

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

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

For HCRS use only
received MAY 28 1980
date entered

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

1. Name Isanti County Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

historic Historic Resources of Isanti County (Partial Inventory)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number The County Limits of Isanti County, Minnesota not for publication

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 8th

state Minnesota code 22 county Isanti code 059

3. Classification -- Multiple Resources

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input 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 Multiple Ownership -- see individual forms

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office -- Isanti County Courthouse

street & number 237 SW 2nd Ave.

city, town Cambridge state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society -- 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description -- see individual forms

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

See Area Description

ISANTI COUNTY

Isanti County is located in the east-central part of Minnesota, thirty miles north of the Minneapolis-St. Paul area and one hundred miles southwest of Duluth. Chisago County borders to the east, Anoka County to the south, Sherburne and Mille Lacs Counties to the west, and Kanabec County to the north. The county boundaries follow the straight lines of the government survey system.

The topography of the county varies from nearly level over most of the area to rolling in the northern townships, and features several small lakes and streams. The Rum River, the county's major waterway, follows a meandering course.

Originally Isanti County lay within the southern limit of the great pine forest of Minnesota. Today the cultivated fields covering the county and scantily wooded pasture lands bear witness to the dramatic transformation that has taken place since settlement. Only scattered wooded areas in the northern tier of townships remain of the once dense pine forest.

The county shares with other Minnesota counties a history of European exploration and fur trading activity and an early Indian heritage. The earliest Euro-Americans in the region are believed to have been the French explorers Radisson and Grosseliers, who traversed the area in the 1650s. They were followed by Father Hennepin in 1680. At that time the area was the home of four Sioux tribes, known as the Isanyati or Isantees.

When the Indian treaties of 1837 opened the lands between the St. Croix and the Mississippi, the rich pine forests lured lumbermen to the area and precipitated the first permanent white settlements in the county. Daniel Stanchfield discovered the area's lumber potential on a trip to the area in 1847, and by 1852 over twenty logging firms were operating on the Rum River within the county. Most of the early loggers were of American descent and were responsible for many of the county's place names. Although the majority were transients, the group included the county's first permanent settlers.

In the early 1850s a group of New Englanders, settled in the regions of the Rum River in what became known as Spencer Brook. Another concentration of Yankees was located along the banks of the Rum towards the eastern edge of the county. Here the small settlement of Cambridge was founded to serve as a post office and central place. It was platted in 1856, and became the county seat when Isanti County was formed in 1857. As in other areas of the state, the 1850s were characterized by a wave of speculative townsites, most of which proved unsuccessful.

Isanti's speculative period was an unstable one, and little further settlement occurred until land was opened up for homesteading in 1862. The 1860s began a new phase of county development as Swedish and German immigrants

began to settle the region. Isanti County is noted as the area of highest concentration of Swedish settlement in America. Immigration occurred in two waves, the first during the late 1860s and early 1870s and the second a decade later. The population filled in during this period of immigration; the 1860 count of 284 had grown to 5,063 by 1880 and to 7,607 by 1890. By 1886 all of the townships were organized and initial settlement had been completed.

Historically, the county might be characterized as a predominantly agricultural region with strong ethnic concentrations. The absence of towns is notable. Rather, settlement cores developed as service areas for the surrounding rural community. Over twenty-three "cross-roads communities" sprang up during the late nineteenth century.

Railroad trackage did not reach the county until 1899, but the railroad's effects on county settlement date to the late 1860s when odd numbered sections of government land were granted to the railroad and offered for sale. The Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad launched on a major project to draw settlers to the county, extensively circulating their propaganda in Sweden.

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The architecture of the county follows the typical building patterns of other rural midwestern areas. The earliest Euro-American buildings were of log, sod, or dugout construction. These were replaced in later years by simple frame structures of modest proportions and design. Wood is the dominant construction material for both residential and agricultural structures. Commercial buildings in the rural areas and the earliest commercial buildings in the more populated centers are also of frame construction. In the larger trackside communities masonry commercial buildings dominate the business streetscape.

Buildings in Cambridge, Isanti, and Braham are situated on streets which follow a strict grid system. The buildings in the crossroad communities and on the county's numerous farmsteads are usually oriented to county roads, which follow the grid of section lines except where they bend to accommodate the contour of the topography.

8. Significance -- See individual forms

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 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 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

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

See Area Significance

ISANTI COUNTY

The significance of the area now known as Isanti County lies in its continuous history as a predominantly rural agricultural region of the state within the area of highest concentration of Swedish settlement in America. As an area where ethnic concentrations have endured and where agriculture has remained the county's economic base, the county has a remarkably undisturbed historic fabric which provides a valuable model for the study of immigrant settlement patterns and the development of agriculture in east-central Minnesota.

The earliest permanent white settlements in the county were made by native-born Americans who first engaged in lumbering and later turned to farming when the forests were depleted. A notable structure associated with the county's earliest settlement and its largest native-born American population is Isanti School District No. I (1874, Spencer Brook).

The Yankees who scantily populated the area in the 1850s were followed by German and Swedish immigrants, who began arriving in the early 1860s. St. John's German Lutheran Church (1882) Bradford Township) is a well-preserved structure linked to the German population which settled in southern parts of the county and made up the county's second largest immigrant group. The Swedes who settled the region were by far the largest and dominant ethnic group; Isanti's Swedish population is frequently noted as the center of the more pietistic groups that broke off from the Swedish State Church (Lutheran) and thus contrasts from the predominantly Swedish Lutheran population of neighboring Chisago County. The Svenska Mission Kyrka i Sodre Maple Ridge (1897, Maple Ridge Township) is significant for its association with this large non-Lutheran Swedish population.

Agriculture has been an underlying theme in county development since settlement. The Linden Barn (1914, Isanti Township) provides a link with the Swedish population that farmed the county's rural areas, and is associated with the county's important dairying industry. The Erickson Farmstead (ca.1915, Athens Township) is a particularly handsome representative of a brief but extremely prosperous period in the county's agriculture, the potato boom of 1890-1920. Cooperatives were established across the county and have played crucial roles in the development of area agriculture. The Farmers Mercantile Cooperative of West Stanford (1926, Stanford Township) is representative of the organizations formed by area farmers to solve economic problems.

In a rural county dominated by foreign immigrants rural education played an important role in not only educating area children but also naturalizing foreigners. The West Riverside School (1898, Cambridge Township), one of the county's best preserved rural schools, represents the importance of rural places of learning in the county's history.

Nineteenth century pre-railroad urban development was most extensive in the county seat of Cambridge; the Isanti County Courthouse (1887, Cambridge) continues to mark the city as the most important urban center of the county. The limited additional urban settlement precipitated by the 1899 rail construction is linked to the Oscar Olson House (1914, Braham), the home of one of the community leaders of the new trackside towns platted at the turn-of-the-century.

The buildings in the county are architecturally significant in that they represent vernacular building trends in rural counties settled by immigrant populations. Notable public and semi-public examples are St. Johns Lutheran Church (1882, Bradford Township), the Svenska Mission Kyrka i Sodre Maple Ridge (1897, Maple Ridge Township), and the West Riverside School (1898, Cambridge Township). Agricultural buildings of interest include the locally atypical but focal Linden Barn (1914, Isanti Township), built on the round barn plan, and the more typical but impressively scaled Erickson Farmstead (ca.1915, Athens Township). Both the home at the Erickson Farm and the Oscar Olson Home (1914, Braham) are domestic structures notable for their conscious attention to design.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheets

10. Geographical Data -- See individual forms

Acreeage of nominated property UTM NOT VERIFIED
Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

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 Britta Bloomberg -- Research Historian-Survey

organization Minnesota Historical Society date February 1980

street & number 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House telephone 612-296-0101

city or town St. Paul state Minnesota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local See individual forms

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

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer date

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

ISANTI COUNTY BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources:

Braham Journal.

Census Records, State and Federal.

Isanti County Press.

Isanti County Recorder's Records.

Souvenir of Isanti County, Minnesota, Minneapolis: Wall & Haines, 1902.

Svenska Mission Kryka i Sodre Maple Ridge, Church Records, 1892-1947.

Secondary Sources:

Ahlman, Lucille, Faith of our Fathers, Faith Lutheran Church, Isanti, Minnesota,
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Duoos, Robert, "Spencer Brook, Minnesota," Minnesota Geneologist, December, 1975.

Johnson, Jeanne, On the Banks of the Rum, 1866-1966, Cambridge, 1966.

_____, The Lighted Spire, Minneapolis: Lund Press, Inc., 1964.

Johnson, Randolph E., "Rural 'Swede Schools' of Isanti County, Minnesota",
The Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly, April, 1972.

Lewis, Ann, Eternal Heritage in Christ: the Story of the First 100 Years of the
Salem Lutheran Church and the Surrounding Communities, 1874-1974, Lake Mills.
Iowa: Graphic Publishing Co., Inc., 1974.

Ljungmark, Lars, For Sale - Minnesota, Stockholm: Kungl. Boktryckeriet, P.A.
Norstedt & Soner, 1971.

Ostergren, Robert Clifford, "A Community Transplanted: the Formative Experience
of a Swedish Immigrant Community in the Upper Middle West", Journal of
Historical Geography, Vol. 5, 1979.

_____, "Rattvik to Isanti: A Community Transplanted," Phd. Thesis,
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Patera, Alan H. and Gallagher, John S., The Post Offices of Minnesota, Burtonville,
Maryland: The Depot, 1978.

"Rural Education Isanti County 1860-1971", West Riverside Restoration Committee, 1971.

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Maps and Atlases:

Andreas, Alfred Theodore, An Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Minnesota,
Chicago: A.T., Andreas, 1874.

Isanti County Bibliography - page 2

Atlas and Farmers' Directory of Isanti County, Minnesota, St. Paul: Webb Publishing Co., 1914.

Atlas and Plat Book, Isanti County, Minnesota, Rockford Map Publishers, Inc., 1979.

Do not film

ISANTI COUNTY

The basis of the survey for this nomination is an inventory of structures which are indicative of various aspects of the county's history. Structures were identified and inventoried during a county wide survey conducted during the late summer and fall of 1979.

Selection of structures for the inventory included both field reconnaissance of pre-identified sites and isolation of sites on a purely visual basis. Pre-identification of sites was limited to a small number of the most significant locations (those unique on a county wide scale, or significantly linked with some aspect of county history.) County histories, individual community histories, and photographs from both the state society and private collections were researched for site-specific information. General references to common buildings were not noted.

Township maps from the 1914 Isanti County Atlas were copied for field use. Plat maps on file in the county recorder's office were researched for original plat information (proprietors, survey and filing dates) and for additional dates. The filing dates for the various platted areas were noted on current highway department city maps. This collection of maps was useful in gaining a localized sense of development for areas of the county.

All city streets were walked or driven. All rural non-farm structures, pre-identified sites, and locally suggested buildings were visited. The roads connecting these dispersed sites provided a strong sampling of the rural landscape. Pre-identified sites were inventoried regardless of integrity. Other buildings with unusual integrity or unique features were also inventoried. In general, structures built before 1940 were considered for an inventory.

Follow-up information (both localized specific and generalized contextual) on some sites was gathered to help establish significance.

In each region of the county, at least one and in most cases several local contacts were made through the county historical society and by random inquiry. These were most often helpful in locating information on selected properties, but also in pointing out additional locations for inventory.

From the inventory of over 150 sites, nine individual structures were selected for nomination to the National Register, mostly on the basis of their significance within the county. Information and photographs on all sites are recorded on inventory forms for a permanent record.

Isanti County
Properties Included in Multiple Resource Nomination

Settlement

- ✓ Isanti School District No. I, Spencer Brook Township
- ✓ German Evangelical Lutheran Church St. Johns, Bradford Township
- ✓ Svenska Mission Kyrka i Sodre Maple Ridge, Maple Ridge Township

Agriculture

- ✓ Linden Barn, Isanti Township
- ✓ Erickson Farmstead, Athens Township
- ✓ Farmers Cooperative Mercantile Company of West Stanford, Stanford Township

Politics/Government

- ✓ Isanti County Courthouse, Cambridge

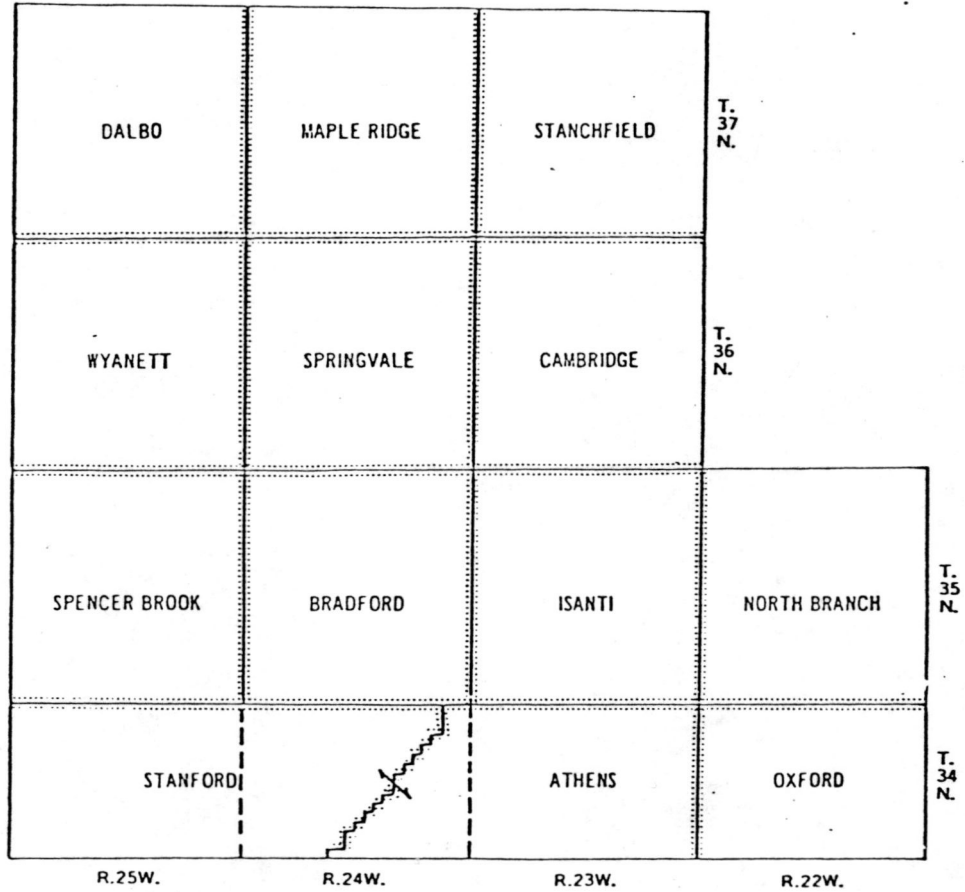
Education

- ✓ West Riverside School, Cambridge Township

Commerce

- ✓ Oscar Olson House, Braham

Isanti County: Townships



The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE NOMINATION IS RESUBMITTED.

7 Description: _____

3 Statement of Significance: _____

9 Bibliography: _____

10 Geographical Data -- Acreage: _____
UTM Reference(s): _____
Verbal Boundary Description: _____

12 Certification: _____
Photographic Coverage: _____

Map Coverage: _____

Other: Please have SHPO sign and date nomination

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to S. Byers
on the National Register staff, telephone 202-343-7461

Thank you for your attention to the above items.

W. Ray Juce
Chief, Branch of Registration

Date: 6/16/80

Property Isanti County Multiple Resource Area (partial inventory)

State MN, Isanti Working Number 5,28,80,1427

TECHNICAL

Photos 15
Maps 6/1

Med SPPD signature
& date and level significance
plus address

CONTROL

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

9 properties (no districts) in rural county in east-central Minnesota, notable as area of most concentrated Swedish settlement in U.S. Resources include 1 prosperous, well-preserved farmstead from end of potato boom around turn of century, a round barn representing county's dairy industry and notable as a distinctive building type, two rural school buildings, two churches associated with Swedish + German settlement, the county courthouse, a high-style residence of a leading citizen (in town) and a storefront building erected for a farmers' cooperative. All properties are clearly eligible and well-documented. Nomination must be returned for signing + dating, then can be accepted.

Return for signing
then accept
O'Connell 6/13/80

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry _____

Send-back 6.19.80
Re-submit 7.16.80

Entered JUL 24 1980

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received MAY 28 1980
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Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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Area Description

JUL 16 1980

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JUL 18 1987

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<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

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

See Area Significance

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheets

10. Geographical Data -- See individual forms

Acreage of nominated property UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Britta Bloomberg -- Research Historian-Survey

organization Minnesota Historical Society date February 1980

street & number 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House telephone 612-296-0101

city or town St. Paul state Minnesota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:
 national state local See individual forms

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 Russell W. Fridley

Russell W. Fridley
title State Historic Preservation Officer date 7/8/80

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

W. Ray Luce
Keeper of the National Register date 7/27/80

Attest: Kristin J. O'Connell date 7/23/80
Chief of Registration

ISANTI COUNTY

The significance of the area now known as Isanti County lies in its continuous history as a predominantly rural agricultural region of the state within the area of highest concentration of Swedish settlement in America. As an area where ethnic concentrations have endured and where agriculture has remained the county's economic base, the county has a remarkably undisturbed historic fabric which provides a valuable model for the study of immigrant settlement patterns and the development of agriculture in east-central Minnesota.

The earliest permanent white settlements in the county were made by native-born Americans who first engaged in lumbering and later turned to farming when the forests were depleted. A notable structure associated with the county's earliest settlement and its largest native-born American population is Isanti School District No. I (1874, Spencer Brook).

The Yankees who scantily populated the area in the 1850s were followed by German and Swedish immigrants, who began arriving in the early 1860s. St. John's German Lutheran Church (1882 Bradford Township) is a well-preserved structure linked to the German population which settled in southern parts of the county and made up the county's second largest immigrant group. The Swedes who settled the region were by far the largest and dominant ethnic group; Isanti's Swedish population is frequently noted as the center of the more pietistic groups that broke off from the Swedish State Church (Lutheran) and thus contrasts from the predominantly Swedish Lutheran population of neighboring Chisago County. The Svenska Mission Kyrka i Sodre Maple Ridge (1897, Maple Ridge Township) is significant for its association with this large non-Lutheran Swedish population.

