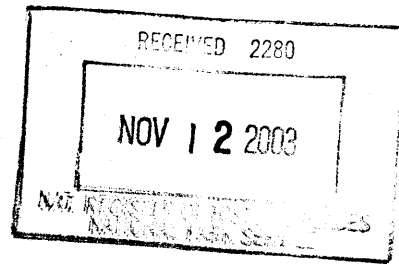


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Dayton, George D., House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 1311 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  not for publication N/A

city or town Worthington  vicinity N/A

state Minnesota code MN county Nobles code 105 zip code 56187

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ian R. Stewart 11/5/03  
Signature of certifying official Date

Ian R. Stewart, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

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

Edson H. Beall 12/23/03  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/

Colonial Revival / Georgian Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE (rusticated concrete block)

walls WOOD (clapboard)

roof ASPHALT (asphalt shingles)

other BRICK (chimney)

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- 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  
# \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

**Period of Significance**

1890-1902

**Significant Dates**

1890

1902

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Dayton, George D.

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Dow, Wallace L.

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Minnesota Historical Society, Siouxland Heritage Museum

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 0.51

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Worthington South, Minn.  
1960, Photorevised 1976

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>15</u>	<u>290754</u>	<u>4833041</u>	3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jennifer L. Hawkinson and Garneth O. Peterson

organization URS Corporation date May 1, 2003

street & number 700 Third Street South, Suite 7E telephone (612) 373-6532 and (612) 373-6890

city or town Minneapolis state MN zip code 55415

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Historic Worthington, Inc., c/o Pat Demuth

street & number 1311 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue telephone (507) 372-8680

city or town Worthington state MN zip code 56187

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   7   Page   1  

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

---

**Description**

The George Draper Dayton House sits on a corner lot at the junction of 13<sup>th</sup> Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Worthington, Minnesota. Located three blocks from the business district in a neighborhood within the original townsite, the property is surrounded by houses dating to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with dwellings that represent Queen Anne and Craftsman architectural styles. Across 13<sup>th</sup> Street to the southwest is Central Elementary School, a 1930s two-story brick school that replaced the previous 1890s school on the site. The Dayton House is positioned in the northern-most corner of the lot with its main façade facing southeast toward 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue (see Figure 1). The lot is minimally landscaped with scattered mature coniferous and deciduous trees, two larger shrubs along the southwest façade of the house, and two rows of small shrubs lining the northwestern and northeastern edges of the property.

The Dayton House, which is currently undergoing restoration, is a Colonial Revival/Georgian Revival style, two-and-one-half story wood frame building designed by Sioux Falls, South Dakota architect Wallace L. Dow and constructed in 1890. Rectangular in plan, the house sits on a rusticated concrete block foundation and is clad in wood clapboard. The cross-hipped roof was designed for a widow's walk at its apex (awaiting replacement) and has a gabled wing extending from the northwest (rear) facade. Clad in asphalt shingles, the roof is accentuated with two large pedimented roof dormers projecting from the southeast and northeast elevations and five small pedimented roof dormers located on the southwest, southeast, and northeast elevations. Two corbelled red brick chimneys, located near the main façade of the house, extend from the roofline of the southwest and northeast elevations. The house has a central entry with an original wood-paneled door and regularly spaced windows that are primarily one-over-one double-hung sash with wood storms.

Identifying elements of the Colonial style are the emphasis on a central entry with projecting gable, the regular fenestration as exhibited by the unpaired windows on the main façade, the use of segmental and triangular pediment detailing, the ornamental swag detail in the frieze above the windows of the southwest elevation, and a decorative entablature at both the porch and roofline incorporating eave brackets and dentil molding.

**Southeast Elevation**

The most intact of the four elevations, the southeast elevation, or main façade, is dominated by a one-story wrap-around front porch. Fluted Doric columns support a projecting porch roof overhang detailed with dentil molding. Replacement wood stairs lead to a porch with a wood

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   7   Page   2  

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

---

floor and ceiling. The central entry has original wood-paneled doors surrounded by a leaded glass transom and divided sidelights. The facade is arranged symmetrically around the main entrance with two single one-over-one double-hung sash located on either side of the door. The first floor windows are aligned vertically with matching windows on the second floor that are enhanced with segmental arched pediments embellished with a fan design.

Located directly above the main entry is a balcony area (currently without a railing). Balcony fenestration takes the form of a Palladian-style window, although the unit here is comprised of a wood door surmounted with a leaded glass fanlight flanked by two narrow sidelights, one containing leaded glass, while the other has a fixed replacement two-light sash. At the attic level, a central pedimented dormer with a modern triple casement window projects over the balcony entrance and is supported by fluted pilasters. The casement window replaced a previously closed gable with a segmental arch motif. Two smaller pedimented dormers with fixed replacement two-light windows flank the central dormer.

**Southwest Elevation**

A flat-roofed rectangular bay lined with one-over-one double-hung sash extends from the first floor of the southwest elevation. The railing that originally enclosed the area above the roof has been removed. On the second floor, two sets of paired double-hung sash decorated with an ornamental swag frieze flank a double-hung sash with the same arched pediment as on the main façade. Next to a chimney at the attic level is a small pedimented dormer with paired two-over-two double-hung sash. A second pedimented dormer containing a two-light fixed sash is located on the gabled rear wing, which is set back from this facade. This area was the location of a 32-x-48 ft two-story wing addition constructed in 1953 when the house was used as a nursing home. In 2002, the addition was removed as part of the restoration of the house. The area is now covered with a blue tarp, awaiting restoration work.

**Northwest Elevation**

The northwest elevation, which is the rear of the house, is the least ornamental of the four elevations. A portion of the one-story back porch that historically wrapped around the westernmost corner of the house was removed when the nursing home addition was constructed. The remaining section of the porch was subsequently enclosed; a door and paired three-light fixed window were inserted, concrete stairs with a wrought iron railing were added, and the foundation was covered with concrete.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   7   Page   3  

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

---

A gabled wing, retaining the gable end returns and roofline detailing of original construction, extends from the northernmost half of the facade. Two unpaired one-over-one double-hung sash are located on the first floor, a small fixed replacement two-light sash is positioned in the peak. A garage addition constructed in 1941 and previously attached to this portion of the house was removed during the course of restoration in 2002.

**Northeast Elevation**

The most prominent feature on the first floor of the northeast elevation is a grouped window that consists of a large fixed sash with a leaded glass transom flanked by leaded glass sidelights. The center portion is framed with a decorative segmental arched pediment. A second one-story, 18-x-30 ft nursing home addition, constructed in 1949, covered much of the area immediately northeast of the grouped window. The addition was also removed in 2002 as part of the restoration.

Five unpaired windows with one-over-one double-hung sash are located on the second floor. Three of the windows are accentuated with the same segmental arched pediment found on the southeast and southwest elevations. At the attic level is a projecting pedimented dormer with a single four-over-one double-hung sash located adjacent to a wood door that allows access to the interior attic stairs. The door and an exterior set of stairs leading to the roof of the addition were added shortly after construction of the one-story addition to provide an exit for residents living in the attic rooms. The stairs were removed with the addition in 2002. Located southeast of the larger dormer and next to a chimney is a smaller pedimented dormer with paired two-over-two double-hung sash.

**Interior**

The interior of the house is also undergoing extensive restoration, but several original features of the house remain intact. Cherry and oak woodwork is found throughout the first floor. Cherry wood-paneled entry doors lead from the porch into a vestibule with a white and green hexagon tile floor edged in square red, white, and green tile. The central hall is embellished with a wood mosaic floor, cherry staircase, and an ornately carved wood screen above the stair landing. Double-sided cherry and oak pocket doors separate the hall from a sitting room to the southwest and a parlor to the northeast.

The sitting room contains an in-filled fireplace with a wood mantle and decorative tile hearth and surround. Oak pocket doors connect the sitting room to a nursery behind. A small conservatory

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   7   Page   4  

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

---

off the sitting room to the southwest connects to a bay extending from the nursery. Included in the parlor is a wood mosaic floor and another fireplace with a wood mantle, decorative tile hearth and surround, and a mirror above. Ornately carved wood trim borders the fireplace and mirror. From the parlor, oak pocket doors lead into a library behind, the most prominent feature of which is a large grouped window to the northeast, described earlier.

The dining room and kitchen are located behind the nursery and library in the westernmost and northernmost corners of the house, respectively. Both rooms have been extensively altered by subsequent additions to the house when it was used as a nursing home; however paneled oak wainscoting, the only example of it in the house, still remains on the northwest and southeast walls of the dining room.

Less ornate than the first floor, the second floor has a center hall with a curved wall near the staircase that leads to the balcony over the front porch. Off the hall, four main chambers or bedrooms are positioned toward the front of the house, two to the southwest and two to the northeast. Two intact fireplaces with decorative tile surrounds are situated in the southernmost and easternmost chambers. Two servants' quarters are located off the rear hall above the dining room and kitchen. A less elaborate version of the woodwork on the first floor is found throughout the second floor.

The attic, which was originally unfinished, was sectioned off in the 1950s to accommodate additional nursing home residents. No historically significant features remain.

**Summary**

The George D. Dayton House has experienced over a century of intense use. Beginning in the 1940s when the house was converted into a nursing home, several episodes of remodeling considerably altered the building's appearance. Numerous alterations to the home, including the installation of a triple casement window in the central pedimented dormer of the main façade, the insertion of a wood door into the attic dormer on the northwest elevation, and construction of three additions, has resulted in the loss of a number of interior and exterior features and ornamentation. Consequently, the overall integrity of the house has been diminished, but current efforts are being made to restore the house closer to its original 1890 appearance.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   8   Page   1  

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

---

**Statement of Significance**

The George D. Dayton House is significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion B in the area of commerce for its association with George Draper Dayton and the prominent role he played in the business life and growth of the southwest Minnesota community of Worthington. As president of the Bank of Worthington and the Minnesota Loan and Investment Company, George Dayton facilitated the commercial and cultural development of the community. His business success allowed him to also contribute to the social, educational, and religious life of Worthington. The period of significance for the house extends from 1890 to 1902, from its construction until Dayton and his family left Worthington for Minneapolis. The building fits within the statewide historic context entitled "Railroads and Agricultural Development (1870-1940)."

In order to place George Draper Dayton and his position in Worthington in perspective, it is necessary to understand Nobles County and Worthington at the time that Dayton arrived. Events in the early history of Worthington and Nobles County seemed to follow the economic and settlement trends typical of the Upper Midwest at that time. These trends ultimately affected the development of the region, and were factors that guided Dayton's activities in Worthington.

**Settlement of Nobles County and Worthington**

Nobles County was established in May of 1857, eight years after the organization of the Minnesota territory and following in the wake of widespread emigration to the territory from eastern states. Located along the Minnesota-Iowa border in the southwestern corner of the state, the county was named for William H. Nobles. A member of the Minnesota territorial legislature in 1854 and 1856, Nobles advocated the construction of a wagon road across southwestern Minnesota.<sup>1</sup>

Although established in 1857, permanent settlement in Nobles County did not begin until a decade later. The financial panic of 1857, along with the Spirit Lake Massacre at nearby Spirit Lake, Iowa that same year, ceased the influx of settlers to the territory and significantly reduced activity in southwestern Minnesota. The outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, and the U.S.-Dakota Conflict of 1862, halted further emigration and frightened off the few pioneer families in the county. It took another five years before permanent settlers were confident enough to return. In the meantime, trappers frequented much of the region, lured by the plentiful game and numerous lakes, ponds and creeks within the area.<sup>2</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   8   Page   2  

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

---

Military expeditions against the Indians in the 1860s resulted in the construction of military roads that passed through Nobles County, including one extending from Jackson, Minnesota, west to Yankton, South Dakota. A second road starting in Blue Earth County connected with the Nobles County road near Graham Lakes. This system of roads provided easy access to the heavily forested area of Graham Lakes in northeastern Nobles County, where the Muck brothers, first settlers of the county, came in 1867. The first inhabitants of what would later become Worthington came the following year. Arriving as part of a trapping expedition, W. A. Dillman, Frank Fortner, and John Wilson soon constructed sod dugouts on the northeastern shore of East Lake Okabena. Of the three, Dillman was the only one to stay in Worthington, remaining there for the rest of his life. Larger numbers of settlers came to the region in late 1870 as rumor spread that the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad was to be built through the county. The considerable population increase resulted in the formation of a county government in the fall of 1870.<sup>3</sup>

The railroad also led to more permanent settlement as a result of Miller, Humiston & Company's determination to organize "a company for the purpose of locating a colony of settlers in some western country."<sup>4</sup> Earlier that year, four Ohio men, D. R. Locke, Professor R. F. Humiston, Dr. A. P. Miller (editor of an Ohio newspaper called the *Toledo Blade*) and A. P. Miller (no relation), established their company and, after considerable exploration, chose Nobles County. It offered a vast fertile prairie that was ideal for farming, and the new Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad that would provide a connection to the major markets. Construction of the railroad had begun in the spring of 1871 and was scheduled for completion in the spring of the following year.<sup>5</sup>

It did not take much time before a deal was made to acquire railroad lands "in 12 townships of Nobles [C]ounty and three and one-half townships of Osceola [C]ounty, Iowa."<sup>6</sup> The colony founded on this land, known as the National Colony, established its headquarters at the location the railroad had earlier surveyed for its Okabena station. As part of the sale agreement with the railroad, it was up to the founders of the colony to provide a name for the new townsite. The site was eventually called Worthington after Dr. A. P. Miller's mother-in-law's maiden name. His wife's family was very proud of the name for its association with Thomas Worthington, a former governor of Ohio, and General J. T. Worthington, who fought in the American Revolution.<sup>7</sup>

Almost immediately after establishment in the fall of 1871, settlers began migrating to the National Colony based in Worthington. Only a few came the first fall, staking their claim and then returning home for the winter, planning to come back the following spring. Over the winter, Miller, Humiston & Company feverishly advertised their new colony in the newspapers of the

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   8   Page   3  

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

---

eastern states.<sup>8</sup> They touted it as a temperance colony offering “no ague, no consumption, no liquor traffic, no desperados, [and] no Indians.”<sup>9</sup> By the spring of 1872, the company’s efforts paid off as colonists flocked to the area, expedited by the establishment of regular rail service to Worthington.<sup>10</sup>

