

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Minnesota
COUNTY:	Dodge
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	MAR 18 1975

1. NAME

COMMON: Wasioja Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC: Village of Wasioja

2. LOCATION

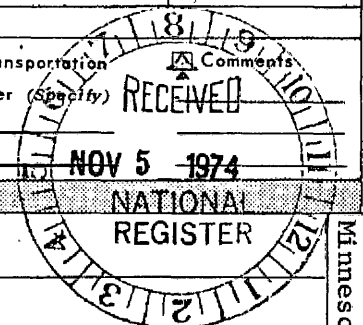
STREET AND NUMBER: N of Zumbro River, both sides of CR 16
Sections 11 and 12, 13 and 14, Wasioja Township.

CITY OR TOWN: Wasioja CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22 COUNTY: Dodge CODE: 039

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Multiple

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Wasioja STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Dodge County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Mantorville STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: January 5, 1972 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Minnesota Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER: Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

*

STATE: Minnesota
COUNTY: Dodge
ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 18 1975
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The frontier village of Wasioja is nestled on the Southwest branch of the Zumbro River four miles west of Mantorville on County Road 16. Buildings and structures within the historic district, with the exception of the Seminary ruins, exist today in much the same configuration noted in turn-of-the-century drawings and documents. Architectural styles of the six historic structures range from Greek Revival to the vernacular limestone architecture of the school house. Following is a brief architectural description of the six structures within the Wasioja Historic District.

1) Wasioja Church (Wasioja Baptist Church). This Baptist Church was built in 1858 by the Free Will Baptists. It was the first church building erected in Dodge County and the only church building in the Wasioja Historic District. The design of the church is reminiscent of the Greek Revival style and is a derivative of the New England parish church. The interior walls and ceiling of the church have been remodeled and are covered with a type of compo-board tile. This building was erected before the native limestone quarries surrounding Wasioja were excavated; it is the only wood frame building in the historic district.

2) The Andrew Doig House. Andrew Doig, a stone mason who designed and engineered the school house and the Seminary in the district, built this house in 1858. Doig migrated to Wasioja from French Canada in 1856 and established a monument business. This house is representative of the Greek Revival style with its limestone quoins, broken pediment, belly windows and meticulously cut lintels and sills. Andrew Doig built this house of Wasioja limestone, carefully cut and laid in level courses. The wood lean-to section on the back of the house was part of the original structure. The main floor of the house contains a large living room with a wide, plank floor, a country-style kitchen with fireplace and a small bedroom. A hand built staircase leads to two bedrooms on the second floor. The original hand-hewn ceiling beams are intact. The entire structure was restored by its present owner in 1963 and is presently maintained as a year-around home, historic site, and antique shop.

3) The Civil War Recruiting Station (Wasioja Bank Building). This structure was built as a bank and law office in 1855 by Colonel James George, one of the original settlers of Wasioja Village. It was pressed into service as a recruiting station during the Civil War and is purportedly the only preserved recruiting station in Minnesota. This vernacular style building of Wasioja limestone is a single story structure. The Dodge County Historical Society bought the old recruiting station in the early 1960s, refurbished it, framed it with a chain link fence, posted a sign, and began filling the few rooms with Civil War memorabilia. Display cases exhibit pictures of the recruiting station's historic moments. Civil War period wallpaper covers the interior walls.

4) Wasioja Seminary Ruins. The Seminary ruins are located on a knoll overlooking the Village of Wasioja toward the north and west. The original rectangular, two-story structure was constructed of rusticated limestone in 1860 and is another example of Andrew Doig's stone masonry.

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Immigration and Settlement</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Village of Wasioja, though now only a hamlet of seventy five residents, was in the 1850s and 60s a thriving and promising hub of activity. The settlement of the township of Wasioja dates back to the fall of 1854, at which time Isaac W. Taylor and Lorenzo Sanborn built cabins and wintered there. By 1858, according to The Wasioja Gazette, the village boasted a fine hotel, four dry good stores, one blacksmith shop, two law offices, one tailor shop, one hardware store, one justice of the peace, one physician, one dentist, one veterinarian, three carpenters, one butcher, two surveyors, one saloon, a post office and numerous houses; plans were laid out for a public park, church and school. Industries included agriculture, logging, milling and the excavation and burning of limestone from Wasioja quarries.

