

# 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: <b>Minnesota</b>
COUNTY: <b>Ramsey</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>JUN 18 1975</b>

### 1. NAME

COMMON:	Strong, Ossian R. House
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Rau/Strong House

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: <b>2 George Street</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>St. Paul</b>		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: <b>4th</b>	
STATE <b>Minnesota</b>	CODE <b>22</b>	COUNTY: <b>Ramsey</b>	CODE <b>123</b>

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY <i>(Check One)</i>	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <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 in progress
PRESENT USE <i>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</i>			
<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 type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: <b>Ruth G. Strong</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>2 George Street</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>St. Paul</b>		STATE: <b>Minnesota</b>	
		CODE <b>22</b>	

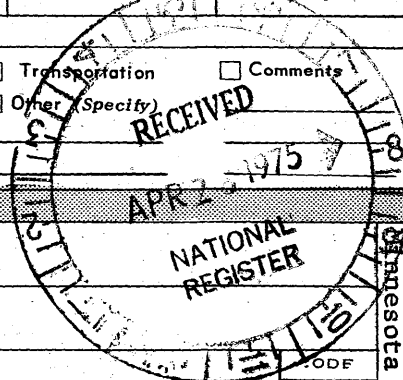
### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: <b>Ramsey County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>15 West Kellogg Blvd.</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>St. Paul</b>		STATE: <b>Minnesota</b>	
		CODE <b>22</b>	

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: <b>Statewide Historic Sites Survey</b>			
DATE OF SURVEY: <b>1972-3</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <b>Minnesota Historical Society</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Building 25, Fort Snelling</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>St. Paul</b>		STATE: <b>Minnesota</b>	
		CODE <b>22</b>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: <b>Minnesota</b>
COUNTY: <b>Ramsey</b>
ENTRY NUMBER: <b>JUN 18 1975</b>
DATE: <b>1975</b>

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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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE.

The Rau/Strong House is located at 2 George Street in West Saint Paul (Lots 1,2,3, Block 97, West Saint Paul Proper). The property consists of three lots upon which are two structures, a two storey limestone dwelling and a limestone carriage barn. The site is hilly and spacious lawns separate the house from the barn.

Constructed between 1884 and 1886, the house reflects the eclectic tastes of the high Victorian era in that it combines architectural design features of the Italianate, the Second Empire, and the Eastlake styles. It is two storeys with a gabled mansard roof. Although constructed of local yellow limestone, it has been faced with a finish coat of plaster/stucco to conceal the rusticated nature of the stone. Brush-hammered quoins mark corners. A prominent feature are the high floor to ceiling windows throughout, a feature of the Italianate style. The Eastlake is featured in the pierced-work decoration found in the gables.

In plan, the house is basically Italianate, with formal rooms located in a front mass and kitchen and service functions in a rear appendage of smaller proportions. A stair tower (or pavilion) marks the entry on the north facade. One enters through a pair of double doors into a stair hall which opens to the right and front into the parlor and sitting room respectively. In these two rooms as in the dining room and chamber in the main portion of the house, the majority of furnishings date from the late nineteenth century and are contemporary with the house. The second floor contains chambers and bedrooms.

The carriage barn to the southeast of the house is also constructed of local yellow limestone, although not covered with the plaster/stucco finish. Style-wise, it reflects the same design influences as seen in the house, although the degree of finishwork is less, and the whole appears more rusticated. It is a simple cupolaed structure with horse-stalls and carriage room on the first level and loft on the second level. It, as in the case of the house, remains relatively intact.

In general, both structures are in a good state of preservation, but are beginning to show the deterioration relative to age and weather. The present occupants are elderly and little has been done in recent years in grounds-keeping and maintenance. The property is one of extremely few urban "estates" in West Saint Paul which has retained the features of original site development....grounds and outbuilding. The area is subject to possible redevelopment and the future of the Rau/Strong House is uncertain.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**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) **1886**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <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

In 1867 Adam Rau purchased the property at 2 George Street in West Saint Paul. This parcel consisted of three hilly lots a short distance from the Mississippi River. Rau, a stone-cutter of foreign descent held this property for seventeen years until, in 1884, he applied for a permit to construct a limestone dwelling and barn on the property. Two years later, the buildings were completed. However, in 1888, Rau moved on selling the house, barn and property to Ossian R. Strong, for the sum of \$8,000. The property has remained to the present day in the hands of the descendents of Ossian Strong who have preserved it relatively intact.

The Rau/Strong House is primarily significant as a representative of middle class taste during the last half of the nineteenth century in Saint Paul. Although Rau is credited with constructing the buildings himself, these buildings are typical of the varied tastes of the era. Land was relatively plentiful and the idea of the urban "mansion" with carriage barn and spacious grounds was in vogue. Rau therefore constructed his "mansion" on the northwest corner of his three lots with the carriage barn on the southeast corner separated by an expanse of lawn and gardens. Significant also is the craftsmanship with which the buildings were designed and constructed.... reflecting Rau's skill as a stone-cutter. They are of local yellow limestone laid in courses with brush-hammered quoins at corners. They also reflect Rau's eclectic tastes in design, as the architectural features are derived through a combination of the Italianate, the Second Empire, and the Eastlake.

Further, the property has remained in the hands of the Strong family since its purchase in 1888. Strong, a clerk for the P.H. Kelley Company of Saint Paul, made no changes in the structures nor have his descendents. Rather, the house and barn have been preserved along with many original furnishings to convey an accurate picture of middle class urban life in the Victorian Saint Paul.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

St. Paul City Directories 1865-1890  
 Registry of Deeds, 1851-1886

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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

UTM Reference  
 15 / 493340 / 497 4900  
 UTM OK  
 HL

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approx. 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Charles W. Nelson - Historic Sites Survey and Planning

ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Historical Society  
 DATE: 8 November 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul  
 STATE: Minnesota  
 CODE: 22

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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, Director  
 Title: Minnesota Historical Society

Date: 3/28/75

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

Arthur M. Jensen  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JUN 18 1975

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
W. M. [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

JUN 17 1975

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS