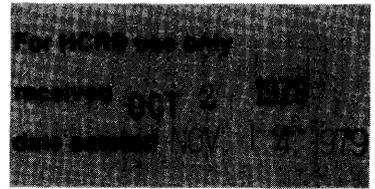


United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service



# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Red Wing Iron Works

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 401 Levee Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Red Wing \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district First

state Minnesota code 22 county Goodhue code 049

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

## 4. Owner of Property

name Red Wing Hotel Corporation Attention: Joseph Goggin

street & number 419 Bush Street

city, town Red Wing \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Minnesota

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office - Goodhue County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Red Wing \_\_\_\_\_ state Minnesota

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1979 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society - 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

city, town St. Paul \_\_\_\_\_ state Minnesota

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Red Wing Iron Works is located on the southwest corner of Bush Street and Levee Street in the heart of historic Red Wing. To the south of the building is the St. James Hotel (already listed on the National Register of Historic Places) and Red Wing's downtown business district. To the north is Levee Park, the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad, and the Mississippi River. The building occupied a strategic spot in early Red Wing, situated on the two primary transportation links with the surrounding area, the river and railroad, and along one of the town's major north-south arteries, Bush Street. Although the importance of the river and railroad have declined, Bush street remains a major artery in downtown Red Wing and the Levee continues to be Red Wing's primary industrial front.

The three story red brick industrial building of bearing wall construction dates to 1874 when the original 1860s building was destroyed by fire and rebuilt. The building design is simple and functional. The three bay Levee Street facade and six bay Bush Street facade are separated by slightly projecting vertical panels, comprising the only relief in the wall surface. The windows are slightly arched and double hung, six over six: those on the ground floor are slightly taller than the windows on the upper two floors. The building's entry is on the Levee Street side and is set in a arched opening in the center bay.

A blacksmith shop and foundry, once a part of the Iron Works operation, have been removed. The surviving building is the machine shop, rebuilt in 1874. The first floor housed the machine shop and office. An early office desk remains there as does a 72 inch boring mill used by the Densmores for machining large pulley wheels for steam engines. The Cooks later used it for machining large pulleys and wheels for heavy farm machinery. The second floor housed the pattern shop -- in which woodworking machinery was located. The third floor was used for storage of lumber and wooden patterns. Many of the early wooden patterns for cast iron remain stored on the third floor. These were made in the machine shop and then cast in the foundry.

The majority of changes to the building have occurred since 1954: a one story concrete addition was put on in 1957 which has since been removed; a plumbing department and sheet metal department were set up in 1957 and 1959; the mechanical part of the business was set apart as the North Star Mechanical Contractors in 1965 - both companies used the same building. The building has been unoccupied since 1977 but is intact and well preserved. Its appearance has not changed significantly over the course of its history.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1874

**Builder/Architect**

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Red Wing Iron Works is significant for its association with an important early Red Wing industry, founded in 1866. Supplying and repairing engines and machinery for nearly all of Red Wing's early industries, the Red Wing Iron Works played a significant role in the town's development as a manufacturing center in early Minnesota. It is the oldest surviving industrial building in Red Wing.

The Red Wing Iron Works was founded in 1866 by Daniel and Benjamin Densmore, brothers from a prominent family in early Red Wing who settled there in the 1850s. The Iron Works building was destroyed by fire in 1874 and the present structure was built within sixty days. While they did make and repair some agricultural machinery, the Densmores concentrated on the local commercial market. The output included high grade machinery for making lighter varieties of stoneware, capstans for boats and barges, assorted metal castings, and a large amount of mill machinery. The Densmores operated the business until 1912 when they sold it to H.C. Cook. This change in ownership paralleled a change in the character of the business. The foundry closed, and the business concentrated on millwright and machinery repair from this time on. H.C. Cook operated the business until his death in 1954. The management was then assumed by his son James H. Cook. The Red Wing Iron Works ceased 111 years of operation in the original location and under the original name in 1977 when the Red Wing Hotel Corporation purchased the property.

The building is not presently being used, but the Hotel Corporation intends to preserve it as soon as a suitable use is found for it.

PLEASE NOTE: The manuscript for this nomination was prepared before the one paragraph limit for significance statements was stipulated.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

- Angell, Madeline, Red Wing, Minnesota, Saga of a River Town, Minneapolis, Minnesota: Dillon Press, 1977.
- Curtiss-Wedge, Franklyn, History of Dakota and Goodhue Counties, Minnesota, Chicago: H.C. Cooper Jr. & Co., 1910, Vol. II.
- History of Goodhue County, Red Wing: Wood, Alley & Co., 1878.
- Cook, James H. Telephone interview, February, 1979.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Red Wing

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

A 

1	5	5	3	6	8	6	5	4	9	3	4	6	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

## Verbal boundary description and justification

NLY 90 feet of the ELY 30 ft of Lot 6, Block 44, Original Town Plat

## List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Britta Bloomberg

organization Minnesota Historical Society date April, 1979

street & number 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House telephone 612-296-0101

city or town St. Paul state Minnesota

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Russell W. Fridley

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 7/19/79

For HCRS use only

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

Coral O'Shull date 11-14-79

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Kristin O'Connell date 11/5/79

Chief of Registration