifying the grounds.

We wish you and Mrs. Connally might find it possible to visit Ellwood House before you move to Washington. We would be delighted to take you through the house at any time.

Because our only revenue comes from memberships and entrance fees, we will have to have many fund-raising events. We would appreciate your advice and counsel on applying for any federal funds that might be applied for that are available for museums.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

*Eleanor Huntzicker*

Eleanor Huntzicker (Mrs. John)  
Chairman, Ellwood House Board

May 9, 1967

Dear Ellwood House Member:

On June 11, 1967 Ellwood House will formally open its doors to the public. Guided tours of the house are scheduled from 1:00 until 5:00 o'clock. At 3:00 o'clock a dedication ceremony will be held on the south terrace with chairs in the garden below. Refreshments, strolling musicians and a style show of period clothes are planned for the afternoon. It is hoped a large crowd will attend to demonstrate the interest of the community in this project. Your membership card will admit you to the house.

On the preceding evening, June 10th at 6:30 P.M. a dinner will be held at the University Plaza, 900 Crane Drive, honoring members of the Ellwood family who are coming to DeKalb for this historic occasion. You - as a member - are cordially invited and sincerely urged to attend and meet the honored guests whose generosity has made this cultural center possible. An excellent dinner will be served at \$3.75 a plate. Please send in reservations with your check as soon as possible. The deadline is June 1st. Make checks payable to Ellwood House and mail them to Ellwood House, Box 31, DeKalb, Illinois.

You have demonstrated your interest and faith in the future of Ellwood House by joining during the past months when it was only in its development stage. Now you will further its success by attending this dinner yourself and personally encouraging your friends in this or any other community to also become a charter member and attend this dinner with you. Following dinner there will be informal visiting at Ellwood House. Arrangements have been made for additional parking space on the Congregational Church parking lot. This should be a memorable and historically significant evening in which we hope you will participate.

Sincerely,

DEDICATION COMMITTEE  
Mrs. E. E. Miller, Chairman

ELLWOOD MANSION - U.T.M.  
DeKalb, Illinois

- A. 16 - 354,720 - E - 580  
16 - 4,643,980 - N
- B. 16 - 354,580 - E  
16 - 4,643,780 - N - 700
- C. 16 - 354,860 - E  
16 - 4,643,755 - N - 700
- D. 16 - 354,925 - E - 860  
16 - 4,643,980 - N

sites under 10 acres only  
need one UTM reference

UTM

16/354740

4643880

HL



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE      ILLINOIS

Date Entered      JUN 13 1975

Name

Location

Old Iroquois County Courthouse

Watseka  
Iroquois County

Ellwood Mansion

De Kalb  
De Kalb County

Also Notified

Hon. Charles H. Percy  
Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson  
Hon. George M. O'Brien  
Hon. Tim L. Hall  
Regional Director, Midwest Region

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Anthony Dean  
Director, Department of Conservation  
602 State Office Building  
400 South Spring Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

PR      MMott/row      6/16/75

# NR Data Sheet

DATE: 11-23-76  
Reviewer INITIALS: Nesbitt  
NR DOE 6/13/75

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: <sup>10</sup> Ellwood Mansion

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION: 509 N. 1st St.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
DeKalb  
STATE  
Illinois

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

fifteenth  
COUNTY  
DeKalb code  
037

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle)  PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST  
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

## FEATURES:

INTERIOR  Substantially intact-1  Substantially intact-2  Substantially intact-3  
- unknown - 4 - unknown - 5 - unknown - 6  
- not applicable - 7 - not applicable - 8 - not applicable - 9

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -  EXCELLENT  DETERIORATED  UNALTERED  ORIGINAL SITE  
 GOOD  RUINS  ALTERED  MOVED  
 FAIR  UNEXPOSED  RECONSTRUCTED  UNKNOWN  
 UNEXCAVATED  EXCAVATED

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO  
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO  
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- HOUSE

now- MUSEUM

## SIGNIFICANCE:

ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  CONSERVATION  LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  RELIGION  entertainment  
 ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC  ECONOMICS  LAW/Gov't/politics  SCIENCE  health  
 AGRICULTURE  EDUCATION  LITERATURE  SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN  settlement-29  
 ARCHITECTURE -4  ENGINEERING  MILITARY  TRANSPORTATION  socio/cultural  
 ART  EXPLORATION  MUSIC  OTHER (SPECIFY)  urban & commun  
 COMMERCE  INDUSTRY -13  PHILOSOPHY  PLANNING  
 COMMUNICATIONS  INVENTION -14  POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

## Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: ECLECTIC

architect/~~m-builder~~ <sup>(3)</sup> Geo. O. Garnsey (1879)  
Perkins, Fellows, & Hamilton -  
landscape/garden designer: (1910 remodeling)  
interior decorator: George Terwilliger

engineer:  
artist/artisan: Joseph Dux (carved fire-  
builder/contractor: place mantel)

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role  
&  
appropriate date)

personal (1) Joseph Glidden - friend of Ellwood's invented barbed wire & went into business with Ellwood, 1873  
events (3) Consolidated Steel and Wire Co. - run by John W. Gates out of small competitors (4) American Steel and Wire Co. - formed by Gates and Ellwood after much industrial warfare and legal battles.

institutional (1) Ellwood-Glidden Company - barbed wire manufacturing company: 1875 (2) Washburn and Moen - manufacturing concern that produced the wire needed by Ellwood-Glidden/bought out Glidden 1876

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1879

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1899 & 1910

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY  
OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre) 8.19

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here) Brick, 2 1/2 stories over high basement, irregular-shape, mansard roof <sup>with cresting and ornate gables,</sup> exterior chimneys; 1-story, full width, balustraded Ionic portico with center <sup>A bowed</sup> semi-circular entrance projection <sup>and</sup> porte cochere; ~~polygonal bays and wings; E decorated gabled dormers, roof cresting; exterior and interior alterations, 1910;~~ outbuildings include carriage house, water tower, museum house and miniature Eastlake style playhouse. Eclectic. Built for Isaac Ellwood, with his barbed wire manufacturing fortune.

round arched entrance with small supporting columns, <sup>front</sup> 2nd-story entrance with ornate Palladian framing, polygonal bays and wings; Alterations, 1910; Eclectic.

Built for Isaac Ellwood, partner of barbed wire inventor Joseph Glidden in the successful Ellwood-Glidden company.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

Museum. ←

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: ECLECTIC

architect/<sup>3</sup>m-builder: Geo. O. Garnsey (1879)  
Perkins, Fellows, & Hamilton -

engineer:

landscape/garden designer: (1910 remodeling)

artist/artisan: Joseph Dux (carved fire-

interior decorator: George Terwilliger

builder/contractor: place mantel)

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

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HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

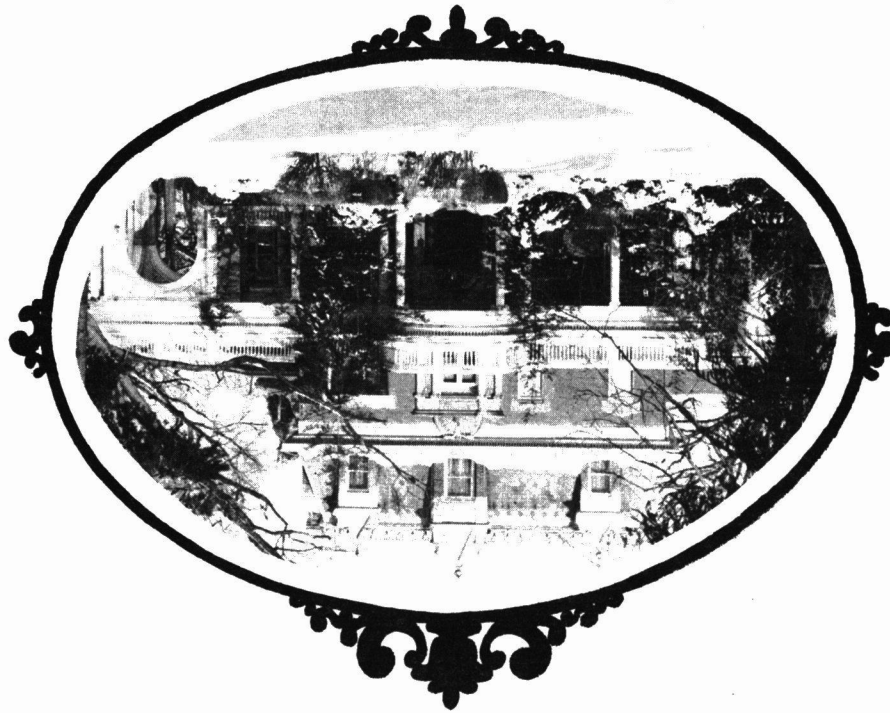
(to nearest tenth of an acre)

