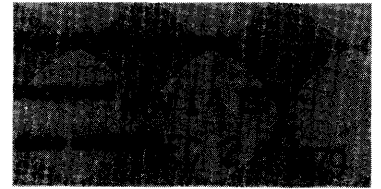


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Minnesota Stoneware Company

and/or common Red Wing Potteries

## 2. Location

street & number 1997 West Main Street not for publication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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Northwest Storage Co. -- John R. Nankivil

street & number 1997 West Main 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 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 Minnesota Stoneware Company complex is located at 1997 West Main Street, in Red Wing, along the Mississippi River towards the west end of town.

The complex consists of a large brick structure and numerous frame and tin out-buildings. The main building is four stories in height and measures 450 feet by 58 feet. Its design is simple and functional. The windows on the oldest (eastern) portion of the building are slightly arched. Decorative brickwork at the top of the east facade and a simple cornice serve as the primary decorative elements. All of the windows are six-over-six, and the roof is supported by wood trusses. This building originally housed the major pottery making operations of the industry, and included jollying and turning rooms, drying rooms, and slip rooms. An early elevator remains operable. The one story office building, at the east end of the main building, is currently utilized for office space by a bowling equipment supplier.

The outbuildings of the complex were primarily utilized for pottery and clay storage and stock warehouses. Numerous pottery molds are stored in one area, and a large supply of clay (no longer salvageable) remains in clay storage bins. Portions of one kiln remain at the north of the main building and behind the office building. The attached sketch map shows the locations of the various portions of the complex and approximate dates of construction.

The Minnesota Stoneware Company's original building was built on this site in 1883 but burned in 1900. The earliest portions of the complex date to the 1901 rebuilding. The operations of the company expanded to include a second complex (located to the east on the present site of the Red Wing Pottery Salesroom) after the 1906 merger with the Red Wing Stoneware Company. This complex has been razed.

The overall appearance of the Minnesota Stoneware Company Complex has not changed significantly over time. Numerous smaller buildings have always been dominated by the large main building. Changes were made to accommodate the growth and changes of industry that spanned many years of Red Wing history.

The pottery buildings are presently owned by Northwest Storage Company and are being used for storage. Their rehabilitation potential is being explored.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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**

**Builder/Architect**

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Minnesota Stoneware Company is a significant complex of buildings associated with one of Minnesota's most important local industries.

The Minnesota Stoneware Company was founded in 1883 during the years that the pottery trade reached its greatest significance in Minnesota's industrial pattern. Its organization was stimulated by the success of the Red Wing Stoneware Company, founded in 1877. By 1890 the Red Wing plants were reported to be the largest establishment of their kind in the nation. They utilized local clay in the production of stoneware crocks jugs, and milk pans.

A partial merger was effected in 1894 between the Red Wing and Minnesota Stoneware Companies to meet the competition of the newer and larger North Star plant, organized in 1892. The merger set up a joint sales organization and enabled both companies to greatly widen their markets. North Star was unable to meet the competition and ceased operation in 1897. A total merger was effected in 1906 after the success of the partial merger of 1894, and the company name became the Red Wing Union Stoneware Company.

In February, 1900, the Minnesota Stoneware plant burned to the ground. Shortly thereafter the Red Wing Stoneware Company plant similarly burned. Both plants were rebuilt immediately and continued to prosper. In the 1920s the demand for stoneware began to dwindle, forcing the company to diversify and open up new markets. Dinnerware manufacture began to replace stoneware. The name Red Wing Union Stoneware Company no longer reflected the product being manufactured, so the name was changed to Red Wing Potteries, Inc. in 1936.

The company continued to make dinnerware and art pottery until 1967 when the company liquidated after a factory strike which could not be settled.

As the only remaining buildings associated with a leading local industry, the Minnesota Stoneware Company is significant. Red Wing pottery has reached a wide market and has achieved national renown. The industrial complex is worthy of recognition and preservation for this very important association.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 5 acres

Quadrangle name Red Wing

Quadrangle scale 7.5

### UMT References

A 

1	5	5	3	5	0	0	0	4	9	3	4	4	0	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

The Minnesota Stoneware Company is located on a five acre parcel of land bounded on the north and east by West Main Street, on the south by the railroad right of way and on the west by the west line of lot 2, block 7, of the West End Addition to the city of Red Wing.

