

**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** Resource  
Carver County, Multiple Resources (Partial Inventory)

historic Historic and Prehistoric Resources of Carver County (Partial nomination -  
see continuation sheet)

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Multiple Resources - see inventory sheets not for publication

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district Second

state Minnesota code 22 county Carver code 019

**3. Classification** see inventory sheets

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>_____</u> district	<u>_____</u> public	<u>_____</u> occupied	<u>_____</u> agriculture	<u>_____</u> museum
<u>_____</u> building(s)	<u>_____</u> private	<u>_____</u> unoccupied	<u>_____</u> commercial	<u>_____</u> park
<u>_____</u> structure	<u>_____</u> both	<u>_____</u> work in progress	<u>_____</u> educational	<u>_____</u> private residence
<u>_____</u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>_____</u> entertainment	<u>_____</u> religious
<u>_____</u> object	<u>_____</u> in process	<u>_____</u> yes: restricted	<u>_____</u> government	<u>_____</u> scientific
	<u>_____</u> being considered	<u>_____</u> yes: unrestricted	<u>_____</u> industrial	<u>_____</u> transportation
		<u>_____</u> no	<u>_____</u> military	<u>_____</u> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple Resources -- see inventory sheets

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carver County Courthouse

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Chaska state Minnesota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date 1977 \_\_\_\_\_ federal X state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

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

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
SEP 27 1979	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	JAN 4 1980

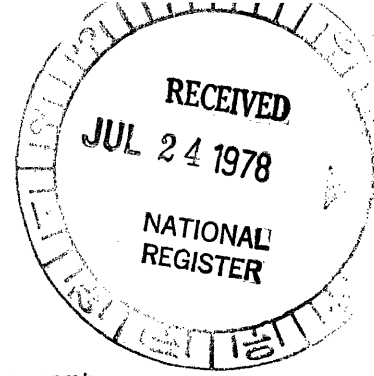
Historic and Prehistoric Resources of Carver County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 1 PAGE 1

This Multiple Resource Area Nomination is based on a survey of prehistoric sites and standing structures conducted in Carver County by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office as part of a long-range statewide survey of historic resources. The properties included in the nomination represent those which illustrate significant aspects of the history of the county and which have been deemed eligible for nomination at the conclusion of the survey. Additional information and new perspectives for evaluation of specific types of historic and prehistoric properties are continually being gained as the statewide survey progresses, and it is quite possible that additional Carver County properties will be nominated in the future. These may be presented individually or as parts of thematic groups when the entire survey is completed. For this reason, this Multiple Resource Area Nomination should not be construed as representing all properties in Carver County eligible for nomination.

(The above disclaimer is based on an agreement between Charles Harrington, HCRS, and Russell Fridley, Minnesota SHPO, August 31, 1979)



## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Carver County was surveyed from August to December 1977 as part of a comprehensive county-by-county survey of the state for historic, architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources. Because this was the first county in the state to be systematically surveyed, a standard survey methodology necessarily evolved throughout this five month period.

Two teams of survey archaeologists conducted an investigation of rural Carver County's archaeological sites and standing structures. The teams were composed of Ted Lofstrom, Supervisor of the Statewide Archaeological Survey, Debbie Angulski, Tom Trow, and Lee Radzak, all Survey Archaeologists. Lynne VanBrocklin Spaeth, Survey Specialist, conducted the survey of the county's communities. She was assisted by Charles W. Nelson, SHPO Architectural Historian. Both surveys were conducted in three stages: research and preidentification of sites, field survey, and analysis.

The rural portions of Carver County were surveyed for both historic and prehistoric sites under the Statewide Archaeological Survey, a program funded by the Minnesota legislature. Efforts were made in this survey to identify both the pattern of prehistoric settlement and significant individual prehistoric sites. Likewise, a systematic effort was made to identify significant historic sites, both standing and archaeological.

Carver County was largely ignored by professional archaeologists before the 1977 survey. A review of archaeological literature up to 1977 reveals no published reports on the scientific excavation of any prehistoric sites in the county. A review of the file of reported sites maintained by the State Archaeologist at the University of Minnesota tells the same tale. Recorded sites in Minnesota are filed by county and numbered in the order in which they are reported to the State Archaeologist. Sites in Carver County are prefixed by 21 (meaning Minnesota), CR (meaning

Carver County) followed by the number assigned by the State Archaeologist. Eighteen sites have been reported. Sites 21-CR-1 through 21-CR-5 are single burial mounds or burial mound groups identified by T. H. Lewis in the late 19th century and first published in Newton H. Winchell's The Aborigines of Minnesota (1911). CR-7 and CR-9 through CR-13 were reported in the 1960s and 1970s by two dedicated amateur archaeologists, Arlo Hasse and his son, Brian, of rural Cologne. CR-14 through CR-18 were reported in the spring of 1977 by Jerry Oothoudt and Clifford Watson of Terra Archaeological Services as a consequence of their archaeological survey of the community of Jonathan. CR-6 was reported to be a group of mounds, the existence of which was not subsequently verified. CR-8 is a very small campsite found in 1968.

Prior to the 1977 survey two properties had been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. These were the Wendelin Grimm Homestead, which was placed on the Register on December 30, 1974, and Coney Island of the West, which was placed on the Register on August 11, 1976. No systematic survey of the county had been attempted by the State Historic Preservation Office prior to the 1977 survey. As a Bicentennial project, the Heritage Committee of the Carver County Historical Society conducted a study to identify the county's rural historic buildings. This study, which was integrated into the SHPO survey, resulted in the identification of eighty-six historic properties.

#### Prehistoric Rural Survey: Preidentification

In Minnesota most known prehistoric camp, village, and burial mound sites were located near permanent natural water sources (which may not now exist.) Although this fact may reflect archaeologists' propensity to examine shoreline locations, it has become increasingly apparent that access to water was very important to aboriginal Minnesotans. Archaeological surveys designed to objectively determine the relationship between prehistoric site locations and features of the natural landscape both in Voyageurs National Park in northern Minnesota and the northern lower peninsula in Michigan (Gibbon 1977, Lovis 1976) have demonstrated

a strong association between prehistoric habitation locations and natural water bodies which were contemporary with the occupation.

The Carver County Archaeological Survey sought to test this same association using a stratified random sampling strategy. Random sampling allows the objective determination of the frequency of some phenomenon (in this case, prehistoric sites) within predetermined zones ( or strata ).

Based on the results of Gibbon's and Lewis' surveys, three strata were defined for Carver County which were thought to be significantly related to settlement location. These were lakeshore locations ( Stratum I ), stream shore locations ( Stratum II ), and locations not adjacent to permanent water ( Stratum III ). The frequency of sites within each stratum can be used to answer the question, "Are prehistoric sites in Carver County located near lakes and streams?" Because many lakes in Carver County have silted in since prehistoric times, old lake basins were identified on the basis of their peculiar soil types and topography. These were included in the definition of Stratum I. The quarter-quarter section was selected as the sample unit. A random sample of 60 units from each of the three strata was selected for field survey. This sample of 180 units, in addition to previously recorded sites, collecting areas reported by local amateur archaeologists, and promising locations elected by the survey staff, constituted the area to be surveyed.

#### Historic Rural Survey: Preidentification

The initial step in preparing the preidentification inventory for rural historic structures was to investigate all sources which might contain site information coupled with a specific location. Usually this involved historic atlas and plat maps and county and community histories (see bibliography).

Site-specific information from these sources was noted on site-specific file cards using one card per note. These cards were assembled in a file by numerical township-range designations. These township-range divisions were subdivided by theme categories such as settlement, agriculture, education, religion, and industry. (See Appendix A)

After all note-taking was completed the card file was analyzed in order to arrive at a list of sites in each township. These sites were then organized by theme. For example, all notes about industries in a particular numerical township were analyzed to determine the specific locations of the various blacksmith shops, flour mills, saw mills, etc., within that township. This procedure was followed for all sites in all theme categories.

After township lists of specific sites with locations were prepared, the locations were marked on a master county highway map using a one-up numbering system for each township. This numbering system corresponded to the numbering system for each township site list. Copies of the lists and maps, paired by township, were assembled into binders: one copy for the field survey team, one copy for the county file, and the original master. Also included in the binder was a county-wide site distribution count by theme.

#### Prehistoric and Historic Rural Survey: Field Survey

All sample parcels selected under the random sampling strategy described above were surveyed at 50 meter interval transects. Surface inspection was employed in cultivated or otherwise disturbed areas; "shovel testing" was conducted at 50 meter intervals where surface exposure was inadequate.

When prehistoric sites were encountered, much closer intervals were adopted for surface collections and shovel testing. Efforts were made to determine the depth and horizontal extent of each site.

A total of 176 potential historical archaeological sites were identified through documentary research. Each of these sites which could be identified to a specific quarter-quarter section were visited and their current condition ascertained. These sites were generally found to be either still standing or obliterated by more recent development. This was especially true of early farmsteads which were often found directly under modern farmsteads.

Local informants also assisted the surveyors in identifying those farms and other rural structures which might be of historic significance. An effort was made throughout the field survey to solicit information on historic structures from the owners of farms on which the archaeologists were testing.

#### Prehistoric Rural Survey: Analysis

Eighteen previously recorded sites were reexamined and over 70 additional sites were discovered in the course of nine weeks of field survey. The random sample survey indicated that there is a one in three probability that a prehistoric site of some kind will occur in a Stratum I quarter-quarter, a one in six probability in a Stratum II quarter-quarter, and a one in sixteen probability in a Stratum III quarter-quarter. Briefly put, most sites in Carver County are located on lake or stream shores. Although only 88 sites have actually been located, survey results also indicate that the great majority of these sites have been seriously damaged by, in some cases, over a century of cultivation.

In selecting sites for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places only sites which appeared to be partially or wholly undisturbed were chosen. These have the greatest potential to yield important information through excavation. Many of the cultivated sites in the county are large and have yielded large quantities of artifacts, but plowing has completely destroyed stratigraphic and featural associations. Consequently, other things being equal, these sites contain much less information than sites in which the archaeological context is better preserved.

#### Community Survey: Preidentification

As described above, an annotated bibliography for the county was prepared for the county's rural areas and its communities. For the communities, in particular, an analsis of recorded information resulted in an "overview history." This overview provided information relating,

for example, to the county' settlement patterns -- the date and location of the first and subsequent settlements; the immigrants, religious groups, and townsite speculators who were responsible for these settlements; the settlements which were begun; the reasons why some towns prospered and others became mere "paper towns" ( that is, towns which were surveyed, platted, filed for record, and then "forgotten"); the impact of geographical features such as soil, native vegetation, rivers, lakes, and manmade features (such as trails, roads, and railroads) on these settlements; the impact of government land and immigration policies; and the impact of changing technology on the agricultural, industrial, and commercial growth of the county.

