

HISTORIC NAME: West Riverside School, District No. 38

COUNTY: Isanti

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Cambridge Twp. ^{Vic.}

LEGAL DESC.: Begin at the NE corner of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 30, T36R28. Commence south 22 rods, thence west 12.75 rods, thence north 22 rods, thence east 12.75 rods to point of beginning.

ADDRESS: County Rd. 14, west of Cambridge

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent _____	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Education</u>
Structure _____	Good <u>X</u>	State _____	Secondary <u>Architecture</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes ___ No ___ Restricted X

PRESENT USE:

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No ___

Museum

OCCUPIED: Yes X No ___

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1898

ORIGINAL USE: School

ORIGINAL OWNER: School District No. 38

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Cambridge School District #911
430 N.W. 8
Cambridge, Minnesota 55008

ACREAGE: Less than one acre 1³/₄

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Isanti County Historical Society
Box 525, Cambridge, Minnesota 55008

UTM REFERENCE:
Cambridge Quad.

FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg

15 / 480850 / 5047575

DATE: December 1979

DESCRIPTION:

The West Riverside School is located less than a mile west of the city of Cambridge on County Road 14. Most of the surrounding area is agricultural, with some recent residential development.

The one story building faces east and is constructed of a buff colored brick manufactured in neighboring Springvale Township. The structure is three bays by four bays and measures approximately twenty-five by thirty-seven feet. The front (east) facade consists of a door in a central projecting pavilion flanked by tall narrow windows set in arched openings. A transom light adorns the panelled front door. An open bell tower housing a black iron bell tops the central pavilion and breaks an otherwise plain hip roof. The slightly concave pyramidal roof of the bell tower is supported by four turned posts and is surmounted by a flagpole. A course of decorative brickwork circumvents the building above the windows and door. Four windows are located on the north and south facades. A bracketted cornice decorates the roof line, and a chimney is located at the rear of the building. A one room frame entry, probably added during the early part of the twentieth century, is located on the west side of the building.

A woodshed with privies on either end is located southwest of the school building. It is of frame construction and painted buff with brown trim.

Also located on the property are a water pump and a small log house that has been moved to the property and is being restored by the County Historical Society.

The buildings and grounds of the West Riverside School are in an excellent state of preservation. The school has been restored to its 1900 appearance by the Isanti County Historical Society, which maintains the building and uses it as a rural school museum and as a meeting place for historical society functions.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The West Riverside School (District No. 38) is significant as an outstanding example of the type of one-room schoolhouses that provided the setting for education in rural Isanti County in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Once Minnesota emerged from the pioneer stage, a comprehensive system of elementary education was set up based on local districts which covered areas ranging from two to ten sections of land each. In Isanti

(see continuation sheet)

West Riverside School, District No. 38

Isanti County
Cambridge Township

County these rural schools numbered sixty-seven; the West Riverside School is one of the finest remaining examples of this generation of schoolhouses. West Riverside School, District No. 38, was established in 1882, and the present brick building was constructed in 1898. An important function of the Isanti County rural schools was to help the immigrants learn the English language to prepare them for the American citizenship examination; the Swedish settlers of District No. 38 also conducted a "Swede School" each summer at West Riverside. In addition to being a place of learning, the rural school was an important community center for social and cultural events. The West Riverside School operated until 1971 when a new Minnesota law required final consolidation of remaining rural schools. The building has been leased to the Isanti County Historical Society, who has restored it to its 1900 appearance. In an interpretive program, turn of the century classes are conducted each summer. The building continues to serve as a community center as well.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melanie Lynn
11/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
West Riverside School, District No.
38 in Isanti County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002076

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Isanti

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): West Riveside School

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Cambridge

ADDRESS: Co. Hwy. 14

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date