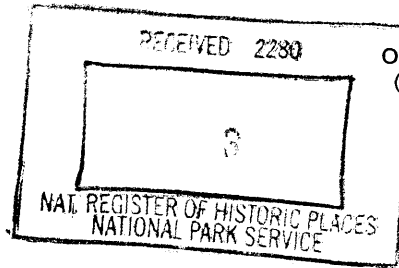


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



OMB No. 1024-0018
(Expires 1-31-2009)

1184

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Christie, Dr. George R., House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 15 1st Street South not for publication N/A

city or town Long Prairie vicinity N/A

state Minnesota code MN county Todd code 153 zip code 56347

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Britta L. Bloomberg 11/10/06
Signature of certifying official Date

Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Minnesota Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Edson B. Beall 12-27-06
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
		sites
		structure
		objects
3		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

HEALTH CARE: Clinic: Doctor's Office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE: museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: stone; concrete

Walls: wood; concrete

Roof: wood shingle; asphalt

Other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Health/Medicine

Period of Significance

1901-1947

Significant Dates

1901

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Christie, Dr. George R.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Smith, C. W. (builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Todd County Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately .75 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1.	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u>	<u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2.			
3.			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4.			

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Daniel J. Hoisington

organization _____ date 1 August 2006

street and number P. O. Box 13790 telephone 651-415-1034

city or town Roseville state MN zip code 55113

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Christie Home Historical Society

street & number 15 1st Street South telephone _____

city or town Long Prairie state MN zip code 56347

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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Christie, Dr. George R. House

Name of property

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7. Narrative Description.

The Dr. George R. Christie House is located at 15 1st Street South in Long Prairie, a small town of 3,040 in central Minnesota. The property is located on the southwest corner of Central Avenue and 1st South Streets on the western edge of the downtown business district. Three National Register properties are nearby, including the Todd County Courthouse (215 1st Ave. S., listed 1985), the Hotel Reichert (20 3rd St. N., 1985), and the Bank of Long Prairie (262 Central Ave., 1985). The lot is generally an open lawn with large shade trees. The property has three contributing buildings.

The main house, built in 1901, is a two-and-a-half story Classical Revival home, built on a generally rectangular plan oriented north-south with the main entrance facing Central Avenue. The building is of wood frame construction with wood clapboard siding.

The roof, sheathed in wood shingles, is hipped with intersecting gables on the north, east, and west sides. The gable ends are especially well-executed with imbricated shingles. On the front-facing gable, there is a Palladian window below a starburst pattern, while the east and west gables have a starburst pattern surrounding a tri-partite window group with half-arches flanking a rectangular center window with cross-hatch glazing. The eaves have a modillion course and a wide fascia board. There are two brick chimneys.

The first floor, north façade, has an open one-story porch with dentils under the eaves and a wide fascia board, supported by doubled and tripled Doric columns. The central entryway is a single-entry door flanked by large plate glass windows. On the second floor of this elevation, there is an oval window immediately below the Palladian window.

Throughout the house, most windows have simple wood double-hung framing and 1/1 sashes. On the east façade, there are a rectangular stained-glass window (lighting the main interior staircase) and a striking stained-glass window group with a central window, two smaller flanking windows, surrounded by a raised shell pattern. The images on these windows show the lamp of knowledge, the caduceus of medicine, and the lyre for the arts. On the west façade, there is a three-sided, two-story bay.

The foundation is stone with a full basement under the house. There are several casement windows on ground level.

On the east façade, there is a one-story porch along the rear third of the house, sheltering a rear entrance into the kitchen. There is a one-story ell to the rear with a clipped gable roof.

The interior is well-preserved with many of the original furnishings in place. The first floor has several formal rooms, with the main entryway, a living room, dining room, and library featuring well-executed oak woodwork. At the rear of this floor, more practical rooms include a pantry, laundry room, and kitchen. The second floor holds a variety of rooms for family use such as the master bedroom, a guest room, the children's bedroom, a bathroom, and the maid's room. Family records show that the children used the attic for sleeping as well.