Since Carver County's history has been capsulized into only one secondary source, The History of the Minnesota River Valley, primary sources and unpublished church, family, and community histories, as well as interviews, were relied upon as research material. Census records, which are heavily biased towards economics, provided a comprehensive body of information concerning the county's industries and commercial enterprises. Community and church histories supplemented this information by providing a picture of the county's religious, social, educational and political history. General secondary sources such as histories of Minnesota, standard biographies of Minnesotans, geological and geographical studies of the state, statewide immigration patterns in the 19th century, and agricultural studies were referred to in order to place Carver County's history into a statewide context.

#### Community Survey: Field Survey

In order to practically apply this vast body of information to a field survey place -specific information was compiled into thematic lists by community. For instance, for the town of Chaska the eight preidentified business establishments were listed as significant during Chaska's settlement period (1851-1860) under the theme of "Business, Industry and Trade," ten people were identified as significant



under the theme of "Politics and Political Parties in Minnesota" for this same period, and so on. This list provided the surveyor with an immediate guide of "what to look for in Chaska." Since the exact location for these listings was frequently unrecorded, local residents were enlisted to locate buildings and structures associated with these significant businesses, industries, people, and so forth. The initial survey of the town of Chaska, which was conducted with the aid of five local residents ( all of whom were descendants of "pioneer" families), resulted in the location of over 100 buildings or structures associated with preidentified businesses, industries, people, etc. This number reflects almost eighty percent of the total number of places or people preidentified as significant in Chaska's history. This method of preidentification followed by in-field location by local residents was repeated with a substantial degree of success throughout the county. Local residents were also asked which buildings and structures they believe are historically significant. The results of this phase of the survey were twofold. First, buildings preidentified as historically significant were quickly located. Secondly, local perceptions of "what is significant" were brought to the surveyor's attention.

This phase of the survey was followed by a visual and photographic analysis of building styles (traditional and vernacular), building materials, and building uses. In addition, a study of each community's morphology was undertaken as was an analysis, by community, of the physical relationships of residential and commercial buildings to the environment.

It should also be emphasized that a significant element of the survey from the beginning was local participation in it. During the research phase of the survey a concerted effort was made to establish contacts -- through press releases and letters, which were followed by personal visits -- with local elected officials and county, township, and community planning agencies. From the outset, a cooperative relationship was established with the Carver County Historical Society. The resources of the county society, including previously unknown quantities of historic

photographs and maps, diaries, papers, and, most important, the help and assistance provided by over fifty historical society members, added a significant dimension to the survey.

A series of five public meetings (including two State Review Board meetings) was held in four different locations in the county during the months of December, January and February. As a result of press releases in the county's four newspapers and letters of invitation to the owners of the 400 properties recorded as significant during the survey, many persons attended each of the meetings. The three meetings held prior to the State Review Board meetings were designed to encourage local residents to once again share their knowledge of the county's historic buildings and structures. In addition, each meeting's activities included a slide presentation discussing the survey and its results, an explanation of National Register listing, and a discussion of the State Historic Preservation Office's statewide efforts to preserve significant buildings and structures.

#### Community Survey: Analysis

A synthesis of the preidentification and analysis phases of the survey resulted in specific and detailed historical and architectural information on over 400 buildings and structures. This information-- history, physical description, map location, and photographs (historic, if available and current), and subsequent research, was transferred onto a survey form (See Appendix B -- Minnesota Historic Properties Inventory Form). The National Register Criteria of Evaluation was then applied to these buildings and structures. Four districts and twenty-five individual buildings and structures were determined to meet the criteria. Taken as a whole, these districts, buildings, and structures are the best surviving representatives of Carver County's historical development from the mid-1850s to the depression of the 1930s.

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

☐ excellent    ☐ deteriorated  
☐ good        ☐ ruins  
☐ fair         ☐ unexposed

**Check one**

☐ unaltered  
☐ altered

**Check one**

☐ original site  
☐ moved    date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

See Attached Description of Area

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Carver County, twenty miles west of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area, is bounded on the north by Hennepin and Wright Counties, on the west by McLeod and Sibley Counties, on the south by Sibley County and the Minnesota River, and on the east by the Minnesota River and Hennepin County. The county contains 240,959 acres, of which 14,307 are covered by lakes and streams.

### Geological Setting

The sandy soils and steep bluffs overlooking the Minnesota River and the clay soils and rolling topography of the interior of the county are in large part a product of glacial processes. The last protrusion of glacial ice into Carver County was associated with the advance of the Des Moines lobe into southern Minnesota. This lobe followed the Minnesota lowland, a bedrock lowland which had guided the course of previous glaciation. At a point near present-day Mankato the bedrock again diverted the flow of glacial ice, this time from south to northeast. The ice -- the Grantsburg sublobe of the Des Moines lobe -- passed over Carver County and continued to the northeast until it intercepted another mass of ice near present-day Grantsburg, Wisconsin. The ice was again redirected, this time to the south, where it pushed into central Iowa. At its maximum extent (about 14,000 years ago) the Des Moines lobe covered almost all of southern Minnesota west of the 93rd meridian.

During the next 2,000 years much of the glacier melted, or "retreated." Left behind was an irregular topography composed of the boulders, cobbles, gravel, sand, and clay that had been scraped up and incorporated into the advancing glacier. Also left behind, and buried in this glacial till, were gigantic blocks of ice. In time these blocks of ice melted, leaving the depressions and lakes typical of morainic landscapes. (Matsch, 1972, Wright, 1972).

The morainic landforms associated with the actions of the Grantsburg sublobe and the eastern side of the major Des Moines advance are collectively called the Owatonna Moraine Physiographic Area, of which six component geomorphic regions are found in Carver County. Three -- the Waconia-Waseca moraine, the Lonsdale-Lerdal till region and the Arlington-Matowan Ground Moraine -- apparently resulted from the in-place melting of stagnant ice. Three other areas -- the Prior Lake Moraine, the Emmons-Faribault Moraine and the Maynard-Owatonna Moraine -- may have been constructed in part by moving ice. Collectively these geomorphic regions now share a loamy to clayey soil texture and a rolling topography characterized by lakes, marshes, and peat soils (which mark silted-in lakes). (Agricultural Experiment Station, U. of M., 1975).

Meltwater generated by the wasting ice-mass cut several channels through the moraine. (These are marked by water-sorted sands and gravels.) A major meltwater channel followed the course

of the present day Minnesota River northeast to the glacial Mississippi; most evidence for this feature, however, was swept away by the River Warren (discussed below). A second, smaller set of channels, one of which is now occupied by the Crow River, parallels the Minnesota River in northwestern Carver County.

About 10,000 B.C. the Des Moines lobe receded to a point behind the continental divide in Big Stone County. Meltwater began to pond between the divide and the leading edge of the glacier. This proglacial lake became, in time, the largest freshwater lake in North America -- glacial Lake Agassiz -- with an area of 200,000 square miles. A southern outlet for the lake was established at Brown's Valley, through which poured immense volumes of water. This torrent -- the River Warren -- cut the wide valley through which the Minnesota River now flows. (Matsch, 1972) Many of the sandy terraces in San Francisco and Chaska townships, as well as the huge sand-bar on which the town of Chaska is built, were deposited at this time. The torrent continued until the glacier melted sufficiently to reveal another outlet (into present day Lake Superior) whereupon the River Warren dwindled to the more modest proportions of the modern Minnesota River. This occurred approximately 7200 B.C.

Subsequent geological processes in the Carver County landscape have been small by comparison. The major change has been the filling of lakes with organic sediments. Many basins which were once lakes are filled to the top with peat; they now

support pasture and crops. Although it is believed that the rate of filling varied from lake to lake, the only lake in Carver County which has been studied to date is Rutz Lake. Here some 52 feet of peat have accumulated over a period of 12,000 years. It might also be noted that agricultural drainage and erosion resulting from cultivation have accelerated the process over the last 120 years.

Of more direct interest to the scholar attempting to understand the prehistory of Carver County are the changes in climate and vegetation that have occurred since the retreat of the last glacier.

#### Post Glacial Climate and Vegetation

Euro-American explorers and settlers found Carver County to be densely forested with species of oak, elm, maple, and basswood. This association of tree species, "The Big Woods," along with oak forests, formed a deciduous forest zone that ran from southeast to northwest through the state. It separated the prairies in the southwest from the coniferous and coniferous-hardwood forests in the northeast. That the Big Woods had not always been part of the Carver County landscape was perhaps first fully appreciated in 1935 by R.F. Daubenmire. In his classic study of the woods, he noted that:

Recent studies (1934) have brought out the rather surprising fact that the soils of the Big Woods, now supporting excellent deciduous forest, possess a definite prairie profile (1935:257).

He concluded from this fact that "the xerothermic period continued for sufficient time to permit development here of a typical prairie profile (ibid)." Daubenmire's conclusions were also supported by climatologists who had identified a post-glacial period (the Altitermal) which was significantly warmer and dryer than the present climate. The actual chronological position of this period was uncertain, however. More recent developments in palynology have been combined with radio carbon dating techniques to produce a relatively accurate picture of changes in regional vegetation and climate.

A picture of past vegetation in Carver County has been inferred by Jean Waddington from the pollen in a 50-foot long sediment core taken from the deepest part of Rutz Lake. The following account is taken largely from her report (196 ).

At the very bottom of the sediment column there was a layer of "trash" composed of spruce, poplar, alder, and tamarack pollen. Abundant seeds, needles, and spruce cones were also found. Waddington interprets this not as lake sediment, but rather as the remains of a forest that grew over buried glacial ice. As this ice block melted to form Rutz Lake, the forest soil collapsed into the basin to form the bottom-most layer of sediments. She interprets the regional vegetation at this time as follows:

The waterlogged soils of the initial depression were invaded by black spruce, tamarack, black ash, and ericaceous shrubs. Poplar, birch and alder probably grew in peripheral belts around the bogs and later around the ponds and lakes as they



formed by the melting of buried ice blocks/. Upland sites were probably occupied largely by white spruce and juniper. The driest, most exposed terrain may have featured prairie openings... (273-274).

Other studies in Minnesota and adjacent states also indicate that spruce forests pioneered directly after deglaciation.

(Wright 1968:158-163). At Rutz Lake, the spruce forest has been dated, through radio carbon testing, to a period from 10,000 to 7500 B.C.

The succeeding pollen zone apparently documents a rather sudden decline of the spruce forest and its replacement by deciduous species:

Within approximately 1000 years spruce was replaced by birch and alder and then by mesic deciduous trees /such as elm, ironwood, hazel/. Prairie openings increased.... These changes are considered to be the result of a change in climate toward warmer, drier conditions.... The vegetation of the time is believed to have consisted of a deciduous parkland with groves of trees on valley slopes or around depressions, where there was some protection from fire or where soil moisture was greater (274).

The deciduous forest at Rutz Lake has been dated to approximately 7500 to 5800 B.C. Climate and vegetation during this period is thought to have been roughly similar to modern conditions.