Agriculture has been an underlying theme in county development since settlement. The Linden Barn (1914, Isanti Township) provides a link with the Swedish population that farmed the county's rural areas, and is associated with the county's important dairying industry. The Erickson Farmstead (ca.1915, Athens Township) is a particularly handsome representative of a brief but extremely prosperous period in the county's agriculture, the potato boom of 1890-1920. Cooperatives were established across the county and have played crucial roles in the development of area agriculture. The Farmers Mercantile Cooperative of West Stanford (1926, Stanford Township) is representative of the organizations formed by area farmers to solve economic problems.

In a rural county dominated by foreign immigrants rural education played an important role in not only educating area children but also naturalizing foreigners. The West Riverside School (1898, Cambridge Township), one of the county's best preserved rural schools, represents the importance of rural places of learning in the county's history.

Nineteenth century pre-railroad urban development was most extensive in the county seat of Cambridge; the Isanti County Courthouse (1887, Cambridge) continues to mark the city as the most important urban center of the county. The limited additional urban settlement precipitated by the 1899 rail construction is linked to the Oscar Olson House (1914, Braham), the home of one of the community leaders of the new trackside towns platted at the turn-of-the-century.

The buildings in the county are architecturally significant in that they represent vernacular building trends in rural counties settled by immigrant populations. Notable public and semi-public examples are St. Johns Lutheran Church (1882, Bradford Township), the Svenska Mission Kyrka i Sodre Maple Ridge (1897, Maple Ridge Township), and the West Riverside School (1898, Cambridge Township). Agricultural buildings of interest include the locally atypical but focal Linden Barn (1914, Isanti Township), built on the round barn plan, and the more typical but impressively scaled Erickson Farmstead (ca.1915, Athens Township). Both the home at the Erickson Farm and the Oscar Olson Home (1914, Braham) are domestic structures notable for their conscious attention to design.

JUL 16 1980

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Isanti County Bibliography - page 2

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Isanti County
Properties Included in Multiple Resource Nomination

Settlement

- ✓ Isanti School District No. I, Spencer Brook Township
- ✓ German Evangelical Lutheran Church St. Johns, Bradford Township
- ✓ Svenska Mission Kyrka i Sodre Maple Ridge, Maple Ridge Township

Agriculture

- ✓ Linden Barn, Isanti Township
- ✓ Erickson Farmstead, Athens Township
- ✓ Farmers Cooperative Mercantile Company of West Stanford, Stanford Township

Politics/Government

- ✓ Isanti County Courthouse, Cambridge

Education

- ✓ West Riverside School, Cambridge Township

Commerce

- ✓ Oscar Olson House, Braham

JUL 16 1980

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 16 1980
DATE ENTERED	JUL 24 1980

Isanti County MRN

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 1 PAGE 1

This Multiple Resource Area Nomination is based on a survey of standing structures conducted in Isanti County by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office as part of a long-range statewide survey of historic resources. The properties included in the nomination represent those which illustrate significant aspects of the history of the county and which have been deemed eligible for nomination at the conclusion of the survey. Additional information and new perspectives for evaluation of specific types of historic properties are continually being gained as the statewide survey progresses, and it is quite possible that additional Isanti County properties will be nominated in the future. These may be presented individually or as parts of thematic groups when the entire survey is completed. For this reason, this Multiple Resource Area Nomination should not be construed as representing all properties in Isanti County eligible for nomination.

(The above disclaimer is based on an agreement between Charles Herrington, HCRS, and Russell Fridley, Minnesota SHPO, August 31, 1979.)

ISANTI COUNTY

The basis of the survey for this nomination is an inventory of structures which are indicative of various aspects of the county's history. Structures were identified and inventoried during a county wide survey conducted during the late summer and fall of 1979.

Selection of structures for the inventory included both field reconnaissance of pre-identified sites and isolation of sites on a purely visual basis. Pre-identification of sites was limited to a small number of the most significant locations (those unique on a county wide scale, or significantly linked with some aspect of county history.) County histories, individual community histories, and photographs from both the state society and private collections were researched for site-specific information. General references to common buildings were not noted.

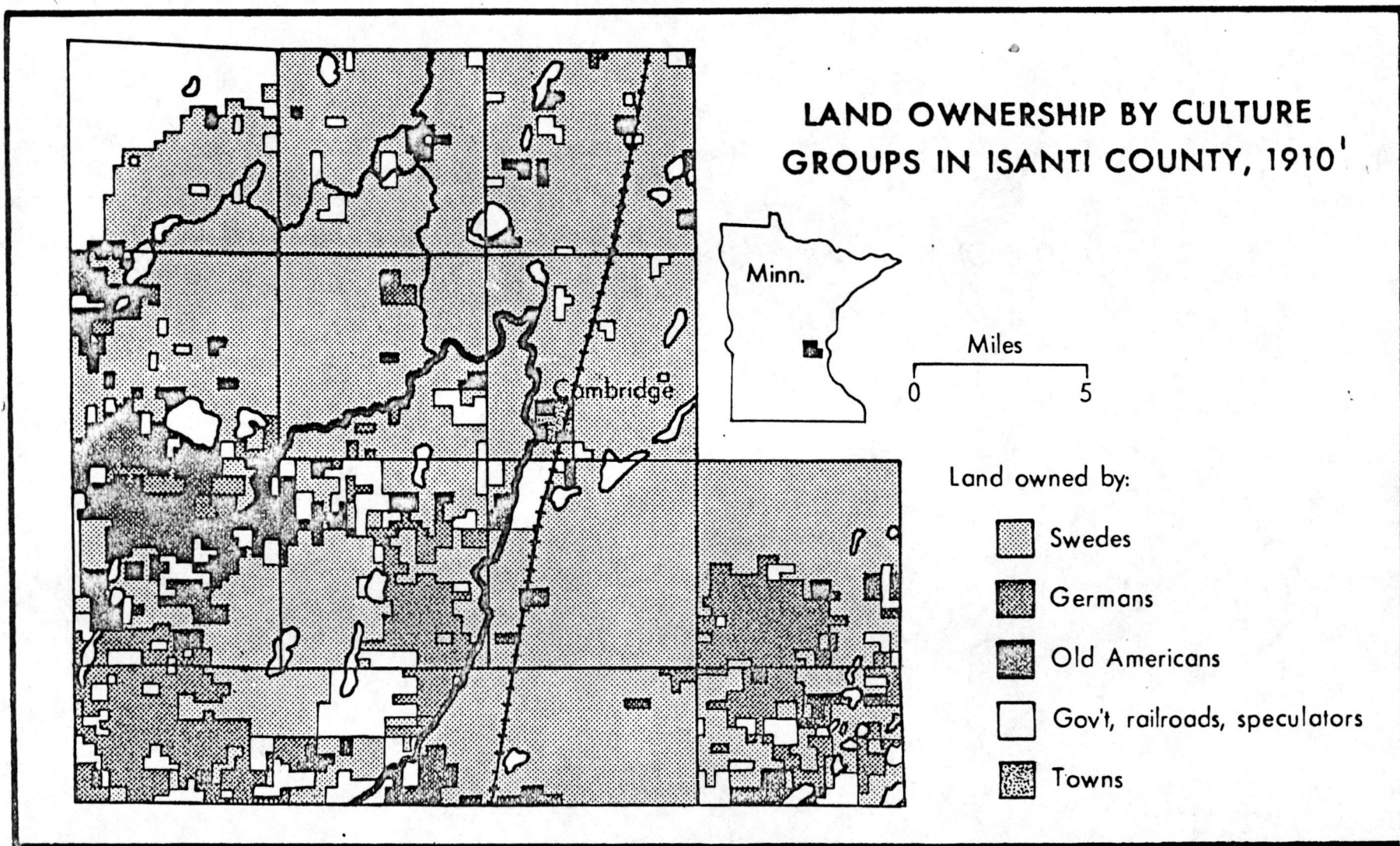
Township maps from the 1914 Isanti County Atlas were copied for field use. Plat maps on file in the county recorder's office were researched for original plat information (proprietors, survey and filing dates) and for additional dates. The filing dates for the various platted areas were noted on current highway department city maps. This collection of maps was useful in gaining a localized sense of development for areas of the county.

All city streets were walked or driven. All rural non-farm structures, pre-identified sites, and locally suggested buildings were visited. The roads connecting these dispersed sites provided a strong sampling of the rural landscape. Pre-identified sites were inventoried regardless of integrity. Other buildings with unusual integrity or unique features were also inventoried. In general, structures built before 1940 were considered for an inventory.

Follow-up information (both localized specific and generalized contextual) on some sites was gathered to help establish significance.

In each region of the county, at least one and in most cases several local contacts were made through the county historical society and by random inquiry. These were most often helpful in locating information on selected properties, but also in pointing out additional locations for inventory.

From the inventory of over 150 sites, nine individual structures were selected for nomination to the National Register, mostly on the basis of their significance within the county. Information and photographs on all sites are recorded on inventory forms for a permanent record.

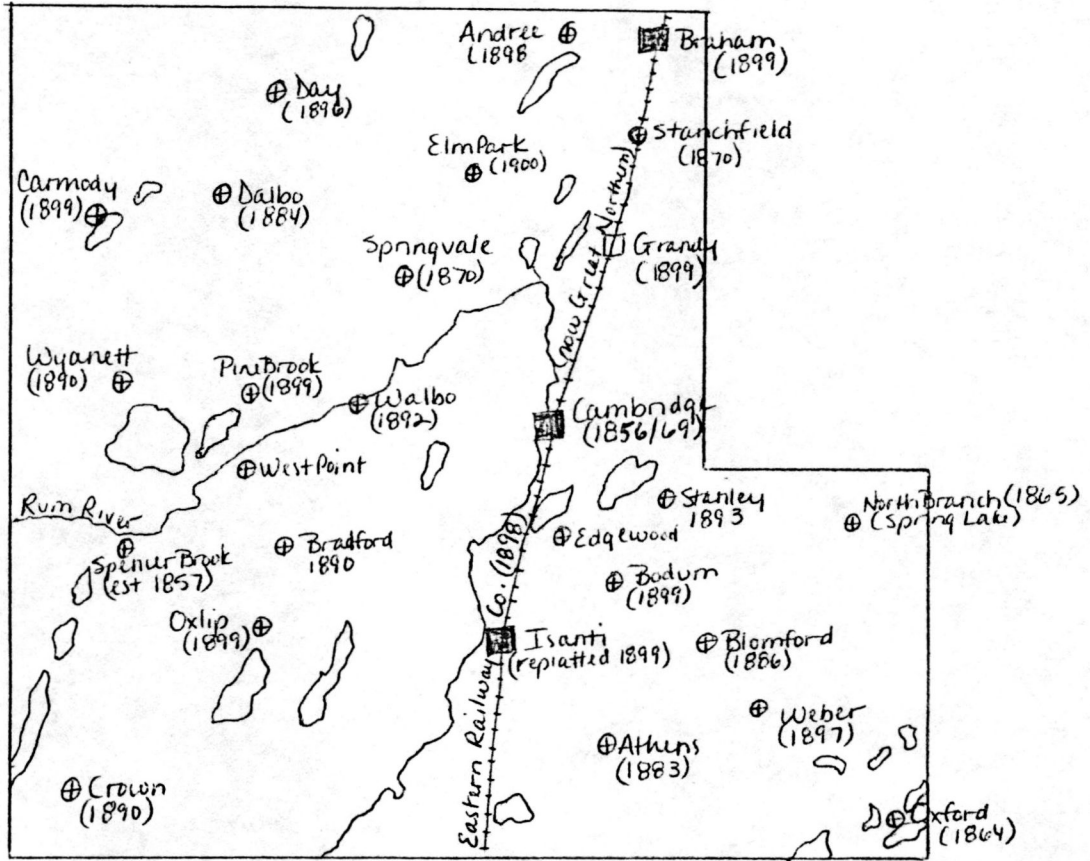


¹ Robert Clifford Ostergren, "Rattvik to Isanti: A Community Transplanted", PhD Thesis, University of Minnesota, December, 1976, page 68.

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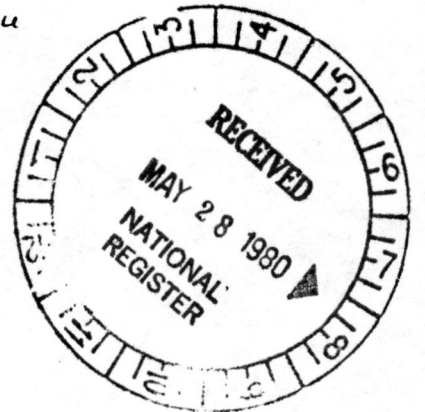
Isanti County:

Townsite and Railroad Development

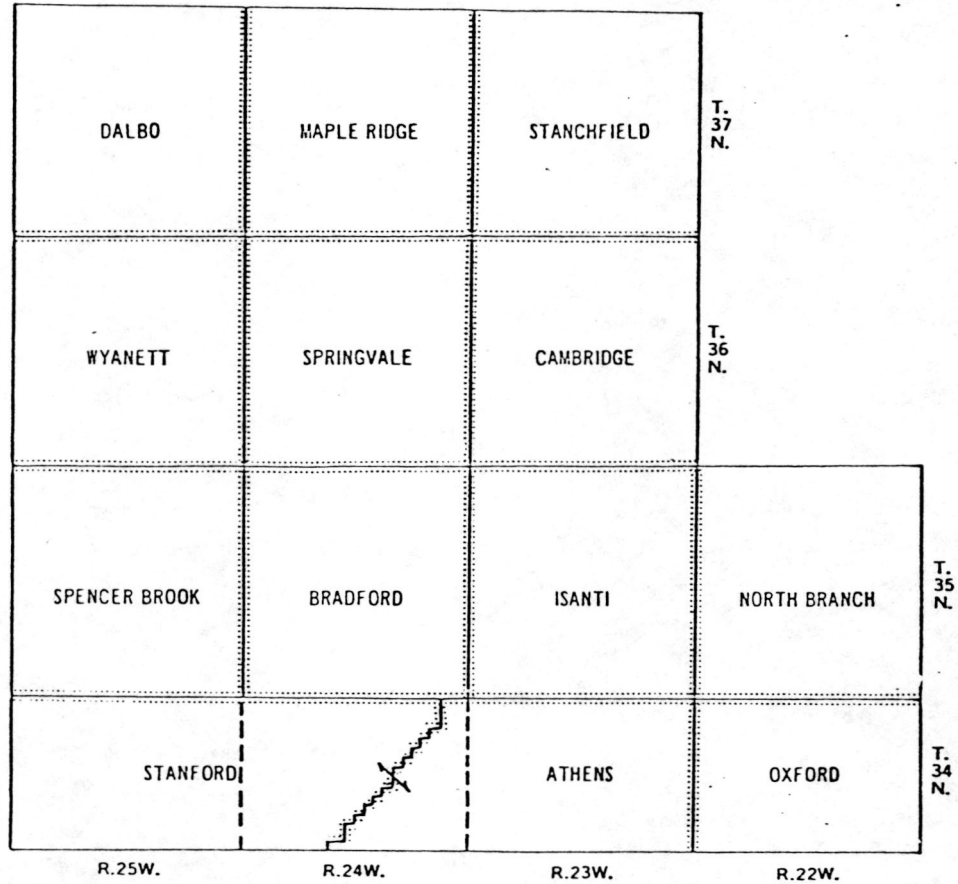


key to map symbols:

- ⊕ "crossroads" communities
dates correspond to Post Office
establishment dates.
- ⊠ platted incorporated city
- platted unincorporated



Isanti County: Townships



JUL 16 1936

HISTORIC NAME: Isanti School District #1

COUNTY: Isanti

0002078

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Spencer Brook

LEGAL DESC.: Commence at the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 15, T35R25; ADDRESS: Spencer Brook
thence west along the north line thereof a distance of 50.5 rods
to the point of beginning. Thence south 10 rods, thence west 100 feet, thence north 10 rods
to the north line thereof; thence east 100 feet to the point of beginning.

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent _____	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Education</u>
Structure _____	Good <u>X</u>	State _____	Secondary <u>Settlement</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:	Yes _____ No _____ Restricted <u>X</u>	PRESENT USE:
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD:	Yes <u>X</u> No _____	Museum
OCCUPIED:	Yes <u>X</u> No _____	

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1874

ORIGINAL USE: School

ORIGINAL OWNER: School District #1

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Isanti County, Courthouse,
237 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Cambridge, Minnesota 55008ACREAGE: Less than one acre XLOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Isanti County Historical Society,
Box 525, Cambridge, Minnesota 55008

UTM REFERENCE:

FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg

Wyanett Quad.

DATE: December 1979

15 / 465340 / 5040795

DESCRIPTION:

The Isanti School District No. 1 is located in the small rural settlement of Spencer Brook in western Isanti County. The surrounding area is wooded and agricultural. The building faces north and is located one half mile west of County Road 7.

The school, constructed in 1874, is a simple one story gable-roofed building measuring approximately twenty-six by thirty-two feet. A square bell tower adorns the north end of the building and is the primary decorative element. Bell tower ornamentation includes small brackets beneath an overhanging hip roof and sawn arched trim with pendants on the upper half of the louvered belfry.

Two four-panel doors with transom lights are located on the front (north) facade. Concrete steps running the width of the building lead up to the two entrances. An commemorative plaque has been placed between the doors by the local historical society. Simple fenestration includes a fanlight in the gable and evenly-spaced double hung windows on the east, west, and south facades. The windows are covered by green wooden shutters of vertical siding. A chimney pierces the south end of the gable roof.

The property also includes a water pump to the west of the school and small frame privy to the south.

The school has been altered little from its original design and remains without modern utilities. The building was vacated and used as a granary for a time after 1945, but it has since been acquired and preserved by the Spencer Brook Historical Association.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Spencer Brook School District No. 1 is primarily significant as a rare surviving structure associated with Spencer Brook, a community settled by New Englanders during the earliest phase of Isanti County's development. Settlers from New England were the first Euro-Americans to make permanent residences in Isanti County, preceding the better-known and more numerous Swedish immigrants who arrived in the area from the late 1860s to the 1890s. Spencer Brook was settled in the late 1850s, mostly by Mainites, who were engaged in lumbering. The village became the largest settlement of native born Americans in the county. The settlers organized the first rural school in the county in 1858. School enrollment outgrew the homes in which it was first held, and land was purchased in 1874 for a school site and the present building was constructed. The school has been closed since 1945, but the Spencer Brook Historical Association was formed in June 1969 for the purpose of restoring and preserving the schoolhouse.

HISTORIC NAME: Erickson Farmstead

COUNTY: Isanti

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Athens

LEGAL DESC.: Begin at a point 500 feet west of the NE corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 17, T34R23. Commence southerly 400 feet, thence westerly 450 feet, thence northerly 400 feet, thence easterly 450 feet to point of beginning.

ADDRESS: Minnesota Highway 65 and Co. Rd. 56

CLASSIFICATION:

CONDITION:

SIGNIFICANCE:

THEME/S:

Building Excellent Local Primary AgricultureStructure Good State Secondary ArchitectureObject Fair National Others District Deteriorated OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes No Restricted

PRESENT USE:

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes No

Residence & Family Retreat

OCCUPIED: Yes No

DATE CONSTRUCTED: ca.1915

ORIGINAL USE: Farm and residence

ORIGINAL OWNER: Edward Erickson

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Erickson Diversified Corp.
4567 West 78th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55437

ACREAGE: Less than one acre
4.13

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Isanti County Historical Society,
Box 525, Cambridge, MN 55008

UTM REFERENCE:

Isanti Quad.

FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg

15 / 481365 / 5031900

DATE: December 1979

DESCRIPTION:

The Erickson Farmstead is located in Athens Township at the southwest corner of Minnesota Highway 65 and County Road 56, three miles south of the city of Isanti.

The farmstead is situated on a large landscaped plot separated from the surrounding fields by a white wooden fence. The house and summer kitchen are in a tree sheltered area towards the rear of the lot; the outbuildings are situated both near the road and west and rear of the house.

The two story frame farmhouse was constructed in 1915 and is designed on a square plan. Its narrow clapboard siding is painted yellow with white trim. It features a medium hip roof with hipped dormers on each side and a large front porch that wraps around the northeast corner of the house. A balconied entry porch is located at the rear and a bay window is on the east facade. All of the windows are double hung with one over one lights. Immediately to the east of the house is a gable-roofed, one-and-one-half-story summer kitchen, reconstructed from original plans in 1967. It features an open front porch facing the main house.

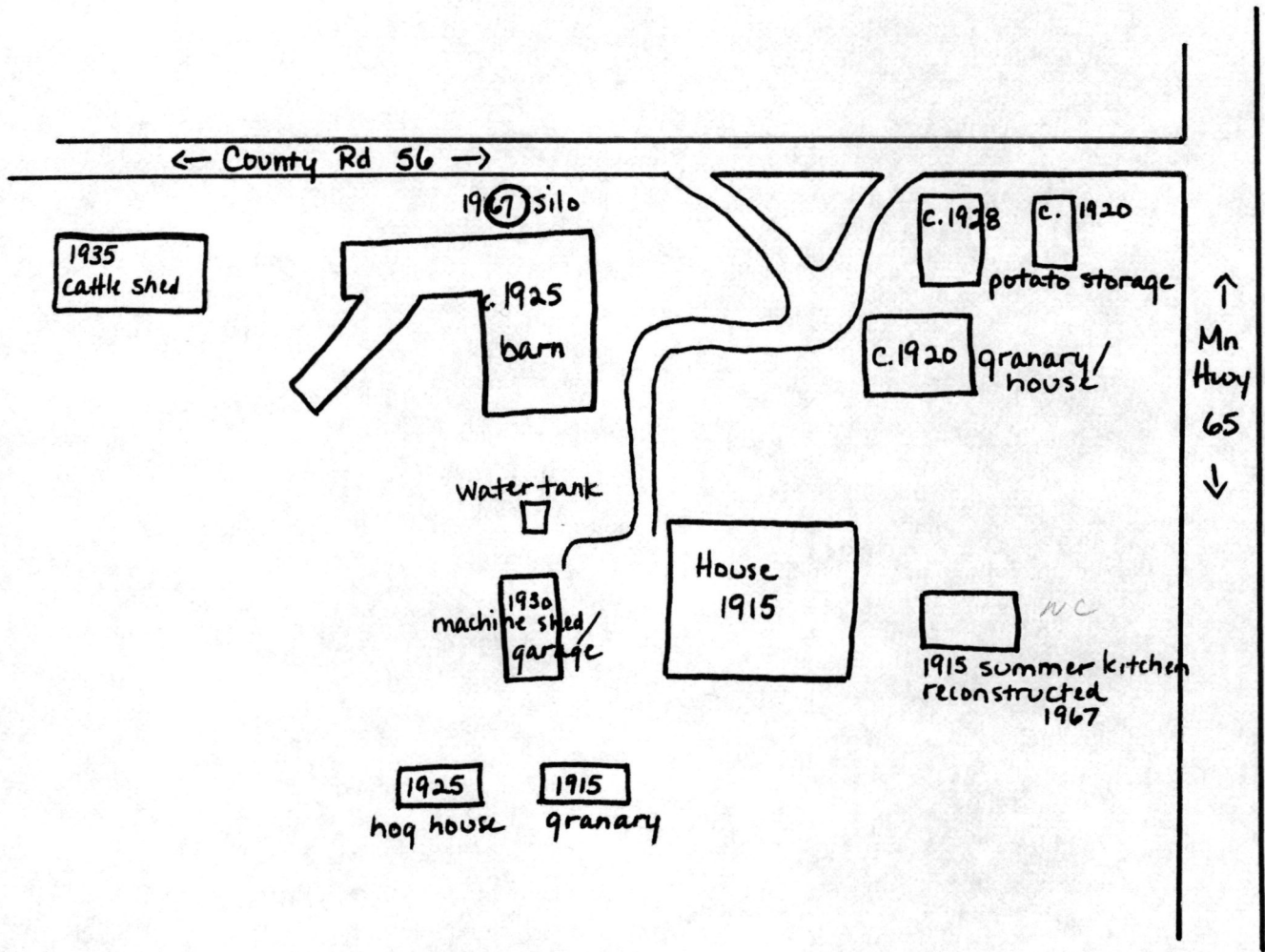
All of the farmstead's outbuildings are of frame construction and painted a bright red with white trim. They include a large rainbow roofed barn, two potato buildings with below grade storage, a granary (now used as the caretaker's house), a hog house, granary, machine shed/garage, and a cattle shed. These outbuildings were nearly all constructed between 1915 and 1930. Also located on the property area metal windmill, and a concrete block water tank, and a tall blue Harvestore silo, which is the most recent addition to the farmstead.

The buildings and grounds are in extremely well-maintained condition.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Erickson Farmstead is significant as a well-preserved early twentieth century farmstead associated both with Isanti County's important potato growing industry and with a prominent local family. Largely constructed during the first quarter of the century, the farmstead represents the prosperity experienced by area farmers during the peak of Isanti County's potato boom. Potatoes became the county's most important cash crop during the 1890s; potato production reached its peak in 1920. The Erickson farm was first developed by Otto Erickson, who immigrated from Sweden in 1868 and became one of the first settlers in the area. Following a common pattern of land transfer from one generation to the next, his son Edward began farming the family operation about the time of his marriage in 1893. Edward replaced the original farm buildings with the present ones after his farming operations had prospered and stabilized early in the twentieth century. The farmstead, distinctive in the county for its impressive scale and extremely well-preserved condition, represents the upper limits of the prosperity achieved by successful area farmers during the county's most successful years of potato production.

ERICKSON FARMSTEAD (ATHENS TOWNSHIP, ISANTI CO.)



N ↑

HISTORIC NAME: Farmers Cooperative Mercantile Company of COUNTY: Isanti
 CURRENT NAME: West Stanford CITY/TWP.: Stanford
 Herlinger's Grocery
 LEGAL DESC.: Commence 45 rods north of the SW corner of the ADDRESS: Crown
 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 9 T34R25, thence east 10 rods, thence north 8 rods, thence west
 10 rods, thence south 8 rods to beginning.

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent _____	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Agriculture</u>
Structure _____	Good <u>X</u>	State _____	Secondary <u>Commerce</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes ___ No ___ Restricted X PRESENT USE:
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No ___ Store
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No ___

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1924 ORIGINAL USE: Store

ORIGINAL OWNER: Farmers Cooperative ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Donald D. & Mabel Anderson Rt. 1 Bethel, MN 55005	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:	UTM REFERENCE: Crown Quad. 15 / 464060 / 5032225
FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg	
DATE: December 1979	

DESCRIPTION:

The Farmers Cooperative Mercantile Co. of West Stanford is located in southwestern Isanti County on the east side of County Road 7 in the crossroads community of Crown, Stanford Township. The small settlement is comprised of modestly proportioned residential and commercial buildings.

The one story frame mercantile building was constructed in 1924 and features a false front, large glass windows across the front, and a recessed central doorway. A frame awning extends across the front. The building is sheathed in white clapboard, with small evenly-spaced windows located near the roof line on the sides. A small one room addition on the south side of the building is of similar construction, with a short false front extending above the roof. Concrete block steps lead up to a concrete block platform at the front, and the building is set on a concrete foundation.

