

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

MAR 1 1988

HISTORIC NAME: Arthyde Stone House COUNTY: Aitkin
 CURRENT NAME: CITY/TWP.: Unorganized Territory
 LEGAL DESC.: Lots 4-6, Block 5, Plat of Arthyde ADDRESS: Unincorporated community of Arthyde

NE of McGrath

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes _____ No X Restricted _____ PRESENT USE: Residence
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No _____
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No _____

DATE CONSTRUCTED: c. 1922 ORIGINAL USE: Residence
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Henry Senn ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Henry Senn/Fritz Slathar

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Richard Anderson Rte #2 McGrath, MN 56350	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>
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LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Aitkin County Historical Society, 316 1st Ave. NE; Aitkin, MN 56431	UTM REFERENCE: Arthyde MN Quad. 7.5 15 / 493120 / 5133240
FORM PREPARED BY: Mark Haidet	
DATE: February 1981	

DESCRIPTION:

The Arthyde Stone House is the sole standing structure in the unincorporated platted community of Arthyde in east-central Aitkin County. The structure is a highly visible landmark in this sparsely populated region (township population less than 40 in 1970) characterized by open pasture land, swamps, and hardwood forests.

The 1½ story bungalow style residence is particularly unique in that it is constructed almost entirely of fieldstone. It rests on an elevated foundation and is covered by a low-pitched gable roof with extended eaves, craftsman brackets, and exposed rafter tails. A gable-roofed dormer with shingle sheathing is situated in the south (front) side; a hipped dormer in the north facade was probably added at a later date. The structure is basically square in plan with a stone gable-roofed enclosed porch located on the east side of the south facade and a central projecting section sheltering the rear entrance. A rectangular bay is situated in the east facade. A concrete watertable runs the perimeter of the structure beneath the window line. Fenestration is irregular with two-over-one double-hung windows predominating. The structure is in remarkable condition especially considering that the region has not functioned as a feasible economic entity since the 1920s.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Arthyde Stone House is a highly visible landmark which symbolizes the many unsuccessful speculative attempts to settle northern Minnesota's cutover region during the post-WWI economic boom period. Although the Soo Line constructed a branch line through eastern Aitkin County in 1909, the region remained sparsely settled. Arthyde, a community platted along the line by the Tri-state Land Company in 1909, failed to advance beyond a paper community. World War I's conclusion, however, encouraged numerous speculative schemes in northern Minnesota. Joseph and Peter Emmer of Emmer Brothers Lumber Company in Minneapolis and Henry Senn, a longtime family friend, envisioned that Arthyde would develop into a prosperous cordwood-based timber producing center and, later, an agricultural service center. The three men incorporated the Arthyde Land and Lumber Company in 1920 and purchased the vast majority of lots in Arthyde and much of the surrounding area. The firm established a lumber yard and promoted settlement of the area among recently returned veterans anxious to acquire property of their own. The region prospered for a few years; Arthyde boasted a store, depot, post office, gas station, and several residences in addition to the lumber yard. But with drastically declining cordwood prices and the onset of the depression in the late 1920s the speculative scheme collapsed. Farmers, unable to profitably farm the unproductive soil, moved away and Arthyde virtually disappeared except in name. The Arthyde Land and Lumber Company dissolved in the mid-1930s. The unique stone residence was erected in the early 1920s by Senn, the firm's resident official. Today it is the sole standing structure within the platted community.

Arthyde Stone House - continued - page 2

Unincorporated community of Arthyde
Aitkin County

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Emmer, Earl. Interview with Mark Haidet on December 18, 1980.

Emmer, James J. Telephone conversation with Mark Haidet on December 17, 1980.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn
11/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Note: These changes apply to
Arthyde Stone House in Aitkin
County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 82002930

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Aitkin

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: Co. Rd. 27

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

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State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date