

**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 Wentworth, G.W., House

and/or common Sorenson House

**2. Location**

street & number 1575 Oakdale Avenue      not for publication

city, town West St. Paul      vicinity of      congressional district First

state Minnesota code 22 county Dakota code 037

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>    </u> district	<u>    </u> public	<u>  X  </u> occupied	<u>    </u> agriculture
<u>  X  </u> building(s)	<u>  X  </u> private	<u>    </u> unoccupied	<u>    </u> commercial
<u>    </u> structure	<u>    </u> both	<u>    </u> work in progress	<u>    </u> educational
<u>    </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>    </u> entertainment
<u>    </u> object	<u>    </u> in process	<u>    </u> yes: restricted	<u>    </u> government
	<u>    </u> being considered	<u>    </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>    </u> industrial
		<u>  X  </u> no	<u>    </u> military
			<u>    </u> museum
			<u>    </u> park
			<u>  X  </u> private residence
			<u>    </u> religious
			<u>    </u> scientific
			<u>    </u> transportation
			<u>    </u> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Julie L. Sorenson

street & number 1575 Oakdale Avenue

city, town West St. Paul      vicinity of      state 55118

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dakota County Government Center

street & number 1560 West Highway 55

city, town Hastings state Minnesota 55033

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible?      yes      no

date 1979      federal   X   state      county      local

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

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55102

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved    date \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Wentworth House is a Queen Anne mansion of moderate size set on a large wooded lot in suburban West St. Paul. The house is constructed of red brick on a limestone foundation, with white-painted wooden trim. It is a 2½ story building of irregular plan with a complex gable roofline. The front gable has an oriel window and decorative half-timbering. A rectangular bay window angles across the front corner of the house. The large original front porch has been removed, but a balconied side porch remains. There is a small one-story wooden addition in the rear.

## 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1887

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The G.W. Wentworth House is significant both for its association with George Wentworth, a prominent civic leader in South and West St. Paul, and as a symbol of the area's transition in the late 19th century from farmland to growing residential and industrial suburbs. Wentworth was a livestock raiser who helped organize the city of South St. Paul in 1887 and served as one of its first aldermen. South St. Paul was at that time the location of the new Union Stockyards, with meat-packing plants and other rail-oriented industries attracted to adjacent sites along the Mississippi River. The west side of the new city, however, was an area of small farms that produced livestock and vegetables for the Twin Cities market and whose north end was already beginning to receive residential expansion from neighboring St. Paul. This dichotomy resulted in dissatisfaction over taxes and other matters of local government, and in 1889 the west side seceded to form the city of West St. Paul. Wentworth was an advocate of the split and again became an alderman on the new city council. As a wealthy landowner, he donated land for South St. Paul's city hall and for West St. Paul's first school. The Queen Anne mansion he constructed in the late 1880s reflects Wentworth's confidence in the future development of the growing suburb.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name St. Paul East

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A 15 494330 4971490  
 Zone Easting Northing

B                    
 Zone Easting Northing

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

Verbal boundary description and justification

Sec. 20, T28N, R22W - Pt. of SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of NE $\frac{1}{4}$  com. 224.62 ft. N of SW cor. N160 ft. S 83D 04M E 434.22 ft. to cen. Oakdale Ave. S 81D 45M W 160.5 ft. on cen. to pt. 179.38 ft. N of cen. sec. N 83D 04M W 391.59 ft. to geg. - 1.517 ac.

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 Susan Pommering Reynolds, Survey Analyst

organization Minnesota Historical Society date 8 June 1979

street & number 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House telephone contact Dennis Gimmestad 612-296-9545

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 X 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 11/1/79

For HCRS use only

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

Carol O'Shea date 12-31-79  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Kristin O'Connell date 12/26/79

Chief of Registration



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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**Note: These changes apply to  
Wentworth, G. W., House in Dakota  
County, Minnesota.**

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** 79001237

**STATE:** MINNESOTA

**COUNTY:** Dakota

**RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):** Wentworth, George W., House

**CITY:**

**VICINITY OF:**

**ADDRESS:**

**CERTIFICATION DATE:**

**REMOVED DATE:**

**COMMENTS:**

*Nina M. Archabal*

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

**JUN 17 1988**

**Date**