The warming trend which had led to the deciduous forest continued, however, and shortly after 5800 B.C. years ago the deciduous forest/parkland gave way to prairie. In his classic study of the climate of the North American grasslands (1950), J.R. Borchert demonstrated that the major significant climatic features of the modern prairie region were relatively frequent

and severe droughts in late spring and summer and abnormally high temperatures during drought summers. He also noted that the long term average summer rainfall over the prairie was significantly different from the rest of the Midwest. This fact becomes important when it is considered that although many temperate tree species are not drought-hardy, drought alone does not cause the disappearance of forest in favor of grasses. (Woodlands composed of drought-hardy species are, for example, found in favored locations throughout the prairie (Wells 1968),) The direct cause of the destruction of the forest -- and the establishment and maintenance of the prairie -- is fire.

The effect of more frequent fires on the early deciduous forest may have been quite similar to the "retrogressive states" which Daubenmire (1935-1936) identified for the modern Big Woods. Repeated burning would have first eliminated elm and red oak and reduced other trees to scrub form. Other species, such as ironwood, which sucker from the roots, however, would have sprouted after the fire passed. Burr oak, as another example, has a thick, fire resistant bark, and is largely unaffected by the burning of ground vegetation. Seedlings of all tree species, however, are fire sensitive; frequent fires would, therefore, have prevented the reproduction of even the durable oak. Over the long term all tree species would have been eliminated, except in certain highly favored locations such as well-watered river valleys. (These valleys served as the seed source for reforestation when

more favorable conditions returned.) The increase in fires is clearly documented at Rutz Lake by a dramatic increase in the number of charcoal particles in the lake sediments. Significantly, the charcoal is derived from grass and other herbs, indicating burned grassland vegetation.

There is also good evidence that many lakes dried up during this period. Studies of sediment cores taken from several lakes on the modern prairie border or in the prairie itself indicate a general shallowing or drying up of lakes between about 5000 and 3000 B.C. Rutz Lake did not dry up during this period, but may have been an exception. Kirschner Marsh, for example, which is located about 35 miles east of Rutz Lake, did. Here the evidence suggests the lake dried out in the late summer and refilled for at least part of the rest of the year. These episodes, which lasted perhaps two centuries, alternated at least 4 times with slightly wetter conditions between 5000 and 3000 B.C. Charcoal was also found to be abundant in the Kirschner Marsh sediments of this period (Watts and Winter 1966:1347-1352).

The Carver County that emerges from these studies contrasts markedly with the traditional "Big Woods" picture. The climate during the prairie period was probably similar to the "Dust Bowl" of the 1930s. Hot, sunny, dry summers saw frequent fires sweeping through the prairie grasses. Many of the lakes either were reduced to marsh or dried up altogether; stream flow was greatly reduced. Forest growth was probably restricted to the floor of

the Minnesota River Valley, where a well-developed river bottom forest composed of elm, ash, cottonwood, oak, willow, etc., was probably present (Marschner, 1930).

The prairie period in Carver County lasted until about 1200 B.C. In the lake sediment core oak pollen becomes more common at this time. Waddington notes that:

[a] decrease in the severity or frequency of fires, indicated by a decrease in the charcoal index, would permit tree seedlings to become established. The vegetation could have been an open parkland, with groves of deciduous trees, mainly oaks and probably mainly ...burr oak, growing in a prairie landscape described as...oak openings (276-277).

By 3200 years ago Carver County's lakes were probably refilled with water, although the accumulation of plant material was progressively converting many lakes either to marshes or to bogs. Increasingly favorable conditions permitted the expansion of the woodlands and the growth of less fire tolerant deciduous species. By about A.D. 1500 the "Big Woods" was established in Carver County.

The historic Dakota Indians appear to have exploited the Big Woods for the game which was present. The Euro-American settlers who followed them found not only the game but also the woods itself important to their success. Log cabins typically provided the first housing; forest products such as maple sugar, maple syrup, and cord wood were early cash crops. The soils beneath the Big Woods were viable and easily tilled. Forest clearance proceeded quickly and within a few decades the Big Woods had been largely cut down. The current open landscape of Carver County is a result of their work.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		See inventory sheets	
<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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates**

**Builder/Architect**

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

See Attached Significance

## HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF CARVER COUNTY

The broad outline of Minnesota's prehistory has been elucidated by a century of archaeological research. The outline has been created primarily through the study of the refuse left by Minnesota's earliest inhabitants. Arrowheads and broken pottery are well known examples of this refuse. Less well known but equally important to archaeological investigation are butchered animal bones, stone tools, and the flakes left from the manufacture of tools. This refuse generally marks the location of prehistoric campsites and villages.

Archaeologists have assumed during their century of study that customary ways of doing things, whether hunting with spears, gathering food for subsistence, or gardening with stone hoes are followed unless for some reason they become ineffective or inadequate. For example, the need to undertake a new or different task, such as the grinding of grains, it is assumed, demanded the development of a new tool. It is further assumed that major changes in the types of tools -- or artifacts -- signify the changes that occurred in the culture of the inhabitants.

The artifacts which have been discovered in Minnesota have been divided, on the basis of their physical characteristics, into four categories. Each category is believed to represent a separate culture or period.

The oldest of these periods is the Paleo-Indian. During this period the inhabitants are thought to have been nomadic hunters. During the second tradition, the Archaic, the inhabitants are thought to have "settled down;" they probably placed a greater emphasis on collecting plant foods and fishing. The third period is distinguished from the second by the introduction of pottery. The last tradition, the Mississippian, is associated with the growing of corn, widespread trading, and the settling of large villages. (A good introductory outline of Minnesota's prehistory may be found in Prehistoric Peoples of Minnesota by Elden Johnson.)

The following history of Carver County is a preliminary synthesis based on the results of archaeological investigations conducted throughout the state, the 1977 archaeological survey of the county, and an examination of many artifact collections owned by Carver County residents.

## PALEO-INDIAN PERIOD

Research in Michigan and Wisconsin demonstrates that the earliest inhabitants of the Midwest -- the Paleo-Indians -- entered the area during the last advance of glacial ice -- about 10,000 B.C. (Mason 1958, Quimby 1960). They are thought to have followed a wide ranging nomadic hunting and gathering way of life. From archaeological discoveries made in states south of Minnesota and on the Great Plains it is known that hunters included among their prey several giant, now extinct, mammals, including mastodon and bison. (While both mastodon and species of giant bison are known to have lived in Minnesota, no Paleo-Indian "kill site" has been found in the state.)

In a further sophistication of archaeological research, this earliest period has been divided into two shorter periods. The earlier period is often called the "fluted point" tradition because it is characterized by extremely distinctive projectile points, each of which is typically lanceolate in shape, well made, and of high quality stone. They bear a broad, concave flake scar, or "flute," running from the base along one or both sides to the point. This period is thought to have lasted for about 3,000 years or until 7000 B.C. (Quimby 1960: 31-33).

The succeeding tradition, the "Plano" tradition, is identified with projectile points similar in material and workmanship to points of the earlier period, but these points are typically



longer, larger, and lacking in the characteristic flute. Opinions as to when the Plano tradition ended differ, but a date of about 5500 B.C. is commonly accepted.

Evidence for fluted points in Carver County is elusive. None were found in the survey and none were seen in collections. A 1941 Minnesota Archaeologist article reports a single broken example of a fluted point found near Lake Waconia. (This Folsom point has since been lost (Klammer 1941, 1978). A review of environmental conditions during this period strongly suggests that the area was inhospitable for human habitation. The irregular and unstable topography was clothed by a spruce forest which may have been both impenetrable and poor in game. Additionally, the River Warren (see Physical Description above) may have proven a nearly impassible barrier.

In contrast, a sparse but definite human occupation is documented for the second half of the Paleo-Indian period. At least a dozen Plano spear points are represented by fragments collected by Arlo Hasse from the cultivated portions of the proposed Hasse Archaeological District. A single complete example is a "Plainview" point, a subcategory of Plano spear points. The remaining fragments cannot be assigned to specific types. While an occasional possible Plano point fragment was noted in collections from other county sites, the Hasse District appears to be the only potential habitation site identified to date. The apparent small Plano population is consistent with the picture elsewhere

in the Midwest. Environmental conditions had certainly improved by this time. Deciduous trees had replaced spruce and by about 7200 B.C. the River Warren had dwindled to the size of the modern Minnesota River.

The Paleo Indian points, whether the single Folsom point or the Plano points, are made of Hixton quartzite, a distinctive high-quality stone quarried at a single location in west-central Wisconsin. This suggests that the extra-regional ties of Carver County Paleo-Indians lay toward the southeast.

#### ARCHAIC-MIDDLE WOODLAND

No evidence has been found in Carver County for the subsequent Early Archaic tradition. By this time climatic warming had brought about through desiccation and more numerous fires a shift from a wooded to a prairie environment. Most lakes had dried up.

If the factors constraining early Archaic settlement were consistent with those apparently determining later settlement locations, one would anticipate finding habitation sites only in the Minnesota River Valley since the river may have been the only significant permanent body of water. It also may be the case that central Minnesota was abandoned in favor of locations farther north. For instance, the Itasca Bison Kill Site, some 170 miles north of Carver County, dates to this period. (Shay 1971) But, as has been said, no Early Archaic sites have been located in the county.

It is during the Late Archaic tradition, beginning perhaps as early as 3000 B.C. and continuing through the Middle Woodland tradition, that prehistoric human occupation of Carver County appears to have been most intensive. A large variety of side notched, corner notched, and stemmed projectile points representative of this general time period were collected during the course of the survey and observed in local collections. In particular the Lake Archaic period is represented in Carver County by points very similar to the generally associated Raddatz Side Notched and Durst Stemmed point types which date to the period 3000 B.C. to 100 A.D. (Caine 1974) Also representing the Late Archaic in Carver County is a variety of three-quarter grooved stone axes.

Largely absent from the county's collections, however, is the Old Copper material characteristic of the Lake Archaic period in northeastern Minnesota and most of Wisconsin. This material is generally found in the form of large copper artifacts cold hammered from pieces of native copper. (Quimby 1960: 52-63) While a few copper tools were observed in Carver County collections, most appeared to be smaller types typical of the later Woodland period.

Two sites of potential considerable importance in understanding the Late Archaic period in Carver County are the Hasse Archaeological District and the Miller Lake Archaeological District. The Hasse Archaeological District has yielded a large number of

Late Archaic artifacts, including one possible Old Copper artifact (a large socketed conical ~~spear~~ point).

The Miller Lake Archaeological District contains a Late Archaic cemetery in addition to habitation areas. Erosion has exposed several burials, including one primary-flexed, or sitting, interment containing two Raddatz side-notched points as grave goods. These subsurface graves are not marked by mounds.

The transition from Late Archaic to Middle Woodland is marked in Carver County by the appearance of corner notched points similar to Pelican Lake types defined in Saskatchewan for the period between 600 and 100 B.C. (Kehoe 1974) (It should be noted before proceeding that the Early Woodland period is usually defined by the appearance of thick, crudely made pottery; in every other way it remains culturally very similar to the preceding Late Archaic. Outside of the southeastern Minnesota counties on the Mississippi, however, this pottery type is absent, and the first potteries made in the rest of Minnesota are more nearly like pottery types classified as Middle Woodland elsewhere in the Midwest. To avoid utter confusion the Early Woodland period is conventionally dropped from the prehistoric culture sequence in many parts of Minnesota.)

