

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED OCT 20 1976

DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

**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

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Tobias G. Mealey House

AND/OR COMMON

Tobias G. Mealey House

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Territorial Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Monticello

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

27

COUNTY

Wright

CODE

171

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jameson

STREET & NUMBER

Territorial Road

CITY, TOWN

Monticello

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Wright County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Buffalo

STATE

Minnesota

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1973

FEDERAL  STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society - Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## 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 Tobias G. Mealey House in Monticello takes on the appearance of a rambling conglomerate of gables, porches, chimneys and additions which emanate from a simple, two storey, frame Greek Revival style structure of 1855. The majority of the additions were made prior to 1900 during the period when the house was occupied by the Mealey family as a year-around residence. The property upon which the house is located is on the outskirts of the urban area and is relatively secluded by dense vegetation.

Although additions have been made to the original structure, exterior facade treatments are relatively uniform. The total is sheathed by narrow-lap clapboard. The second storey is incorporated within broken pedimented gables. Original windows are standard six-over-six. A large, colonnaded porch comprises the entire first storey of the west facade; this facade was originally the front of the residence and retains a side-and-top lighted entry. Subsequent additions to the east of the structure include the present kitchen and summer kitchen; these areas also link with a newer two storey building presently used as an antique shop and garage/storage.

The interior comprises a parlor, living room, study, and chamber on the first floor of the original portion of the residence; basically, only the parlor retains original design treatment in woodwork, ceiling ornamentation and carpet. The chambers on the second floor, however, have retained original configuration.

The Mealey House is presently in need of minor repair and restoration work, the most pressing demand being placed on a total painting. In general, the house is in sound structural condition and well maintained with sympathy to historic integrity.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 1855

BUILDER/ARCHITECT T.G. Mealey

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mealey House is significant as the long-term residence of Tobias Gilmore Mealey, prominent Monticello pioneer-businessman and Minnesota Legislator.

Tobias Gilmore Mealey's association with the town of Monticello began in 1855. Prior to this, he resided in New Brunswick trying his hand at farming, lumbering and merchandising. Returning from a trip to the California gold fields in 1852 where he engaged in similar activities, Mealey returned to New Brunswick via the Great Lakes, visiting Minnesota along the way. Impressed by what he saw, Mealey returned to Minnesota in 1855 with his wife Catherine. As St. Paul was too established and Minneapolis/St. Anthony prospects were not yet developed, Mealey settled in Monticello or Moritzious as it was then called. Because much of the land adjacent to the Mississippi River had been claimed, Mealey built his home on its present location above the river which he considered home to too many unsavory river-front people.

Within two months Mealey invested in a lumber mills and farm land. Later he engaged in several other businesses; a starch factory, clothespin factory and a general store that was to be eventually run by his son.

Politically active, Mealey served as Justice of the Peace and Probate Judge. In 1873 Mealey served in the Minnesota House of Representatives. He was elected to the Minnesota State Senate and served from 1874-75 and from 1878-1881.

Mealey's prominence in the community brought him in contact with other influential Minnesotans. Thomas Lowry, owner of the Minneapolis Street Railway Company owned a summer home and stock farm; the land having been sold to him by Mealey. James J. Hill, railroad baron and good friend of Mealey, went as far as to build a railroad spur near the Mealey home so that guests could conveniently attend the wedding of Mealey's daughter, Susan to Rufus Rand.

Mealey died in 1904 and his wife moved in with a daughter. Thereafter, his home was used as a summer residence until about 1940. The house was left unattended until 1947. Since then, it has been occupied with restoration being conducted.

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## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Castle, Henry A., Minnesota Its Story and Biography, 3 vols., Chicago & New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1915.
- Curtiss-Wedge, Franklyn, History of Wright County, 2 vols., Chicago: H.C. Cooper, 1915. Files of the Wright County Historical Society.
- Toensing, W.F., Minnesota Congressmen and other Elected State Officials, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, 1971.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	4 4 2 1 6 0	5 0 1 6 5 5 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charles W. Nelson, Architectural Historian and Susan Zeik, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

2 September 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Building 25, Fort Snelling

TELEPHONE

612-726-1171

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Russell W. Fridley* 10/1/76

TITLE Russell W. Fridley  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

*Clayton K. Kopp*

DATE

12/12/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

12/10/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER