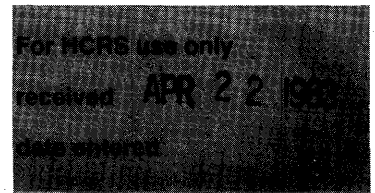


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Foss House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 321 Silver Lake Road N/A not for publication

city, town New Brighton N/A vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Minnesota code 22 county Ramsey code 123

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Esther Swanson

street & number 321 Silver Lake Road

city, town New Brighton N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 55112

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ramsey County Courthouse

street & number 15 W. Kellogg Boulevard

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55102

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Survey of St. Paul and Ramsey County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 12/80-11/82 federal state county local

depository for survey records Ramsey County Historical Society, 75 W. 5th Street

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55102

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Foss House, built in 1894, is set back about one hundred yards from Silver Lake Road on a 1.8 acre site in the municipality of New Brighton in northwestern Ramsey County. Adjacent to the house are three outbuildings, a windmill, and a root cellar.* The lower two floors of the 2½ story woodframe house, which sits on a limestone foundation, are faced with stretcher bonded, pressed cream colored brick, painted white. The house has typically Victorian picturesque, asymmetrical massing, dominated by a three story round tower with flared conical cap and finial at the southwest corner of the house. This tower has wide segmental arched fixed windows with stained and leaded glass transoms topped by raised brick arches on the first two stories, and a flared band of cut wood shingles pierced by three bullseye windows at the third story level. North of the tower, the main facade of the house (which faces west) is spanned by an open entrance porch with a pediment at the entrance, which is supported by simple square posts. The single leaf door is topped by a segmental arched transom. Rising above the main facade is a pedimented gable end faced in decorative wood shingles surrounding a pair of rectangular fixed windows with Queen Anne style arrangement of tiny square panes surrounding a larger square pane of glass.

The south facade of the house features a clapboard and fishscale shingle clad gable end which projects above a bay window with fixed and 4/4 segmental arched sash. The gable end is comprised of a south-facing sunroom area at the second story and a fixed Queen Anne sash at the attic level. At the rear of the south facade is an open porch with bracketed half-columns attached to the building's brick exterior and simple square posts supporting the porch eaves. The north and east facades of the house are much more simple and less richly ornamented, but contain segmental arched sash similar to the principal facades. The house is further ornamented with courses of triangulated brickwork at the window sill level, rockfaced stone sills, a central brick Queen Anne style chimney, and additional Queen Anne windows.

The Foss House is basically intact and in good condition, although the exterior brickwork has been painted and the original porch columns may have been replaced with the present square posts. The house is rapidly being surrounded by 1970's-80's tract development houses, which pose a threat to the integrity of the site.

* Information presented at State Review Board Meeting suggests that the building is a pump house.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture <i>No AGRIC. for village</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1896 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Foss House, located on Silver Lake Road just east of Silver Lake and designed and built circa 1896 by an unknown architect or builder, is historically and architecturally significant as the largest and most intact Victorian house now standing within the municipal limits of New Brighton and as the home of the Foss family, early settlers to the rural area south of the original townsite of New Brighton (incorporated in 1891) who arrived in the area in the late nineteenth century.

The land on which the Foss House now stands was originally farmland owned by the Bowers family, farmers who settled near Silver Lake in rural Moundsvew Township at least as early as 1874. Legal records indicate that Peder Foss resided on the site in 1885, however an 1886 atlas of the area shows no buildings on the site. In 1894 Josephine Bower(s), a widow, sold to Ingebor Foss (probably wife or sister of Peder Foss) the land on which the house now stands. Based on Ramsey County Tax Assessor's Records, the house is believed to have been built circa 1896, and the house can be positively identified on an 1898 atlas of the area where it is labelled "P. Foss".

Little is known of Peder or Ingebor Foss. Peder was born in 1858 and was the son of a Norwegian immigrant to Ramsey County, Ole Foss. Ingebor(d) Foss was born in 1868, and in 1908 at Ole's death, was listed in probate court records under the name Ingebord Oleson, residing in Rose Township.

In 1946, the Village of New Brighton annexed the township land on which the house stands, causing the house to be within the New Brighton village limits. The house was owned by the Foss Family until 1983 when it was sold.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Deed Records, Ramsey County Courthouse, St. Paul.
 Hopkins' Atlas of the Environs of St. Paul, including the Whole of Ramsey County, Minnesota.
 Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1886.
 (See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre
 Quadrangle name New Brighton Quad., Minn. Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A	1 5	4 8 2 9 0 0	4 9 8 7 7 0 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Unplatted lands: W. 360 ft. of N. 248 ft. of S. 638 ft. of S.W. 1/4 of N. E. 1/4 Subject to Road in Sec. 31, Twn. 30, Rg. 23.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Granger, Survey Staff
Historic Sites Survey of
 organization St. Paul and Ramsey County date 6/21/82
 street & number 75 W. 5th Street telephone (612) 292-0090/222-0701
 city or town St. Paul state Minnesota 55102

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Russell W. Fridley
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 4/7/83

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 Entered in the National Register date 5/19/83
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Foss House, St. Paul, MN, Ramsey County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

Plat Book of Ramsey County, Minnesota. Minneapolis: Northwestern Map Publishing Co.,
1898.

Probate Court Records, Ramsey County Courthouse, St. Paul.

Ramsey County Tax Assessor's Records, Ramsey County Courthouse, St. Paul.