

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

MAN 10 1001

HISTORIC NAME: Casey, Patrick, House COUNTY: Aitkin
 CURRENT NAME: CITY/TWP.: Aitkin City
 LEGAL DESC.: Lots 4-9, Block 125, First Addition to the Village of Aitkin ADDRESS: NE corner of Fourth St. SE and Second Ave. SE

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent <u>X</u>	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Commerce</u>
Structure _____	Good _____	State _____	Secondary <u>Architecture</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes ___ No X Restricted ___ PRESENT USE: Home for mentally handicapped adults
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No ___
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No ___

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1901 ORIGINAL USE: Residence
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Patrick Casey ARCHITECT/BUILDER: N.J. Holden

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Oak Ridge Inc.; % David Felski; 4652 Mungershaw Road; Saginaw, MN 55779	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Aitkin County Historical Society, 316 1st Ave. NE., Aitkin, MN 56431	UTM REFERENCE: Aitkin MN Quad. 7.5 15 / 446040 / 5152580
FORM PREPARED BY: Mark Haidet	
DATE: February 1981	

DESCRIPTION:

The Patrick Casey House is a highly visible Queen Anne/Classic Revival residence located on the northeast corner of State Route 47 and Second Avenue SE in Aitkin. The 2½ story clapboard structure rests on a raised stone foundation and is covered by a steeply pitched cross gable roof with gable returns and bracketed cornice. Three attenuated brick chimneys pierce the roof line on the south side. The flared second level features narrow clapboard and is separated from the first level by a dentilated molding. A wrap-around porch on the south, west (front), and north facades features a dentilated cornice, turned balustrade, regularly spaced Tuscan columns, and lattice work skirting. The front facade's pedimented portal with carved fretwork in the tympanum is supported by three Tuscan columns on either side. A small polygonal second story porch is located directly above the portal.

Fenestration consists primarily of rectangular double-hung windows on the lower levels and arched windows with simulated keystones in the attic's gable ends. An oriel window with a stained glass semicircular fanlight and flanked by fluted pilasters marks the location of the interior staircase on the north facade.

Exterior alterations are limited to the addition of an attic door and frame fire-escape at the rear of the structure. Both alterations were made in the 1930s when the building was adapted for use as a parochial school.

Although the upper floors were remodeled into classrooms in the 1930s (the building housed the parochial school from 1938 to the late 1960s), the first level remains virtually intact. Decorative features include coved ceilings, leaded glass doors, stained glass transoms, two ornamental fireplaces with tile facing set in wood mantels, wainscoting, and a formal staircase. The residence is currently being renovated for use as a home for mentally handicapped adults.

A gable-roofed carriage house sheathed in drop-siding with narrow clapboard in the gable ends is located behind the structure.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Patrick Casey House is a local architectural landmark associated with one of Aitkin's most respected turn-of-the-century business figures. Patrick Casey arrived in Aitkin in 1873 two years after the community's founding. For the next 37 years he worked for Potter & Co., the region's foremost mercantile establishment, as manager of the firm's branch store in Grand Rapids and, later, as general manager. In 1903 he became a partner in the reorganized firm Potter-Casey Company. In 1901, while at the peak of his career as an

(see continuation sheet)

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Aitkin businessman, Casey commissioned Aitkin architect and builder N.J. Holden, to design and build a Queen Anne residence. Although Casey died in 1910, the property remained in the family until 1938, when the Benedictine Sisters Benevolent Association acquired the structure for use as a parochial school. The well-preserved house ranks among the few architecturally distinctive residences in northern Minnesota outside of Duluth and the larger Iron Range communities.

¹For additional information on Potter & Co. (Potter-Casey Company) and its important role in Aitkin's development see the Potter-Casey Company Building nomination form.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Aitkin Age, 1901.

Aitkin Independent, February 5th and 12th, 1910.