MINNESOTA HISTORIC . PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

Fillmore MAR 15 1982 COUNTY: HISTORIC NAME: Steffens, Ephraim, House CURRENT NAME: CITY/TWP.: Spring Valley Gity

LEGAL DESC.: ADDRESS:

Robert M. Frame III, Ph.D

February 1981

See continuation sheet

404 North Broadway

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:	
Building X	Excellent X	Local X	Primary Architecture	
Structure	Good	State	Secondary Commerce	
Object	Fair	National	Others	
District	Deteriorated			
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: OCCUPIED:	Yes NoX Restricted_ Yes_X No Yes_X No	_	PRESENT USE: residence private	
DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1877		ORIGINAL USE: private residence		
ORIGINAL OWNER: Ephraim Steffens		ARCHITECT/BUILDER: unknown		
OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Dennis Essig		ACREAG	E: Less than one acre X	
	404 North Broadway			
Spring Valley, MN 55975		UTM RE	UTM REFERENCE:	
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:	/A	Spring	Spring Valley Quad.	
FORM PREPARED BY: Robert M. Frame III. Ph.D.			15 / 549000 / 4837550	

DESCRIPTION:

DATE:

FORM PREPARED BY:

The Ephraim Steffens House is located in a residential neighborhood, north of the Spring Valley commercial district. The present site is only part of the original, larger lot which filled the prominent angular corner location and included a stable and other outbuildings. Only the house itself remains today. Constructed in High Victorian style, the house is brick, two stories, and irregular in plan with steeply pitched gable roofs. Decorative woodwork appears in the roof and dormer gable ends which are ornamented with prominent finials. Porches are located around the east wing and along the south facade of the west wing, and a one-story bay window is located on the south wing. Windows are four-over-four double-hung sash in hooded rectangular openings; west wing window openings have segmental arches. house interior is structurally intact but cosmetically altered.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Steffens House is significant for its High Victorian style and integrity, and as a prominent representative of the commercial prosperity of the community of Spring Valley during its early boom years in the 1870s. Constructed in 1877, it was the life-long home of the builder, Ephraim Steffens, who was a successful local financier, entrepreneur, and politician. In the 1870s, several of the most prominent families of Spring Valley constructed expensive dwellings to signify their new wealth and status. This house is one of two houses (the other being the William Strong Estate) from this small group to survive with virtually complete architectural integrity. The present owner recognizes the house's historical and architectural significance and is interested in its preservation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

"Ephraim Steffens House History." Unpublished manuscript in possession Essig, Mrs. Dennis. of house owner. Spring Valley Western Progress, May 28, 1877.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

The East 190 feet of the East 260 feet of the following described property: Beginning at a point 300.86 feet South and 220 feet East of the Northwest Corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 28, Township 103 North, Range 13 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, in the Village of Spring Valley, County of Fillmore, State of Minnesota; thence East a distance of 322.28 feet to the Westerly line of North Broadway (formerly known as Hamilton Territorial Road); thence South 35 degrees 20 minutes East along said Westerly line of North Broadway a distance of 165.56 feet to the North line of Grant Street; thence West along said North line of Grant Street a distance of 419.51 feet; thence North zero degrees 38 minutes East a distance of 135.07 feet to the point of beginning, and there terminating.