

HISTORIC NAME: Norway Township Stone House

COUNTY: Fillmore

MAR 17 1982
Rushford, Minn.

CURRENT NAME: Overland House

CITY/TWP.: Norway Township

LEGAL DESC.:

ADDRESS:

See continuation sheet

County State
Aid Highway 10

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes ___ No Restricted ___

PRESENT USE:

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes No ___

Vacant

OCCUPIED: Yes No ___

DATE CONSTRUCTED: ca. 1870s-80s

ORIGINAL USE: farm residence

ORIGINAL OWNER: not documented

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Willard & Robert Overland
Route 2
Rushford, MN 55971ACREAGE: Less than one acre LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Fillmore County Historical Society
Box 193, Preston, MN

UTM REFERENCE:

FORM PREPARED BY: Robert M. Frame III, Ph.D.

15 / 598050 / 4842420

DATE: February, 1981

DESCRIPTION:

Located in rural Norway Township, not far from the crossroads hamlet of Bratsberg, the Overland House is a rectangular, two-story, rough coursed ashlar stone building with shingled gable roof. The house is oriented with the east-west roof ridge parallel to the road and front property line. A gable roof dormer is centered over the symmetrical primary (south) facade. Fenestration consists of six-over-six double-hung sash in symmetrically arranged segmental arch openings, and the front door is centered beneath the dormer and sheltered by a large wood frame porch. A fixed multi-light sash is located in the end gable.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Overland House is significant for its association with the Norwegian immigrant settlement of Fillmore County and particularly with Norway Township, one of the earliest and largest Norwegian settlements in southeastern Minnesota. The Norwegian dominance of the area is indicated by the township name which was given, according to an 1882 account, "in honor of the native country of almost every inhabitant of the township." In addition, the house is noteworthy for its vernacular stone masonry construction in a style unlike other stone houses in the county, having a broad and very symmetrical facade. The township was first settled in 1854 by the family of John Olson Overland whose descendants now own the house. The particular property upon which the house is situated was owned by Norwegian immigrant farmers from 1854 until the early decades of the twentieth century. It is believed that the house was constructed during the early 1870s during the ownership of Hans Franson (who heavily mortgaged the land in 1872 and 1873), followed in 1874 by Ole Hendrickson. Today the Overland House has become a landmark for residents of the area.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Commencing at the northeast corner of the northwest quarter of section 15, Township 103, Range 8, thence due west 500 ft. along the north section of said section; thence due south 400 ft., to arrive at point of beginning; thence due west 200 ft.; thence due south to the north edge of the right-of-way of County State Aid Highway 10; thence easterly along said right-of-way to a point due south of the point of beginning; thence due north to the point of beginning.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

History of Fillmore County. 1882. Pp. 376-82.