

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Martin Norseth House COUNTY: Lyon  
 CURRENT NAME: Larsen House CITY/TWP.: Cottonwood  
 LEGAL DESC.: lots 3, 4, & 5, Block 2, Original Plat ADDRESS: 86 East Main  
 Cottonwood, MN

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

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

DATE CONSTRUCTED: ca 1898 ORIGINAL USE: Private residence  
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Martin Norseth ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Margaret Larsen 86 E. Main, Cottonwood, MN	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Lyon County Historical Society Courthouse, Marshall, MN 56258	UTM REFERENCE: Cottonwood Quad. 15/288115/4942790
FORM PREPARED BY: Susan Roth	
DATE: December, 1980	

**DESCRIPTION:**  
 The Martin Norseth House, built ca 1898, is located on East Main Street at the railroad tracks. The 2 1/2 story building of cubiform massing has a truncated hip roof with full-pedimented dormers, a dentilated cornice with modillions, and two circular corner pavillions each having an oval window at the second level. Located above the dentilated front porch, supported by four Tuscan columns, is an arcade of tripartite windows each capped with arches, simulated keystones and fanlights. Enclosed within the porch is the main entrance, capped with a semi-circular arch with fanlight, and a small oriel window. To the rear of the house is a two story carriage barn sheathed in clapboard siding, with a truncated hip roof with gables. The barn retains its main carriage and hayloft doors. A modern garage door has been added.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**  
 The Martin Norseth House is significant as a well-preserved and locally distinctive residence, and for its association with initial commercial development in Cottonwood. Norseth began his business career in Cottonwood in 1888, buying the first commercial lot of the townsite even before the survey was completed. In September of that year, Norseth received several cars of lumber and established Cottonwood's second commercial enterprise. He later assumed management of the Cottonwood Lumber Company, established by Blackman and Curran of Minneapolis in 1889, remaining with the firm until his death in 1911. Norseth was instrumental in petitioning the Lyon County Commissioners for the incorporation of Cottonwood in 1891, and, after the election, co-served as city council president in 1892 and as mayor in 1893, 1894 and 1905. In ca 1898 Norseth constructed the Georgian style house at a location near the Cottonwood Lumber Yard. Built during Norseth's most active years in the community, the house's locally distinctive wood features are a reflection of his occupational and political position in the community.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**  
 Rose, Arthur P. An Illustrated History of Lyon County, Minnesota. Marshall: Northern History Pub. Co., 1912.  
History of Cottonwood, Minnesota 1888-1938. Golden Jubilee Edition. Cottonwood (?).  
 "Death of Martin Norseth," News Messenger, 20 January 1911.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lyman  
11/19/89

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Note: These changes apply to  
Korseth, Martin, House in Lyon  
County, Minnesota.

REFERENCE NUMBER: 82002980

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Lyon

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Norseth, Martin, House

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS: The last name is Norseth with a 'N'.

*Nina M. Archabal*  
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Nina M. Archabal  
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date