

**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 MacDonald-Todd House

and/or common Grier, J., House

2. Location

street & number 309 West Seventh Street not for publication

city, town Hastings vicinity of congressional district First

state Minnesota code 22 county Dakota code 037

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 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name James and Joan Grier

street & number 309 West Seventh Street

city, town Hastings vicinity of state Minnesota 55033

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dakota County Government Center

street & number 1560 West Highway 55

city, town Hastings state Minnesota 55033

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House -- Minnesota Historical Society

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date 1866-67

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The MacDonald-Todd House is located in a residential area of Hastings. It was originally constructed in Nininger City, where it occupied Lots 3, 4, and 5, Block 44. In 1866 it was moved to its current location.

The house is a T-plan Greek Revival house constructed of wood on a stone foundation. The exterior has horizontal siding painted white. The low-pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The three-bay gable entry facade has a doorway accented by sidelights and a transom. Alterations of the original structure include the construction of a large rear addition of similar style and materials in 1880 and a front porch in about 1900. The porch wraps around the corner formed where the two wings meet, and has smooth Tuscan columns and decorative modillions.

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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates 1857

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The MacDonald-Todd House is significant both as the residence of two prominent Dakota County journalists and for its association with promotional efforts for a speculative Dakota County townsite project in the 1850s. Constructed in 1857 at the townsite of Nininger, the house was the residence of A.W. MacDonald, managing editor of Ignatius Donnelly's Emigrant Aid Journal. Donnelly, who later became a congressman and lieutenant governor of Minnesota, was a primary sponsor of the townsite and utilized the Journal as its promotional device. MacDonald had worked for the Scientific American in New York before assuming his position with the Journal. Local sources indicate that the building also housed the Journal's editorial offices and printing press. Like scores of similar speculative townsite projects of the 1850s, Nininger was unsuccessful, and MacDonald left in 1859. The house was one of several Nininger buildings that were moved about five miles downriver to Hastings. This transfer was accomplished during the winter of 1866-67 on the ice of the Mississippi River. The new owner was Irving Todd, Sr., publisher of the Hastings Conserver from 1862 until 1866 and of the Hastings Gazette from 1866 until his death in 1921. The Gazette is one of the oldest existing newspapers in Minnesota.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Interview, Hazel Jacobsen, Dakota County Historical Society, April 1979.
Hastings Gazette, October 21, 1921, p. 1.
Curtiss-Wedge, Franklyn, editor. History of Dakota and Goodhue Counties, Minnesota,
Vol. I. Chicago: H.C. Cooper, Jr., 1910.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Hastings

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A

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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 2, Block 55
Original Town of Hastings

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Pommering Reynolds, Survey Analyst

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date 8 June 1979

street & number 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

contact Dennis Gimmetad
telephone 296-9545 (612)

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota

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
Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 11/1/79

For HCRS use only

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

Coral D. Shull
Keeper of the National Register

date 12-31-79

Attest: Kristin O'Connell

date 12/26/79

~~Chief of Registration~~