8.19

Brick, 2½ stories over high basement, irregular shape, mansard roof with cresting and ornate gables, exterior chimneys, 1-story, full-width, balustraded Ionic portico with center bowed entrance projection and N porte-cochere, round-arched entrance with small supporting columns, front 2nd-story entrance with ornate Palladian framing, polygonal bays and wings; alterations, 1910; outbuildings include carriage house, water tower, museum house and miniature Eastlake style playhouse. Eclectic. Built for Isaac Ellwood, partner of barbed wire inventor Joseph Glidden in successful Ellwood-Glidden company.

SIGNIFICANCE (maximum two sentences)

Museum. ←



## ELLWOOD HOUSE APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City and State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Memberships Available (Please Check One)**

*Patron .....	\$1,000.00 and up
*Donor .....	500.00
Life .....	100.00
Contributing .....	10.00
Family .....	5.00
Adult .....	2.50
Student .....	1.00

Please indicate your interest in working on a

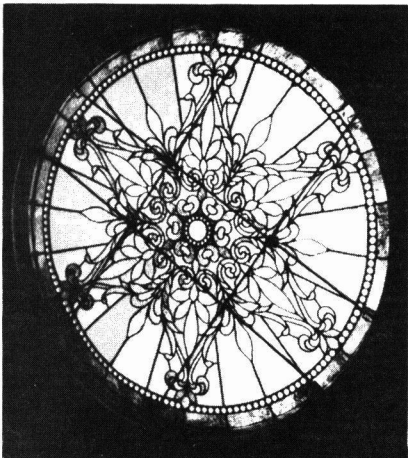
museum committee or project ..... Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

All donations are tax-deductible. Make checks payable to Ellwood House and mail to Ellwood House, Box 31, DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

Have you enclosed membership dues? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_



*The old stone water tower stands guard behind the home.*



*Sunlight sifts through pieces of leaded glass in the dome of the house.*



*Encircled by the staircase, a bell-laden chandelier sheds its soft glow.*



*An ivory maiden reposes in a blue niche along the spiral staircase.*

Houses saved are houses shared.

This philosophy underlies the restoration of the home built in 1879 by Colonel Isaac L. Ellwood, best known for his contribution to the manufacture of barbed wire.

Late in 1964, Mrs. Erwin Perry Ellwood and her children—the colonel's grandchildren—Isaac Ellwood II, Mrs. Joseph W. Towle and John Fiske Ellwood, gave the home on North First Street Road to the people of DeKalb.

The DeKalb County Fine Arts Association assumed the responsibility for establishing a museum in the home and appointed a board of directors to take charge of the project.

At its opening in 1967, the home retains the flavor of an era long past. Rooms on the first and second floors remain much as they were during the years the Ellwoods lived there.

Outstanding architectural features here are a living room with English oak paneling, a vaulted ceiling and a fireplace of Caen stone. A three-story open spiral staircase twines around a bell-hung chandelier and flanks a conservatory.

Exhibition space on the second floor provides an opportunity for insights into the history of the area, while items collected by the family during their travels tell the story of a wider world: the arm chair of Maximilian I of Mexico, a sea captain's mirror, canopied beds said to have belonged to Billy the Kid, a Chinese secretary, a rare collection of Rockingham and Staffordshire figurines.

Theodore Roosevelt, Speaker of the House Joseph Canon and Jane Addams were among the politicians, statesmen, musicians and businessmen entertained in this setting.

The ground floor of the building housed the grooms who cared for the 700 Percheron horses owned by the family; the top floor contained a small ballroom complete with stage for musicians or players.

# Ellwood House