During 1872, between 500 and 700 families settled in the colony. A frenzy of construction in Worthington began as more and more people flooded into the blossoming village. By late summer, the number of buildings in Worthington had jumped from 13 the previous fall to 85, including everything from hotels, restaurants and grocery stores to blacksmiths, cobblers and physicians. The village even had a newspaper called the *Advance*. The colony attracted mostly American-born people with strong religious values, exhibited by the fact that three churches (Congregational, Methodist, and Presbyterian) were established between late 1872 and early 1873 to accommodate the several denominations present in the community. In November of 1873, Worthington was named the county seat.<sup>11</sup>

Unfortunately, the prosperity was not meant to last. In June of 1873, a wave of grasshoppers hit the town and, the following year, four successive waves of the insects stripped local fields between June and early August. The grasshoppers continued to sweep the county every summer through 1879. Some farmers became destitute or bankrupt, while others were forced to leave. Regrettably, the grasshopper plague also had a detrimental effect on the National Colony, which went bankrupt in 1876.<sup>12</sup>

Although the colony failed, it was successful in establishing the village of Worthington. Following the losses of the 1870s, Worthington experienced a long period of sustained prosperity. Agriculture boomed in the early 1880s and settlers began supplementing their grain farming with livestock. In 1882, a branch of the Burlington railroad was completed, further connecting Worthington with Spirit Lake, Iowa. More settlers migrated to the area, resulting in new towns and businesses. It was during this period of prosperity that George D. Dayton arrived in Worthington to build his business career.<sup>13</sup>

**George D. Dayton’s Early Life**

Born in 1857 in Clifton Springs, New York, George Draper Dayton was the son of David D. Dayton, a physician, and Caroline W. Draper, the daughter of a former Methodist minister. Three months after his birth, George’s family moved permanently to Geneva, New York. In 1868, David Dayton, who had retired from medicine, opted to manage a nursery and employed his two

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   8   Page   4  

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

---

sons, giving eleven-year-old George his first taste of work. George continued to work in the nursery until he was sixteen, at which time he prepared himself to enter college to become a minister.<sup>14</sup>

George had wanted to become a minister since early childhood. He had always had a strong connection to religion and joined the Presbyterian Church at age nine. His parents were active members of both the Presbyterian and Methodist churches and several of his family members were ministers. Unfortunately, following the financial panic of 1873, David Dayton had only enough money to send one of his sons to college. The decision was made to send George's older brother Edson and David Dayton arranged for George to become an apprentice in a coal, lumber, nursery and vintage company in 1874, forever altering the path of George's life from ministry to business.<sup>15</sup>

It was at this same time that George Dayton met his future wife, Emma Willard Chadwick, who also had strong religious connections. Emma was a student at Starkey Seminary, which was run by her parents, both educators. Her father was also a former Baptist minister.<sup>16</sup> George Draper Dayton II would later describe Emma (his grandmother) as a "strong woman of Quaker background who took an active interest in her husband's business but repeatedly declined honors."<sup>17</sup> This appears to accurately characterize the role of supportive wife that she would eventually play in her husband's activities in Worthington.

After meeting Emma, George made the decision that he should not marry until he was 21 and had saved \$5,000. Consequently, he spent the next five years working toward that end. Within one year's apprenticeship at the coal and lumberyard, Dayton was so successful in soliciting sales and earned such high commissions that the owner was forced to sell him the business. Determined to reach his goal of saving \$5,000, and pay off the \$7,000 debt acquired from the sale of the coal and lumberyard, George worked himself to exhaustion. After eventually collapsing, his father sold the business and took him home. In 1877, Dayton was hired by John McKay, the owner of a lumberyard and sawmill. Using some of the profit from the sale of the coal and lumberyard, George purchased a house. By December of the following year, having reached his goals, George Dayton finally married Emma Chadwick. Their first child, David Draper, was born in June of 1880.<sup>18</sup>

Dayton remained in McKay's employ, eventually being given full charge of the office and banking operations, until 1883. Two years prior, Dayton learned of investment opportunities in the Midwest. Prominent New Yorkers were investing there to fund farms and homesteads for the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 5

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

---

vast numbers of immigrants moving to the area. Thomas H. Parsons, a friend of Dayton's and owner of a share in the Bank of Worthington, was promoting ventures in the town. Several people invested with him, but when they heard of continuing problems in Worthington resulting from the grasshopper scourge, they sent George to Minnesota to investigate. Since the bank was vital for the protection of the investments of those in New York, they arranged for George to buy the bank to oversee the Easterner's holdings. Therefore, in 1883, shortly after the birth of his second child, Caroline Ward, Dayton moved his family from Geneva to the prairies of Worthington, Minnesota.<sup>19</sup>

Upon arrival in Worthington, Dayton's family moved regularly in the following decade. In 1883, Dayton bought a house at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 13<sup>th</sup> Street from local lumberman Azom Forbes. In August of 1886, George Nelson, Dayton's third child was born. In 1888, George built a new Queen Anne-style home for his family at the corner of Grand Avenue and Okabena Street in Clary's Addition. Clary's Addition was a 110-acre parcel that Dayton had platted and developed as an investment, and his location there, as well as his own purchase of eight lots, was a sign of his own faith in the new area. The subdivision, located at the edge of the original townsite, was platted according to the points of the compass instead of the angled orientation that the townsite had as it faced Lake Okabena. Clary's Addition was planned as 13 blocks, each of ten acres with 20 lots per block. Amenities included a 100-foot wide Grand Avenue with a center median lined with trees and a small park.<sup>20</sup>

Dayton's Queen Anne house no doubt attempted to set an architectural tone for the new subdivision, as the *Worthington Advance* announced that it "looms up and spreads out like the Queen's Castle at Balmoral, and will be a standing advertisement to every passenger whisking by on the St. Paul and Omaha."<sup>21</sup> Dayton also decided to move his previous home, purchased from Forbes, to the new subdivision and located it at Burlington Avenue and Okabena Street.<sup>22</sup>

George and Emma Dayton brought a new daughter, Josephine, into the family in 1889. Although a new child may have precipitated a desire for more family room, Dayton made plans for yet another house in 1890, to be built on the site of the former house at 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 13<sup>th</sup> Street.

