

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Minnesota	
COUNTY: Dakota	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 20 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Sibley House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Mendota

STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **23** COUNTY: **Dakota** CODE: **037**

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"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
St. Paul Chapter, Minnesota Daughters of the American Revolution

STREET AND NUMBER:

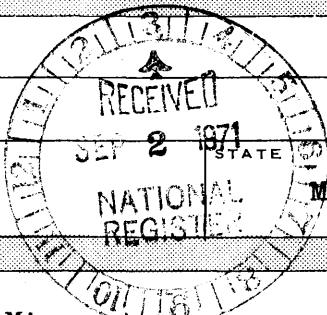
CITY OR TOWN: **Mendota** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **23**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Dakota County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Hastings** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **23**



6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic Preservation in Minnesota

DATE OF SURVEY: **1970** 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: **23**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Minnesota**

COUNTY: **Dakota**

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ENTRY NUMBER: **JAN 20 1972**

DATE

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Completed in 1836, this substantial structure was built of limestone quarried on the riverbanks nearby. The outer walls were two and a half feet thick. The beams, flooring and window sills were fashioned of hand hewn timber and fitted together with wooden pegs. Some interior partitions were formed by placing smaller supports between the beams and then packing mud over a framework of willow branches. The ceilings were similarly made by bridging beams with lath of rushes and grass woven by Sioux women and then plastered with mud.

Large for its time, the house had two stories, an attic, and a cellar. Originally it was probably divided into three rooms downstairs, and three on the second floor. An outside stairway was constructed so that the Indians could find shelter by day or by night on the topmost floor of the house. At first all the cooking was done in the basement, where a stone fireplace and heavy hooks for hanging meat may still be seen. The large front room on the first floor originally served as Sibley's office and trading quarters.

After Sibley's marriage several changes were made in the house. A small wing was added to the east side of the house for an office, and the front room was converted into a parlor. About this time a new section was added to the rear to provide a kitchen, dining room, and two additional bedrooms.

Today the front room contains furnishings which once belonged to Mrs. Sibley and well as other items representative of the period. In the central room on the first floor a section of the wall has been exposed to show its construction of willow branches and mud. On the first floor are a dining room where the Sibley's oval table and china may be seen, as well as the kitchen restored to the time when Mrs. Sibley had it added to the house. The office addition contains a walnut desk which Sibley used for twenty-four years as president of the St. Paul Gas and Light Company, as well as other mementoes of his life.

Three rooms on the second floor are furnished as bedrooms, and Sibley's guns, a portrait of his favorite dog, and other items are displayed in the attic. The stone icehouse and the smokehouse have also been restored. The washhouse was rebuilt and enlarged as a home for the caretaker.

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S



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) **1836**

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/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

From 1836 to 1862 the Sibley house was the residence of Henry Hastings Sibley, fur trader, member of the constitutional convention, delegate to Congress, civic leader, and first governor of the state. When it was constructed the house served as a center of hospitality in an unsettled wilderness; later, as the region developed, it was the governor's mansion.

The cultured and well educated son of a pioneer Michigan judge, Sibley was a bachelor of twenty-three when he arrived at the mouth of the St. Peter's (now the Minnesota) River to take charge of the American Fur Company's operations in an area larger than the present state. The young bachelor spent his infrequent leisure time hunting with the Indians, who came to know and respect him, or entertaining visitors. After Sibley married Sarah Jane Steele in 1843, the bachelor abode was transformed into a fashionable family dwelling. The house became the center of family life and ~~her~~ ^{her} children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Sibley.

When Alexander Ramsey arrived in May, 1849, to take up his duties as the first governor of Minnesota Territory he and his family were guests at the Sibley house and from it on June 1 Ramsey issued the proclamation declaring the territory officially organized.

Sibley was soon called upon to serve the people of the fast developing region. He became the territory's first Congressional representative in 1849, an influential member of the convention that framed the state constitution in 1857, and the first governor of the state in 1858. In 1862 he was named commander of the volunteer forces in the Sioux war. In the same year he moved his family to St. Paul.

The house was soon sold to the Catholic Church and from 1867 to 1878 the Sisters of St. Joseph conducted a parochial school there. In the 1880's the house was the headquarters for a summer art school. After that it served as a warehouse and finally was abandoned.

The house was rescued by the St. Paul chapter of the ^{Chapter} DAR, a group long interested in preserving it as a historic site. It was restored and opened to the public in June of 1910.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barrington, Lewis, Historic Restorations of the DAR, Richard Smith, New York, 1941.
 Folwell, William W., A History of Minnesota, Vol. 1, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, 1921.
 Fort Snelling State Park Association, Old Mendota, 1966.
 Holmquist, June Drenning, and Jean Brookins, Minnesota's Major Historic Sites: A Guide, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, 1963.

