

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Minnesota
COUNTY:	Hennepin
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	MAY 2 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Burwell House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Charles H. Burwell Residence

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
McGinty Road and Minnetonka Boulevard

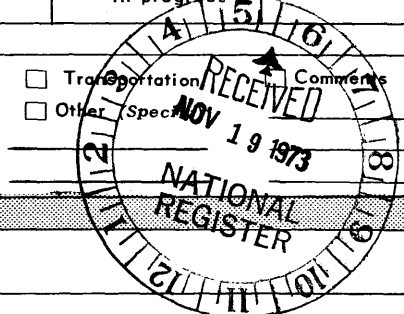
CITY OR TOWN:
Minnetonka ~~Mills~~ (Minnetonka)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
3rd

STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22 COUNTY: Hennepin CODE: 053

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Minnetonka

STREET AND NUMBER:
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN:
Minnetonka

STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Hennepin County Registrar of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hennepin County Courthouse, Fourth Street at Third Avenue South

CITY OR TOWN:
Minneapolis

STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: January 1972 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Minnesota Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN:
Saint Paul

STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

STATE:	Minnesota
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Charles H. Burwell House was constructed in 1883 near the site of the first flour mill west of the Minneapolis area. This towered "gothic-stick-style" house exists today in basically the same configuration as when it was built with the exception of the addition of an enlarged porch prior to the turn of the century. The interior retains its period decor with only alterations being the addition of bathrooms and an undated kitchen. Since acquisition by the City of Minnetonka in 1970, preservation and restoration work has been in progress on the house and site.

The Burwell House was occupied continuously by members of the Burwell Family until 1958, when it was sold to the William Smith family. Even then Miss Louise Burwell, the last of the family to reside on the property, moved into the guest house (a small cottage adjacent to the house) for several years.

The landscape, as well as the economy, changed soon after Burwell's house was built. Originally the front yard sloped down to the mill pond. At that time Minnehaha Creek was navigable to Lake Minnetonka by steamer, and the Burwells had their own boat and dock. By 1897 a dam was constructed at Gray's Bay on Lake Minnetonka. The mill pond gradually disappeared, and Minnehaha Creek cut a narrow path in front of the house.

In addition to the main house are two smaller buildings. One is a board-and-batten millworker's cottage which had been used by the sawmill and later by the flour mill to house millhands. It is the only extant example of fifteen such cottages which were located at the sawmill. It pre-dates the Burwell house by approximately twenty years. The Burwells made this cottage into a guest house after moving it onto the property; it now functions as a caretaker's residence. The other building was formerly the mill office for Burwell's flour mill. It retains its original "Eastlavian" ornament and character. It has been altered by the enlargement of the door to accommodate its present function as a garage.

In general, the Burwell property has remained unchanged since the turn of the century and has been regarded as a property of distinctive local significance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Revised 10/1970

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1883 (area significant 1850-1900)**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry milling | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <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 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 Minnetonka Mills was the first permanent white settlement in Hennepin County west of the Minneapolis area. In this village Governor Alexander Ramsey officially named the newly re-discovered lake "Minnetonka" in June of 1852, meaning "Big-water" in the dialect of the Dakota.

By provision of the territorial charter a twelve-foot dam was constructed across Minnehaha Creek at a site two miles east of the Lake Minnetonka outlet. A sawmill was built in the village by Simon Stevens and Calvin Tuttle in 1853.

After an early fire, the sawmill was rebuilt and enlarged by the addition of a furniture factory and varnish house. This industrial development felt the economic impact of the Panic of 1857 and was forced to close. By 1860 both the sawmill and the furniture factory had burned.

Nine years later a four-story flour mill was erected on the site, eventually producing four hundred barrels of flour a day, with a one-hundred-horse-power steam engine to supplement the increasingly inadequate water power. Charles H. Burwell became the manager of this enterprise in 1877, purchasing it seven years thereafter. Under Burwell's direction, the Minnetonka Mills Company prospered and challenged the laurels of the mills in Minneapolis in quality and distribution.

At the peak of this prosperous time for the town of Minnetonka Mills, Charles Burwell decided to build a fine new house for his young wife, Mary Dunham Burwell, on a parcel of land adjacent to the mill. This house, which has been referred to by many as an excellent example of the vernacular "carpenter-Gothic stick style", was completed in 1883.

This year was also the peak in Minnetonka Mills short life as a prominent industrial town. The mill was sold the next year to a Canadian milling company; however, this company never materialized to assume operation of the mill. Burwell repurchased the buildings a quarter section of land from the Canadian land holders and resumed operation of the process. The mill operated as a custom grist mill for a short period until operations were moved to Minneapolis, and

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Frear, Dana W.; Unpublished History: Minnetonka Town
 Upham, Warren; Minnesota Geographic Names, 1969 (reprint) Minnesota
 Historical Society
 Brink, Carol; The Twin Cities, MacMillan Company, 1961
 Jones, Thelma; Once Upon A Lake, Ross & Haines, 1957
 Wilson, Blanche Nichols; Lake Minnetonka, Colwell Press, 1950

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

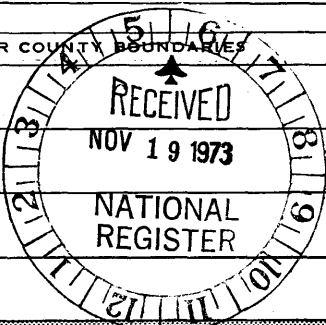
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44° 56' 30"	93° 26' 48"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
 15/46460
 4976340
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **5 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Charles W. Nelson, Supervisor of Survey and Planning

