

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

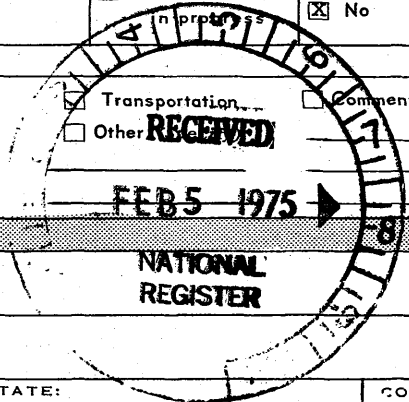
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Minnesota
COUNTY: Ramsey
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 12 1975

1. NAME	
COMMON: Benjamin Brunson House	
AND/OR HISTORIC: Benjamin Brunson House	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 485 Kenny St.			
CITY OR TOWN: Saint Paul		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 4th	
STATE Minnesota	CODE 27	COUNTY: Ramsey	CODE 123

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other Comments:



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: John Szlavich			
STREET AND NUMBER: 485 Kenny			
CITY OR TOWN: Saint Paul		STATE: Minnesota	CODE 27

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Ramsey County Courthouse/Register of Deeds			
STREET AND NUMBER: 15 West Kellogg Boulevard			
CITY OR TOWN: Saint Paul		STATE: Minnesota	CODE 27

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Statewide Historic Sites Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1974 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Minnesota Historical Society			
STREET AND NUMBER: Building 25, Fort Snelling			
CITY OR TOWN: Saint Paul		STATE: Minnesota	CODE 27

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Minnesota
COUNTY: Ramsey
ENTRY NUMBER MAY 12 1975
DATE
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

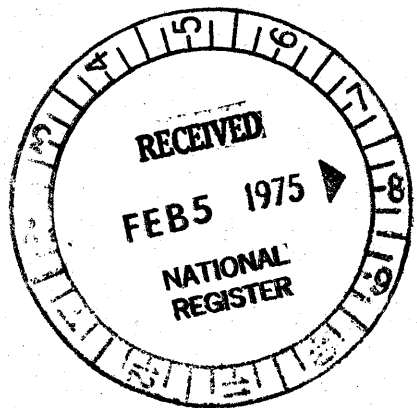
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Benjamin Brunson House is a late federal style, two story brick bearing wall residence, built in 1855. The house has a one and one half story appendage to the rear, a portion of which is original. The front elevation is divided by three equally spaced windows on the second level. Two windows and an offset entrance to the left are equally spaced on the first level below. The original six-over-six window sash has been replaced by two-over-two. However, the original window sizes and locations, as well as the top and side lighted sash at the entry are unchanged throughout the house. The three-sided bay window on the east or right elevation was added by the Brunsons sometime before the turn of the century.

Despite slight alterations over the years, the house has undergone very little change both to the exterior and interior since its construction. Exterior changes include the recent alterations to the original front porch and the stucco surfacing of the old Galena red brick. Most interior changes were made by the Brunson family who modified the once spartan, pioneer interior to accommodate their tastes as income allowed and late Victorian styles dictated.

The plan of the house is as one would expect for a detached, late federal style home. The entry is off-center leading immediately to the staircase constructed along the west wall. A parlor, dining room and kitchen (in the appendage) complete the first floor. The second floor is divided into sleeping rooms.

The house appears to be well maintained by the owner.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

DATE OF OWNER'S BIRTH, LEBOVICH
DATE OF HOUSE

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1823, 1835, 1847, 1855-1900

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Immigration and Settlement</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Brunson House is the lone surviving residence of one of Saint Paul's true city fathers and a symbol of the Brunson family's pioneering effort in the settling of the upper midwest frontier. Built in 1855 by Benjamin Brunson, the surveyor of the City of Saint Paul, the house is distinctive in its own right as one of the few surviving examples of federal style architecture in the state.

Born in Detroit in 1823, Benjamin Brunson along with his brother, Ira, and his father, the Rev. Alfred Brunson, were all prominent figures on the early midwestern frontier. His father, who initially made a reputation for himself in the Great Lakes naval battles during the War of 1812, became an itinerant Methodist preacher after the war in the new lands west of the Appalachians. The senior Brunson brought his family to the Michigan Territory (then including a portion of Minnesota) in 1835, where he was assigned a "circuit district" along and seventy miles either side of the Mississippi River from Rock Island, Illinois to the falls of Saint Anthony (now Minneapolis) as his congregation. Although based in Galena, Illinois, Rev. Brunson made his permanent residence in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, as this was the terminus of the famed Fox-Wisconsin River trade route and the main route for most of the first immigrants to the new territory. The elder Brunson traveled extensively both for religious and secular matters, as he also served as a Justice of the Peace, as the Indian Agent for the Chippewa at the LaPointe Agency on Lake Superior and in the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature. He is most well known in the Minnesota area for the establishment of the Kaposia Indian Mission in 1837 at Red Rock (now part of the suburb of Cottage Grove, south of Saint Paul) and the Saint Croix Academy, one of the first attempts in the state to create an institution of higher learning. His travels brought him many times to Benjamin's house in Saint Paul where he was no stranger to the city or its surroundings.

