



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cole, Gordon and Kate D. Turner, House  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 111 2nd Street NW N/A  not for publication  
city, town Faribault N/A  vicinity  
state Minnesota code MN county Rice code 131 zip code 55021

3. Classification

Ownership of Property		Category of Property		Number of Resources within Property	
				Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)			1	0 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district			0	0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site			0	0 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure			0	0 objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object			1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Ian R. Stewart  
Signature of certifying official Ian R. Stewart Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date 6/25/90

State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota Historical Society

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet. Mark J. Baker August 3, 1990

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/multiple dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone

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walls wood/clapboard

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roof asphalt/shingles

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other 

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cole, Gordon E., House

Section number 7 Page 1

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The Gordon E. Cole House is a detached two story wood frame dwelling with clapboard siding resting on a native limestone foundation. Basically rectangular in plan, the structure has evolved through time and now has a complex footprint with an irregular roof, both truncated hipped and gabled. The residence is designed in the Italianate style with features that include a strong vertical orientation in massing and detailing, low pitched roof with overhanging eaves supported on paired decorative brackets, full-width one-story porch with narrow square columns with chamfered corners.

The main (north) elevation displays a highly stylized mixture of Italianate and classical detailing. The main massing and the southerly projecting wing is skirted with a one-story porch which wraps around to the east elevation. The porch (1889) displays square columns with chamfered corners and turned balusters and an extensive use of bracketing, modillions and dentillation. The southerly projecting wing echoes the elaborate detailing in the eaves. The north gable exhibits elaborate and elongated vertical modillions and dentils.

The east elevation, once the main elevation facing 1st Avenue, has a one-story porch defining the original 1867 entrance. The detailing of the "front" porch, eaves and gable were modified in the 1889 revisions and display the refined modillion and dentil treatment that is so prominent on the north elevation.

The main features of the south elevation are two two-story bays, on the main massing of the residence, which frame a masonry chimney (now lowered to the roof line). Each bay on each story exhibits a standard three window treatment.

The west elevation displays two prominent features: a gable with large fanlight, and a small one-story entry porch with similar post detailing to the south and east porches.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cole, Gordon E., House

Section number 7 Page 2

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The residence, although complex in footprint and massing, is unified by the highly evolved styling and abundance of classical detailing and is one of Faribault's most elaborate wood frame examples of Italianate influences in residential architecture.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G    N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Architecture

Period of Significance  
1889

Significant Dates  
1889

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cole, Gordon E., House

Section number 8 Page 1

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The Gordon E. And Kate D. Cole House is significant within the context of Faribault's aesthetic development as demonstrated through the built environment. The context encompasses the activities, institutions and buildings which represented the community's aspirations for physical beauty and culture as expressed through craftsmanship, art and architecture. (This context spans the Minnesota Historical Society context: *Agricultural Development and Railroad Construction*.) Buildings significant within this context exhibit a high degree of architectural sensitivity with special attention given to scale, stylistic vocabulary and use of quality materials.

Within that context, the Gordon E. Cole House is significant as one of Faribault's most elaborate wood frame examples of the Italianate influences in residential architecture. The structure is also significant as a fine example of the evolution from a simple, utilitarian building into a highly embellished, highly styled residence.

There are many factors which contribute to the aesthetic quality of a particular place. Faribault, Minnesota, is a community which, partially through fate and partially through insightful planning, achieved a high standard of civic pride. Early practices of social justice and tolerance did much to affect the enduring social and economic prosperity of the community. Proximity to natural building blocks did much to affect Faribault's architectural prosperity.

Locating on the Straight River the early residents had easy access to high quality limestone deposits within a mile of the Faribault settlement. Faribault's first three quarries were opened in the mid-1850s and owned separately by Alexander Faribault, Charles Wood and M.N. Pond. This indigenous natural resource, combined with the development of major religious and state institutions and their need for facilities, served to draw master craftsmen and designers to Faribault. Stonemasons William E. Jones, Edward Goodman, Thomas and Cormack McCall came to Faribault to work on the large stone contracts being generated by these

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cole, Gordon E., House

Section number 8 Page 2

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institutions. Similarly, architects Henry Congdon of New York City, Cass Gilbert of Saint Paul, Willcox and Johnston of Saint Paul, and Thomas F. Ellerbe worked on large commissions and have left a legacy of finely designed, native limestone buildings in Faribault.

The development of a network of railways through Faribault, (1865, 1882, and 1901) contributed to the quality and kinds of building materials available, especially in terms of finished lumber and plate glass. The technological development of mass produced lathe and jigsaw architectural detailing that grew out of the post-Civil War industrialization of the 1870s and 1880s also arrived in Faribault via the rails and was incorporated into the exuberant detailing of Faribault's residential architecture.

