

HISTORIC NAME: Leonard Robinson House COUNTY: Benton  
 CURRENT NAME: Hommerding's Board and Care Home CITY/TWP.: Sauk Rapids City  
 LEGAL DESC.: Original Plat of Sauk Rapids ADDRESS: 202 Second Avenue South  
 Block 31  
 Lots 7, 8, & N 1/2 of 9

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X Restricted \_\_\_\_\_ PRESENT USE:  
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ Boarding House  
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1873 ORIGINAL USE: Residence  
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Leonard Robinson ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Leonard Robinson

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Quinton and Marion Hommerding 202 Second Avenue So. Sauk Rapids, MN 56379	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Benton County Historical Society Sauk Rapids, MN 56379	UTM REFERENCE: St. Cloud, MN Quad. 7.5 15 / 409300 / 5048710
FORM PREPARED BY: Mark Haidet	
DATE: November 1980	

## DESCRIPTION:

The Leonard Robinson House occupies a spacious corner location at the intersection of Second Avenue and Second Street South one block east of Sauk Rapids' central commercial district. The residence, constructed of locally quarried granite in 1873, is a rectangular two story structure covered by a truncated hip roof with a central gable-roofed dormer on the front facade. A truncated hip-roofed two story wing with a stone first level (1873) and frame second level (1950s) is located on the south side. Two two-story additions and an attached garage have been added to the rear of the residence. The original structure features quoined corners, prominent stone lintels and slipsills, and angled bay windows on the north, west (front), and south facades. The principal entrance, offset to the south on the front facade of the main section, and the secondary entrance on the wing are sheltered by simple gable-roofed awnings (not original). All windows on the original structure are double-hung with the exception of a small arched window situated in the dormer.

Alterations made to the structure since the late 1940s include stuccoing of the rusticated stonework, replacement of the original porches, removal of support brackets beneath the projecting eaves, and removal of the exterior brick chimney at the rear of the original single story wing. Although altered, the stone core of the historically significant Robinson House remains intact while several of its original decorative features -- bay windows, quoined corners, and prominent lintels and slipsills -- are easily discernible.

## SIGNIFICANCE:

The Leonard Robinson House is significant as the primary structural link with the early years of the locally important granite quarrying industry in the Sauk Rapids-St. Cloud area. The industry has undergone two distinct phases in its development. The first phase dates from 1868 when the first major granite quarry in Minnesota was opened near the present state reformatory south of Sauk Rapids. This phase, with its emphasis on stone destined for use in buildings and bridges, witnessed the tenuous existence of numerous small firms struggling against stiff eastern competition and exorbitant transportation costs. The second phase, in which the industry has flourished, commenced in the mid-1890s when granite became popular for monumental work. Leonard Robinson was a leading pioneer during the initial phase of development. He opened the area's second major quarry in Sauk Rapids in 1871 providing stone for numerous railroad bridges and several commercial and public structures including the Iowa State Capitol. Robinson's quarry folded in 1876 in the aftermath of the financial panic of 1873. He erected his locally renowned granite residence in 1873 when at the height of his success as a Sauk Rapids' quarryman.

Leonard Robinson House

Sauk Rapids, MN  
Benton County

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Andreas, Alfred Theodore. An Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Minnesota. Chicago: A.T. Andreas, 1874.
- Dominik, John J., Jr. Three Towns into One City: St. Cloud, Minnesota. 1977. pp. 26-29
- Mitchell, William Bell. History of Stearns County, Minnesota. Chicago: H.C. Cooper, Jr. & Co., 1915. pp. 478-482.
- Sauk Rapids Sentinel. 1871-1876.