The structure has undergone minimal exterior and interior alterations. It retains its identity as a rural utilitarian grocery-hardware store, and has continued to serve the surrounding agricultural community since it was built.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Farmers Cooperative Mercantile Co. of West Stanford is significant primarily for its association with the cooperative movement in rural Minnesota. It is also significant as a good example of the kinds of commercial structures erected in rural Isanti County communities during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The cooperative movement, a major effort by farmers to band together to solve economic problems, was one of the most significant developments in the history of rural Minnesota. In Isanti County, a predominantly agricultural county, the cooperative movement has played a particularly prominent role. Cooperatives were the principal agencies through which Isanti farmers processed and marketed their produce. Listed among the cooperative enterprises of the county in the 1920s were creameries, elevators, stores, insurance companies, and produce and livestock shipping associations. The Farmers Cooperative Mercantile Co. of West Stanford was organized in 1920, during the peak period of cooperative development in the county. The organization's principal center was at the village of Crown, where their frame store building was constructed in 1924. The cooperative operated the Crown store until 1945. Since that time the building has been in private ownership, but has retained its rural store identity. The building is a well-preserved example of the small commercial structures constructed in rural Isanti communities, and its similarity with earlier

Farmers Cooperative Mercantile Co. of West Stanford

Isanti County
Stanford

commercial buildings reflects the enduring nature of rural vernacular designs. Unlike the majority of other rural commercial structures, the Crown store has not fallen into disuse and disrepair or lost its identity to major alterations. The store retains its historic integrity and continues to serve the surrounding agricultural community.

HISTORIC NAME: Isanti County Courthouse

COUNTY: Isanti

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Cambridge

LEGAL DESC.: Lots 2,3,6, and 7, block 5, Original town

ADDRESS: 237 SW 2nd Avenue

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u> X </u>	Excellent <u> </u>	Local <u> X </u>	Primary <u> Government/Politics </u>
Structure <u> </u>	Good <u> X </u>	State <u> </u>	Secondary <u> </u>
Object <u> </u>	Fair <u> </u>	National <u> </u>	Others <u> </u>
District <u> </u>	Deteriorated <u> </u>		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:	Yes <u> </u> No <u> </u> Restricted <u> X </u>	PRESENT USE:
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD:	Yes <u> X </u> No <u> </u>	Courthouse
OCCUPIED:	Yes <u> X </u> No <u> </u>	

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1887 ORIGINAL USE: Courthouse

ORIGINAL OWNER: Isanti County ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Isanti County, Courthouse,
237 SW 2nd Avenue, Cambridge, MNACREAGE: Less than one acre X

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:

UTM REFERENCE:
Cambridge Quad.

15 / 482350 / 5046220

FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg

DATE: December 1979

DESCRIPTION:

The Isanti County Courthouse is prominently located on the southeast corner of 2nd Avenue SW and Birch Street, one block west of Cambridge's central business district. The large brick building is situated on a nicely landscaped corner lot and is a distinctive element in a predominantly residential neighborhood.

The two story frame building was constructed in 1887 and veneered in brick a few years later. The structure is basically rectangular with a projecting entrance pavilion. The high steeply-pitched roof of the pavilion, reminiscent of a mansard roof, and the vertical emphasis in the tall narrow windows demonstrate a local interpretation of the French Second Empire style. A small triangular dormer is located on each of the exposed sides of the pavilion roof. Roof surfaces are covered with dark grey slate. The building is three bays across and four bays deep; the tall windows are arranged in pairs with stone sills. A belt course of decorative brickwork circumvents the building between the two floors and beneath the eaves. The central entrance is framed by a simple classical doorway in brick and surmounted by a buff colored stone slab engraved with "Isanti County Courthouse". Small lamp posts supported by brick bases flank the entry.

Single window openings on the first floor on either side of the projecting pavilion and one west wall window have been bricked in. Markings on the brick indicate that an entry porch (which was not original but may have been added when the building was bricked) has been removed. Other exterior alterations include new windows, the addition of a west rear entry, and several smaller rear additions to accommodate additional county offices. These changes have not significantly altered the building's nineteenth century appearance.

The interior of the building has undergone a series of changes as it has been adapted to varying county needs over 92 years. Despite these changes, a significant degree of design integrity has been retained. The building continues to serve as the Isanti County Courthouse and is among the oldest courthouses in use in Minnesota.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Isanti County Courthouse is significant both as the principal structure associated with county government and development and as one of the oldest surviving courthouses in Minnesota in use today. Isanti County was formed February 13, 1857, from part of Ramsey County. The first courthouse was built in Cambridge in 1871; previously county officials kept their records individually and operated their offices out of their homes which were scattered across the county.

(see continuation sheet)

Isanti County Courthouse

Isanti County
Cambridge, MN

The present structure was built in 1887 at a cost of \$10,000 and replaced the inadequate 1871 building. The construction of a more substantial courthouse at that time was indicative of the changes taking place in Isanti County by the late nineteenth century: the transient early period of the county was giving way to more stable patterns of settlement during the 1880s, and the need was increasing for more space and permanent quarters for county government. The city of Cambridge itself was fast becoming an important trade center between Minneapolis-St. Paul and Duluth. The courthouse has sheltered the official county proceedings and records for ninety-two years, and is significant for the long history it records of the county's government and development.

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Linden Barn

COUNTY: Isanti 80002075

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Cambridge, Minn.
Isanti TownshipLEGAL DESC.: Begin at a point 500 ft. west and 250 ft. south of the NE corner of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 14, T35R23. Commence south 250 ft., thence west 300 ft., thence north 250 ft., thence east 300 ft. to point of beginning.

ADDRESS: County Road 19, one mile east of Bodum

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent _____	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Agriculture</u>
Structure _____	Good <u>X</u>	State _____	Secondary <u>Settlement</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes ___ No X Restricted ___
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No ___
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No ___

PRESENT USE:

Barn

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1914

ORIGINAL USE: Barn

ORIGINAL OWNER: Olof Linden

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: John, Victor, & Alec Wicklund

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Allen & Edward Linden
Route 2
Isanti, MN 55040ACREAGE: Less than one acre
1.72LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Isanti County Historical Society,
Box 525, Cambridge, Minnesota 55008UTM REFERENCE:
Cambridge Quad.

15 / 486245 / 5040640

FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg

DATE: December 1979

DESCRIPTION:

The Linden Barn is located a mile east of the crossroads community of Bodum just off a sharp curve in County Road 19. The large round structure stands as a landmark in the surrounding agricultural region.

The barn was constructed in 1914 of 10-inch concrete blocks with four-inch tile facing on the inside. The eighteen foot high walls are capped with a conical variation of a gambrel roof. Ground level fenestration consists of six doorways and small square windows evenly spaced around the barn. Smaller square windows spaced at wider intervals are located on the second floor beneath the roofline. The raised-seam metal roof terminates in a cupola.

The lower floor includes a hay loading area, six horse stalls, a harness room, a large cattle area with twenty stanchions, a calf pen with six stanchions, and a cream separator room. A stairway in the northeast corner of the hay loading section leads to a massive hay storage area.

Adjacent to the barn is a redwood silo capped by a gambrel-type hexagonal roof. Several additional outbuildings located in close proximity to the barn and silo are also included within the boundaries.

The barn is no longer being used to house animals but remains in stable condition. A neighboring farmer stores hay in the second floor.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Linden Barn is significant as a vital link with the two dominant themes in Isanti County's history -- agriculture and Swedish settlement. Its distinctive round design makes it a locally noted landmark as well. Olof Linden emigrated from Sweden and settled and began farming this property in 1874. By the early twentieth century his farm operations were outgrowing the previous facilities, and he contracted local carpenters John, Victor, and Alec Wicklund to construct the large round barn in 1914. The pattern of replacing earlier farm structures was a common one in the county as agricultural production reached new levels, and a notable portion of the county's agricultural building stock dates to this period. The Linden Barn was constructed to house one of the areas developing dairying operations, which have continued as an important aspect of area agriculture to the present. The specific source of the round design of the Linden Barn is undocumented, but the plan was commonly used for dairy operations. Agriculture and related industries have played crucial roles in the history of Isanti County. As a highly visible landmark linked to an important aspect of area agriculture and to the Swedish immigrant who settled and farmed the region, the Linden Barn is significant.

HISTORIC NAME: Oscar Olson House

COUNTY: Isanti

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Braham

LEGAL DESC.: Block 1, lots 6 and 7, Grove's Addition to the city of Braham

ADDRESS: 309 Beechwood

CLASSIFICATION:

Building
Structure _____
Object _____
District _____

CONDITION:

Excellent _____
Good
Fair _____
Deteriorated _____

SIGNIFICANCE:

Local
State _____
National _____

THEME/S:

Primary Commerce
Secondary Architecture
Others _____

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Yes ___ No Restricted ___

PRESENT USE:

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD:

Yes No ___

Residence

OCCUPIED:

Yes No ___

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1914

ORIGINAL USE: Residence

ORIGINAL OWNER: Fred Soderberg

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Arlys D. Goodman
309 North Beechwood
Braham, MN 55006ACREAGE: Less than one acre

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:

UTM REFERENCE:

Cambridge Quad.

15 / 486920 / 5063420

FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg

DATE: December 1979

DESCRIPTION:

The Oscar Olson House, is located in a residential neighborhood across the railroad tracks from the central area of Braham. The area includes other frame residences of the same period but of smaller proportions and more modest architectural design.

The Colonial Revival two-story frame house, constructed in 1914, is distinctive among the housing stock of Braham. Design features of the house include a two story entrance portico supported by columns, bevel siding, large three-part windows, corner pilasters, bay windows, a central entry adorned by side-lights, and a central second story balcony and doorway flanked by oval windows. Shutters adorn the windows on the front (west) facade. Two interior chimneys pierce the gable roof, one on the south end of the ridge line and the other towards the rear of the building.

A one story garage of more recent construction is located immediately northeast of the house. A small frame out-building (ca.1915) is also located on the property.

The house retains significant design integrity and has been very well maintained.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Oscar Olson House is significant as the home of one of Braham's long-time community leaders and as one of the county's most distinctive residences both in scale and design. The house was constructed in 1914 by Fred Soderberg, who sold it to Oscar Olson five years later. Olson resided in the house until his death in 1973. During that time he earned the reputation of being a "founder, leader, conservator" of the community's "economic progress, social well-being, and civic consciousness."¹ Olson was a prominent banker in Braham for over sixty years and a civic leader and enthusiast during most of the history of the community. Braham had been platted in 1899 when the Great Northern Railroad Line first crossed the county, the Olson House was constructed during the community's second decade of development. With its impressive size and Classical Revival design features, the house is distinctive among the housing stock of Braham and of the entire county. It has been well preserved and retains significant design integrity.

¹Braham Journal, Sept. 30, 1965.

HISTORIC NAME: German Evangelical Lutheran Church St. Johns COUNTY: Isanti Minnesota
CURRENT NAME: St. John's Lutheran Church CITY/TWP.: Bradford

LEGAL DESC.: Begin at a point 200 feet west of the NE corner of ADDRESS: Highway 5, west of
Sec. 26 T35R24. Commence south 200 feet, thence west 200 feet, Isanti
thence north 200 feet, thence east 200 feet to beginning.

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent <u> </u>	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Settlement</u>
Structure <u> </u>	Good <u>X</u>	State <u> </u>	Secondary <u>Religion</u>
Object <u> </u>	Fair <u> </u>	National <u> </u>	Others <u>Architecture</u>
District <u> </u>	Deteriorated <u> </u>		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes No Restricted X PRESENT USE:
Museum (church)
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No
OCCUPIED: Yes X No

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1882 ORIGINAL USE: Church
ORIGINAL OWNER: German Evangelical Lutheran ARCHITECT/BUILDER:
Congregation

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Isanti County Historical Society Box 525 Cambridge, MN 55008	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Lillian Bergstrom, Isanti County Historical Society, Box 525, Cambridge, MN 55008	UTM REFERENCE: St. Francis Quad. 15 / 477565 / 5038285
FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg	
DATE: December 1979	

DESCRIPTION:
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is located on the south side of County Road 5 in Bradford Township about a mile west of the city of Isanti. The building is situated in a rural settling with a small cemetery to the west and a grove of trees to the east and south. The one story building, constructed in 1882, is a simple frame Greek Revival structure sheathed in white clapboard. The gable roof is covered with shingles and pierced by a chimney at the south end. The gable returns, small central doorway and steps, and round wooden plaque carrying the date 1882 are the only features adorning the north facade. Simple fenestration on the east and west sides consists of three evenly spaced windows on each side framed by wooden segmental arches. Double hung windows are concealed by wooden shutters, which remain closed when the building is not in use.
The building's interior is as simple and unspoiled as its exterior. Wide plank floors, wood wainscotting, and primitive hand hewn pews and pulpit remain. A woodstove is located near the doorway. The only modernization to the interior has been the conversion of the original kerosene lanterns to gas.
St. John's is being maintained by the Isanti County Historical Society and is opened for special Historical Society functions during the year. It has also been used for Memorial Day services annually since 1974.

SIGNIFICANCE:
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church at Bradford is primarily significant for its association with the German population of Isanti County. It is also significant as a well-preserved example of the small churches that have served Isanti County's rural population throughout the county's history. The Germans were among the earliest ethnic groups to settle Isanti County. Their presence has been overshadowed by the vast numbers of Swedish immigrants who followed them, but isolated German settlements survive in southwestern Isanti County and in the southeastern part of Bradford Township. The German Lutheran homesteaders of Bradford Township organized and built St. John's in 1882. The congregation was never large, and during most of its history the church shared a pastor with the German Lutheran congregations at either Crown or Weber, the two other German settlements in the county. In 1956 the congregation closed the church to merge with the St. John's Lutheran Church at Weber. The Isanti County Historical Society acquired the church building from the Weber congregation in 1973. St. John's is representative of the many rural churches scattered across Isanti County which served the important function of binding together the small ethnic communities comprising the county's rural population. The surviving churches record the concentration areas of the ethnic groups and denominations. The extremely well-preserved condition of St. John's make it an important link with the county's German immigrant population.

HISTORIC NAME: Svenska Mission Kyrka i Sodre Maple Ridge COUNTY: Isanti 80062077
 CURRENT NAME: Swedish Mission Church of South Maple Ridge CITY/TWP.: Maple Ridge
 LEGAL DESC.: Begin at the SE corner of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 28, ADDRESS: Highway 1, north of
 T37R24. Commence west 14 rods, north 18 rods, east 14 rods, Springvale
 south 18 rods to beginning.

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Excellent _____	Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Primary <input type="checkbox"/> Settlement
Structure _____	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State _____	Secondary <input type="checkbox"/> Religion
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes _____ No _____ Restricted _____ PRESENT USE:
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes No _____ Vacant
 OCCUPIED: Yes _____ No

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1897 ORIGINAL USE: Church

ORIGINAL OWNER: Congregation ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: South Maple Ridge Cemetery
 Association; c/o Mrs. Albin Olson; Stanchfield, MN 55080
 ACREAGE: Less than one acre _____
 approx. 1.5

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Isanti County Historical Society,
 Box 525, Cambridge, MN 55008
 UTM REFERENCE:
 Springvale Quad.
 15 / 474460 / 5056790

FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg
 DATE: December 1980

DESCRIPTION:

The Swedish Mission Church of South Maple Ridge is located in a picturesque setting on the west side of County Road 1 in section 28, Maple Ridge Township. The surrounding area is a sparsely settled region of the county where agricultural land uses predominate.

The simple Gothic Revival building was constructed in 1897. The gable roof is broken by a central chimney. Double hung, five over four light windows are evenly spaced on the east, west and south facades; The pointed upper sash of the windows are the building's primary decorative features. This pointed motif is repeated above the double four-panel doors. Three steps and a metal railing lead to the dooreay. The one story building is sheathed in narrow clapboard and painted white.

A water pump is located near the northeast corner of the building, and the South Maple Ridge Cemetery is immediately north of the church.

The simple interior of the church includes original woodwork and benches. Some of the furnishings have been removed for safekeeping. Electricity was added in 1942.

The building is no longer being used, but it is maintained by the Maple Ridge Cemetery Association.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Swedish Mission Church of South Maple Ridge is significant as a well preserved example of the small non-Lutheran churches organized by the Swedish population of Isanti County. The Swedish Mission Church, or Evangelical Covenant Church, grew out of a reform movement protesting the formalism and domination of the Swedish State (Lutheran) Church. While the Swedish Lutheran Church dominated the county, the numerous congregations that broke off from the State Church have played an important part in Isanti County's settlement and development. Among the non-conformist churches of Isanti County were the Baptists, Evangelical Free Churches, and Swedish Mission Churches. The Swedish Mission Church of South Maple Ridge was an organization which was established in 1884. For the next thirteen years services and Sunday School were held in homes of area residents. In January 1897 it was decided that a church building was needed, and construction began that summer. The congregation was never large enough to afford a full-time pastor, but shared pastors with other rural congregations, a common practice in the more sparsely settled regions of the county. The simple lines and modest proportions of this somewhat primitive structure reflect the more pietistic beliefs and dislike of religious formalism shared by church members. The church records end in 1943, and regular services ended shortly after that time as well. The building, however, continues to be maintained and is an outstanding and well preserved example of the non-conformist rural churches organized and built by the Swedish immigrants to Isanti County.

HISTORIC NAME: West Riverside School, District No. 38

COUNTY: Isanti

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Cambridge Twp. ^{vic.}

LEGAL DESC.: Begin at the NE corner of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 30, T36R28. Commence south 22 rods, thence west 12.75 rods, thence north 22 rods, thence east 12.75 rods to point of beginning.

ADDRESS: County Rd. 14, west of Cambridge

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u> X </u>	Excellent <u> </u>	Local <u> X </u>	Primary <u> Education </u>
Structure <u> </u>	Good <u> X </u>	State <u> </u>	Secondary <u> Architecture </u>
Object <u> </u>	Fair <u> </u>	National <u> </u>	Others <u> </u>
District <u> </u>	Deteriorated <u> </u>		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:	Yes <u> </u> No <u> </u> Restricted <u> X </u>	PRESENT USE:
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD:	Yes <u> X </u> No <u> </u>	Museum
OCCUPIED:	Yes <u> X </u> No <u> </u>	

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1898 ORIGINAL USE: School

ORIGINAL OWNER: School District No. 38 ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Cambridge School District #911 430 N.W. 8 Cambridge, Minnesota 55008	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u> 3 </u> / <u> 4 </u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Isanti County Historical Society Box 525, Cambridge, Minnesota 55008	UTM REFERENCE: Cambridge Quad. 15 / 480850 / 5047575
FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg	
DATE: December 1979	

DESCRIPTION:

The West Riverside School is located less than a mile west of the city of Cambridge on County Road 14. Most of the surrounding area is agricultural, with some recent residential development.