As the community and its institutions grew, so did civic and personal pride. The fine designs which flourished from the 1860s to the early 1900s were not, however, limited to public or ecclesiastical architecture; the designs of private homes displayed the same pride and sophistication as their more imposing institutional neighbors. The same entrepreneurs who were building elaborate Italianate commercial blocks on Central Avenue (then Main Street) were also building exquisite, highly refined Italianate and Queen Anne style homes in Faribault's residential neighborhoods.

The Cole House, a well preserved example of an evolved high style Italianate house, grew with the prominence of its owner, Gordon E. Cole. Little is known of the pre-1867 structure other than that it sat on a prominent location overlooking the Straight River Valley and the growing Faribault settlement. It is believed that the original structure was built in 1856.

The original building is believed to be part of the present complex of projections, bays and wings that now make up the residence. The most dramatic and readable

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cole, Gordon E., House

Section number 8 Page 3

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change came with an addition to the original house in 1867. At that time Cole constructed a large two-story mass to the front of his original home. The new addition displayed a truncated hipped roof with crowning cupola, and one-story front porch which spanned the entire front (east) elevation. The site was surrounded with an ornamental iron fence.

In 1889 Mr. Cole expanded and embellished his home with the raising to two full stories of the additions to the north and west of the original massing. With the construction of a modern two-story apartment building on the corner of First Street and Second Street NW, the north elevation now is considered the front elevation of the structure.

The *Faribault Republican* reported in 1867 that Cole was erecting a square mansion on the front of his former residence. The square massing with its truncated hipped roof and main entry on the east elevation can still be discerned. The 1867 structure faced on 1st Avenue and was capped with a cupola, long since removed. The structure was Italianate in styling with a one and one-half story wing to the north. The corner property was surrounded by an ornamental iron fence. In 1889 it was reported that Cole began improvements to his residence on 2nd Street. The original one and one-half story wing was elevated to the full two stories which now make up the front gabled elevation on 2nd Street NW. With the expansion in 1889 an abundance of handsome architectural detailing was added throughout to bring unity to the structure.

Gordon E. Cole was born in Massachusetts in 1833 and graduated from Harvard Law School in 1854. Cole moved to Faribault in 1857 and was elected Attorney General and served in that position from 1858 to 1865. In 1866 he was elected to the State Senate where he served one term representing the 8th District. After returning to his law practice and real estate holdings in Faribault, Cole was elected Mayor of Faribault in 1878. The following year in 1879 Gordon Cole was elected to the executive council of the State Historical Society. Cole maintained ownership of this home until his death in London in 1890.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

State historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify repository:

Fort Snelling History Center  
Saint Paul, Minnesota

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 

1	5	4	7	8	4	4	0	4	9	0	4	1	5	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

N/A  See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies Lot #2 with the exception of the east 34 feet and the south 35 feet, and Lot #3, Block 67, Original Town.

N/A  See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the city lots, and portions of city lots, that have historically been associated with the property. City legal description.

N/A  See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Thomas R. Zahn  
organization Thomas R. Zahn & Associates, Inc. date December 7, 1988  
street & number 807 Holly Avenue telephone (612) 227-9989  
city or town Saint Paul state Minnesota zip code 55104

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cole, Gordon E., House  
Section number 9 Page 1

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Central Republican, Faribault, Minnesota. 10/9/1867, 3:2.

Faribault Republican, Faribault, Minnesota. 6/3/1874, 3:2.

Ibid. 2/17/1875, 2:4.

Ibid. 1/8/1879, 3:3.

Ibid. 1/22/1879, 3:3.

Ibid. 4/16/1879, 3:3.

Ibid. 4/30/1879, 2:3.

Ibid. 2/14/1883, 3:4.

Ibid. 4/10/1889, 3:2.

Ibid. 10/8/1890, 3:4-5.

Ibid. 10/22/1890, 3:4.

Ibid. 10/29/1890, 3:4.

Ibid. 12/3/1890, 3:3.

Granger, Susan. Faribault's Historic Contexts: Final Report of a Historic Preservation Planning Project. Heritage Preservation Commission, Faribault, Minnesota. June 30, 1986.

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McAlester, Virginia & Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

Neill, Rev. Edward D. History of Rice County. Minneapolis: Minnesota Historical Co., 1882. p. 368, 369.

Zahn, Thomas R. Faribault Heritage Preservation Commission Planning Report. July, 1988.

"109 Structures," Heritage Preservation Commission, Faribault, Minnesota. 1982.