ORGANIZATION: **Minnesota Historical Society** DATE: **9 November 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: **Saint 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

Title: Director, Minnesota Historical Society

Date: Nov. 14, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Arthur H. Hays
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/2/74

ATTEST: Wm. M. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5.2.74

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Minnesota	
COUNTY Hennepin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 2 1974

(Number all entries)

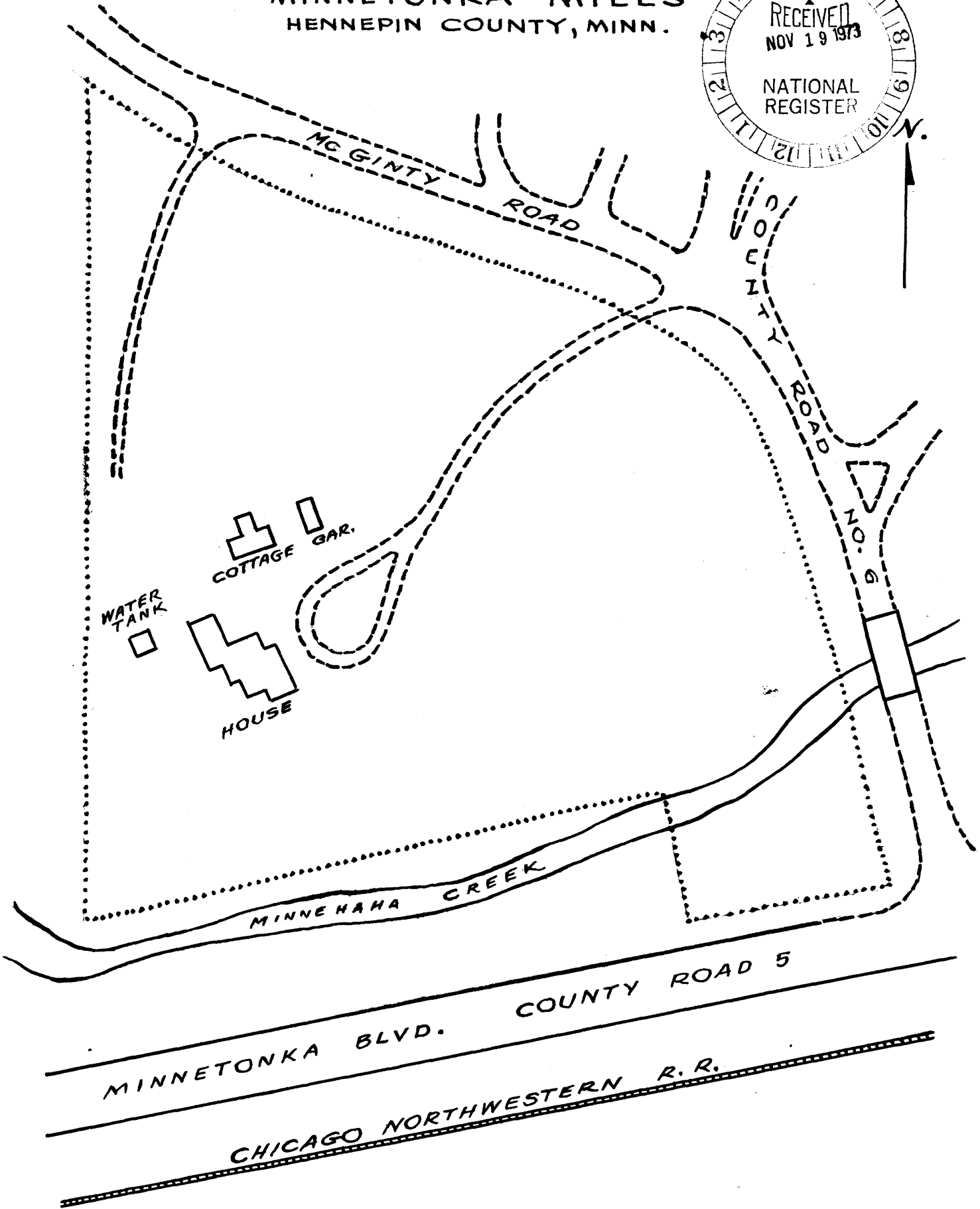
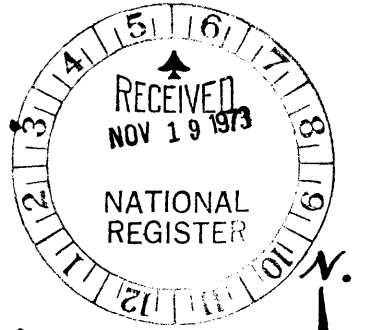
#8 Significance

the Minnetonka Mill was closed and torn down in 1900.

The grounds and three of the buildings significant to the preservation and interpretation of the early milling heritage of the Minnetonka Mills area remain. They have been acquired by the City of Minnetonka for use as a museum and park.



BURWELL HOUSE
MINNETONKA MILLS
HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINN.



MINNETONKA BLVD. COUNTY ROAD 5

CHICAGO NORTHWESTERN R.R.

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

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

STATE Minnesota	
COUNTY Hennepin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER MAY 2	DATE 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Burwell House	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		Charles H. Burwell Residence	
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
McGinty Road and Minnetonka Boulevard			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Minnetonka Mills (Minnetonka)			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Minnesota	22	Hennepin	053
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
Sketch Map: Minnesota Historical Society			
SCALE:			
DATE: November 1973			
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 _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lyman
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Burwell House in Hennepin County,
Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 74001025

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Hennepin

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Burwell, Charles H., House

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: Co. Hwy. 5 and McGinty Rd.

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

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

JUN 17 1988

Date