Dayton hired Sioux Falls, South Dakota architect Wallace L. Dow to design a grand new residence on the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue site. He had acquired eight lots on the block, creating a large parcel that would be fitting for the new home.<sup>23</sup>

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   8   Page   6  

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

---

Although Dayton has not left a clear record of his decision to build in 1890, he may have wanted a more commanding location, or a bigger site, for his residence. His businesses prospered (see below) and his home reflected his prominence. Certainly 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue already held many community institutions such as the public school (across 13<sup>th</sup> Street), and the Episcopal and Lutheran Churches. In the following decade, a new courthouse was constructed, the Congregational Church, and Westminster Presbyterian Church (of which the Daytons were active members) were all constructed along 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue within several blocks of the Dayton home.<sup>24</sup>

If the location was on a prominent street, the Dayton's new home design was also noteworthy in Worthington. The home was described as "an important and sightly [sic] ornament added to the residence portion of our village, and few cities contain family residences more fitly adapted or more elegantly adorned." The house's design was intended to resemble a New England-style dwelling. Features included the front porch, with "an imposing row of Ionic pillars," a pair of huge chimneys, and a widow's walk, "borrowed from the beloved tradition of the eastern seacoast." The house became a visible symbol of Dayton's business acumen and his dedication to quality.<sup>25</sup>

The Dayton family settled into the home at 1311 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue where their four children entertained friends at home and on the vast lawn. According to family remembrances, the Daytons were happy in the home and would remain there through the 1890s as financial difficulties affected business, and George Dayton began to expand his investments outside Worthington.<sup>26</sup>

### **Dayton's Business and Investments**

During the course of George Dayton's time in Worthington, his business interests focused primarily on banking and real estate, the two of which often intertwined. In 1883, when George first arrived in Worthington to head the bank, he immediately set to work buying local properties as investments and finding steady, reliable farmers to move into the area. When granting credit to new settlers, Dayton did not always choose those who were a good credit risk, but rather those he judged of good character.<sup>27</sup> It was said that "many a prosperous farmer...owes his start to the faith Mr. Dayton had in him, and the credit he got as a result."<sup>28</sup> Once credit was given, Dayton did everything to ensure the farmer's success because "the best way to assure that borrowers paid their mortgages and investors profited...was to help them improve the finest real estate they could afford."<sup>29</sup>

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   8   Page   7  

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

---

To that end, Dayton suggested a diversified agricultural program incorporating cattle, hogs, poultry, and corn to restore the soil that was depleted from years of wheat farming.<sup>30</sup> To support his program, George provided farmers with bank loans, carloads of seed corn, and subscriptions to a hog farming magazine. He also advocated the growing of apples, having the bank pay for original plantings for anyone interested. In addition, Dayton was always willing to take mortgage payments in kind in lieu of cash, often suggesting the farmers pay in hay or with "half the money received from cream each month."<sup>31</sup> Dayton set an example by employing diversified agriculture at the 800-acre farm east of Worthington that he operated in partnership with Charles H. Bond. The farm had been acquired, in part, in exchange for the brick house he had owned in Geneva, New York.<sup>32</sup>

In 1883, Dayton also entered into a short-lived partnership in a lumber and fuel business with Azom Forbes. The following year, George started the Minnesota Loan and Investment Company to separate his growing real estate business from the commercial banking. In order to concentrate on the new company, of which he was president, Dayton dissolved his partnership with Forbes. In the following years, the company acquired land in Minnesota, Iowa, and North and South Dakota, as well as in and around Worthington. From 1884 to 1887, boom years of expansion in the Upper Midwest, the company more than tripled its assets. It had acquired enough land in Worthington by 1887 to plat the 110-acre residential subdivision known as Clary's Addition where Dayton resided for several years. The company continued to buy and sell farmland in the area, as well as promote the development of Worthington, owning approximately 330 acres on the north side of town by 1888.<sup>33</sup>

At the same time the Minnesota Loan and Investment Company was thriving, the Bank of Worthington also prospered. A new bank building, the first major building project in Worthington, was completed in 1886. The same year the Bank of Worthington building was constructed, the bank was awarded a two-year contract for the deposit of all Nobles County funds. From 1887 to 1889, exchange business at the bank rose 75 percent. The bank was doing so well that, in 1888, another bookkeeper was hired.<sup>34</sup>

Dayton was certainly among the leaders in Worthington, although his contemporaries also prospered during this time. Among them was Azom Forbes, Dayton's former business partner, who continued to run the lumberyard until 1893, when James S. Rampage bought him out. Justin Pierce (J. P.) Moulton, Dayton's real estate partner, was an incorporator, director, and vice president of the Minnesota Loan and Investment Company. He partnered with Dayton in

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   8   Page   8  

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

---

incorporating the Worthington Milling Company and the Minnesota Northern Railroad Company, of which he served as general manager (see Dayton's Civic and Religious Life below). Living in Worthington until his death in 1893, Moulton also served the community as a justice of the peace, a member of the school board, and an alderman.<sup>35</sup>

Charles Joseph (C. J.) Smallwood, a later owner of the Dayton House, was also a prominent businessman in Worthington. Moving to town in 1892, Smallwood initially ran a lumber business and grocery, but was best known for developing the first telephone exchange in Worthington. He was a member of the Worthington Co-op Creamery Association and served as treasurer of the school board for eight years. In 1895, he was even elected president of the village council. He continued to live in Worthington until his death in 1908.<sup>36</sup>

Also prominent in Worthington was Peter Thompson, the proprietor of the town newspaper, the *Worthington Globe*, and owner of the Thompson Hotel, Worthington's leading hotel. He also owned the Nobles County Bank, a private institution and Dayton's only competition in town. During the Panic of 1893 (see below), the bank was forced to close its doors. Thompson reopened the bank in 1894, but sold it later that year to E. A. Lynd and W. M. Evans. He then went into business for himself as an abstractor of titles and farm loans.<sup>37</sup>

Of these early leaders, however, Dayton was best able to weather the economic challenges ahead. During the late 1880s and early 1890s, as the town and those in it prospered, Dayton's businesses experienced exceptional growth. Unfortunately, they soon suffered a terrible blow. The financial panic of 1893 caused problems across the nation as banks and trust companies failed, crop and livestock prices dropped, and numerous railroads went bankrupt. Up to 1893, the Bank of Worthington had been operated as a private enterprise with its profits going directly to the Minnesota Loan and Investment Company. Fortunately Dayton, foreseeing a panic, had incorporated the bank earlier in the year to separate the two companies. This provided the institution with a more stable structure that helped it weather a four-day "run" on the bank in July of 1893. Unlike the Nobles County Bank across the street, the Bank of Worthington did not fail, but its assets were reduced to 1883 levels, as experienced during Dayton's first year in Worthington. The profits of the loan company were almost nothing.<sup>38</sup>

Hard times continued through the decade, but Dayton put everything he had, including his own money, into helping the bank recover. To help make ends meet, Emma Dayton took in boarders at their new house at 1311 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. By October of 1893, Dayton's efforts began to pay off as



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   8   Page   9  

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

---

the bank reported a 21 percent increase in assets.<sup>39</sup> Dayton struggled over the next four years to keep the bank afloat, but he would later state that he was proud of the fact that “not a business house...that did business with us failed – we tided them through the panic of 1893 and the hard years of 1894, '95, '96 and '97.”<sup>40</sup>

By the fall of 1898, as the nation and his companies were well on the road to recovery, Dayton's interests began to move elsewhere. Although he continued to sell lots in Clary's Addition and the newly platted Clifton Addition (adjoining Clary's Addition on the east and platted in 1901), his efforts focused more and more on Minneapolis. As early as 1892, George started acquiring land along Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis in order to diversify the holdings of his Minnesota Loan and Investment Company.<sup>41</sup> Dayton chose Minneapolis because the city was “growing at a spectacular rate, and the downtown and residential districts were ripe for new development.”<sup>42</sup> By 1898, the company owned \$700,000 worth of Minneapolis real estate and, in order to devote more time to it, Dayton sold his shares in the Bank of Worthington.<sup>43</sup>

In 1901, he began construction on a six-story business block at the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis that would later house his famous department store. In order to ensure the success of his new venture, Dayton was intent on finding strong tenants. To that end, Dayton acquired stock in the R. S. Goodfellow Company, the fourth largest department store in the city. By 1902, the pull of his vast holdings in Minneapolis, as well as the construction of his new business block and opening of the mercantile business, made it impossible for Dayton to stay in Worthington.<sup>44</sup> Dayton moved his family to Minneapolis in 1902. As Dayton later stated, “it was hard to ‘tear up’ at Worthington and move away, but it seemed necessary.”<sup>45</sup> Dayton, still fond of the home he had built for his family in Worthington, had a similar home constructed in Minneapolis at 2020 Blaisdell Avenue.<sup>46</sup> The house has been razed and is now the site of a Park-Nicollet Clinic.