Benjamin Brunson came to Saint Paul in 1847 from Prairie du Chien to assist his brother, Ira, with the first platting of the city. His brother, while Deputy United States Marshall for the Wisconsin Territory in 1840, had made quite a reputation for himself, leading a group of Fort Snelling soldiers who drove the Canadian Selkirk colonists from the fort's military reservation unto the present day site of Saint Paul. This action led to the founding of Saint Paul, as these squatters became the first residents of the city and giving it its first name, "Pig's Eye".

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

St. Paul City Directories, 1856/7-1900 inclusive.
History of Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul; J. Fletcher Williams;
 North Star Publishing Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1881.
Going West: The Pioneer Work of Alfred Brunson; edited by J. Christian
 Bay, Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 1951.
Pen Pictures of St. Paul, Minnesota; Vol. 1, Tim Newson, T.M. Newson
 Publishing, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1886, p.65-6.

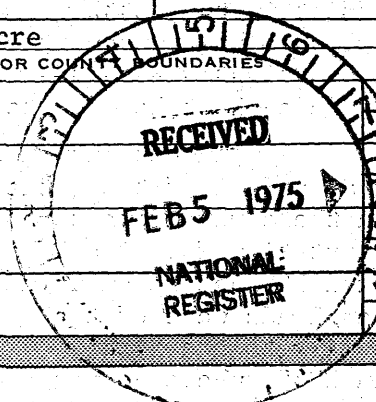
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		44 0 57 . 28 "	93 0 04 . 48 "	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Thomas Lutz - Historic Sites Survey and Planning

ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Historical Society DATE: 26 December 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: Saint Paul STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Russell W. Fridley
 Russell W. Fridley
 Title: State Historic Preservation
 Officer
 Date: 1/12/75

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest A. Connally
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/12/75

ATTEST:
Ronald M. Greenberg
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: 5/9/75

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

(Continuation Sheet)

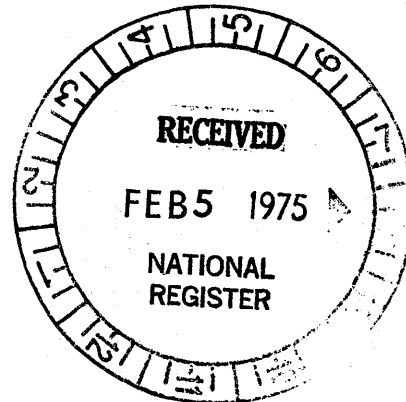
STATE	
Minnesota	
COUNTY	
Ramsey	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 12 1975

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

Ira, with Benjamin's assistance, completed the first land survey in early 1847, laying out boundaries for the township as well as the city. However, the city plat was somehow never recorded and soon after was replatted and drawn by Benjamin who now receives credit for the original plat of the city. He also listed himself along with thirteen other gentlemen as one of the original city proprietors. He is credited with surveying nearly all the early city additions, including his own in 1849, as well as many of the city plats for neighboring Minnesotan communities. During his residence in Saint Paul which lasted until his death in 1898, Benjamin Brunson served as a Saint Paul representative in the first Minnesota Territorial Legislature, as a Justice of the Peace, as the city's first superintendent of mail carriers, as one of the city's earliest commission merchant's at the Old Steamboat Landing, and as the civil engineer for the Lake Superior Railroad, Minnesota's second railroad, which ran from Saint Paul to Duluth.

Benjamin Brunson built his house in 1855 in the area known as Brunson's addition to the City of Saint Paul, which was then a semi-rural area on the city's northeast outskirts. It is now an architectural and historical curiosity amidst Saint Paul's inner city warehouse and industrial district. Its history and architecture, however, tell the story of another era; the story of the birth of a city and its relationship to the development of midwestern United States through one family's eyes.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Brunson, Benjamin, House in
Ramsey County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 75001007

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Ramsey

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: 485 Kenny Rd.

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS: Address on the computer print out was incorrect.

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988
Date