

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 3 1976

DATE ENTERED JUN 2 1976

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

** Cedarhurst

AND/OR COMMON

Severance, Cordenio, House (Preferred) *h/h*

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

NE of C.G.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Cottage Grove *vic* VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

27

COUNTY

Washington

CODE

163

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Frederick J. Newman

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Cottage Grove VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

14900 North 61st Street

CITY, TOWN

Stillwater

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1972

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society - Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cordenio Severance House is situated on spacious grounds at the intersections of County Road 20 and County Road 19, one mile northeast of Cottage Grove. Landscaping includes a high hedge border along the traveled roads, and spacious front lawn (east of the house), a formal rose garden to the south of the house, and a gravelled driveway to the north.

The exterior of the house indicates a chronology of significant modifications. The original farmstead house (now the kitchen portion) is a simple frame structure virtually devoid of architectural embellishment. To this structure was added an Italianate two story section which contained dining room and parlors. The style of this addition suggests a date of ca. 1880. Although most of these portions have been covered over with aluminum siding, the original wood clapboard remains on the southernmost gable and facade. Of note is the broken pediment and fan window in the attic portion.

In 1917, Severance commissioned the architect Cass Gilbert to add a two story ballroom and bedroom section to the north face of the building to accommodate distinguished guests. This addition was designed to virtually double the expanse of the east facade to unify the addition to the former by similar proportion in window treatment and roof configuration. At this time two Neo-Classic doric hexastyle porticoes were placed at the two major entrances. Fan windows grace the pediments. Other than these porticoes, only shutters convey the decorative feeling of the Georgian Neo-Classic plantation house. The north facade of the ballroom section is graced by a two story, multiwindowed semicircular bay. Narrow clapboard siding has been retained on the South, East, and North facades of the 1917 alteration.

Other than the ballroom and reception hall, the interior of the house is virtually without architectural embellishment. The ballroom is graced by molded plaster beamed ceilings of classis foliate design, maple flooring, paneled walls with original fabric inserts, perforated panels for pipes of the built-in organ, and carved wood and marble fireplace. Above the ballroom on the second floor are nine bedrooms and ten baths, and a section known as the "President's suite".

In general, the present owners have conscientiously preserved the house and immediate grounds in their appearance during the occupancy of Cordenio Severance.

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 checked="" 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 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 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.1880 - present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Cass Gilbert, 1917 remodeling

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of this house lies in its association with Cordenio Severance, a leading St. Paul attorney from 1887 through the 1920s, and as an example of an opulent country estate.

In 1887, Cordenio Severance, one time President of the American Bar Association joined in partnership with Cushman Kellogg Davis, Governor of Minnesota, United States Senator, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and scholar, and with Frank B. Kellogg, United States Senator, Ambassador to Great Britain, Secretary of State, co-author of the Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact, and Justice of the World Court. The firm of Davis, Kellogg, and Severance enjoyed a large practice and handled a number of important cases in the state.

Cordenio Severance's country estate took its present shape in 1917. Cass Gilbert was commissioned at that time to transform an existing house into a massive Neo-Classic residence suitable for entertaining large groups of people. Although not documented, Severance's house was reported to have been a meeting place for government officials. The guests are said to have included not only St. Paul's elite but also Queen Marie of Romania, Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, William H. Taft, and Warren G. Harding. It has been reported that during the 1920s drafts of the Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact were written by Kellogg at this house.

The Cordenio Severance House is currently privately owned and serves as a single family residence.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Flandrau, Charles E., Encyclopedia of Biography of Minnesota, and History of Minnesota, Chicago, 1900.
 McClain, J.S., and Shutter, M.D., eds., Progressive Men of Minnesota, Chicago, 1900.
 Marquis, Albert N., The Book of Minnesotans, Chicago, 1907.
 Polk and Co., Publ., Little Sketches of Big Folks, St. Paul, 1907.
 Upham, Warren, ed., Minnesota Biographies, Minnesota Historical Society Collections, Vol. XIV, St. Paul, 1912.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	5,0,7	5,5,0	4,9	6,5	9,7,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						
C							D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

Lynne VanBrocklin and Charles W. Nelson - State Historic Preservation Office

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

19 April 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Building 25, Fort Snelling

TELEPHONE

612-726-1171

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Russell W. Fridley

TITLE Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 4-30-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

Tom L. ...

DATE

6/2/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

5-28-76

ACTING SUPERVISOR OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FOR for WJM 5/22/76

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Severance, Cordenio, House in
Washington County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 76001077

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Washington

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: 6940 Keats Ave. S.

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date