Of the prehistoric periods represented in Carver County, the Middle Woodland (ca. 100 B.C. - A.D. 700) is perhaps the best understood. Cultural affinities appear to be closest to the "Fox Lake" phase identified in southwestern Minnesota. Several sites,

most notably the Miller Lake Archaeological District, have yielded quantities of thick, rather poorly made, coil constructed, grit-tempered pottery -- the hallmark of the Middle Woodland period. Interior surfaces are crudely smoothed; the exteriors exhibit horizontal cord marking. (Cordmarking is a typical surface treatment on Minnesota Woodland vessels, but is ordinarily orientated vertically on the pot.) Rims are smoothed and slightly everted. There appears to be little or no construction at the neck. Decoration is absent or consists of a single row of non-circular punctuates, or irregular depressions, placed just below the lip. Minor decorative types include dentate stamping and incising.

Collectively these ceramics show a strong similarity to Middle Woodland pottery found in southwestern Minnesota, especially to the "Series D" ceramics found at the Pedersen Site in Lincoln County (Hudak 1976.) The comparison is complicated somewhat by the fact that horizontally cord-marked "Series D" ceramics are a minor type at the Pedersen Site yet dominant in Carver County, while the more typical incised-over-cordmarked Fox Lake ceramics, which dominate the Pedersen assemblage, are absent. Overall, however, the Carver County Middle Woodland ceramics do not appear to be closely related to contemporaneous ceramics found to the east or north.

Two sites are of importance to understanding this period of the county's prehistory. The Miller Lake Archaeological

District, as noted above, has yielded large quantities of Middle Woodland pottery. It also contains the largest group of conical burial mounds between the Minnesota River and Lake Minnetonka. Two separate groups, one of six and one of ten mounds, lie in wooded pasture areas bracketting a cultivated field. This field once contained many more mounds which have been plowed down. Grave goods from these mounds have not been recovered, so the cultural and temporal affiliations of the builders are unknown. Mound building is a Woodland tradition, however, and the absence of Late Woodland materials at the site argues Middle Woodland assignment for the mounds.

The Miller Lake mounds are particularly significant because they suggest a strong cultural continuity between the Archaic and Woodland periods in Carver County. The fact that the largest mound group in the county lies directly adjacent to the only known Archaic cemetery suggests that Miller Lake was a traditional site of interment and an important religious center for thousands of years.

A second site with considerable potential to yield important information about the Middle Woodland period in Carver County is the Barlous Lake Archaeological District. Surface collections from the cultivated half of the site suggest a series of small Middle Woodland camp sites.

## LATE WOODLAND - MISSISSIPPIAN

It should be noted here that the transition from the Middle to Late Woodland in northern and much of central Minnesota is marked by pronounced increase in population which has been linked by archaeologists to the introduction into the economy of wild rice as a staple grain (Gibbon and Caine 1976). In marked contrast to this trend, however, artifacts representative of the Lake Woodland period in Carver County are conspicuously less frequent than Middle Woodland items. The Miller Lake Archaeological District, for instance, has yielded only a single Late Woodland potsherd, and pottery with twisted cord or cord-wrapped-stick decoration typical of Late Woodland pottery is uniformly rare in county collections. Similarly, Late Woodland triangular arrowheads are scarce. The reasons for this apparent decline in population are not clear.

Only one site -- the Parley Lake site -- located in the course of the survey contains a significant Late Woodland component. This site has yielded Late Woodland pottery and has no apparent earlier materials. Its location suggests it may have been a wild rice harvesting site.

The Mississippian tradition, which saw the development of large agricultural settlements between 1000 and 1200 A.D. at present day Red Wing and Mankato and in Blue Earth County, also appears to have by-passed Carver County. Smooth-surfaced, shell-tempered pottery often decorated with linear or curvilinear

designs is generally diagnostic of the period. Such pottery is absent from Carver County collections. One exception is an isolated find in eastern Carver County. This pot has a smoothed-over, cordmarked surface, but otherwise exhibits typical Mississippian characteristics. Similar pottery has also been found a few miles to the east in western Hennepin County.

#### HISTORIC

The inhabitants of Carver County at the time of initial Euro-American exploration are not known with certainty. The Dakota, whose tenure in the Lower Minnesota River Valley lasted roughly from 1750 to 1851, relate in their oral history that they displaced the Iowa Indians (Winchell 1911: 69-73).

Dakota settlement was concentrated in the Minnesota River Valley, with major settlements located about six miles from the mouth of the Minnesota River and at Shakopee. It is perhaps an accident of geography that no major villages were sited in present day Carver County. Both the Shakopee Village and a smaller habitation area at Little Rapids, for example, were located immediately across the river in Scott County.

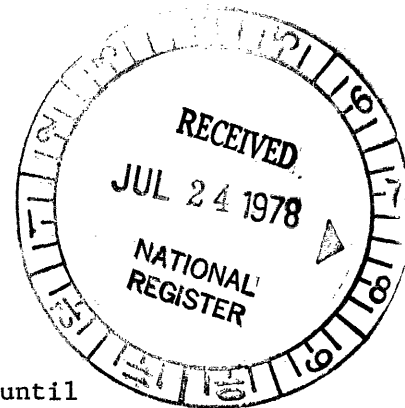
A single artifact most probably related to the Dakota occupation of the area was found in the course of the survey. It is an English gunflint discovered in isolation on high ground overlooking Rice Lake in Benton Township. It dates roughly to



the period 1790-1830 and shows very heavy wear on all four edges. The gunflint was presumably discarded by a hunter after use rendered it no longer serviceable. Hasse has found a few used gunflints, also not associated with other historic artifacts, on prehistoric sites in the county. Collectively these artifacts suggest that the Dakota hunted game in Carver County (then forested by the "Big Woods"), but did not establish settlements there.

Dakota hegemony in the Lower Minnesota River was terminated by the Treaty of 1851. This disastrous treaty deprived the Dakota of most of their Minnesota homeland and set the stage for the Sioux Uprising of 1862 (Winchell 1911: 551-559). The Dakota were transferred to a reservation located on either side of the Upper Minnesota. The land that was to become Carver County was soon opened for settlement by Euro-Americans.

EURO - AMERICAN SETTLEMENT -- PRESENT



Carver County was considered Sioux Indian territory until 1851 when the treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota were signed. These treaties, for the first time, legally opened for settlement land west of the Mississippi River. As was frequently the order of events in Minnesota's development, Carver County grew up first along navigable rivers and streams and then along railroads, progressing generally from southeast to northwest.

From 1851 to 1890 approximately twenty-five settlements emerged in Carver County, including river towns, railroad towns, flag stations, ethnic and religious settlements, post offices, retail centers, and resort towns. (Only twelve of this total exist today as incorporated towns.) Indeed, the settlement of town centers preceded farms. During the 1850s, business and trades people marked the frontier's edge; it was only in their wake that farmers followed.

Carver County's first settlements -- Chaska, Carver, and San Francisco (due to frequent flooding, the history of San Francisco spanned less than a decade) -- were all located on the Minnesota River. They were established before the Pre-Emption Law of 1854 opened most of the county's land to settlement. This law also ushered in a period of land speculation that carved out many townsites, lots, and farm lands before ending in the financial panic of 1857. Eight townsites were platted and almost 40% of the county was taken up by farms during this period.

Waterways and croplands figure prominently in the early founding and growth of towns in Carver County. The broad Minnesota River was a major transportation route, the Crow River, a power source of then untapped potential. By 1860 several towns were emerging as sites of significant transportation, retail, or trade activity: Chaska and Carver on the Minnesota River, Helvetia and Watertown on the south fork of the Crow River, Waconia on the south shore of the county's largest lake, and Young America, between two large lakes in the southwestern section of the county. All three activities, and industrial enterprises as well, were carried out in Carver and Chaska. Their surrounding agricultural lands attracted Scandinavian and German farmers who formed several small religious settlements, usually composed of a church and a school, at Scandia, Gotaholm, Gotha, East Union, West Union, Ruediger's Settlement, and Holtmeier's Settlement.

During the 1860s and 1870s river transportation spurred rapid commercial and industrial growth that propelled Carver and Chaska ahead of Waconia, Helvetia, Watertown, and Young America. (See Significance Statement -- "Business, Industry, and Trade.") The river could not match the railroads as an impetus to growth, however.

The construction of railroads in Carver County, beginning in 1872, influenced the county's development to a greater degree than any other single force or event. In that year, a 6-mile stretch of the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad was constructed

through southeastern Carver County, thus connecting by rail, for the first time, Carver and Chaska with Minneapolis and St. Paul. In 1874 the Hastings and Dakota Railroad became the second railway company to pass through Chaska and Carver and across the southern part of the county. Its construction created a second wave of land speculation, with flag stations and soon-to-be bustling railroad towns appearing as Dahlgren Station, Benton Station, Bongard Station, and Young America Station.

A third and final wave of townsite development followed in 1880-81 when two new railroads were laid and an existing one was extended. As part of a major westward expansion, the Chicago and Northwest Railroad built a line which diagonally bisected the county. Towns which either developed or prospered along this route included Victoria Station, Waconia, Young America, Norwood (previously Young America Station), and Hamburg. The Great Northern Railroad, which constructed a line through Waconia and Camden Townships, resulted in the platting of four new townsites: Coney Island, Maple, Mayer, and New Germany. In 1881 the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad (formerly the Hastings and Dakota) sent a branch line from Minneapolis and St. Paul through Hazeltine and Augusta Stations, southwesterly to an existing line at Cologne (previously Benton Station.)

Towns that were established as a result of railroad construction

became retail, storage, distribution, and processing centers for the county's rural population and rapidly increasing agricultural production. Towns intersected by two railroads, including Chaska, Cologne, Norwood, and Waconia, grew at the expense of those without rail transportation or with only one line. Although railroad construction changed the urban hierarchy of Carver County, Chaska retained its original prominent position, becoming an important railroad town as well as a river town. By contrast, Carver's once advantageous location on the Minnesota River was rendered obsolete after construction of the railroads. For various reasons, the county's other railroad towns never established the number and diversity of businesses and industries located earlier at Chaska and Carver. Industries common to many of these railroad towns included sawmills, grist and feed mills, and creameries. In varying numbers, general stores, hardware stores, hotels, saloons, post offices, banks, and an occasional blacksmith, milliner, and jeweler completed the commercial interests located in these towns. Growth in the majority of these railroad towns was characterized by an initial period of commercial and residential construction (1880 to the turn of the century) followed by a period of stagnation (which was most acute in the 1930s). This phenomenon was common to the towns of Mayer, Maple, New Germany, and, to a lesser degree, Hamburg.

From 1854 to 1860, agricultural activity lagged behind the

settlement of town centers in Carver County with 80% of the county's population centered in towns. During the 1860s, however, the growth of agricultural production and rural population began to outpace the growth of towns. Over one-half of the county's population in 1860 was located in the eastern quarter of the county -- where the towns of Carver and Chaska are located. But by 1870 a westward shift in population had occurred. By that year, over three-quarters of the population , or 8,502, was located in townships in the eastern two-thirds of the county and over 70% of the entire county was being farmed. By 1880 the county's population was evenly distributed with the majority of the population farming over 80% of the land. In 1890, after the major period of railroad construction was completed, a significant shift in population density occurred. For the first time the western half of Carver County, which is predominantly rural, contained over one-half of the county's total population.

