

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

MAR 2 1982
Northfield vic

HISTORIC NAME: Drake Farmhouse COUNTY: Rice
 CURRENT NAME: CITY/TWP.: Bridgewater
 LEGAL DESC.: ADDRESS: County Roads 22 and 1
 See continuation sheet

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes ___ No X Restricted ___ PRESENT USE: Residential
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No ___
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No ___

DATE CONSTRUCTED: c.1863 ORIGINAL USE: Residential
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Edwin Sumner Drake ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Warnholtz Rt. 4 Northfield, MN 55057	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Rice County Historical Society, P.O. Box 5, Faribault, MN 55021	UTM REFERENCE: Northfield Quad. 7.5 15 / 487105 / 4918920
FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg	
DATE: April 1981	

DESCRIPTION:

The Drake Farmhouse is located off of County Roads 22 and 1, a mile and a half south of the City of Northfield. The house is situated on a farmstead in eastern Rice County's rolling countryside of cultivated fields and scattered groves and farmsteads.

The two-story farmhouse was constructed ca.1863 and consists of a front red brick section and a rear frame section. The brick section measures three bays across and two bays deep and features twin parallel gable roofs. The three-bay front facade (east) is symmetrical, with open porches featuring turned posts and brackets flanking a center projecting bay on the first floor. Panelled doors enter into the center bay from the north and south sides. A pair of tall narrow arched windows occupy the first floor center bay. Arched windows also occupy the first floor side bays, the second floor center bay, and the side bays. A small arched window is located in the center gable peak. Bands of decorative brickwork circumvent the building at the window tops and sills. A small bay window is located on the south facade off the front bay.

Attached at the rear of the brick section is a one-story frame gable-roofed section with an enclosed porch on the south side. Portions of this frame section were likely part of the original frame farmhouse constructed prior to the brick house. A gable roofed garage of recent construction is attached at the west side of the early frame section.

The building's interior and exterior design integrity are very good. With the exception of the rear addition, south porch enclosure, and the installation of modern utilities, the historic fabric remains virtually intact.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Drake Farmhouse is primarily significant for its associations with a prominent pioneer family and the native-born American population that settled northeastern Rice County. It is also a well-preserved representative of the farmhouses constructed by the more progressive first-generation Rice County farmers. The house was constructed ca.1863 by Edwin Sumner Drake, who had come to Bridgewater Township via New York, Ohio, and Racine, Wisconsin with his family, two brothers and their families, and his parents in 1854. They were among the first of a group of settlers with similar heritage to settle Northfield and Bridgewater Townships and formed a loosely organized rural community. E.S. Drake originally took a claim on section 26 in 1856, but acquired the senior Drake claim from his widowed mother in 1863. Shortly thereafter he constructed the brick farmhouse as residence for his family of ten and his elderly mother and aunt. (Part of the west (rear) section is likely to have been part of the first farmhouse constructed on the property.) The
 (see continuation sheet)

Significance - contintued

Drake family name is prominent in the area's history, primarily for the "firsts" associated with it: the Drake brothers were the first to take claim in eastern Bridgewater Township; Mary Drake was the first to marry (1855 to Daniel Bundy); and Joseph Drake, Edwin's father, was the first to be buried in the Northfield cemetery (1857). Edwin Sumner Drake farmed the family farm until his retirement to Northfield 1895. His son, Sumner Drake, then took over the family operation and established a progressive dairy operation. The farm's location on a Town Line Road not far from Northfield succeeded in making it one of the first rural locations in the county to receive electricity. Drake family descendents continued to reside on the farm until 1937. The house, with its strong associations with the Drake family for nearly seventy-five years, provides an important link to the American-born population that settled the area.

Legal Description:

Part of the SE NE NE Sec. 13 T111 R20. Begin at a point 150 ft. south of the north line of SE NE NE Sec. 13 and 250 ft. west of east line of Sec. 13. Commence Wly. 250 ft; thence Sly. 150 ft; thence Ely. 250 ft.; thence Nly 150 ft. to point of beginning.

Bibliography:

Berg, Lillie Clara, Early Pioneers and Indians of Minnesota and Rice County, San Leandro, California: 1959.

Drake, Wayne, oral interview, April 2, 1981, Dundas, Minnesota.

Neill, Rev. Edward D., History of Rice County, Minneapolis: 1882.

Northfield News Centennial 1855-1955.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Drake Farmhouse in Rice County,
Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 82003028

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Rice

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Drake, Edwin S., Farmhouse

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Northfield

ADDRESS: Co. Hwy. 22

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

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State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date