### **Dayton's Civic and Religious Life**

The success of George Dayton's business ventures in Worthington allowed him and his family to donate a significant amount of their time and money toward civic and philanthropic endeavors. George's strong religious background taught him that “service is the greatest commitment of life.”<sup>47</sup> His definition of success was “making [one's self] useful in the world, valuable in society, helpful in lifting the level of humanity.”<sup>48</sup> This led him to seek out ways to better the community around him. Four years after arriving in Worthington, when his businesses were prospering, George turned his attention to projects that would improve the town.<sup>49</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   8   Page   10  

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

---

During his first year in Worthington, Dayton organized and was elected president of the Worthington Board of Trade, a group formed to deal with issues of immigration, railroads, and county development. In 1887, he bought and renovated an old flour mill in an attempt to bring some of the flour milling business back to the community. Incorporated as the Worthington Flour Milling Company, the mill was opened for business in December of 1887. Unfortunately, it was plagued by problems and Dayton eventually sold it to local farmers in 1892. Also in 1887, Dayton incorporated the Minnesota Northern Railway Company, in an effort to build a railway to connect Worthington with the Manitoba rail system. The company was unable to obtain a suitable bonding deal and the railroad was never built.<sup>50</sup> Dayton was also active in civic affairs and promoting community betterment. In 1892, George served on several committees of the Worthington Improvement Association, working towards completing several projects for the town such as stone street gutters and uniform sidewalks. Dayton was also concerned with education, serving on the Worthington Board of Education for four three-year terms. He also oversaw the construction of a new school building across the street from his home in 1889.<sup>51</sup>

Coming from a family with a strong connection to the church, Dayton incorporated religion into his everyday life. This importance was most apparent in the immense amount of work George and his family did for the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Worthington. During the period 1885-1902, George held many positions within the church, including church clerk, elder, and trustee. When the church wanted to construct a new building in 1898, George chaired the building committee for the new stone church, dedicated in 1900. He and Emma also taught Sunday school, of which George served as superintendent. Emma was an officer of the Ladies Presbyterian Missionary, Home Missionary, and Ladies Aid Associations and hosted numerous church events in the Dayton home. In addition, each year after their arrival in Worthington, the Dayton family gave a tithing to the church.<sup>52</sup>

Dayton's civic and religious contributions played an important role in the building of Worthington institutions and the improvement of life in the community. George's dedication to service was a life-long commitment, exhibited by his numerous contributions to Westminster Presbyterian Church in both Worthington and Minneapolis. Well after the family had moved to Minneapolis, they continued to maintain their connection with the church in Worthington by giving monetary gifts, including a \$500 donation in 1930 for manse repairs and another in 1933 to aid in paying off church debt.<sup>53</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   8   Page  11 

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

---

**Dayton in Minneapolis**

Dayton's business experience, honed in Worthington, led to even greater success in Minneapolis. It was there that Dayton established the Dayton Investment Company, the successor to the Minnesota Loan and Investment Company, operating it until 1932. His department store, initially known as Goodfellow Dry Goods, then Dayton Dry Goods, and eventually The Dayton Company, did exceptionally well. The store weathered the Financial Panic of 1907, the stock market crash of 1929, and the Great Depression that followed. Dayton's success in the mercantile business allowed him to create The Dayton Foundation in 1909.<sup>54</sup> The foundation's sole purpose was "to aid in promoting the welfare of humankind anywhere in the world, whether generally or in individual cases, or in restricted localities or communities."<sup>55</sup> Dayton's continued affiliation with religion is reflected in the fact that one-quarter of the foundation's funds were devoted strictly to religious purposes.<sup>56</sup>

Dayton continued to contribute to the Presbyterian Church, becoming a member of the First Presbyterian Church, and later the Westminster Presbyterian Church, both in Minneapolis. Dayton continued to support education, serving as a member of the Macalester College Board of Trustees. Until his death in 1938, Dayton contributed to life in Minneapolis in much the same way as he did in Worthington.<sup>57</sup> His immense contributions to the city led *The Minneapolis Star* to state in the subtitle of his obituary that he was the "Merchant Known Far and Wide for His Philanthropies." According to the article, Dayton "was one of the outstanding businessmen of Minneapolis and the nation and a prominent figure in the Presbyterian Church of the United States."<sup>58</sup>

**Conclusion**

George Dayton was unable to study for the ministry, the vocation that was his first career choice. His subsequent career in business, however, may ultimately have been a more fortunate choice that allowed Dayton to carry out his religious principles in his daily life. Dayton's business acumen provided him with a platform to invest and help to build the community of Worthington, Minnesota. His bank provided loans to local farmers and businesses, and his investment company developed land that attracted farmers and helped expand Worthington. Dayton's business principles were guided by his religious principles, and he judged loan applicants based on their character rather than their credit rating. In a real sense, Dayton's business facilitated the building of the community. As Dayton prospered, he was able to work toward community

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   8   Page   12  

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

---

improvement, as well as carry out his religious principles through active support of Westminister Presbyterian Church in Worthington.

Dayton's house at 1311 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue was his third home in Worthington within seven years. His frequent housing changes may have reflected his growing family. It seems probable, however, that his housing choices reflected his investments and support for the community. After platting Clary's Addition, Dayton built a house there, exhibiting his confidence in the new residential area. Yet he must have felt that 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue was a better location for their family home, even relocating an older home from that site in order to build a grand new residence at that location. According to family reminiscences, the new house on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue was a happy family home that the Daytons replicated after their move to Minneapolis. Dayton's business successes were great, in Worthington, and his house on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue stands as the most visible symbol of his business success in the city.

**Building Ownership After George D. Dayton**

After the Dayton family moved to Minneapolis in 1902, the house changed hands several times and was owned by families who were locally prominent. Florence and Charles Smallwood resided in the house from 1902 until Florence's death in 1921. Florence Smallwood, daughter of J.P. Moulton, a long-time real estate partner of George Dayton's, was a painter and a Sunday school teacher in the Union Congregational Church. Her husband, Charles, was best known for developing the first telephone exchange in Worthington.<sup>59</sup>

Florence Smallwood's daughter Mary and her husband, State Senator John Cashel, lived in the house in the 1920s. John Cashel also served as president of the Citizens' National Bank for seven years. In 1931, Mary died at the young age of 43. Shortly after her death, John Cashel married Ruth Gertz and they continued to live in the house. John Cashel died in 1938. In order to make ends meet, Ruth Cashel converted the home into a boarding house/nursing home (circa 1940), and operated it for more than 50 years. This marks the period in the building's history when the most structural changes occurred to the house.<sup>60</sup>

In 1992, Melvin Gjertsen bought the house. He sold it in 2001 to Historic Worthington, Inc., which bought the house with plans to preserve and restore the building.<sup>61</sup>

Although several of the owners of the house were important local families, in terms of National Register criteria, they do not appear to meet the significance requirements necessary for listing in

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   8   Page   13  

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

---

the National Register of Historic Places. The house's significance stems from its association with Dayton and the prominent role he played in the economic development of Worthington.