From the turn of the century to the Great Depression Carver County was characterized by increased agricultural activity in its rural areas and by sustained growth -- with notable exceptions -- in its small and widely distributed urban centers. The county became one of the state's leading agricultural producers as the result of the introduction, beginning in the 1890s, of diversified farming and the subsequent growth of dairy and livestock production. During this period

Carver County became known as "The Golden Buckle on the State's Dairy Belt," a label which the citizens of the county proudly wear, figuratively speaking, to this day.

The urban areas of Carver County were marked during these decades by a period of consolidation. No new towns were begun after 1890. Thirteen of the twenty-five towns which had been settled in the nineteenth century were either abandoned or consolidated with another community. The balance of the towns -- Chaska, Carver, Watertown, Chanhassen, Waconia, Cologne, Hamburg, Mayer, New Germany, Norwood, Young America and Victoria -- grew in population during these decades but at less than their rapid nineteenth century rate. These towns were supported largely by agriculturally related businesses and industries. Feed mills, the majority of which were owned and operated by farmers' cooperatives, appeared in all of these towns between 1890 and 1920. During this same period, small creameries, many of which were also run by cooperatives, began operating in Chaska (2), Carver (1), Watertown (1), Waconia (2), Cologne (1), Hamburg (2), and Mayer (2). The state's largest creamery (located midway between Cologne and Norwood), which continues to produce the nationally famous Bongard's Cheese, experienced substantial growth during this period. The towns of Norwood and Young America became two of the state's major livestock shipping centers. Continuing this same trend toward industrialization, food processing became,

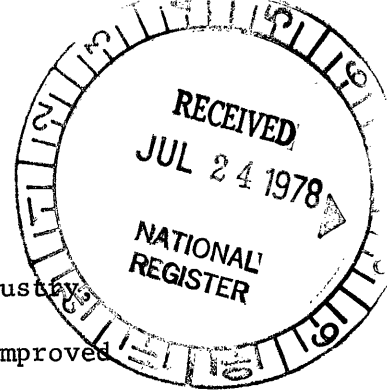
after the turn of the century, the county's leading industry with factories located in Chaska (the Crystal Sugar Beet Processing Plant), Carver (the Cream of Barley Plant), Watertown (the Green Giant Canning Factory), and Waconia (the Waconia Sorghum Factory).

Another common phenomenon after the turn of the century was the disappearance or incorporation by larger towns of small railroad settlements (known as flag stations), such as Augusta, Dahlgren, Benton, Bongards, and Coney Island (on the north shore of Lake Waconia). The functions once served by the general stores, post offices, and depots in these towns were usurped by the county's larger towns.

The county's religious settlements -- Scandia, Gotha, East Union, West Union, Ruediger's Settlement, and Holtmeier's Settlement -- were exceptions to this trend. These settlements continued, despite rapid changes throughout this period to the contrary, to be a mainstay in twentieth century rural Carver County. Although the day to day reliance on the church which had characterized each settlement's "pioneer period" had ceased, the churches, schools, and parish halls in each of these settlements continued to serve their respective congregation's religious, social and educational needs.

The social and economic impact of the Great Depression dealt a negative blow to the county's post-settlement prosperity. The events surrounding the depression -- which were followed in the





1940s by rapid technological changes in agriculture and industry, by the abandonment of railroad transportation in favor of improved county and state highways, and by the out-migration of the county's third and fourth generations in search of employment and of the amenities offered by larger cities -- resulted in the decline of Carver County's smaller towns.

Beginning in the 1940s Carver County joined a nationwide trend in which trucks replaced railroads as the principal carriers of farm products. Since creameries and cheese factories had to provide pickup service or a competitor would, the truck became important most rapidly in the dairy industry. The farmer ceased bringing the milk to the railroad station to be hauled to the city on the "milk train." By 1948, 97% of the nation's milk moved by truck and 3% by a combination of truck and rail. In that same year national figures reveal that 91% of farmers' grain and 88% of their livestock were transported to market by trucks.<sup>1</sup> The effects of this phenomenon on the county's towns and rural areas were many. For the first time farmers (who were then farming over 90% of the county) could produce, harvest, and transport their farm products to markets without outside interference. For a number of years prior to the 1940s, the farmer had been compelled to rely on the railroad shipping agent -- who dictated when farm products could be shipped and the quantity that could be shipped. In addition, the farmer had been required at various times in the county's history to pay exorbitant shipping rates.

Towns which had been founded and which had prospered as a result of the railroads were most seriously affected. The railroad towns of Mayer and New Germany, for example, because of decreasing railroad transportation, experienced dramatic reductions in population growth and in commercial and industrial activity. The depots, hardware stores, general stores, barbershops, and banks in both towns were abandoned in the 1950s and are now deteriorating. Both towns have become by 1978 "bedroom communities" with a majority of their populations commuting to jobs in nearby towns or the Twin Cities. A small percentage of Mayer's population of 325 is supported by a feed mill and creamery. Many of New Germany's 303 citizens rely on a feed mill, a gasoline distributorship, and a liquid fertilizer plant for local employment.

Towns such as Victoria, Waconia, Chaska, Cologne, Norwood, and Young America, which had relied upon railroads to a lesser extent and which were by the 1950s located on one or both of the county's two state highways, experienced renewed commercial and industrial activity and population growth. This activity, as well as new residential construction, occurred along the highways which intersect these towns. The result was a shift of commercial activity away from the historic urban center towards the highways. The "commercial strips" that resulted contain automobile-oriented businesses, such as motels, fast food restaurants, and gas stations. Despite this shift, the buildings in the small downtowns and the historic residential neighborhoods have not deteriorated.

During the 1960s the suburban growth of the Twin Cities expanded to include a third ring of suburbs. This expansion into the north-eastern third of Carver County dramatically affected the development of large portions of Chanhassen, Chaska, and Laketown Townships. These townships, which had been since settlement largely devoted to farming were rezoned from agriculture to multi-family housing, commerce, and industry. Following closely upon the heels of rezoning was a development -- known as the "New Town of Jonathan" -- which was designed "to provide an alternative to living in the contiguously built-up areas of the Twin Cities Region." In 1966 2,200 acres of land located within a triangle formed by the towns of Chanhassen, Victoria, and Chaska, were bought by the Jonathan Development Corporation. Today almost 8,000 acres are incorporated into the "New Town of Jonathan." Although the recession of 1975 and the threat of foreclosure by the New Community Development Corporation (HUD) on a \$21 million commitment seriously affected the future of this development, it currently provides residential units and commercial enterprises for a community of 7,000. Ten acres are devoted to office activities; 121 acres of land devoted to industry provide 1,500 jobs.

Like Mayer and New Germany, the towns of Victoria, Chanhassen, and Carver have become "bedroom communities," but have retained their small downtowns and well-preserved residential neighborhoods. Other towns, including Chaska, Watertown, Waconia, Cologne,

Norwood, and Young America, have retained traditional small-scale businesses and industries, and their small town rural character.

Demographic studies reveal that Carver County will not experience a high percentage of growth by 1990 and except for Chanhassen and Victoria will maintain its rural character.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Margaret Purcell, Statistical Findings of Survey of Transportation from Farms to Initial Markets, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Washington, D.C., 1949. (Quoted from John T. Schlebecker, Whereby We Thrive: A History of Farming, 1607-1972, Page 229, Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa, 1975.)

<sup>2</sup> Bauer and Associates, Inc. Environmental Impact Statement: Jonathan New Community, Chaska, Minnesota, Section 1, Page 2, Eden Prairie, Minnesota, 1978.

## HISTORICAL THEME: IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC SETTLEMENT

The immigrants who settled in Carver County were predominantly German and Scandinavian. In 1860, over one-half of the county's 5,106 inhabitants represented these two ethnic groups. By 1870 over three quarters of the county's foreign born population were from Germany or Scandinavia; Irish and Swiss settlers constituted the balance. When lands in Chanhassen, Chaska, Benton, Laketown, Waconia and Camden townships were opened for settlement they were taken up primarily by Germans; San Francisco and Dahlgren townships attracted Swedish and Norwegian settlers; Hancock township was settled primarily by Irish immigrants; and Watertown and Hollywood townships were settled by Germans, Swiss, Irish and Scandinavians.

German immigrants were responsible for the settlement and ethnic character of the towns of Chaska, Cologne, Hamburg, Waconia, Norwood, and Young America. The Scandia Settlement, and the East and West Union Settlements were settled by religious groups from Sweden and Norway.

Chaska's major industries -- brick manufacturing, sugar beet processing, and brewing -- are traditional German industries. Numerous Chaska brick buildings, the Crystal Sugar Beet Processing Plant, and the Beyrer Brewery represent these German industries. In addition, the Faber and Linefelser stores, the Moravian Church, the Klein houses, the K.K. Klammer House, the Ess Foundry, the Frank Miessler House, the Philip Henk Hardware Store, the Diedrick

Building, and Hammer and Bierstettel's Harness Shop, all of which are located in Chaska, are associated with Chaska's German population. The Zoar Moravian Church and the Lake Auburn Moravian Church in rural Carver County; the Guettler House and the Paul Mohrbacher House in Cologne; the Charles Maiser House, the Alois Zrust House, the "Carpenter's Catalogue Houses," and the E.H. Mock Cigar Factory and House in Waconia; and the Hebeison Hardware Store and House in Hamburg are all associated with German religious groups, settlers, businesses, or industries.

As for Scandinavian settlement in the county, King Oscar's Settlement in Dahlgren Township was the first. This settlement, which eventually divided along geographic lines into the East and West Union Settlements, was established in 1853. The Lutheran Church and Parsonage, St. Ansgar's Academy Building and the Reverend Andrew Jackson House at East Union, as well as the Lutheran Church and Luther League Hall at West Union are all well-preserved buildings which represent the history of King Oscar's Settlement.

Scandia Swedish Settlement was established on the east shore of Lake Waconia in 1855. The Andrew Peterson Farm, where Minnesota's Swedish Baptist Congregation was formed, is the best preserved complex of buildings associated with this Swedish settlement. Peterson's diaries represent an invaluable daily chronicle of the Scandia Swedish Settlement from 1855 to 1898.

## HISTORICAL THEME: BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND TRADE

As the head of normal navigation on the Minnesota River at a time when rivers were the major transportation arteries in the state, Carver naturally became the trade, transportation, and manufacturing center for all of Carver County and areas to the northwest. In 1855, one year after the Carver Land Company began selling lots in Carver, it was reported that " . . . Carver now contains a good store; a new, commodious and well-kept hotel; a good sized warehouse; a blacksmith shop; and several dwellings; and a ferry will be in operation early in the spring." (Daily Minnesota Pioneer, February 13, 1855) Activities at Carver in these early years of settlement demanded the know-how of experts in law, medicine, and the building trades -- as evidenced by an 1855 advertisement which called for a brickmaker, physician, lawyer, and "another blacksmith." During a six month period in 1856 it was reported that ". . . Carver has added to her real estate not less than 35 good buildings, not made of logs, but good frames, all lathed and plastered." Later in the same year a steam sawmill, grist mill, and a pottery were in full operation. More stores, hotels, and saloons, as well as a brickyard, a hennery, a carding mill, a brewery, and a newspaper were added to Carver's business and industrial interests in the 1860s.

