

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

JAN 8 1980

HISTORIC NAME: Ihlen Mercantile Co. COUNTY: Pipestone
 CURRENT NAME: Rodman's Store CITY/TWP.: Ihlen 80002115
 LEGAL DESC.: Lots 11 & 12, Block 4, Original Plat ADDRESS: NW corner Holman Street and Sherman Avenue

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:	Yes <u> X </u> No <u> </u> Restricted <u> </u>	PRESENT USE:
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD:	Yes <u> X </u> No <u> </u>	General store and post office
OCCUPIED:	Yes <u> X </u> No <u> </u>	

DATE CONSTRUCTED:	1892	ORIGINAL USE:	General store
ORIGINAL OWNER:	John Olson	ARCHITECT/BUILDER:	

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:	Joyce I. Rodman Ihlen, MN 56140	ACREAGE:	Less than one acre <u> X </u>
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LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:		UTM REFERENCE:	14 / 711340 / 4864850
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FORM PREPARED BY:	Thomas Harvey	Pipestone South, Minn.; 1:24,000
DATE:	March 1979	

DESCRIPTION:

Rodman's Store is a well-maintained, white frame commercial building with green trim. The store consists of two structures joined by a common wall. Each unit occupies one commercial lot on Ihlen's main street. The corner unit is two stories high in the front, with a one story portion to the rear and a lean-to shed addition at the back of the lot. An outside stairway leads to the second floor on the south wall of the building. Adjoining this building on the north side is a one-story frame structure. The front first floor facades are the same on both units; four-panel display windows flank recessed doorways. Two double-hung windows punctuate the second floor facade of the two-story unit. A wood bracketed cornice extends across the top of the unit. The one-story portion has a false-front with beveled cornice.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Rodman's Store is significant as the first business establishment in Ihlen and as one of the finest frame commercial structures found in southwest Minnesota. John Olson founded the store in 1892. Soon after that it became the Ihlen Mercantile Company. It has had only four owners previous to the current owners.

Ihlen's main street commercial district, originally one block long, has several early frame commercial structures and has had no masonry additions. Many frame buildings have been destroyed leaving a few gaps in the streetscape. Most of the first floor facades of the remaining buildings have been altered. The street does still maintain a sense of a former simple elegance. Rodman's store retains a high degree of integrity rarely seen in older frame buildings.

MAR 3 1980