1860 marked the height of Wasioja's prosperity. It was in that year that the Minnesota Seminary was dedicated, and the town reached its peak population of 1,000 -- larger than Rochester, Dodge Center, and its rival, Mantorville. In 1860 the inhabitants of Wasioja looked forward to becoming the county seat and to the coming of the railroad.

Wasioja suffered three major blows that literally wiped it out. The town failed in its bid to become the county seat, the Civil War took a heavy toll of Wasioja's best at Chickamauga, and the railroad by-passed it.

The Wasioja Historic District today is an excellent example of a near deserted frontier village in Minnesota and is well worth preserving.

1) Wasioja Church (Wasioja Baptist Church). The Wasioja Baptist Congregation was organized by Reverend W.C. Shepard on August 1, 1857, with nineteen members. Construction of this church building was begun in February of 1858, but before it was completed the financial crash which wracked the nation hit Wasioja. There was no money to finish the church, but the congregation gave materials, time, and what cash they could and the church was built almost entirely by the barter system. This church was the first erected in Dodge County and the only one in the Wasioja Historic District. The Church is now used as an inter-denominational Sunday School.

2) The Andrew Doig House. Andrew Doig and his four brothers, all stone masons from Dundee, Scotland, came to Wasioja from French

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Antiques Magazine, June 1964
Catalogue of the Officers and Students of the Minnesota Seminary, 1861
Kennedy, Roger, Minnesota Houses, 1967
Mantorville Express, December 1, 1905 and April 29, 1910
Mitchell and Curtis, Historical Sketch of Dodge County, Minnesota
Wasioja Gazette, July 17, 1857; August 14, 1857; July 2, 1858

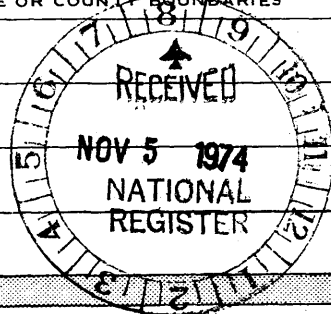
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	45° 05' 00"	92° 49' 22"				
NE	45° 05' 00"	92° 48' 49"				
SE	44° 04' 27"	92° 48' 49"				
SW	44° 04' 27"	92° 49' 22"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **approx. 500 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Lynne VanBrocklin, Survey Specialist

ORGANIZATION: **Minnesota Historical Society** DATE: **8/13/74**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Paul** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **22**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Russell W. Fridley
 Russell W. Fridley, Director

Title: Minnesota Historical Society

Date: October 31, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

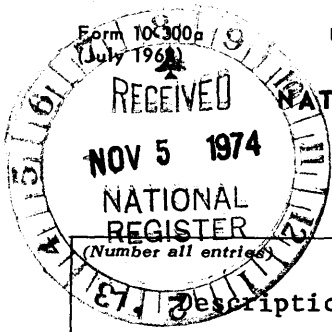
A. R. W. [Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 2/13/75

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: 3-12-75

HM 15 / 513920 / 513920 / 513200
 48809410 / 4879900 / 4879900
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS 4880940



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Minnesota	
COUNTY	
Dodge	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 12 1975

87. Description

Pre-turn of the century drawings suggest that the design of the school was Italian villa massing. The hipped roof was surmounted by a cupola with gothic detailing, and the corners of the structure were formed of limestone quoins. The lintels and sills were meticulously constructed of the same stone. In 1905 fire destroyed all but the ruins still standing. There has been no concerted effort to restore the structure to its original grandeur.

5) Wasioja School House (Wasioja Elementary School). The Wasioja School House was built and engineered by the Doig brothers in 1858. The two-story limestone structure in vernacular design is situated in the center of the existing Village of Wasioja. Limestone quoins form the corners of the structure, and the lintels and sills are formed of cut limestone. The structure is in excellent repair. The Dodge County Historical Society has converted the second floor into a museum.