By the 1870s, Carver was clearly established as a trade center. In 1874 over 500,000 Carver bricks, 200,000 bushels of wheat, and

5,000 cords of wood were shipped from Carver. (Two million bricks were used in Carver itself.) Carver's retail stores were doing a brisk trade and monthly agricultural fairs brought into Carver the farmers who wished to barter or sell their surplus produce. By the mid 1870s the town of 700 inhabitants boasted over thirty flourishing businesses and industries. Within another ten years Carver included a real estate and loan office, a flour mill, two grain elevators, a carding mill and feed mill, and numerous stores, hotels, and saloons. There were also boot and shoe makers, two brickyards, a brewery, two farm machinery dealers, two plow and carriage manufacturers, two lumber yards, two watch makers, and a photographer. By the middle of the 1890s, however, another corner had been turned in Carver's history. As a result of competition from the neighboring village of Chaska and the introduction of railroads into the interior of the county, Carver began a steady and inexorable decline; its monopoly as a trade and manufacturing center had ended. \*\*

Chaska's development, although somewhat less spectacular in the beginning than Carver's, was more measured and, in the end, successful. As in Carver, a land company first developed the site. The Chaska Land Company, which was composed of Eastern capitalists, became sole proprietors of the townsite in 1854, three years after Thomas A. Holmes first settled there. The company's chief land agent, John T. Halsted, surveyed and platted the townsite on a north-south grid with provision for city and county courthouse

\*\* Please see Minnesota Historic Properties Inventory Form: Carver Historic District for a discussion of extant historic buildings related to this theme.



squares. As though he had determined the future with his survey, Chaska became the county seat two years later. In the same year, 1856, Chaska claimed to have ". . . some twenty-six buildings completed or nearly so, many of them very fair sort of houses -- one sawmill -- four stores -- and several shops. A five story hotel is being established here." (Daily Minnesotian, November 27, 1856). Lots within the original townsite were sold at such a pace that in 1857 additions were made to the original plat. Although a financial panic in the same year spelled the end of the Chaska Land Company, it only temporarily stunned the community.

Within a decade after settlement Chaska's industrial and commercial growth was exceeded only by Carver's. The town's major business was government. As the county seat it provided farmers on "government business" with retail stores, mills to grind their wheat and cereal crops, and numerous hotels and saloons. It also attracted new settlers. In 1866, a boom year for the town, eight more additions were made to the original plat and over thirty new buildings were constructed. The town that year shipped 7,000 cords of wood, 400,000 hoop poles, 93,000 bushels of grain, and, as a preview of what was to become the town's major industry for over half a century, 800,000 locally manufactured bricks. Two breweries were also built in 1866 (one of which, the Beyrer Brewery, still remains); they were part of Chaska's second major industry. The pace of growth and prosperity continued until the 1880s.

Numerous buildings and structures associated with this early

period of Chaska's commercial and industrial growth remain in a good state of preservation. The Ess Foundry, which is located within the "Walnut Street Historic District," began operating as a wagon shop in 1866. A blacksmith shop later added, as was a foundry, which began operation in 1886 at the urging of a local brick manufacturer. The foundry manufactured a "slop brick machine," the "nameless brick machine," Chaska streetlights (which are extant), sleighs and sleigh runners, cauldrons, iron fences, and iron crosses. When the Ess Foundry discontinued full-time operation in 1971, it was Chaska's oldest continuously operated family-owned industry. Two houses, also within the district, were constructed by the Ess family across from the foundry.

Although the first store in Chaska has not survived, the owner's home, the Henry Young House, still stands on Second Street within the Walnut Street District. The oldest surviving commercial building, the Faber and Linenfelser Store, was built in 1858 at the corner of Second and Walnut Streets. A companion store, built by Faber and Linenfelser in 1863, stands diagonally across the intersection.

Of the many buildings in Chaska which were associated with one of Chaska's earliest industries, hoop pole manufacturing, the best-preserved is the home of Frank Miessler, one of the blacksmiths who manufactured the poles. The Miessler house is located within the Walnut Street District. Hoop poles were used in the construction of hoops which held together the staves of

wooden barrels. As previously noted, over 400,000 poles were manufactured in Chaska in 1866. They were shipped by barge to flour mills at Minneapolis, Hastings, Winona, Stillwater, and Hudson, Wisconsin.

Chaska's first bank was built in 1876 by George DuToit. (DuToit, it might be noted, had had an earlier bank in Carver.) The bank building is located at the southwestern corner of the district. Also located within the district is the Philip Henk Hardware Store. The building, which was built in 1876, occupies a prominent location on Second Street. The most prosperous saddle and harness shop in Chaska is also located on Second Street. It was constructed in 1877 by Mike Hammer and John Bierstettel.

The brick industry dominated Chaska's industrial and commercial activity during the 1880s and 1890s. By 1882, eleven yards were in full operation; they turned out 300,000 bricks each day. Many public buildings throughout the state were constructed of the famous "Chaska brick," as were buildings at Fort Snelling and the Minneapolis sewer system. Numerous buildings in the Chaska area were also, of course, constructed of the brick. Seventeen of them are located within the Walnut Street District. Four of the buildings -- the two Klein houses, the tenement house, and the Ess Foundry -- are immediately associated with the brick industry itself. The Klein brothers owned and operated Chaska's largest and longest operating brick yards; the tenement house was constructed in 1885 to provide inexpensive housing for Chaska's seasonal brick yard employees; and, as previously noted, the Ess Foundry manufactured

and repaired brick-related machinery. Other historic buildings in Chaska which were constructed of locally manufactured brick include the Brinkhaus Saloon Livery Barn; the E.H. Lewis, Frederick E. DuToit, Frederick Greiner, and Eder/Baer Houses; the Herald Block; the Beyrer Brewery; the Simons Block and Livery Barn; and the American Crystal Sugar Beet Processing Plant.

After the turn of the century brick manufacturing, which had been the town's leading industry since its founding, surrendered its dominant position to food processing. The American Crystal Sugar Beet Processing Plant was Chaska's major industry from 1906 to 1971.

Another industry, although smaller in scale than either brick making or food processing, has had a longer association with Chaska than either of the other two. Beginning in 1862, when Charles Warner first published the Chaska Herald, and continuing to the present, printing has been an important element in the town's economic life. When Warner sold the Herald to Frederick E. DuToit in 1866, he noted that the paper had been published a greater length of time, without interruption, than any other paper issued in the county. The Herald Block, at the southeast corner of Pine and Second Streets, has been the Herald's place of publication for 107 years. The Frederick E. DuToit House is associated with the family which published the paper from 1866 to 1969.

The town of Waconia, in the north central area of the county, was settled contemporaneously with Carver and Chaska. Unlike

those two towns, tourism was a major impetus in its growth. Although its potential was recognized as early as 1857, when the townsite proprietor decided that the town and surrounding area could be developed into a summer resort, significant development did not begin until 1877. By the 1890s Waconia was acclaimed throughout the midwest. The industry continued until 1920.

The most significant individual promoter of Waconia, Emile Amblard, a French wine importer, visited Waconia in 1894. So favorably was he impressed with Lake Waconia and the island in its center, Coney Island, that he purchased land in Waconia and nearly half of the island. Shortly after the turn of the century he constructed three villas on the island. He also constructed a guest house, dining room, and auto club in Waconia. The guest house is the only building which survives which was designed by him. It is also the best preserved building associated with the town's resort history.

Among the service industries which developed in Waconia E.H. Mock's diminutive cigar factory is prominent. The Mock family manufactured cigars, an item sold in Waconia's resort hotels and saloons, in the building until the turn of the century.

The milling industry, which was common to all but a few towns in Carver County, is best represented in Waconia by the Charles Maiser House. The Maiser Family was among the first families to settle in the town. In 1884, Benedict Maiser began operating a grist mill. He operated the mill during the next

sixteen years. He rebuilt it three times and finally enlarged it to a 75 barrel a day capacity. He was among the first to introduce the roller process of milling to Minnesota. When the railroad was constructed through Waconia, he converted the mill into a merchant mill. In 1900 he sold the mill to his son, Charles. Charles and, later, his three sons operated the mill until 1967.

In the years surrounding the turn of the century the building industry was carried on in large measure by two local builders -- Albert Hedtke, a carpenter, cabinet maker, and owner of a local lumberyard, and Charles Klatt, Sr., who, for many years, manufactured cast concrete blocks on the shore of Lake Waconia. Hedtke built the two houses at 417 and 429 West Main Street; Klatt built an adjacent house at 453 West Main.

During the 1880s the construction of railroads into the interior of Carver County dramatically changed the county's commercial and industrial history. Towns that developed along the railroads became storage, distribution, and processing centers for their respective agricultural areas, but none of them established the number and diversity of businesses and industries which had located earlier at Chaska and Carver. Industries common to many of these railroad towns included sawmills, grist and feed mills, and creameries. General stores, hardware stores, hotels, saloons, post offices, depots, grain elevators, and an occasional blacksmith, jeweler or milliner were located in small numbers in these towns.

Examples from several towns may make this pattern more vivid. The construction of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad through Cologne in 1881 supplied the means necessary to transport feeds, flour, and cereal crops to markets in Minneapolis and St. Paul; the relocation in the town of a mill from an adjacent town insured Cologne's growth. Nevertheless, no other industries of any size were ever built in the town. Among the founders in 1881 of this single industry, the Cologne Milling Co., were George Guettler and Paul Mohrbacher. Their homes still remain. The Guettler House is now used as the company's office. The mill has remained the town's earliest, largest, and longest continuously operating industry. Other notable and well-preserved commercial and industrial buildings in other railroad towns include the Kusske and Hahn Saloon in Helvetia, the Harm's Bar in Norwood, and the Hebeison Hardware Store and House in Hamburg.

HISTORICAL THEME: AGRICULTURE

Nearly all of the historic resources included within this nomination are associated, whether directly or indirectly, with the development of Carver County's major historic theme -- agriculture. Three farm complexes -- the Wendelin Grimm Homestead, the Schimmelpfennig Farm, and the Andrew Peterson Farm -- reflect the evolution of farming in Carver County. They also reflect significant advances in Minnesota agriculture.

