

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

FEB 17 1982

HISTORIC NAME: Minnewaska Hospital COUNTY: Pope
 CURRENT NAME: CITY/TWP.: Starbuck
 LEGAL DESC.: Original Plat ADDRESS: Wollan & Fifth
 Block 62, N. 50' of lot 1 (S.W. corner)

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes ___ No X Restricted ___ PRESENT USE: Apartments
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No ___
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No ___

DATE CONSTRUCTED: c.1900 ORIGINAL USE: Hospital
 ORIGINAL OWNER: C.R. Christenson ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Hendricks Enterprises, Inc; c/o Quentin Hendricks; Rt. 5, Pine Acres; Princeton, Minnesota 56371	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Pope County Historical Society; Highway 104 South; Glenwood, Minnesota 56334	UTM REFERENCE: STARBUCK, MN QUAD 15-302510-5053880
FORM PREPARED BY: Dennis A. Gimmetad	
DATE: September 1980	

DESCRIPTION:

The Minnewaska Hospital building is located on the west edge of Starbuck's central business district.

The two and one half story frame structure is rectangular in shape and built so that its two street facades are immediately adjacent to the sidewalk. The exterior sheathing is clapboard. The gambrel roof of the building is pierced by a central chimney, a large shed dormer to the south, and three pedimented gable-roofed dormers (the middle one situated lower and constructed as a wall dormer) to the north. Fenestration consists of double hung rectangular windows placed irregularly on all facades of the building. A two story flat roofed addition has been appended to the west end of the structure (date uncertain). A short stone wall abuts the structure on the southeast corner, facing Wollan Street.

The major exterior changes on the structure have been the alteration of fenestration features. These changes include the removal of three oculus windows, two arched windows, and the arched entrance detailing on the Wollan Street facade; the modification of the south roof dormer to include an outside entrance and wooden stairway; and some other alteration of window placement. Although these changes have resulted in the loss of the building's primary decorative features, the domestic image imparted by the gambrel roof and the placement and scale of the structure distinguish it among Starbuck's downtown buildings.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Minnewaska Hospital is significant for its association with an important early medical practice in Pope County, and as a surviving example of the kinds of early medical facilities erected in small western Minnesota communities as the individual practices of frontier physicians developed into more institutionalized organizations. Dr. C.R. Christenson was born in Portage, Wisconsin in 1867 and came to Starbuck in 1896 after receiving a medical degree from the University of Minnesota. He built the 14 bed hospital in 1899-1900 for his expanding medical practice. As the first such facility in the county, the Minnewaska Hospital was reportedly very well equipped and served a clientele ranging over a wide regional area. Accepting other physicians' patients as well as Dr. Christenson's, the hospital outgrew the quarters in a decade, and the community of Starbuck constructed a larger facility in 1911. The tradition of a strong medical facility for the small community of Starbuck (pop. 1138) has continued with the replacement of this 1911 building by a new hospital facility in the 1970s. Christenson's strong local presence and the placement of the building have resulted in a continuing local awareness of the original Minnewaska Hospital structure.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Armstrong, Hart R., ed. "A Hundred Years of Greatness": Pope County Minnesota Centennial Memorial Book, 1866-1966. (Glenwood?): Pope County Historical Society, 1966.
p. 18-19.

Pope County Historical Society. Dr. C. R. Christenson. Unsigned manuscript in Pope County Historical Society files, January 7, 1942.

Starbuck Times. January 18, 1940.