**Wallace L. Dow**

Wallace L. Dow, South Dakota's premier architect in the 1880s, was born in Croyden, New Hampshire, in 1844. The son of a carpenter and nephew of an architect, Dow learned much of what he knew of those trades from them. In 1873, he started his own business, W. L. Dow and Company, specializing in the construction of churches. Political connections with South Dakota Territorial Governor Nehemiah Ordway, however, led to Dow's appointment as chair of the Penitentiary Board in the territory and his commission to design the territorial penitentiary. This no doubt led to Dow's relocation to Pierre, Dakota Territory, in 1880, and to Sioux Falls in 1883.<sup>62</sup>

During the expansionist period of the 1880s, Dow continued to receive many contracts for large public and private institutions in the Dakota Territory, apparently stemming from his relationship with Governor Ordway. Dow's other major works in South Dakota included the Yankton Hospital for the Insane, and the School for the Deaf, the All Saints School, and the Old Minnehaha County Courthouse, the latter three institutions located in Sioux Falls. Most of his designs, employing styles of the late nineteenth century, utilized locally available Sioux quartzite as a building material.<sup>63</sup>

Although primarily known for his large Sioux quartzite governmental and institutional structures, Dow also designed private residences for several wealthy businessmen in Sioux Falls in the late 1880s. These designs, meant to convey the occupant's success and status, were fairly ornate and usually of the Queen Anne style.<sup>64</sup> Several extant examples of his residential commissions in Sioux Falls include the T. B. Martin House (Pettigrew House and Museum), the John Tuthill residence, and the C. E. Johnson House. Dow likely had an active residential design practice along with his governmental and institutional commissions. His 1890 design for the Dayton House appears to fit in this category. Done in the Colonial Revival/Georgian Revival style, the design of the house incorporates aspects of the Colonial style and appears to relate more to the New England roots of Dayton and Dow rather than the architectural style of Dow at the time.

A complete study on Dow's residential designs could reveal additional information about the house but has not been undertaken to date.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   8   Page  14 

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

---

**Summary**

The George D. Dayton House at 1311 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue is the most visible symbol of Dayton's business success and civic leadership in Worthington, Minnesota. Built in 1890, the house was the third of his residences in the growing community, and constructed after seven year's success in banking and land development. Throughout his years in Worthington, Dayton applied his religious principles in daily life, both in conducting his business but also through active support of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Dayton and his family remained in the house until 1902, when his expanded business activities led the family to move to Minneapolis. In Minneapolis, Dayton used the business skills developed in Worthington to build the Dayton Company department store chain, a premier Minnesota business. He also established The Dayton Foundation in 1909, dedicated to promoting the welfare of humankind. The Dayton house in Worthington remains the most visible symbol of his business success in his early career, a time when George D. Dayton developed the business and philanthropic skills that he later expanded to a much wider marketplace.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 15

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Arthur P. Rose, *An Illustrated History of Nobles County* (Marceline, Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Co., 1976), 35; Works Projects Administration (WPA), *Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota: Nobles County* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Project, Works Projects Administration, 1939), 4.

<sup>2</sup> Al Goff, ed., *Nobles County History* (St. Paul: Webb Publishing Company, 1958), 3-4; Rose, 36, 40.

<sup>3</sup> Goff, 4-5; Rose, 42; Lew Hudson, *From New Cloth: The Making of Worthington* (Worthington, Minnesota: American Legion Auxiliary Calvin-Knuth Unit #5, 1976), 7.

<sup>4</sup> Rose, 61.

<sup>5</sup> Hudson, 16; WPA, 7; Raymond Crippen, *The Names of Nobles County: How the Names for the Towns and the Townships, the Lakes and the Streams, and the Streets Came to Be* (On file at the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, 1990), 17.

<sup>6</sup> Hudson, 16.

<sup>7</sup> Hudson, 14; Crippen, 17.

<sup>8</sup> Rose, 62.

<sup>9</sup> WPA, 9.

<sup>10</sup> Rose 62, 64.

<sup>11</sup> Rose, 62, 78; *Worthington Daily Globe* (WDG), 9 May 1958, 2; Hudson, 29.

<sup>12</sup> Goff, 9-10; WDG, 2.

<sup>13</sup> Hudson, 47; Tose, 108; Goff, 11.

<sup>14</sup> Ellen B. Green, "History and Architectural History," in *Dayton House, Worthington, Minnesota: Historic Structure Report* (La Crosse, Wisconsin: River Architects, Inc., 2002), 9; Bruce B. Dayton and E. B. Green, *George Draper Dayton: A Man of Parts* (Minneapolis: Privately published, 1997), 14, 27-28.

<sup>15</sup> Dayton and Green, 16, 28; George D. Dayton, II, *Our History: With Histories of the Dayton, McDonald, and Winchell Families* (Wayzata, Minnesota: Privately published, 1987), 11.

<sup>16</sup> Dayton II, 19; Dayton and Green, 36.

<sup>17</sup> Dayton II, 20.

<sup>18</sup> Dayton and Green, 39, 40-41, 43; Green 9.

<sup>19</sup> George D. Dayton, *George Draper Dayton: An Autobiography* (Privately published, 1993), 25; Dayton and Green 52, 59, 66.

<sup>20</sup> Dayton and Green, 67, 90, 189-191.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, 192.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, 192. Dayton's first house, purchased from Azom Forbes, was moved and has undergone numerous alterations, so that it no longer resembles its original design. His second house, built at the corner of Grand Avenue and Okabena Street in Clary's Addition, has had many alterations that have changed its historic integrity.

<sup>23</sup> Dayton and Green, 191-193; Green, 24.

<sup>24</sup> Sanborn Map Company, *Fire Insurance Map of Worthington, Nobles County, Minnesota* (New York: Sanborn Map Company) 1894, 1900.

<sup>25</sup> Dayton and Green, 193-194.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, 194, 206.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, 69, 94.

