

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:  
**Minnesota**

COUNTY:  
**Wabasha**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE  
**FEB 13 1975**

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
\* **Rahilly, Patrick Henry, House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Rahilly, Patrick Henry, House**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**County Road 15 -- three miles west of Lake City**

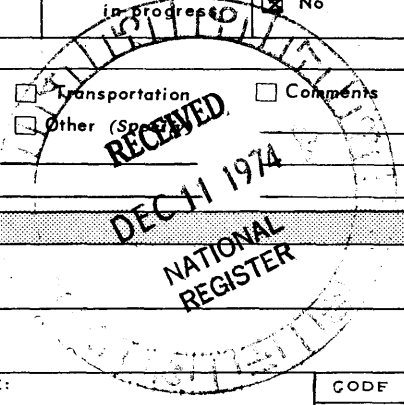
CITY OR TOWN:  
**Lake City**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**First**

STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **22** COUNTY: **Wabasha** CODE: **157**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Osborn**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**439 Portland Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**St. Paul**

STATE:  
**Minnesota**

CODE:  
**22**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Wabasha County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Wabasha**

STATE:  
**Minnesota**

CODE:  
**22**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Statewide Historic Sites Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **September 1972**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Minnesota Historical Society**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Building 25, Fort Snelling**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**St. Paul**

STATE:  
**Minnesota**

CODE:  
**22**

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rahilly House is located at the end of an avenue of elms on County Road 15, three miles west of Lake City in Wabasha County. In 1880 Patrick Henry Rahilly, an early capitalist in the Lake City area, built this stately Italian villa residence. This mansion is patterned after an earlier residence in Rochester -- an imposing red brick mass known as the Brackenridge mansion.

The Rahilly House is a grand two story structure constructed from local red brick. Typical of the Italian villa style of architecture that flourished in the late 1800s the exterior of this mansion boasts extended eaves supported by decorative brackets, windows and doors set in rounded arches, a belvedere and a dignified piazza that surrounds the ground floor of the residence.

The main front entry is through double doors with elaborate decorative glass panels. These doors open into a magnificent reception hall from which a wide staircase leads to the second floor. There are twelve rooms of which five are on the first floor and seven on the second. The first floor contains a parlor to the left of the reception hall, a drawing room to the right of the reception hall, a library, dining room, a kitchen which retains its original plumbing fixtures including a hand water pump, and a bath. Entrance is gained from room to room through sliding mahogany doors which extend from the floor to the ceiling. The second floor contains five bedrooms, a sitting room, and maid's quarters, all accessible from a central hallway. In addition there is a dirt floored basement and an attic which provides access to the belvedere. The original carriage house is extant and is located to the southwest of the residence.

Of particular note throughout the interior of the residence are the four ornate marble fireplaces, fifteen foot ceilings, glassed-in bookcases, baroque plaster scrollwork panels from which the original lighting fixtures hang, and mahogany woodwork.

The Rahilly House is considered a prototype of Italian villa architecture and representative of Southern Minnesota's agricultural boom in the late 19th century. Alterations to the residence have not been made since its construction. The residence is in an excellent state of preservation.

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1880 - present**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | osophy  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Patrick Henry Rahilly was born in 1833 near Limerick, Ireland, came to the United States when he was sixteen, worked in Pennsylvania and New York as a farmhand and then, in 1854, arrived in Rochester, Minnesota. While in Rochester (1854-1860) Rahilly was employed by the Honorable William D. Lowery, an early capitalist who was then operating a large farm, as well as conducting a mercantile interest and a banking business. Rahilly proved very capable; Lowery put him in charge of his farming interests, then brought him into his mercantile and banking operations. In addition Rahilly handled the business and monetary interests of Rochester's wealthiest residents. Rahilly moved to Mt. Pleasant near Lake City in 1860 and began to accumulate vast land holdings.

On this piece of property Rahilly first built a large Greek Revival house, but when it burned in March, 1879, he drew out of his memory the red brick mass of the Brackenridge mansion which had been the pride of Rochester in the days of his impecunious immigrant youth.<sup>1</sup> The house he then built in the summer of 1880 is very much like old pictures of his model: tall, stately, with high ceilings, an arcade of windows set in rounded arches and surrounded by a dignified piazza.

By the 1880s Rahilly owned and operated over 1200 acres of farmland -- he was considered the most extensive farmer and stock-raiser in Wabasha County. He also had extensive interests in Mesaba and Vermillion iron ranges in Northern Minnesota and pine lands in Oregon.

Besides Rahilly's farming interests he was also very active in the political life of his community and state. He was a representative in the legislature of 1874 and 1878. He served as a state senator for the term of 1880-1882.

The significance of the Rahilly House lies both in its association with one of southern Minnesota's earliest and most successful capitalist's and farmer's and the architectural merit which it represents. The mansion is unique in its location and setting. Although the Italian villa style of residential architecture flourished throughout the southern half of Minnesota in the late 1880s Italian villa residences were almost exclusively located in growing river towns such as St. Paul, Winona, Hastings, and Red Wing. The location of the Italian villa Rahilly House in a totally rural and agricultural setting marks it as both unique and significant.

1. Roger Kennedy, Minnesota Houses, p. 149.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Andreas's Historical Atlas of Minnesota, (Chicago: 1874).  
 Clemens, Jeremiah and Williams, J. Fletcher, The United States Biographical Dictionary and Portrait Gallery of Eminent and Self-made Men, Minnesota Volume, 1879.  
History of Wabasha County, (Chicago: 1884).  
 Kennedy, Roger, Minnesota Houses, (Mpls.: 1967).  
 Upham, Warren, Minnesota Biographies, 1655-1912 -- Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society, vol. XIV, (St. Paul: 1912).

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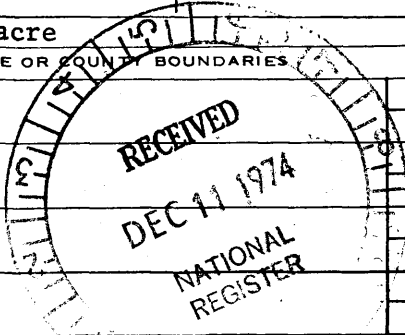
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44° 24' 39"	92° 20' 57"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **approx. 1 acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Lynne VanBrocklin, Survey Specialist**

ORGANIZATION: **Minnesota Historical Society** DATE: **4 November 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Building 25, Fort Snelling**

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Paul** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **22**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Russell W. Fridley  
 Title: Minnesota Historical Society  
 Date: December 7, 1974

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

[Signature]  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 2/13/75

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 2-11-75