

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **MAY 23 1986**

date entered **JUN 20 1986**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Julian A. Weaver House

and/or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 837 Minnesota Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Granite Falls N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Chippewa code 023

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Franklin and Cheryl Homme

street & number 837 Minnesota Avenue

city, town Granite Falls N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 56241

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chippewa County Courthouse

street & number 629 North 11th Street

city, town Montevideo state Minnesota 56265

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1983-84  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Julian A. Weaver House, built circa 1878, is situated on the east side of East Granite Falls' major residential boulevard and is one of a row of large late nineteenth and turn of the century houses built on this street which overlook the Minnesota River. On the west edge of the lot is a large concrete block, cast with the name "J. A. Weaver".

The Weaver House is one of west central Minnesota's few remaining examples of 1870's residential architecture and has a design that features prominent gable returns inspired by the Greek Revival Style and Italianate vertical massing and detailing. The 2 1/2 story clapboard covered house stands on a stone foundation and is basically L-shaped in plan. Major gable roofed wings extend to the north and west, each featuring a narrow, polygonal one story bay window with a panelled base and paired brackets at the cornice. At the intersection of the two wings is an open hipped roofed porch with turned columns, fretwork, and square balusters. The front door is original, with narrow two rounded arched panes of glass. The house is further ornamented with paired brackets at the eaves and architraves at the rectangular window and door frames. At the rear of the house are three small additions to the kitchen, all with stone foundations.

The Weaver House is in good condition. Alterations to the exterior have included changes in the front porch, the construction of the rear additions and the covering of the north wall of one addition with new siding, and the installation of aluminum combination windows. Despite these changes, the principal facades of the Weaver House retain their original massing and detailing and continue to evoke the character of their 1870's design.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** Circa 1878 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Julian A. Weaver House, built circa 1878, is architecturally and historically significant as a house which in site, design, and historic background provides an excellent link to Granite Falls' early period of settlement, and as a house which is one of west central Minnesota's few basically intact examples of 1870's residential architecture.

Granite Falls, located at a natural falls on the Minnesota River at the border of Yellow Medicine and Chippewa counties, was first settled in 1870. A dam and mill were built at the falls in 1871-72 and in 1872 the town was platted, encompassing land on both sides of the Minnesota River. During its first years of existence Granite Falls remained a somewhat isolated river community, with transportation supplied by two major stage coach lines and steamboats which navigated the Minnesota up to a point a few miles south of Granite Falls. In 1878, however, the Hastings and Dakota Railroad (later a branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul) constructed a long-awaited track to the east side of Granite Falls from Glencoe and then extending north from Granite Falls along the east side of the river to Montevideo. The first passenger train reached Granite Falls in November of 1878, marking the beginning of a new era in which the town was served by rails which transported people, news, freight, and agricultural products between Granite Falls and the rest of the state. Ten years later, in 1888, rail service was further expanded when a second rail line, the Willmar and Sioux Falls (later the Great Northern), was built through the west side of Granite Falls.

Julian A. Weaver arrived in Granite Falls in 1878 as the Hastings and Dakota's first depot agent, and apparently built this house in that year. As the agent primarily responsible for the activities of the company in Granite Falls, Weaver played a central role in the community, especially during the first ten years when the Hastings and Dakota was the town's only rail line. Weaver, who was born in New York in 1842 and was a Civil War veteran, had worked for the Hastings and Dakota in Iowa before being assigned to Granite Falls. He served as the Hastings and Dakota agent in Granite Falls for 33 years until his retirement in 1911.

The Julian A. Weaver House was built about four blocks west of the Hastings and Dakota depot on Granite Falls' east river bank. The house was built on one of the two nicest residential streets, Minnesota Avenue, which contained a row of the town's largest and most ornate houses situated to overlook the river and downtown Granite Falls.

The Julian A. Weaver House was included in historic sites surveys of Yellow Medicine and Chippewa counties recently conducted by the State Historic Preservation Office. The survey staff determined that the Weaver House is one of Granite Falls' most intact houses still standing from its early period of settlement. Also documented by the surveys in Granite Falls were two examples of Gothic Revival-inspired houses and a few Italianate-inspired houses, all similar to the Weaver House in scale and all altered considerably. Other pre-1885 houses of this scale in Granite Falls have been altered

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Narvestad, Carl and Amy. History of Yellow Medicine County, 1872-1972. Granite Falls: Yellow Medicine County Historical Society, 1972.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than 1 acre.

Quadrangle name Granite Falls, Minn.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

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4	9	6	4	6	2	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

South 40' of Lot 7 and all of Lot 8 except the SW 5' of Lot 8, Block 2, Pillsbury's First Addition, Granite Falls.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Granger/Contract Historian

State Historic Preservation Office

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date June 1985

street & number Fort Snelling History Center

telephone (612) 726-1171

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55111

# 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*

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5/16/86

### For NPS use only

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

**Entered in the National Register**

*J. Allares Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 6-20-86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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Granite Falls, Chippewa County, MN

Continuation sheet J. A. Weaver House

Item number 8

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Item #8 (Significance) continued:

almost beyond recognition. The survey staff also determined that as the most intact house of its age on Minnesota Avenue, historically one of the town's two most exclusive residential streets, the Weaver House provides in its siting and style one of the town's best examples of its earliest residential architecture. As compared with buildings in thirteen counties in west central Minnesota recently surveyed by the State Historic Preservation Office, the Weaver House is one of the most intact of remaining examples of 1870's residential architecture of this scale. In addition, as a basically intact example of townsite residential architecture built for the town's first depot agent, the Weaver House is a good representative of the "Railroad Construction and Agricultural Development" context unit of the Resource Protection Planning Process (RP3) recently developed by the State Historic Preservation Office to assist with the study and assessment of the state's historic sites.

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Julian A. Weaver House, Granite Falls, Chippewa Co., Minnesota

Continuation sheet

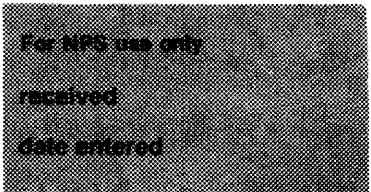
Resource Count

Item number

8

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The Julian A. Weaver House nomination contains  
1 contributing building.