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The carriage house, built in 1901, is located at the rear of the property along 1st Street South, and is a one-and-a-half story wood frame building with clapboard siding. The building has a steeply-pitched gable roof, oriented east-west, with wood shingles. The end gables are adorned with arches sheathed in painted wood shingles. The primary entrance faces north, under a front-facing gable. The main entrance, originally double doors, has been altered to accommodate a single entry door. This is flanked by narrow, paired windows on either side. Directly above this is the entry to the hayloft with a door and lancet window. The building is now used as a reception center/ exhibit space for visitors to the house. Windows are generally rectangular with 1-over-2 sashes. On the south roof slope, there is a gabled dormer.

Its foundation is stone. On the west side, there is a ground-level sloped entrance, covered and enclosed, used for bringing horses into the basement. The original horse stalls remain in place. Along the alley, on the south side, there are four basement-level windows, now sealed.

The garage, built sometime before 1931, is a one-story cement block building located at the rear of the property along the alley. The roof is a moderately-pitched hipped roof with asphalt shingles. There are pairs of windows—with 2-over-2 glazing—on the east, west, and south sides. The primary entrance is through double, paneled doors on the north side.

The buildings retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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Christie, Dr. George R., House

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8. Statement of Significance

The Dr. George R. Christie House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as locally significant, under Criterion B, and under the area of significance of health and medicine. Built in 1901, the house was the home and office of the first licensed physician in Todd County. It illustrates the high social status given to a doctor in a rural community, as well as the economic benefits of profession. The period of significance begins in 1901, the construction date and ends in 1947 with the death of Dr. Christie. The house is associated with the historic context entitled "Railroads and Agricultural Development, 1870-1940," one of the statewide historic contexts developed by the State Historic Preservation Office.

Dr. George R. Christie (1858-1947) was born and raised in Berlin, Wisconsin, the son of Scottish immigrants. Following employment at a drug store, he entered Rush Medical College in Chicago, then one of the more prominent medical colleges in the Midwest. In 1882 Christie received his M.D. degree, and for a time practiced in his home town of Berlin, and then for two years in Montello, Wisconsin.¹

He came to Long Prairie in 1884 at the urging of Dr. Edwin Lewis, resident of nearby Sauk Centre, a fellow graduate of Rush Medical College, and father of author Sinclair Lewis. At that time, Long Prairie had a population of 300.

Long Prairie

The area was first settled before statehood. Long Prairie was the site of the Winnebago Indian Agency, organized following that tribes' removal from Wisconsin and northern Illinois. At one time, the surrounding agency included one hundred and fifty buildings and about a thousand acres of land under cultivation. The agency continued to operate in Todd County until the mid-1850s when the Winnebagos were relocated to a new government reservation in the Blue Earth area. Not until 1868, though, did a permanent settlement develop around the present townsite, when John P. Tweed and the Long Prairie Land Company, platted the town. To ensure its future, in 1870, Tweed donated land to Todd County for a courthouse and Long Prairie was designated as the county seat. However, not until the arrival of the Great Northern Railroad in 1881—with its new "K" line to Sauk Centre—did the rural hamlet grow into an incorporated village.²

By the turn of the century, Long Prairie had made great strides toward becoming a regional commercial and agricultural processing center. In 1897, the village built a municipal water plant. In 1900, it acquired a privately-

¹ "George Christie," *Minnesota Medicine*, 30 (July 1947), 798. See Ernest E. Irons, *The Story of Rush Medical College* (Chicago: Board of Trustees of Rush Medical College, 1953).

² John H. Sheets, "Early Days in Todd County," in Clara K. Fuller, ed., *History of Morrison and Todd Counties, Minnesota* (Indianapolis, Ind.: B. F. Bowen & Company, Inc., 1915), 217.

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financed electric plant for its municipal power and lighting. A telephone exchange was established that same year. These improvements attracted several new industries, including a silo factory, a small brewery, and the Hansmann Manufacturing Company, producers of a cornhusking machine. The local flour mill doubled its capacity. By 1900, the population had grown to 1,385.³

In turn, commercial enterprises and churches invested in new buildings. Downtown, the Reichert Hotel (1902) and the Bank of Long Prairie (1902) constructed new substantial business blocks. The Methodists built a new house of worship in 1900, followed closely by the Presbyterians in 1904.