<sup>28</sup> Quoted in Dayton and Green, 151.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 16

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co. MN

- 
- <sup>29</sup> Dayton and Green, 70, 189.  
<sup>30</sup> Dayton, 16.  
<sup>31</sup> Dayton and Green, 152-153.  
<sup>32</sup> Ibid., 71, 155.  
<sup>33</sup> Dayton and Green, 73, 79, 81, 94, 189, 191-192; Dayton, 19.  
<sup>34</sup> Dayton and Green, 91-92, 95, 98. The 1886 building remained in use until the late 1940s, when it was razed to make room for a new bank building currently occupied by the First National Bank of Brewster/Worthington.  
<sup>35</sup> Elander-Staddan Printing Co., *Picturesque Worthington: A Souvenir* (Minneapolis: Elander-Staddan Printing Co., 1901), 14.; Dayton and Green, 80-81, 382, 384-386; Green, 15.  
<sup>36</sup> Elander-Staddan Printing Co., 18; Rose 405-406.  
<sup>37</sup> Elander-Staddan Printing Co., 10, 13, 17; Hudson, 49; Dayton and Green, 94, 104, 118.  
<sup>38</sup> Dayton and Green, 99, 103-104, 109; Dayton, 27.  
<sup>39</sup> Dayton and Green, 111, 113; Dayton II, 15.  
<sup>40</sup> Dayton and Green, 125-126.  
<sup>41</sup> Dayton and Green, 207-208, 217; Dayton, 41.  
<sup>42</sup> Dayton and Green, 195.  
<sup>43</sup> Ibid., 127.  
<sup>44</sup> Ibid., 130, 216-217.  
<sup>45</sup> Dayton, 42.  
<sup>46</sup> Dayton and Green, 218.  
<sup>47</sup> Ibid., 335.  
<sup>48</sup> Dayton, 259.  
<sup>49</sup> Dayton and Green, 380-381.  
<sup>50</sup> Ibid., 381-388.  
<sup>51</sup> Ibid., 390, 392-394.  
<sup>52</sup> Worthington Presbyterian Church Publication Committee (WPCPC), *Sixtieth Anniversary: May 25, 1933* (Worthington, Minnesota: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1933), 19, 21, 25; Dayton and Green 344-345, 347; Green, 13.  
<sup>53</sup> Dayton and Green, 350.  
<sup>54</sup> Dayton and Green, 132, 136-138; Dayton II, 6-7, 29.  
<sup>55</sup> Dayton II, 30.  
<sup>56</sup> Ibid., 30.  
<sup>57</sup> Ibid., 16, 21, 26.  
<sup>58</sup> As quoted in Dayton II, 28.  
<sup>59</sup> Green, 15, 16, 26.  
<sup>60</sup> Ibid., 17, 20, 28.  
<sup>61</sup> Ibid., 28.  
<sup>62</sup> David Erpestad and D. Wood, *Building South Dakota: A Historical Survey of the State's Architecture to 1945* (Pierre, South Dakota: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 1997), 186; Green, 23; Bruce R. Schumacher, *W. L. Dow, Architect, Sioux Falls, South Dakota: The Story of a Dakota Builder* (Graduate Paper, Augustana College, 1977), 9-10.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   8   Page  17 

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co. MN

---

<sup>63</sup> Erpestad and Wood, 186; Schumacher, 9; Green 23-24.

<sup>64</sup> Green, 23; David G. Richardson, *The Architecture of Wallace L. Dow: The Reflections of a Prairie Town's Aspirations 1881-1891* (Masters Thesis, Columbia University, 1991), 146.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   9   Page   1  

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

---

**Bibliography**

Crippen, Raymond. *The Names of Nobles County: How the Names for the Towns and the Townships, the Lakes and the Streams, and the Streets Came to Be*. On file at the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, 1990.

Dayton, Bruce B., and E. B. Green. *George Draper Dayton: A Man of Parts*. Minneapolis: Privately published, 1997.

Dayton, George D. *George Draper Dayton: An Autobiography*. Privately published, 1993.

Dayton, George D., II. *Our History: With Histories of the Dayton, McDonald, and Winchell Families*. Wayzata, Minnesota: Privately published, 1987.

Elander-Staddan Printing Co. *Picturesque Worthington: A Souvenir*. Minneapolis: Elander-Staddan Printing Co., 1901.

Erpestad, David, and D. Wood. *Building South Dakota: A Historical Survey of the State's Architecture to 1945*. Pierre, South Dakota: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 1997.

Goff, Al, ed. *Nobles County History*. St. Paul: Webb Publishing Company, 1958.

Green, Ellen B. [E.B. Green Editorial]. "History and Architectural History." In *Dayton House, Worthington, Minnesota: Historic Structure Report*, pp. 9-29. La Crosse, Wisconsin: River Architects, Inc., [2002].

Hudson, Lew. *From New Cloth: The Making of Worthington*. Worthington, Minnesota: American Legion Auxiliary Calvin-Knuth Unit #5, 1976.

Richardson, David G. *The Architecture of Wallace L. Dow: The Reflections of a Prairie Town's Aspirations 1881-1891*. Masters Thesis, Columbia University, 1991.

Rose, Arthur P. *An Illustrated History of Nobles County, Minnesota*. Marceline, Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Co., 1976.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   9   Page   2  

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

---

Sanborn Map Company. *Fire Insurance Map of Worthington, Nobles County, Minnesota*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1894, 1900, 1907, 1913, 1917, 1928, 1948.

Schumacher, Bruce R. *W. L. Dow, Architect, Sioux Falls, Dakota: The Story of a Dakota Builder*. Graduate Paper, Augustana College, 1977.

Westminster Presbyterian Church Publication Committee (WPCPC). *Sixtieth Anniversary: May 25, 1933*. Worthington, Minnesota: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1933.

Work Projects Administration (WPA). *Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota: Nobles County*. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Project, Work Projects Administration, 1939.

*Worthington Daily Globe* (WDG). "National Colony was dedicated to temperance, education and religion." 9 May 1958, sec. C, pp. 1-2.

*Worthington Daily Globe* (WDG). "Obituary of George Draper Dayton." 20 February 1938, pp. 1, 6.

*Worthington Daily Times* (WDT). "Obituary of George Draper Dayton." 20 February 1938, pp. 1, 6.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

---

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is located in Block 42 of the original townsite of Worthington, Nobles County, Minnesota. The property consists of the southwest 10 feet of Lot 4, all of the alley between Lots 4 and 5, all of Lots 5 and 6, the southeast 20 feet of Lots 7 and 8, the southeast 20 feet of the alley between Lots 8 and 9, and the southwest 10 feet lot 9. The property is shaded on the accompanying sketch map of Block 42 (from the cover sheet of Abstract of Title).

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes all of the property associated with the Dayton House that retains integrity. Although Dayton originally owned the entire block, adjacent lots were sold for residential construction after 1900. Between 1902 and 1907, during the Smallwood occupation of the house, Lot 10 was sold. Lots 3 and 9, and part of Lot 4 were sold between 1917 and 1928, most likely when Mary Cashel owned the house. The remaining Lots 7 and 8 were sold between 1928 and 1948 when Ruth Cashel occupied the property.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

---

**Figure list**

Figure 1. 1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Worthington, Minnesota (updated to 1948) showing the Dayton House.

Figure 2. Copy of a circa 1892 photograph of the Dayton House - people in the photograph are members of the Dayton family (courtesy of Marion Russel and Robert Cashel).

Figure 3. Copy of a 1900s photograph of the Dayton House - people in the photograph are believed to be members of the Smallwood family (courtesy of Historic Worthington, Inc.).

Figure 4. Copy of an original sketch of front (southeast) elevation of the Dayton House by Wallace L. Dow (courtesy of Historic Worthington, Inc.).

Figure 5. Copy of an original sketch of the side (southwest) elevation of the Dayton House by Wallace L. Dow (courtesy of Historic Worthington, Inc.).

Figure 6. Copy of an original sketch of the rear (northwest) elevation of the Dayton House by Wallace L. Dow (courtesy of Historic Worthington, Inc.).

Figure 7. Copy of an original sketch of the side (northeast) elevation of the Dayton House by Wallace L. Dow (courtesy of Historic Worthington, Inc.).

