

Historic Name: Commercial Hotel**Common Name:** Wabasso Hotel**Owner's Name and Address:** Elda and Hattie Bjorkman
Wabasso, MN 56293**County:** Redwood**Community:** Wabasso**Address/Legal Desc.:**Front and Main Streets
(SE corner)**Classification:****Building** ☒ **Structure** _____ **Object** _____ **District** _____**Acreage:**

Less than one acre

Condition:**Excellent** _____ **Good** ☒ **Fair** _____ **Deteriorated** _____**Verbal Boundary Desc.:**Wabasso Plat
Lot 8 (ex. E. 14')
Lots 9, 10
Block 4**Open to the Public:****Yes** ☒ **No** _____
Hotel Guests Only**Visible from the road:****Yes** ☒ **No** _____**Occupied:****Yes** ☒ **No** _____**Present Use:**

Hotel

History:**Date Constructed:** 1901**Original Owner:** Thomas Walton**Architect/Builder:** Unknown**Original Use:** Hotel**UTM Reference:**15/320290/4918760
Wabasso Quad. 7.5**Description:**

The Commercial Hotel in Wabasso, with the common railroad hotel address of Front and Main Streets, is located adjacent to a section of track which originally joined two branch lines of the Chicago and Northwestern. The two and one-half story 24-room frame structure has a hipped roof with broad eaves and exterior walls sheathed in clap-board. Prominent features are eight gabled dormers with returns and a wide freize board with brackets.

The original open front porch has been replaced by a smaller entrance canopy and a small one-story addition has been made to the rear. These alterations have not significantly affected the over-all impression of the building. The interior retains original features including a safe bearing the name of Thomas Walton, the original owner.

The trackside location also retains an 1899 Minnesota line grain elevator diagonally opposite the hotel and, (see continuation sheet)

Level of Significance:**Local** ☒ _____**State** _____**Nation** _____**Status:****Survey** _____ **Date** 1977 _____**Local** _____**State** _____**Nat'l. Reg.** _____**Nat'l. Land.** _____**HABS/HAER** _____**Significance:**

The Commercial Hotel was constructed in 1901, two years after Wabasso was platted and the same year the second railroad line reached the site. The Commercial was the largest of several frame hotels built in the nine Redwood County communities platted by the Western Town Lot Company in 1899-1902.

Erected by Thomas Walton, and known for a short time as the Walton House, the hotel changed hands nine times between 1901 and 1908, in a manner characteristic of many businesses established at new townsites. Swan Bjorkman traded his Garvin, Minnesota farm for the hotel in September, 1908, and it remains in operation by his daughters. They have entrusted the physical maintenance of the building to a contractor from nearby Lucan since the 1930s.

The Commercial Hotel's excellent state of preservation is uncommon among early frame commercial structures, and it is significant as a rare surviving example of the privately constructed small town frame railroad hotel.

Theme/s:**Primary** Commerce**Secondary** _____**Other** _____**Local Contact/Org.:**County Center Historical
Society, Wabasso**Prepared by and date:**Dennis A. Gimmestad
September 1978

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Description:

directly across Main Street, a 1903 brick commercial building and the 1902 Wabasso City Hall (much remodeled).

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Significance: