

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn
11/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Note: These changes apply to
Farmers Cooperative Mercantile
Company of West Stanford in
Isanti County, Minnesota.

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002079

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Isanti

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Isanti

ADDRESS: Co. Hwy. 7

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date