

HISTORIC NAME: Strong, William, Estate in Spring Valley

COUNTY: Fillmore

MAR 15 1982

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Spring Valley City

LEGAL DESC.: Commencing at a point 16 rods west and 89 ft. ADDRESS:

north of the southeast corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 28,  
Township 103, Range 13, thence north 192 ft.; thence east  
.46 ft.; thence north 56 ft.; thence east 200 ft. to place  
of beginning.

508 North Huron Avenue

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ Restricted X

PRESENT USE:

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Private residence

OCCUPIED: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

and antique sales

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1879

ORIGINAL USE: Private residence

ORIGINAL OWNER: William H. Strong

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Robert W. & Jeannine Chase  
508 N. Huron Avenue  
Spring Valley, MN 55975ACREAGE: Less than one acre XLOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Fillmore County Historical Society,  
Box 193, Preston, MN

UTM REFERENCE:

Spring Valley Quad.

FORM PREPARED BY: Robert M. Frame III, Ph.D.

15 / 548745 / 4837710

DATE: February 1981

## DESCRIPTION:

The William H. Strong House is located in a residential neighborhood northwest of the Spring Valley commercial district. The present lot is only part of the original property which included several outbuildings now removed. The house is a two story, brick structure with shallow mansard roof, designed in the French Second Empire style. (The roof was damaged by a tornado in 1894 and rebuilt at that time.) It includes a pedimented pavilion with mansard roof tower and roof cresting on the primary (east) facade, a two-story, flat-roofed addition (c1890s) to the rear, and a wood frame bay and porches on the east and south facades. Fenestration consists of one-over-one double-hung sash in hooded segmental arch openings at the second story and hooded rectangular openings at the first story, all with original wood shutters. The house has been painted red with white trim. Directly to the west is a small, rectangular, wood frame carriage house with mansard roof, constructed in a design similar to the house. It has two double doors on the west facade. The house interior contains much of the original woodwork.

## SIGNIFICANCE:

The Strong House in Spring Valley is significant for its French Second Empire architectural style and integrity, and as a prominent representative of the commercial prosperity of the community of Spring Valley during its early boom years in the 1870s. Constructed by William H. Strong in 1879, the house remained in the Strong family until about World War II. In the mid-1870s, Strong moved to Spring Valley from Carimona where he had been active in commerce and politics. In 1877 he bought out the interest of Minnesota financier Jason C. Easton in a Spring Valley bank, acquired new partners, and formed what became the First State Bank of Spring Valley. It was at this time that Strong built the present house, one of two houses (the other being the Ephraim Steffens House) to survive with substantial integrity from an original group erected by the community's wealthy families to signify their newly acquired status. By the time of his death in 1909, William Strong had become by far the wealthiest person in Spring Valley, according to published tax statements. The present owners are interested in the history, preservation, and restoration of the house.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Spring Valley Vidette, June 20, 1879; Spring Valley Mercury, January 14, 1904;  
Spring Valley Sun, May 24, 1904.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn  
11/19/89

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Note: These changes apply to  
Strong, William, Estate in Fillmore  
County, Minnesota.

REFERENCE NUMBER: 82002953

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Fillmore

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Strong, William, House

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

*Nina M. Archabal*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nina M. Archabal  
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date