Christie as a physician

Christie was the county's first registered physician. When he arrived in 1884, the medical profession was undergoing significant changes. During the first three decades of statehood, no degree was needed to practice medicine. In fact, Minnesota did not have a school of medicine until 1871, when Alexander J. Stone founded the St. Paul School for Medical Instruction. Just the year before Christie's arrival in Todd County, the Minnesota State Medical Society persuaded the legislature to pass the nation's first state law requiring physicians to be examined by a board of medical examiners in order to practice. This state board of medical examiners was among the first in the nation.⁴

In his early years, Christie was the only physician in Long Prairie. As was typical of a rural doctor, he made calls to surrounding farms and villages. His name appeared frequently in local newspapers, with items such as : "Dr. Christie was called to Eagle Bend last Saturday afternoon to attend a very sick child," or "Dr. Christie went to Sauk Centre yesterday, returning on the afternoon train." He also served as local surgeon for the Great Northern Railway.⁵ The necessity of making extensive rounds to outlying areas encouraged him to keep several well-bred and expensive horses, several carriages and a sleigh, and, later, he became one of the first citizens to purchase an automobile. This aspect of the profession is evident in the spacious carriage house, and later, the garage, at his home.

During the last years of the nineteenth century, he was joined in town by two other physicians—Byron Van Valkenburg and Benjamin Parrot.⁶ A brief notice about new telephone service in August 1900 suggests the

³ *Long Prairie Leader*, 9 February, 23 March, 27 April 1900.

⁴ F. H. Magney, "History of the Minnesota State Board of Medical Examiners, 1851-1952," *Minnesota Medicine*, 36 (April 1953), 41-3; also see Paul Starr, *The Social Transformation of American Medicine* (Philadelphia: Basic Books, 1982) and William G. Rothstein, *American Physicians in the Nineteenth Century: From Sects to Science* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1972).

⁵ *Todd County Argus*, 14 February, 21 March 1901; *Long Prairie Leader*, 19 January 1911. Dr. Christie was one of the founders of the Long Prairie Automobile Club, joined by fellow physician, Byron Van Valkenburg, *Long Prairie Leader*, 27 July 1911.

⁶ *Todd County: Then and Now*, 250.

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importance of these local doctors. Although there were only forty-nine local phones in August of that year, all three were connected. The note continued, "The office hours at the central during the week days are from 6:30 am to 9:30 pm. In case a physician is needed after the closing hour in the evening there is a night alarm for all who wish to use it in urgent cases."⁷

Although he lived and worked in a rural area, Doctor Christie kept in touch with his profession, taking postgraduate work in surgery in New York and Minneapolis. Professionally, he was a member of the Todd County Medical Association. He was president of the Upper Mississippi Medical Society and member of the Minnesota State and American Medical Associations and the Great Northern Surgeons' Association.

Business Leader

When he arrived in Long Prairie, Christie befriended William Lee, a prominent businessman, who, in turn, placed him on the board of directors of his bank. In 1890, the bank converted from a private to a state charter and changed its name to "The Bank of Long Prairie" with Lee and Christie as incorporators. It became the largest financial institution in the county. Throughout the remainder of his life, Christie had a major interest in banks in the neighboring towns of Browerville, Eagle Bend, Grey Eagle, Swanville, and Perham.⁸

A physician, while holding the mantle of caregiver, was also a businessman who carved out a niche in the local economy. Combining his business acumen with the need for more space for his medical practice, Christie invested in a substantial downtown building in 1901. A local newspaper carried the announcement:

Dr. Christie has decided to build his store building two stories in height, the same as Mr. Hansmeyer's and this will make a nice block on that corner. It has also been about decided by both gentlemen to use Menominee brick for the front walls. These are the same kind of finish brick that are going in to the county jail. They are a very pretty sand mould brick, and if used they will be laid in red mortar.