Figure 8. Copy of an original sketch of the first story floorplan of the Dayton House by Wallace L. Dow (courtesy of Historic Worthington, Inc.).

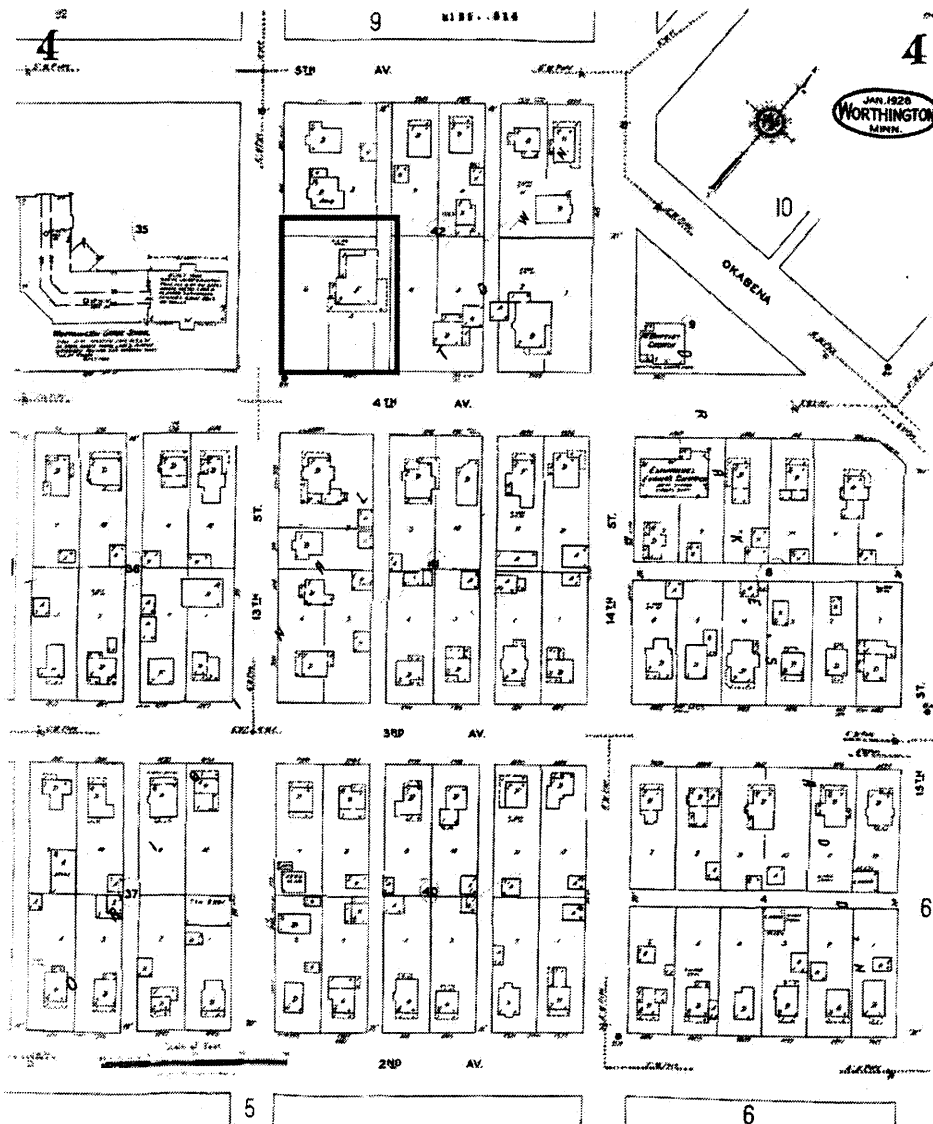
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

Figure 1

 George D. Dayton House Property



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

Figure 2





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Dwight, George D., House  
Nashua Co., NH

Figure 3



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

Figure 4



Front Elevation

Residence for G. D. Dayton Esq  
Northampton, Minn.

W. L. Dow, Archt  
St. Paul, Minn.

1889  
1890  
1891  
1892  
1893  
1894  
1895  
1896  
1897  
1898  
1899  
1900

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

Figure 5



Side Elevation.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

Figure 6



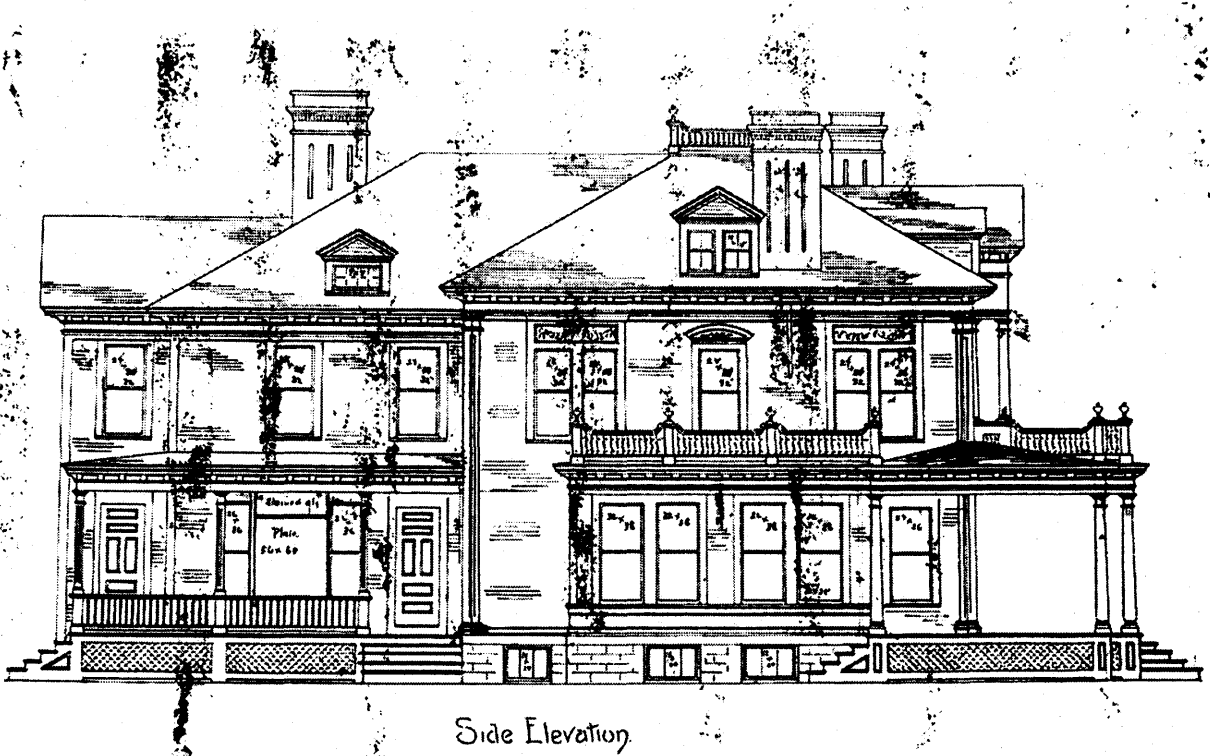
Rear Elevation.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

Figure 7



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Dayton, George D., House  
Nobles Co., MN

Figure 8

