

HISTORIC NAME: Irving, William, House

COUNTY: Blue Earth

MAY 20 1980

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Mankato

JUL 28 1980

LEGAL DESC.: Blue Earth County recorders plat #18, Lot A
except tracts in Record Book #179, page 391
and Record Book #199, page 422

ADDRESS: 320 Park Lane

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes ___ No ___ Restricted X

PRESENT USE:

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No ___

Residence

OCCUPIED: Yes X No ___

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1873

ORIGINAL USE: Residence

ORIGINAL OWNER: Wm. Irving

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: See attached

ACREAGE: Less than one acre XLOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Blue Earth County Historical Society
606 South Broad, Mankato, Minnesota 56001UTM REFERENCE:
Mankato West 7.5

FORM PREPARED BY: Dennis Gimmetstad

15 / 418310 / 4889920

DATE: January 1980

DESCRIPTION:

The William Irving House is located on the edge of the Sibley Park area in the western part of Mankato. The address of the house is currently on Park Lane; at the time of construction the street was known as West Front Street.

The two-story French Second Empire Style house is situated near the center of the block on a spacious lot bordered on the rear and three sides by shrubbery. The central portion of the house has a full bell-cast mansard roof, which is covered with diamond-shaped cut cedar shingles and supported by sawn wood modillions. This portion is comprised of a nearly square section at the front and a slightly smaller section of equal height at the rear. The foundation is rock-faced stone; walls are of brick, painted white. Symmetrical fenestration features four-over-four double hung windows with flat arches and a front entrance with double doors. The mansard includes a projecting pavilion at the front and is pierced by seven gable-roofed dormers with four-over-four double-hung windows and sawn curvilinear wood ornamentation.

Two one-story sections are located at the rear of the structure. Each of these sections has a truncated mansard and similar detailing and materials as the front portion of the house.

At the front of the house is a one-story porch. The roof of this section is hipped with paired brackets under the eaves. Support posts are of wood and stone; walls are screened on the upper portion and sheathed in clapboard on the lower portion. The floor of the porch features a tile inlay design. This porch appears to have been added to the house at about the turn of the century; the exact date has not been documented.

The interior of the house is in an excellent stage of preservation. The front of the main portion includes a central hallway flanked by two front parlors and two bedrooms. The rear of the main portion includes a large dining room and a small bedroom and pantry (now a bathroom). The one-story sections at the rear include kitchen and porch areas. Except for the framework for a central hallway, the interior of the second story has not been finished, and the details of the construction of the frame mansard roof remain exposed.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The William Irving House is significant as an extremely well-preserved example of a French Second Empire residence, constructed on the fringe of Mankato during the first

see continuation sheet

decades of the city's development. William Irving was born in Liverpool, England, in 1821. He settled in Mankato in 1856, four years after the town was platted, and entered the tailoring business. In 1873, just after his retirement, he built a residence west of the central portion of town in an area that was just being developed; subsequent residential plats were made around the Irving property. Irving's choice of the mansard style may have been influenced by the more elaborate Second Empire R.D. Hubbard Mansion, constructed in 1871 at a location near downtown Mankato. The unusually high integrity of the Irving House has resulted from continued occupancy by the second generation of the Irving family until 1964, and, since then, by a long-time companion of the last Irving to reside in the house. The building's exceptionally well-preserved state and its modest but locally distinctive style make it an important remnant of the early growth and development of Mankato.

Bibliography

Boyce, Alec. Historical and Current Information on the William Irving Residence in Mankato. Duplicated report, 1979.

Mankato Free Press. August 6, 1973.

MAY 20 1980

William Irving House

Blue Earth County
Mankato, Minnesota

Ownership List:

Trustee: Mrs. Charlotte Farrish
c/o Farrish, Johnson, Mascka and Hottinger
Suite 300, Northwestern Office Building
209 South Second Street
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

Mr. George A. Bennidict
827 South Spaulding
Los Angeles, California 90009

Mr. Arthur Upgren, Jr.
#5 Red Orange Road
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

Emily Upgren
c/o Arthur Upgren, Sr.
1972 Thatch Palm
Boca Raton, Florida 33432