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 53 11	93 09 36	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **5 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Donn Coddington, Supervisor of Historic Sites**

ORGANIZATION: **Minnesota Historical Society** DATE: **8-16-71**

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

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Paul** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **23**

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: Director, Minnesota Historical Society

Date: _____

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

Ernest A. Corns
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JAN 20 1972

Date: _____

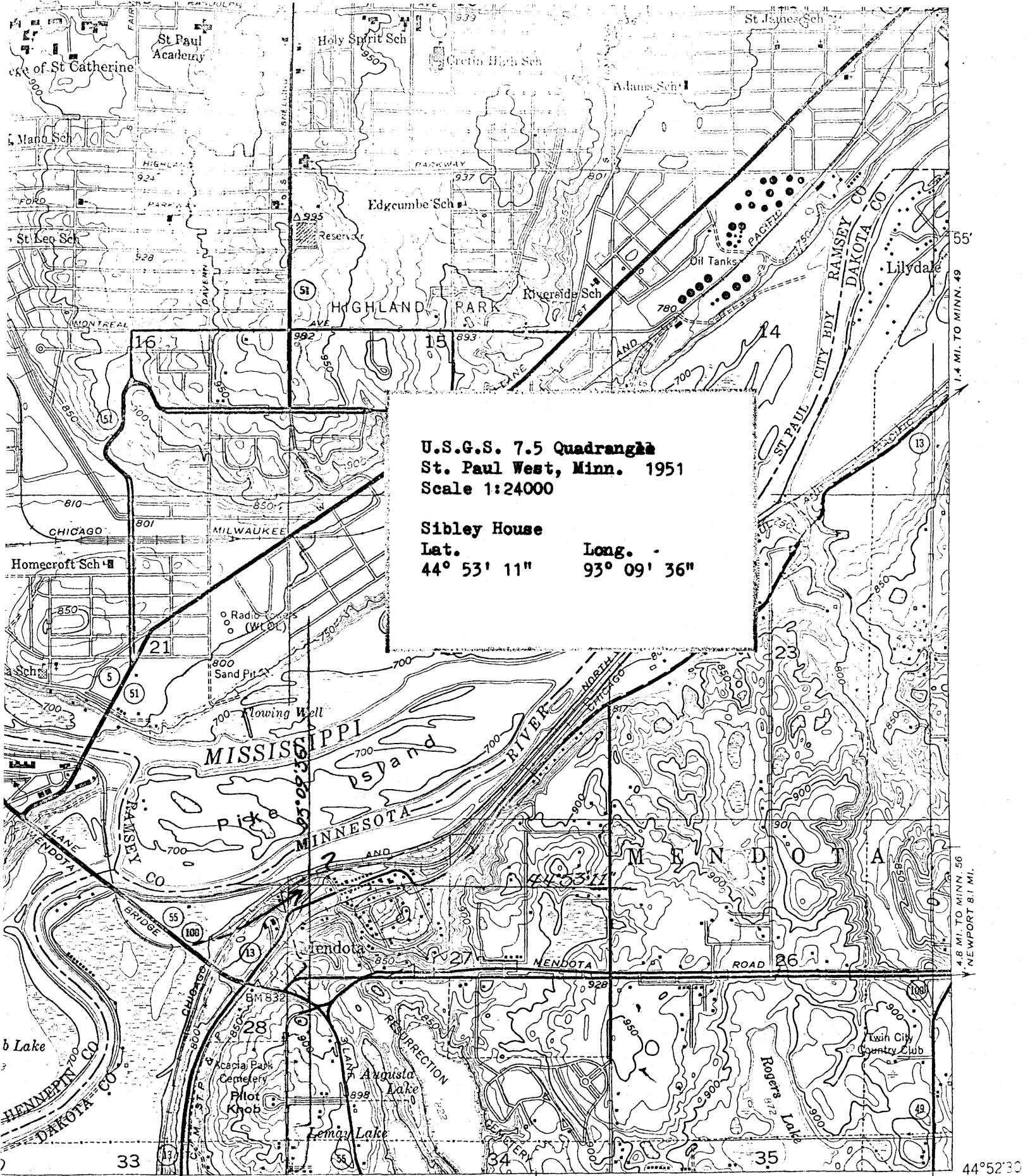
ATTEST:

William J. Stewart
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: JAN 18 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

OTM 100-1000



U.S.G.S. 7.5 Quadrangle
St. Paul West, Minn. 1951
Scale 1:24000

Sibley House
Lat. 44° 53' 11" **Long. 93° 09' 36"**

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C.—1953
 9.4 MI. TO U.S. 65 NEW PRAGUE 38 MI. 5 MI. TO U.S. 52 HASTINGS 21 MI. 1.7 MI. TO MINN. 55 5 MI. TO MINN. 218 93°07'30"

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty 4 LANE 6 LANE Light-duty
 Medium-duty 4 LANE 6 LANE Unimproved dirt

U. S. Route State Route

4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 KILOMETER

1 MILE

(INVERT)

Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Minnesota	
COUNTY Dakota	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 20 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Sibley House			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Mendota			
STATE: Minnesota	CODE 23	COUNTY: Dakota	CODE 037
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5 Quadrangle St. Paul West, Minn.			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1951			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Sibley House in Dakota County,
Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 72000676

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Dakota

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Sibley, Henry H., House

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: Willow St.

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date