

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sargent, Homer E., House
other names/site number Sargent House

2. Location

street & number 1036 Lake Ave.
city, town Detroit Lakes
state Minnesota code MN county Becker code 005 zip code 56501

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked)
Category of Property: building(s) (checked)
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 3, Noncontributing 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets (checked) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official Nina M. Archabal
Date 11/16/88
State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property meets (unchecked) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. (checked)
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain):

Signature of the Keeper: [Signature]
Date of Action: 12/22/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

QUEEN ANNE

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/sandstone

walls WOOD/weatherboard

roof WOOD/shingle

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Built in 1885, the Homer Sargent House is a 2½-story, wood frame Queen Anne residence with a modified rectangular-shaped plan located at the front of a deep lot on Lake Avenue in an attractive residential area of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. In addition to the house, this nomination includes a two-story barn and small ice house, both of which date from ca.1900, are located behind the dwelling, and considered contributing elements to the property.

Facing east toward Lake Avenue, the primary gable facade of the Sargent House has a veranda with balustrade wrapping around the east and one-half of the south elevation. It has a pediment in the southeast corner, scroll brackets, curvilinear corner trim at the tops of several of the fluted columns and decorative ventilation openings. The porch entry is accented by curvilinear trim. Double, five panel doors with transoms are recessed and placed at the extreme right side of the facade; paired 1/1 double hung sash windows are centered in the first floor. The second story is lit by a bow window with four 1/1 double hung sash. The projecting pediment has two scroll brackets and a 1/1 double hung window with semicircular upper sash flanked by two small fixed windows. A band of dentils spans the width of the windows, above which is a panel of delicate jigsaw woodwork. Rising above the northeast corner of the veranda is a six-sided turret with pyramidal roof and three 1/1 double hung windows. The turret was added by ca.1900.

In the center of the south wall is a full height gable projection with paired 1/1 double hung windows on the first and second floors. The pediment has two square fixed windows below the same jigsaw woodwork as in the facade. To the right of the gable are two 1/1 double hung sash on the second story and one on the first. Toward the back of the house is a four-sided oriel with 1/1 double hung windows flanked to the east by 1/1 double hung sashes on the first and second floors. There are two 1/1 double hung windows below the oriel and a door providing access to the kitchen.

The narrow west-facing rear gable is clipped and features two 1/1 double hung windows on the second floor, one on the first, and a tiny, gable projection sheathed with the same lap siding as the house.

Centered in the first floor of the north wall is an entrance flanked by two 1/1 double hung windows. The second story has five 1/1 double hung sash, four of which are paired. Two smaller fixed windows are located in a gable pediment toward the turret. The eave gutter on this side of the building is supported by decorative brackets.

The interior of the Sargent House has not undergone any significant alterations and

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still retains original woodwork, hardware and most light fixtures.

Behind the house is a wood frame structure that originally functioned as an ice house. It is sheathed with wide board siding and has a south-facing sliding track door and fixed window. Toward the back of the property is a large center gable wood frame barn covered with lap siding. It has one door and window to the west and a large garage door and entry on the east side. The house, barn and ice house all have gable roofs covered with wood shingles, are built on uncoursed stone foundations, and are in excellent condition.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

1885-1900

Significant Dates

1885

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Homer Sargent House is significant under the statewide historic context Northern Minnesota Resort Industry because it is the earliest known example of a summer residence in Detroit Lakes and thus directly associated with the initial growth of tourism in the community during the late 19th century. The house is architecturally significant as a good example of Victorian period architecture for its representation of an intact seasonal residence that has been exclusively and continuously used by members of the Sargent family for over one hundred years.

In 1871 the Northern Pacific Railroad founded Detroit ("Lakes" was officially added in 1926) by transporting the New England Colony, a group of 1,000 residents from Boston to this northwestern Minnesota location. Despite initial criticism against the natural surroundings, Detroit Lakes was able to capitalize on its ideal location, promoting use of the numerous area lakes for hunting, fishing and recreation. As the village grew in population, so too did its reputation as a center of tourism. Summer activity typically centered around a chain of lakes - among them, Detroit, whose north shore reached the village, Melissa, and Sallie - which were for a time interconnected by steamboat. Between 1889 and 1919 several companies operated passenger boats transporting tourists and residents to resorts and lake shore homes via a system of canals, dams and locks. Expansive hostelries such as the Hotel Minnesota (in 1897 reportedly the largest tourist hotel in Minnesota outside Lake Minnetonka), the Fair Haven Hotel and the Park Hotel accomodated and entertained guests throughout the summer months. The 1879 St. Louis Hotel, situated on a bluff of the east shore of Detroit Lake, was financed by a Detroit Lakes banker and three wealthy St. Louis sportsmen. Demolished in 1934, the property had a hotel, lake-side cottage, tourist cabins, natural spring water, and was accessed by a special Northern Pacific rail spur.

In addition to hotels and resorts, summer residences were built by a few vacationers who could afford to own and maintain more than one dwelling. Chicago resident Homer E. Sargent, Sr. erected a Queen Anne cottage for his family in 1885 several blocks north of Detroit Lake and within a short walk of downtown businesses. Sargent was born in Massachusetts in 1813 and had long been associated with eastern railroad companies. In 1858 he began working for the Michigan Central Railroad as

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Wilcox, Alvin H. A Pioneer History of Becker County Minnesota. St. Paul: Pioneer Press, 1907.

Detroit Record 2 January 1886; 25 May 1900.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property Less than one

UTM References

A

1	5
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2	8	2	7	9	0
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5	1	8	8	3	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is all that which is located within Auditor's Lots Thirty-three (33) and Sixty-four (64) of the Auditor's plat of Detroit Lakes, MN.

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Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lots that have historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Koop
organization N/A date July 1987
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a general agent and representative in Chicago. In 1877, at the age of 64, he became general manager of the Northern Pacific Railroad, a position he held for just four years. During his long tenure with various railroads, Sargent formulated the first through freight tariff from Boston to St. Louis and the Great Lakes area, served on the first Board of Directors of the Union Stockyards in Chicago, and he was one of the incorporators and directors of the famed Pullman Palace Car Company. In ca.1880 Sargent traveled with his family to Detroit Lakes where they spent the summer. Five years later he built a large house where family members vacationed from June through August. Since Sargent was 72 years old when his summer cottage was constructed, it is not likely that he spent extensive periods of time there, although the house has remained in family ownership since it was built. Sargent died at his home in Chicago in 1900. Descendants have continued to rendezvous at the home each season, taking advantage of the recreational opportunities in Detroit Lakes.

Due to its outstanding historic architectural integrity, the Sargent House is perhaps the finest example of residential Queen Anne design in Detroit Lakes. While Victorian Picturesque styles were in vogue in Minnesota during the last decades of the 19th century, Detroit Lakes does not have a large representation of these residences. Other Victorian period dwellings in the community are indistinctive because of their reduced size, vernacular design influences, and lack of characteristic ornamentation. By contrast, the virtually unaltered Sargent House illustrates well the Queen Anne style through its asymmetrical composition, projecting bays, wrap-around veranda and 2½ story height. The ice house and barn further contribute to the site's significance by depicting the outbuildings essential for maintaining a comfortable seasonal residence.