The Wendelin Grimm Homestead, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on December 30, 1974, is located on the 160 acres of land on which Grimm developed the first strain of winter hardy alfalfa. This strain, which Grimm developed from the twenty pounds of alfalfa seed that he had brought with him from Germany in 1855, revolutionized the growing of forage crops in North America. Although Grimm alfalfa was grown only within a ten mile radius of the farm until the early 1880s, by 1890 Carver County provided nearly fifty percent of all alfalfa grown in Minnesota. By 1900 Grimm alfalfa was planted on 658 acres. By 1930 this figure had grown to 702,578. (Edwards and Russell, p. 26) The advancement of dairy farming and other livestock industries in the northern United States and Canada at the turn of the century was in large measure due to the availability of this alfalfa for forage. Evert E. Edwards of the United States Department of Agriculture



wrote in 1938, "The production of a forage plant so hardy as Grimm alfalfa, with its permanence, enormous yields, high protein content, economy as a crop, and value as a soil builder and weed throttler, is almost without parallel in plant history." (page 26). Grimm alfalfa remained the dominant alfalfa until a hardier strain was developed in 1955. Of the buildings which were once associated with Wendelin Grimm only his two story buff-colored brick farm house remains.

The Schimmelpfennig Farm and the Andrew Peterson Farm represent two agriculturally related phenomena that occurred throughout Carver County. The buildings on both farms exemplify a shift in farm operations and farmers' increasing wealth. A regional shift from subsistence and single cash crop agriculture to diversified cropping, and livestock and dairy production is reflected in the agricultural structures remaining on these two farms. Another phenomenon, which is reflected in the residences on the two farms, is directly related to the increasing economic status of the farmers: the original house was often augmented with additions and remodelings.

The Schimmelpfennig Farm, which has been continuously owned and operated by one family since 1855, contains five significant buildings and structures dating from 1856 to 1909. Although the development of the farm is typical of many Carver County farmsteads, it is unusual in that the physical record of that development is preserved. The earliest farm buildings -- the log house (which

now forms one wing of the Schimmelpfennig house), the log barn, and the hog barn reflect the buildings needed to operate a small subsistence farm in the 1850s. These farms usually consisted of a vegetable garden and a small field of grain for animal fodder and cereal. (WPA p. 1). The amount of cultivated land and the type of crops raised depended both upon the time necessary to clear the land (the Big Woods) and upon the ability of the farmer to profitably market his surplus produce. Carver County's earliest farmers were limited in the amount of crops they could grow because of the small demand for their farm produce in local markets and because of the difficulty in hauling the produce twenty or thirty miles to St. Anthony (Minneapolis) or St. Paul. By the late 1860s, however, bustling markets at Carver and Chaska and the world-wide demand for wheat induced Carver County farmers to clear more land for the cultivation of wheat. Since wheat was a predominately market crop, its spread was greatly affected by the upward course of wheat prices during the late 1850s and early 1860s. Other factors which influenced the farmers' reliance on a single crop of wheat included the limited amount of capital required for wheat farming, the increasing simplification of marketing and shipping wheat to Minneapolis or St. Paul, and the ability to "cash in" the wheat crop as soon as threshing was completed.

By 1890, numerous factors, including rising land values, fickle weather conditions, stem rust and chinch bug infestations, and technological advancements hastened a statewide trend away from

the pioneer one-crop system to crop diversification. Diversification, moreover, lessened the impact of crop failures on the farmers' income. As early as 1873, evidence of this shift occurred in the oldest farming regions of the state (Carver County included). Statistics collected by the state Grange in that year revealed that the percentage of land in wheat and grain crops was lowest in the counties that had been settled the longest. (Jarchow, p. 186). By the turn of the century wheat had been joined as a principal field crop by corn, oats, barley, hay, rye, and sugar beets.

Following a step behind the trend from the one crop system to diversified cropping came a trend from cash crop to feed crops. Grain, hay and corn were fed to livestock and then sold in the form of beef, pork, dairy, and poultry products. By 1935 half of Carver County's total farm income was derived from the sale of dairy and livestock products. Half of the remainder (or one quarter of the total) was derived from the sale of livestock; the rest was charged off to the sale of field crops, forest products, and products consumed on the farm. (WPA, C.C. Agr., p.7).

Evidence of these agricultural trends over a sixty year period can be seen in the buildings on the Schimmelpfennig farm. In the 1870s, Johann Schimmelpfennig substantially expanded his farmstead. His decision to diversify his crops and to raise livestock required the construction of a barn far larger than the original log barn that he had built in 1856. As his income increased so also did his farm house. In the mid-1870s he added a frame addition to

the original hewn log house. In addition, he added a small frame summer kitchen which contained a smoke house. In 1909, when the family began dairy production, a frame livestock - dairy barn and silo were constructed on the farmstead.

The significance of the Andrew Peterson Farm lies both in the preservation of the farmstead and in the historical stature of Andrew Peterson himself. The farm consists of seven buildings dating from the 1850s to the turn-of-the-century. These seven building, like the Schimmelpfennig Farm, represent the evolution of agricultural development in the county. They also reflect Andrew Peterson's status as one of the state's leading farmers and horticulturists. (For detailed information on the construction of these buildings, see Survey Form.)

From 1854 until three days before his death in 1898 Andrew Peterson kept a daily diary (save Sundays). Peterson's diary records the construction of his first log house in 1855 and the establishment of the Scandia Swedish-Baptist Church in his house on August 1, 1855. This church became the mother church for the Minnesota Swedish Baptist Conference. Terse, unembellished entries record his marriage to Elsa in 1858, the construction of his new house and barns, the birth of his nine children, and his increasing prosperity and prominence in the local community. The diary is also a priceless sociological record that details the seasonal rhythm of hard work that was pioneer life and the system

of barter, shared labor, and mutual aid that was vital to the settlers' success.

His diary also tells of his native Sweden and of his trip in 1855 from Burlington, Iowa, where he had worked as a nurseryman, to Carver County, where he and a number of Swedish Baptists established claims in Laketown Township and began the task of clearing land for farms. By 1860 Andrew Peterson's farm was fully diversified and as such, served as a model to neighboring farmers. Peterson produced wheat, oats, barley, corn, alfalfa, potatoes, rutabagas, vegetables of all kinds, sugar beets, numerous varieties of apples, pears, grapes, plums, cherries, gooseberries, raspberries, strawberries, currants, maple sugar, molasses, wine, eggs, butter, cream, milk, cattle, swine, sheep, geese, poultry, cordwood, and hogs. (Qualley, p. 66)

By the 1870s Peterson's attention was increasingly directed towards horticulture. For example, in 1873, he grafted 404 apple trees, 13 pear trees, 30 plum trees, and 12 cherry trees. "Although Peterson sold harvested apples in nearby markets, he realized his principal income from selling young trees, seedlings, grafts, and scions, starting at least as early as 1873 and increasingly from 1875." (Qualley P. 66-67). Peterson's horticultural experiments, particularly with apples, were widely discussed and distributed through numerous reports which he wrote. The reports frequently appeared in such journals as The Minnesota Horticulturist and The American Agriculturist. (For detailed information concerning the buildings associated with Andrew Peterson, see Survey Form.)

## HISTORICAL THEME: TRANSPORTATION

Transportation in Carver County has progressed from rivers to roads to railroads. During the earliest years of white settlement the Minnesota River was the one major artery of travel to Carver County. Steamboats and barges were the only means of transporting supplies at low cost; transportation by land in these years was too expensive or physically impossible. So important was the river that beginning in 1857 steamboats daily plied the Minnesota from St. Paul to the head of navigation at Carver. The two story wood frame house in Carver built by the captain and owner of the steamboat Antelope is a reminder of that era.

Although the poorly constructed roads originally limited the load that could be hauled, whether on wagons in summer or on sleighs in winter, the roads were eventually improved and extended into the interior. Livery businesses, first in Carver and Chaska and later in many of the county's towns, began to compete with the steamboats and barges. Two livery barns in Chaska, associated with the Simons Block and the Brinkhaus Saloon, both of which were constructed during the 1870s, remain from this period. James Dilley rented the latter; he operated a livery business, quartered horses, rented rigs, provided "bus service" to various locations in and around Chaska, and held mail contracts between Chaska and numerous Carver County communities.

Development in the county continued with the construction of railroads during the 1870s and 1880s. Because all of the historic resources in the county which were built during and after that period relate either directly or indirectly to the construction of the railroads, it is difficult, if not pointless, to isolate individual buildings and structures associated with them. Of the once numerous structures associated with the railroads themselves, however, the Carver Water Tower is most notable. This wood stave structure was constructed by the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad in 1874 to provide water for steam locomotives. Passenger and freight depots in the county have all but disappeared. Railroads continued to dominate Carver County's economic life until after the Second World War.

## HISTORICAL THEME: GOVERNMENT

Few well-preserved examples of local government buildings remain in Carver County. Many of the historic buildings associated with county, township and town government have been either demolished or extensively altered. The most significant casualty of this onslaught was Carver County's imposing Italianate courthouse; it was demolished in the late 1950s after almost a century of use.

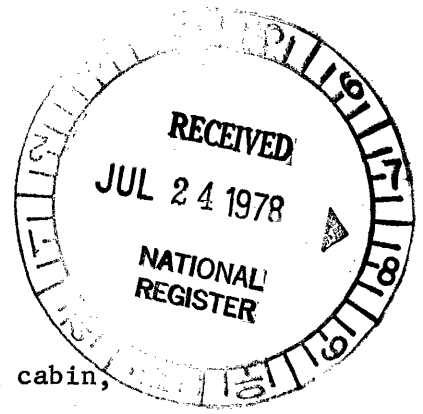
Of the numerous town halls which once stood in the county, only two remain in a good state of preservation. The Young America City Hall has remained a dominant feature in that town's streetscape since the hall's construction in 1909. It is the best preserved example of "city hall architecture" in the county. The well-preserved Chanhassen Town Hall is the successor to an earlier township hall. The building was constructed in 1896, the year in which Chanhassen was incorporated as a village.

In addition to these public buildings, four houses associated with the county's elected officials are among the county's significant historic resources. The Paul Mohrbacher House and the Knotz House in Cologne are associated with two of the town's mayors. Rosa Partoll Knotz was Cologne's only woman mayor. The houses of Frederick E. DuToit and Frederick Greiner in Chaska are associated with two of the town's earliest political figures. Greiner served as county commissioner, chairman of the county board, sheriff, and, for over twenty-five years, as register



of deeds. DuToit was not only the county's leading newspaper publisher, but also township clerk, county commissioner, county sheriff for over twenty years, state representative, and state senator.

HISTORICAL THEME: RELIGION



The church, whether housed in a school, hotel, log cabin, or building of its own, was the leading religious and educational center of many pioneer communities. It was also a social center. Sewing circles, ladies' aid societies, and temperance groups met in churches. Athletic events, revivals, and camp meetings, were held in them.

The county's churches were closely associated with either a Scandinavian or German immigrant group. The members of King Oscar's Settlement, for example, the first of three Swedish settlements in the county, cleared land and constructed a log church before they cleared land for farms. The Lutheran Church complexes at East and West Union contain well-preserved buildings associated with that settlement. Other Scandinavian immigrants, who settled on the shore of Lake Waconia, named their settlement after their homeland, "Scandia." It was at the home of one of these immigrants, Andrew Peterson, that the Minnesota Swedish Baptist Congregation was organized. (The Scandia Swedish Baptist Church was recently moved from Scandia to a college campus in St. Paul.) Scandinavian immigrants also built three churches in Carver -- the Swedish Methodist Church, the Trinity Lutheran Church, and the Salem Lutheran Church.