6) Limestone Kiln. At one time four lime kilns operated in Wasioja; the best preserved of the kilns is located on the banks of the south fork of the Middle Zumbro River. In 1858, James Paul began burning limestone in this kiln. The burned yellow Galena and dolomitic limestone was part of the mortar used in erecting stone buildings of this area. This kiln was built into the ground and was constructed from the limestone quarried in Wasioja. The center opening is constructed in the shape of a Roman arch and the walls of the kiln slant inward. The kiln is in relatively good condition although recent structural faults have developed as a result of local blasting in the gravel pits and stone quarries.

8. Significance

Canada in 1856. The Doigs were known as the finest stone masons in the state during the latter half of the nineteenth century. Their work was done in the "French Canadian" style, with carefully cut lintels and sills and stone laid in level courses. This house, the Seminary walls and the Wasioja Elementary School building are the only examples of the Doig Brothers' handiwork remaining in Minnesota today. Andrew built this house in 1858. The house was restored in 1963 by its present owner, and is presently maintained as a year-round home, historic site, and antique shop.

3) The Civil War Recruiting Station (Wasioja Bank Building). This structure was built in the fall of 1855 by Colonel James George, a Mexican War veteran, to house his law office and a bank. In the late 1850s it was the civic center of the village. In April of 1861 the structure was converted into a Civil War Recruiting Station. The recruits from Wasioja formed the nucleus of Company C of the Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. Colonel James George swore the recruits in and led them at the Battle of Chickamauga.

Form 1013008
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE

Minnesota

COUNTY

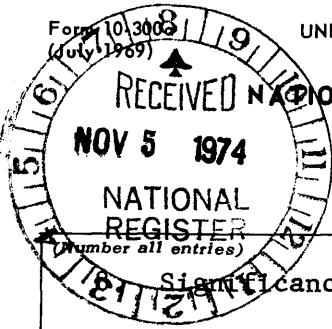
Brown

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

WAR 1 3 1974



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

Significance - continued - page 2

Through the decades this building has served as a jail, bank, office, granary, store room for junk auto parts, and private residence. The Dodge County Historical Society bought the building in the early 1960s and has preserved it as the only remaining Civil War Recruiting Station in Minnesota.

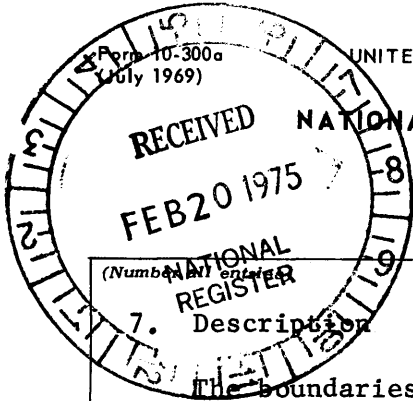
4) Wasioja Seminary Ruins. In 1858 citizens anxious to promote the growth of Wasioja agreed to provide a building for Free Will Baptists who wanted to establish a seminary. The Doig brothers engineered and built a substantial structure of native limestone to house the Seminary, which opened in 1860 with an enrollment of more than three hundred students. By 1861 the promising young school had been renamed Northwestern College. With the outbreak of the Civil War the principal and most of the male students marched off to fight for the Union. Although the enrollment of the Seminary was cut by more than half, the Free Will Baptists continued to operate the school until 1868.

Dr. L.B. Allen reopened the institution and operated it under a lease as Groveland Seminary until his death in 1872. The school was once again reopened in 1873 by the Wesleyan Methodist Conference, which sponsored co-educational instruction until 1894 when the growth of the public high school system forced the final closing of its doors. In 1905 fire destroyed all but the ruins still standing.

The Reverend A.B. Gould, a graduate and instructor of the Seminary, acquired the property and preserved the remaining walls; his heirs deeded the site to Dodge County as a public park in 1950. A historical marker was erected on the grounds in 1969 by Dodge County and the State of Minnesota.

5) Wasioja School House (Wasioja Elementary School). This two story limestone structure is situated in the center of the existing village of Wasioja. It was built and engineered by the Doig brothers in 1860, and is the oldest school house in Dodge County. The school house was used for educational purposes until 1959 when all schools in Dodge County were consolidated. The Dodge County Historical Society now uses the building as a museum and meeting place.

6) Limestone Kiln. The stone and lime for most buildings in Wasioja including the Seminary building came from this location. This is a good example of an early lime kiln with associated quarry. The availability of high quality lime rock was one consideration in locating the Village of Wasioja along the Zumbro River in 1856. The quarry and kiln were worked from the beginning of settlement and for a period of about fifty years until all building efforts ceased.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Minnesota	
COUNTY Dodge	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 13 1975

(Number of entries)
7. Description

The boundaries of the district correspond with those outlined by the Minnesota Legislature, Chapter 138, Subdivision 21, Historic District Act of 1971. "Wasioja historic district in Dodge county is located within the village of Wasioja and includes the southeast quarter of section 12; the northwest quarter of section 13, and the northeast quarter of section 14; all in township 107 north, range 17 west; an area of 520 acres more or less." These boundaries include the original town which was platted in 1856 by Robert K. Whiting and two additions. Waterman's addition was recorded January 10, 1857; Williamson's addition was recorded in May 1857.

Four buildings and two sites form the anchors for the district; the Wasioja Church, the Andrew Doig House, the Civil War Recruiting Station, the Wasioja School House, the Seminary Ruins and the Limestone Kiln. There are other structures in the area, but they are of a late nineteenth century vintage and their locations within the district do not detract from the historic quality of the anchor sites.*

*NOTE: This determination was made by both the staff of the Survey and Planning section of the Minnesota Historical Society and the members of the Minnesota State Review Committee.