The one story building faces east and is constructed of a buff colored brick manufactured in neighboring Springvale Township. The structure is three bays by four bays and measures approximately twenty-five by thirty-seven feet. The front (east) facade consists of a door in a central projecting pavilion flanked by tall narrow windows set in arched openings. A transom light adorns the panelled front door. An open bell tower housing a black iron bell tops the central pavilion and breaks an otherwise plain hip roof. The slightly concave pyramidal roof of the bell tower is supported by four turned posts and is surmounted by a flagpole. A course of decorative brickwork circumvents the building above the windows and door. Four windows are located on the north and south facades. A bracketted cornice decorates the roof line, and a chimney is located at the rear of the building. A one room frame entry, probably added during the early part of the twentieth century, is located on the west side of the building.

A woodshed with privies on either end is located southwest of the school building. It is of frame construction and painted buff with brown trim.

Also located on the property are a water pump and a small log house that has been moved to the property and is being restored by the County Historical Society.

The buildings and grounds of the West Riverside School are in an excellent state of preservation. The school has been restored to its 1900 appearance by the Isanti County Historical Society, which maintains the building and uses it as a rural school museum and as a meeting place for historical society functions.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The West Riverside School (District No. 38) is significant as an outstanding example of the type of one-room schoolhouses that provided the setting for education in rural Isanti County in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Once Minnesota emerged from the pioneer stage, a comprehensive system of elementary education was set up based on local districts which covered areas ranging from two to ten sections of land each. In Isanti

(see continuation sheet)

West Riverside School, District No. 38

Isanti County
Cambridge Township

County these rural schools numbered sixty-seven; the West Riverside School is one of the finest remaining examples of this generation of schoolhouses. West Riverside School, District No. 38, was established in 1882, and the present brick building was constructed in 1898. An important function of the Isanti County rural schools was to help the immigrants learn the English language to prepare them for the American citizenship examination; the Swedish settlers of District No. 38 also conducted a "Swede School" each summer at West Riverside. In addition to being a place of learning, the rural school was an important community center for social and cultural events. The West Riverside School operated until 1971 when a new Minnesota law required final consolidation of remaining rural schools. The building has been leased to the Isanti County Historical Society, who has restored it to its 1900 appearance. In an interpretive program, turn of the century classes are conducted each summer. The building continues to serve as a community center as well.

Property *Isanti County Multiple Resource Area 2nd Control*
(Partial Inventory)

State *MN Isanti* Working Number *5.28.80.1427* *80002069 - 80002079*

TECHNICAL *Need SHPO signature & date* CONTROL
level significance plus acreage

Photos 15
 Maps 6/4

HISTORIAN

Returned for SHPO signature + date - now complete ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

9 individual properties in rural county in east-central Minnesota, notable as area of most concentrated Swedish settlement in U.S. Resources include 1 prosperous, well-preserved farmstead from era of potato boom around turn of century, a round barn representing county's dairy industry and notable as a distinctive building type, two rural schools, two churches assoc. w/ Swedish + German settlement, the county courthouse, high-style residence of a leading citizen (in town), and a farmers' storefront cooperative. All properties clearly eligible + well-documented.

Accept
O'Connell
7/23/80

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
 Review _____

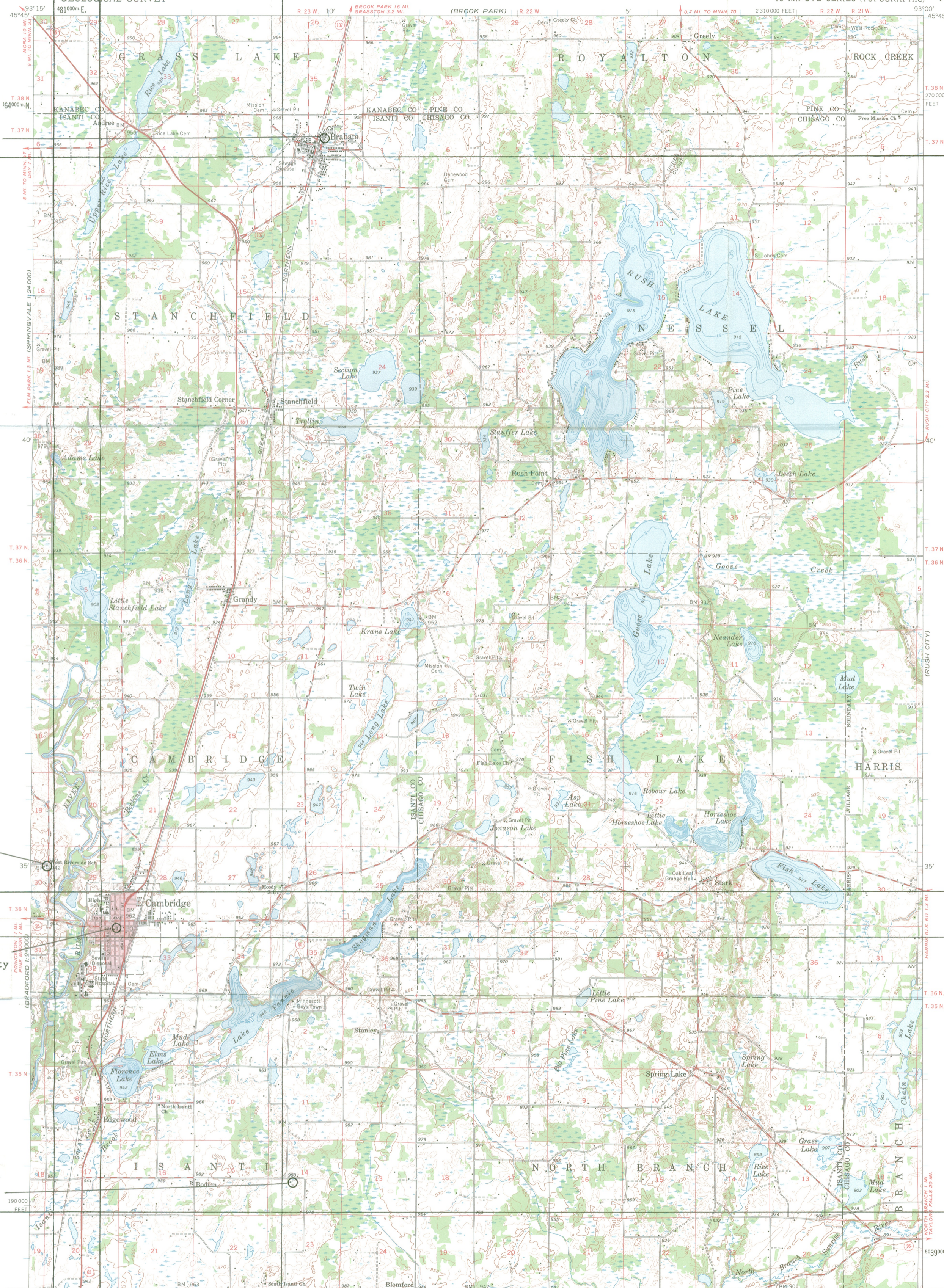
REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered JUL 24 1980
 Federal Register Entry 2.3.81 Re-submit _____

Oscar Olson House
Braham, MN; Isanti County
UTM References
15 / 486920 / 5063420



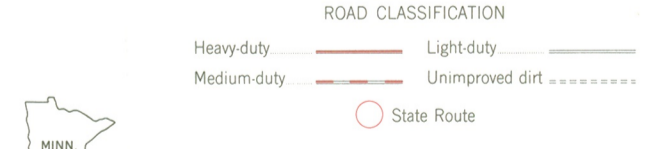
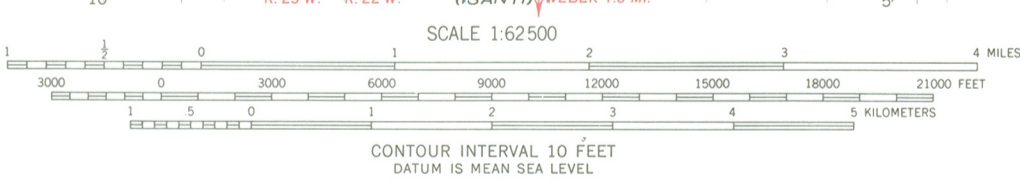
West Riverside School, District #38
Cambridge Twp., Isanti County
UTM References
15 / 480850 / 5047575
JUL 24 1980

Isanti County Courthouse
Cambridge, MN; Isanti County
UTM REFERENCES
15 / 482350 / 5046220

Linden Barn
Isanti Twp., Isanti County
UTM References
15 / 486245 / 5040640

Map edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and US&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1954. Field checked 1961
Depth curves compiled from charts furnished by
Minnesota Department of Conservation
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Minnesota coordinate system, central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown

TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH
APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1961



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
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A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CAMBRIDGE, MINN.
N 4530—W 9300/15
1961



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MINNESOTA

Date Entered JUL 24 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Isanti County Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)	Isanti County

Also Notified

Honorable David F. Durenberger
Honorable Rudy Boschwitz
Honorable James L. Oberstar

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Russell W. Fridley
Director, Minnesota Historical
Society
690 Cedar Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

NR

Byers/mjd

8/7/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

6 April, 1987

To: All National Register File Users

From: Mark L. Baker

A photocopy of this nomination was provided by the state office to replace the copy of the nomination that is missing from our files. This is not a copy of the original document that was included in the National Register.