Germans were among the first white settlers in Carver County. Eight families from the German Moravian Congregation of Hopedale,

Pennsylvania settled there in 1855. Two years later Reverend Martin Erdman organized a Moravian congregation of twenty-eight charter members, the first religious organization in Chaska. The congregation established an academy in 1864. For the succeeding forty years, during which time there was no high school in the community, the academy provided students with a rare opportunity to gain a high school education. The Moravian Church in Chaska's "Walnut Street Historic District " is the second church constructed by this congregation. In 1858, two outposts or branches of the Chaska church were established on lands donated by the Holtmeier and Ruediger families. The Ruediger congregation built a church in 1863; it is now known as the Zoar Moravian Church. The congregation at Holtmeier's separated from the Chaska church in 1873; its members constructed the Lake Auburn Moravian Church. All of these three active Moravian Churches are in a good state of preservation and represent a significant development in Carver County's religious history.

German Catholic immigrants established numerous churches throughout the county. The earliest and most significant of these, St. Nicholas Church, which was constructed in 1868, is located within the Carver Historic District. An adjacent school house was built in 1876. These buildings occupy a dominant location overlooking Carver and the Minnesota River valley.

German Methodists at Norwood constructed a wood frame church in 1876. Their church, the United Methodist Church of Norwood,

has been identified as one of the most architecturally significant buildings in Carver County.

## HISTORICAL THEME: ARCHITECTURE

The most accurate word to characterize Carver County's architecture is "diversity." For the most part, the buildings and structures in the county do not adhere to traditionally defined architectural styles. Instead, the design of the county's buildings has been influenced by the social and economic status of the builder; the builder's nationality; the availability of certain building materials; the terrain, size, and setting for the building; the building's function; and, no doubt, "peer pressure."

Carver County's earliest extant buildings, whether on a farm or within a town, do reflect, however, the Federal and Greek Revival styles. Although very few of the buildings could be classified as an excellent example of either style, many reflect their influence in both proportion and plan. Three residences within the Carver Historic District, for example, reflect the Federal style. Each of these two story buildings has a three bay symmetrical facade, side-hall or central-hall, 6 over 6 double hung windows, low hipped roof, and steps leading up to the front entry. Greek Revival design features, such as symmetrical facades, gabled roof, 6 over 6 double hung windows, and formal entries with sidelights and transoms, frequently appear in urban buildings constructed before 1870 and in rural residences constructed before the mid-1880s. Buildings within the Carver Historic District and the "Walnut Street Historic District," as well as the Wendelin

Grimm House, the Andrew Peterson House, the Schimmelpfennig House, the Zoar Moravian Church, the Harm's Bar, the Reverend Andrew Jackson House, and the Chanhassen Town Hall all exhibit design features, plan, or proportion representative of this style.

The Gothic Revival style saw its fullest expression in Carver County's church architecture in the 1870s and 1880s. For example, the Chaska Moravian Church, the East and West Union Lutheran Churches, the Lake Auburn Moravian Church, and St. Nicholas's Church exhibit Gothic Revival design features, such as pointed Gothic arch window and door openings, steep sloping roofs, and elaborately decorated gable ends. The influence of this style in the county's residential architecture is most common in the decoration on small cottages. "Dikeside" and the Hanson House in Carver, for example, contain Gothic Revival design features, such as quatrafoil spandrels and porch brackets. Emile Amblard's Guest House and Auto Club contains pointed dormers and an emphasis on verticality; both elements are characteristic of the Gothic Revival style.

During the 1870s and 1880s numerous commercial and residential buildings incorporated Italianate design features such as rounded hood molds, bay and oriel windows, bracketted eaves, balustraded balconies, and verandas. These elements appeared both alone and in combination. "Hilldale" in Carver is the best residential example of this style. The Charles Maiser House and the Mock House,

both in Waconia, also contain Italianate elements. The style is even more frequently represented in the county's commercial buildings. The Brinkhaus Saloon Livery Barn, the Herald Block, and the Simons Block and Livery Barn, all located in Chaska, are well-preserved examples of the Italianate style. The Kusske and Hahn Saloon in Helvetia also has typical Italianate proportions and a very interesting combination of decorative features.

The Romanesque style, although popular in the design of numerous public buildings in Minnesota, appears only once in Carver County, in the Norwood United Methodist Church. Typical of the style, the building possesses semicircular door and window openings, a wheel window in the belfry, quatrofoil window sash decoration, and broad and smooth wall surfaces.

Since the majority of buildings in the county were constructed prior to the period when Victorian styles, such as the Queen Anne, Stick, and East Lake styles, were in vogue, very few examples exist. When they do appear, they appear most frequently as a combination of all three. These styles were employed, in a variety of ways, in the design of "The Gables," the Dreblow House, and the Christian Bristle House in Carver. The "Carpenter's Catalogue Houses" in Waconia represent the fullest expression of Victorian architectural pretense in the county. Of the buildings constructed in this period only the Eder/Baer House in Chaska is an example of a "pure" Victorian style -- in that case

Queen Anne. The Funk House in Carver combines Queen Anne design features, including a dominant corner tower, wrap-around balustraded porch, and stained glass windows, with a later style -- the Neo-Classic.

The Neo-Classic style is best represented in the county by the Klein Houses in Chaska's "Walnut Street Historic District." In an example of changing tastes in architectural styles, the Charles Maiser and the Mock Houses in Waconia, both of which were designed originally in the Italianate style, were given Neo-Classic porches. Cologne's Paul Mohrbacher House contains a finely executed garland and swag decoration in its dormers, a typical Neo-Classic feature.

As previously noted, however, the majority of buildings in Carver County cannot be categorized into traditional architectural styles. For lack of a better word they are commonly referred to as "vernacular." Nevertheless, on the basis of the field survey of Carver County, it appears that a sufficient number of the county's residences can be divided into three distinct types. For ease of reference they are here referred to as types A, B, or C.

Building Type A describes a number of residences, both urban and rural, that were built between approximately 1855 and 1870. They are usually  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 stories in height. They invariably have gable roofs. These residences are constructed on a L plan with the front entry in the ell. They are constructed either of brick or wood. (The material seems to depend upon a particular



building's location in the county and its date of construction.) The wood frame buildings, it appears, were constructed prior to the brick buildings. All of the buildings, whether of brick or wood, are simple and utilitarian. Architectural design features are limited to porch or window hood decoration. Examples of the style are common in the Carver and Walnut Street Historic Districts.

Buildings built from 1880 to the turn of the century, Type B, are two stories in height with low-pitch, truncated hipped roofs. They are usually square in shape and most frequently constructed of brick. Although decorative detailing is limited to the dormers, it usually takes the form of elaborate fretwork or polychromatic, applied sunburst designs. Two well-preserved examples of this building type are the Jacob Hebeison House in Hamburg and the Paul Mohrbacher House in Cologne.

Type C buildings were constructed not only during this same period but also into the twentieth century. These residences are usually 2 to 2½ stories in height, have complex roof shapes, and are usually irregular in plan. They are most frequently constructed of brick. They contain design elements popular in the period in which they were built. The Charles Dauwalter House in Carver, for example, is a 2½ story brick residence composed of intersecting gables. East Lake decorative trim appears in the gable ends and porch. Representatives of this building type include the Knotz and Guettler Houses in Cologne, the Zrust House in Waconia, and

the Frederick E. DuToit, E.H. Lewis, and Frederick Greiner Houses  
in Chaska.

## RESTORATION/PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES

The recognition and preservation of significant historic properties in Carver County did not begin with the State Historic Preservation Office's survey in the summer of 1977. Other preservation activities, which have been numerous, have been largely associated with four locally based preservation groups -- Carver-on-the-Minnesota, Inc., Web of Life Restoration, Heritage Committee of the Carver County Historical Society, and Friends of the Park.

In 1969 local Carver residents formed a nonprofit organization, Carver-on-the Minnesota, Inc. for the purpose of "preserving, restoring, and/or enhancing the historic structures in Carver, Minnesota." (Bylaws, Carver-on-the-Minnesota, Inc.) To date, eight buildings, including Dikeside, Hilldale, and the Presbyterian Church, have been restored by the organization; restoration is planned for many others as well. The Presbyterian Church, which is owned by the organization, is open to the public from May to December. Within the church are museum objects, books on local histories, materials dealing with historic preservation, and a multi-media slide presentation of Carver's history. The organization also conducts tours of many Carver homes. In addition to these activities, Carver-on-the-Minnesota, Inc. is actively involved in the town's planning process.

In 1973 the history department of the Watertown Highschool began offering a course designed to teach students about Carver County's

settlement period. As part of the course, students were given the opportunity to gain first hand knowledge of construction methods used by the county's settlers. Since 1973, rural structures dating to the county's "pioneer period" and threatened by demolition have been dismantled, moved, and reassembled by students in a rural setting on the outskirts of Watertown. This building complex, known as the Web of Life Restoration, is open to the public.

The Heritage Committee of the Carver County Historical Society has been, since 1976, the county's official historic preservation organization. As their first project, this committee conducted a study to identify the county's significant rural structures and buildings. The study was conducted by over thirty volunteers representing every section of the county. Eighty-six rural buildings and structures were identified by the committee as historically significant and worthy of interpretation and preservation. In addition, the committee isolated a number of threatened structures -- either by demolition or deterioration -- for immediate preservation attention. The Committee has provided owners of these structures with information relating to the numerous and different alternatives to demolition or deterioration. The information from the committee's rural study was incorporated into the SHPO survey. Numerous buildings and structures identified by the committee have been included in this Multiple Resource Nomination. The Heritage Committee continues to serve a significant role in the identification and preservation of the county's historic resources.

The most recent historic preservation organization to be formed in the county is Friends of the Park. Unlike the other three groups, Friends of the Park was organized in the winter of 1978 to preserve an individual building -- the Wendelin Grimm Farm. Working with the Heritage Committee, the Hennepin County Park Reserve (owners of the property), the Carver County Board of Commissioners, and the Minnesota Historical Society, Friends of the Park is actively undertaking a phased restoration of the Wendelin Grimm House. The organization hopes eventually to adapt the house to an interpretive facility to interpret Wendelin Grimm's contribution to Minnesota agriculture.

It should be also noted that Arlo Hasse, of rural Cologne, and his son, Brian, provided valuable assistance to the archaeological survey. Their collections formed the basis for much of the interpretation of Carver County's prehistory, and deserve far more detailed study than was possible during the survey.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Bibliography

## 10. Geographical Data - see attached inventory sheets

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UMT References

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

A 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

Text material by  
name/title Lynne Spaeth and Ted Lofstrom

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date 1977

street & number 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

Direct questions to:  
telephone Dennis Gimmestad (612) 296-9545  
same address  
state Minnesota

city or town St. Paul

state

## 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*

title

date

7/19/79

For HCRC use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Victoria O. Connolly*

Chief of Registration

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