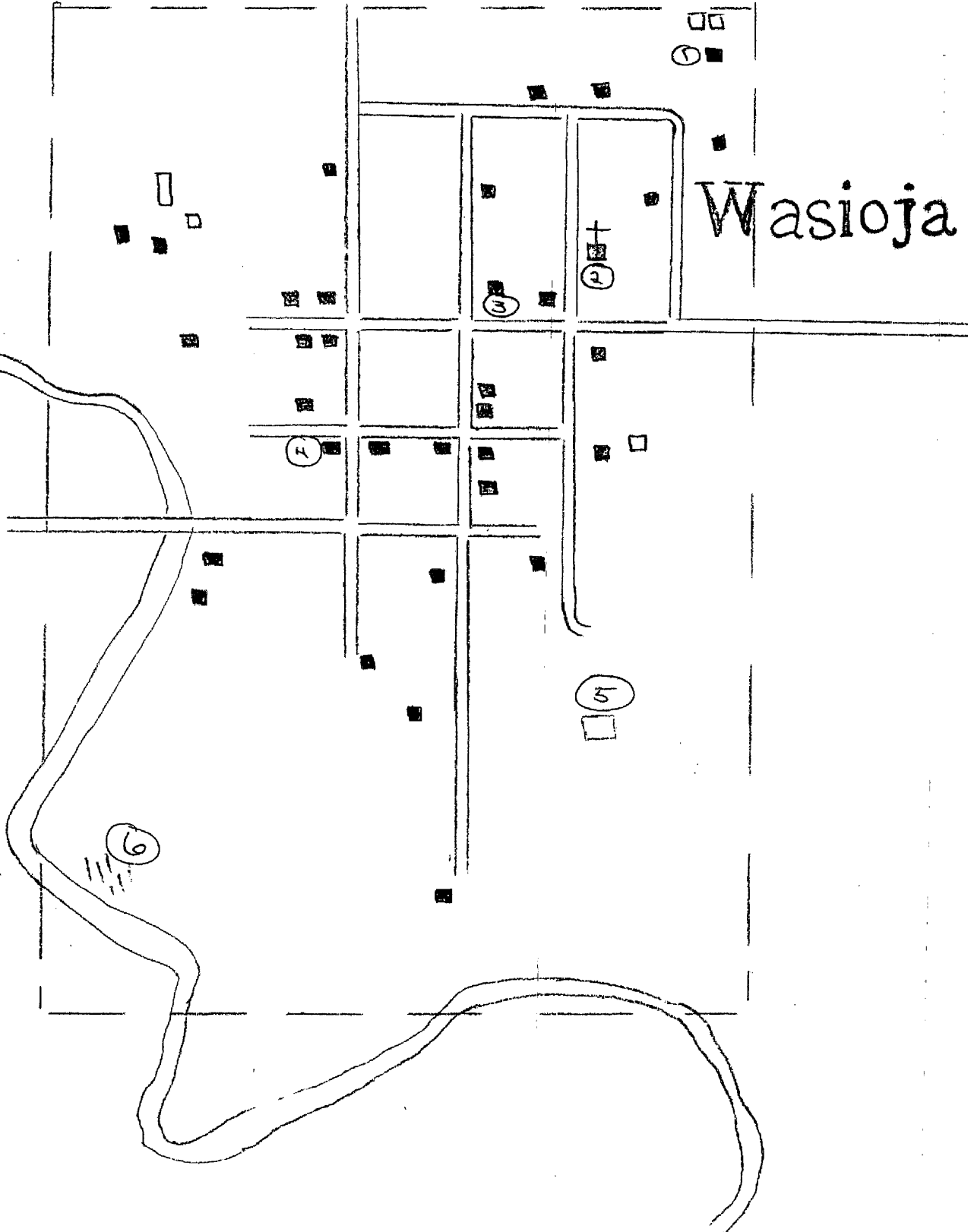
8. Significance

Wasioja suffered three major blows that literally wiped it out. In 1856 the town failed in its bid to become the county seat. The Civil War took a heavy toll of Wasioja's best at Chickamauga; of over sixty volunteers only one returned alive. In 1866 the Winona and St. Peter Railroad by-passed Wasioja in favor of a more southerly route. The population figures bear out the results of these three occurrences. In 1860 the population of Wasioja surpassed 1000 inhabitants; by 1870 this total dropped below 800. One of the original settlers of Wasioja, Colonel James George, went to Rochester where he became one of the foremost early day lawyers of that city. Andrew Doig sold his house and followed Colonel George to Rochester where he established a monument business. The landmarks of the early days of Wasioja (those sites included in the historic district) are landmarks in the history of the state. They commemorate names that in other cities of the southern section of the state have been written large in Minnesota's annals.

10. Geographical Data.

Corrected Longitude -- 92°-48'-49" -- East Longitude.

- 1) The Andrew Doig House
- 2) The Wasioja Baptist Church
- 3) Wasioja School House
- 4) The Civil War Recruiting Station
- 5) The Seminary Ruins
- 6) Limestone Kiln and Associated Quarry



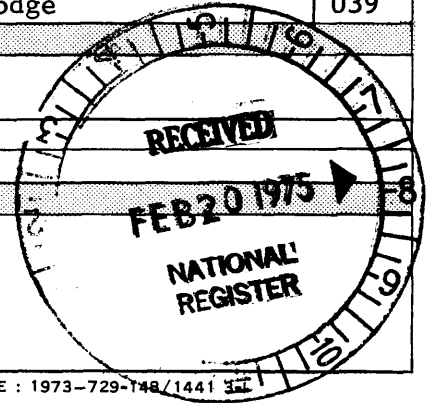
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Minnesota	
COUNTY Dodge	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER MAR 13 1975	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Wasioja Historic District			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Village of Wasioja			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Sections 11 and 12, 13 and 14, Wasioja Township			
CITY OR TOWN: Wasioja			
STATE: Minnesota	CODE 22	COUNTY: Dodge	CODE 039
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: USGS Dodge Center Quadrangle - Minnesota			
SCALE: Sketch map -- magnified four times			
DATE: 1965/ sketch 1975			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Note: These changes apply to
Wasioja Historic District in
Dodge County, Minnesota.

REFERENCE NUMBER: 75000977

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Dodge

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Mantorville

ADDRESS: Co.Hwy. 16

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date