### 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 612-296-0102

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 11-6-79

For HCRS use only

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

Sally G. [Signature]

date 12/26/79

Keeper of the National Register

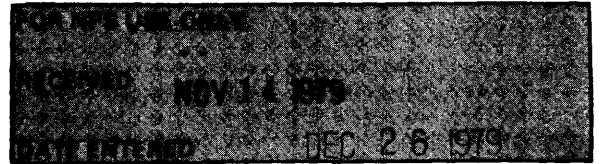
Attest: Kristin O'Connell

date 12/26/79

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



MINNESOTA STONEWARE COMPANY

CONTINUATION SHEET

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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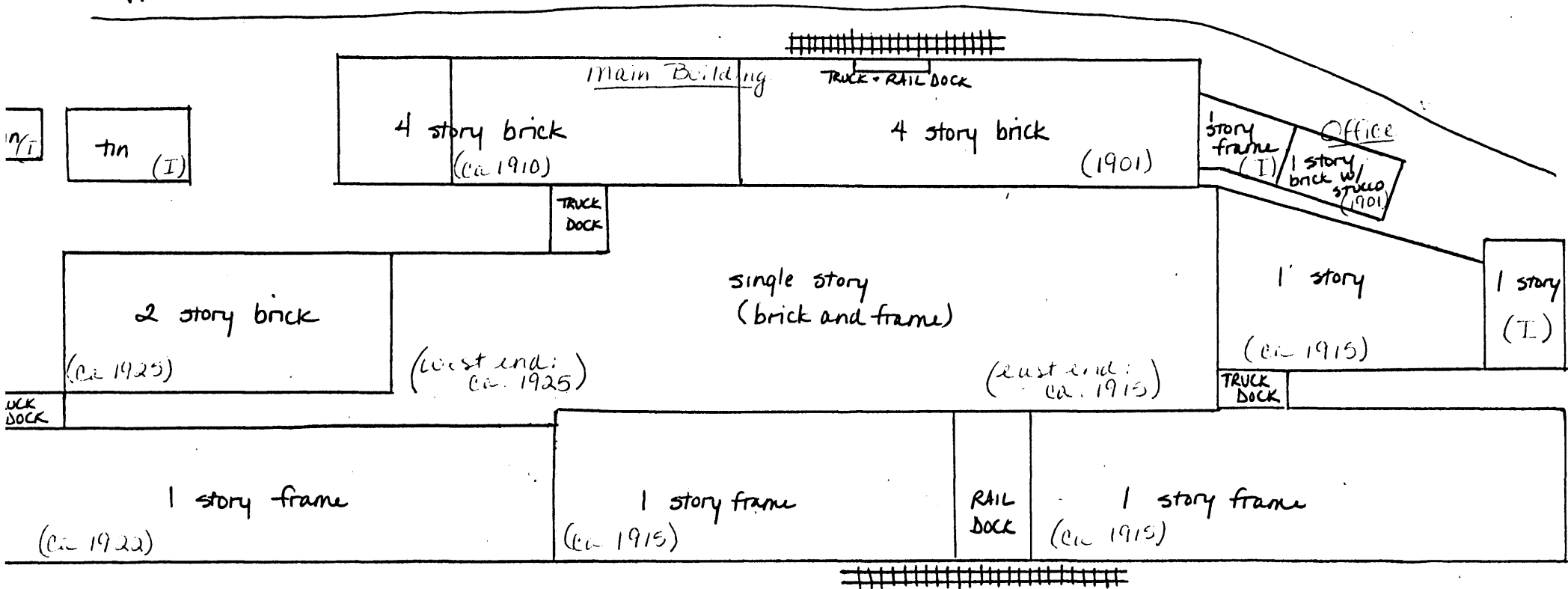
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# MINNESOTA STONEWARE COMPANY

- SKETCHMAP SHOWING BUILDINGS AND THEIR APPROXIMATE RELATIONSHIPS TO EACH OTHER

← WEST MAIN ST. →



SCALE 1" = approx. 64'

note:

- approximate dates of construction are included
- those additions labeled (I) date post 1930 and are considered intrusive to the building complex