

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

APR 04 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Thoirs, Alexander, House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 329 West Second St. not for publication N/A
city, town Wabasha vicinity N/A
state Minnesota code MN county Wabasha code 157 zip code 55981

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Red Brick Houses in Wabasha, MN Associated with Merchant-Tradesmen

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Nina M. Archabal 2/15/89
Signature of certifying official Nina M. Archabal Date
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota Historical Society

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Alma Byrne Entered in the National Register 5/15/89

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling**7. Description**Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Cementwalls Brickroof Asphaltother Brick front porchWooden kitchen porch**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Alexander Thoires House is a detached two-story brick-veneered frame dwelling built on a corner site over a cement-plastered limestone foundation. In plan it is a "T" with a one-and-a-half-story lateral wing. A 1920s porch, in closely matching orange red brick, runs the width of the main wing and into the entrant angle of the "T."

Both wings possess the proportions, low gables, prominent gable returns, and sidehall plan characteristic of the Greek Revival style applied to small houses. However, the brick facings and segmental arches above the 2/2 double hung windows are not constitutive elements of the style and probably reflect local practice. The building was apparently erected in two phases in 1868 and 1870, the lateral wing probably growing out of the second phase. Apart from the front porch, the only significant exterior alteration has been a replacement of the wood open porch in the south entrant angle by a smaller enclosed porch, also of wood. A light canopy has been installed against the rear wall of the main wing to form a carport. The date of these alterations is not known.

Except for the pronounced gable returns, the house lacks ornamental detailing. It depends instead for its effect on its prominent corner siting, which places the top of the "T" along the side street, and on the careful balance achieved in the juxtaposition of the two wings.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1868-1870

Significant Dates

1868-1870

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Alexander Thoires House is the earliest surviving brick dwelling in Wabasha, and a signpost for the aggregation of brick merchant's houses that would distinguish Wabasha's architectural streetscape in the nineteenth century. The house makes an important contribution to the state historic context of Early Agriculture and River Settlement as a fine example of the rare Greek Revival style. Built of soft red brick veneered onto a wooden frame, its construction method and materials indicate the fledgling character of the brick and transportation industries in Wabasha prior to the introduction of railroads in 1871. Unlike many Greek Revival residences in the state which are made of wood frame and sheathed with weatherboard, the Thoires House has a brick veneer and is oriented with a low pitched gable roof which is devoid of dormers. The "T"-shaped, two-story plan and prominent gable returns further define the Greek Revival style.

The Thoires House is also noteworthy as an early mark of success of the merchant class that would soon establish Wabasha's distinct place in the county. Alexander Thoires had recently come to Wabasha from Scotland, and immediately settled into a trade that would attract half a dozen practitioners by 1870. Like many of Wabasha's young enterprisers, local boot and shoemaking did not wait for the arrival of the railroad to establish the city as a finished material supply center for the county and its immediate neighbors.

Because of its age, materials, and workmanship, the Thoires House initiates and qualifies for the Multiple Property listing, Red Brick Houses in Wabasha, MN Associated with Merchant-Tradesmen.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory. St. Paul: Groff and Bailey, 1865.
Mitchell, H.C. Geographical and Statistical Sketch of...Wabasha County. Rochester:
Federal Union Book and Job Printing House, 1870.
United States Census Records, Wabasha County, 1880.
Wabasha, 1885. New York: Sanborn Map Co.
Wabasha County Assessor's records, 1866-1890.
Wabasha, Minnesota, 1880 (birds-eye view) reprinted in The Wabasha Herald, 9 October
1980.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one

UTM References

A

1	5
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5	7	6	8	2	0
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4	9	1	4	7	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies Lot 5, Block 9 of the City of Wabasha.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul C. Larson
organization N/A date July 1987
street & number 1181 Raymond telephone 612-641-0915
city or town St. Paul state MN zip code 55108