The doctor's office occupied the second floor while a general merchandise store sold its wares on the street level. Christie apparently kept an office here until 1908 when he sold the building.⁹

A New Home

In 1887, he married Susan West, with whom he had four children. The eldest, George, born in 1890, became a newspaper editor and married Eva Lindbergh, daughter of Congressman Charles Lindbergh and half-sister to the aviation hero. Robert became a physician and entered practice with his father in 1921. The youngest, Donald,

⁷ *Long Prairie Leader*, 17 August 1900.

⁸ Clara K. Fuller, *History of Morrison and Todd Counties, Minnesota* (Indianapolis, Ind.: B. F. Bowen & Company, Inc., 1915), 285. The bank building, located at 262 Central Avenue, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

⁹ *Todd County Argus*, 23 February 1899; 2 July 1908. Also see "Another Brick Block," *Long Prairie Leader*, 11 January 1901, 31 May 1901.

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became a banker. The one daughter, Edith, died in childhood. Following his wife's death in 1910, the doctor married Ida Lewis Mason the following year.

With his increased stature in the community, plus a growing family, Dr. Christie decided to build a larger home in 1901. To construct it, he turned to contractor C. W. Smith, who lived in nearby Burtram. Charles Smith was a popular homebuilder, often hiring five or six carpenters at the time that Dr. Christie's house was constructed. During his career, Smith completed many other homes in Long Prairie, Osakis and Park Rapids.¹⁰

Work began in March 1901 with the demolition of an older building on the property. By mid-August, the *Todd County Argus* could report:

The new residence of Dr. G. R. Christie is nearing completion and in a few days will be ready for occupancy. The first floor is finished in oak with a dark finish and presents a fine appearance. The staircase in the hall leading to the second floor is enclosed with paneled oak. The building is to be heated by hot air and water and the heating plant has already been installed in the basement.¹¹

The *Long Prairie Leader* noted that C. W. Smith "who had the contract of planning and building this house" had "put forth his very best efforts" with an estimated cost of \$6,000. The newspaper further reported that, "Next in order will be the fixing up of the grounds. This done that corner will show one of the most beautiful places in town."¹²

The house was lavishly furnished, often with objects and art acquired during Dr. Christie's frequent travels. Dr. Christie kept a billiard table in the basement as well, fondly remembered by several young men who frequented the house. To give a comparison of his relative wealth, in 1919, Christie's personal property taxes were fifty percent more than that any other Long Prairie resident. Many of the original furnishings remain in the house.¹³

Social Standing

By the late nineteenth century, the physician had gained a respected place in the social life of the community. Dr. Christie took an active interest in city and county affairs. He was president of the local board of education for twenty years, served as president of the village council, and was president of the county pension board for a number of years. He was active in the Republican party and voted as a McKinley elector in the 1901 presidential

¹⁰ For brief references to C. W. Smith's other work, see, for example, *Long Prairie Leader*, 13 July, 17 August, 14 December 1900; *Improvement Bulletin*, 3 May 1902. In the 1900 census, he is listed as a contractor.

¹¹ *Todd County Argus*, 9 May 1901, reported, "The foundation of Dr. Christie's new residence will be about completed this week." Also see *Todd County Argus*, 15 August 1901.

¹² *Long Prairie Leader*, 30 August 1901. Although comparisons are inexact, the 1901 construction cost translates into roughly \$130,000 in 2006.

¹³ "Doctors Honored At Dinner Here," *Long Prairie Leader*, 1 December 1938. *Long Prairie Leader*, 9 January 1919. George Christie's tax was \$213.15, followed by W. G. Anderson, \$146.31, and William Lee, \$134.52. Dr. Van Valkenburg's tax was also in the top twenty, suggesting the high social and economic status of a physician.

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election. His friend, patron, and patient, William Lee, served three terms as congressman and as the 1914 Republican gubernatorial candidate.

Christie's wife, Susan, carved out a role for herself as well, described by a contemporary historian as a "woman of great force of character, strong, vigorous, and always took a great interest in church and literary work." Mrs. Christie was a founding member of the Long Prairie Literary Society in 1893. This organization, with the motto, "Education ends only with life" held monthly meetings to discuss current books and worked with the public library. Following her death, Christie's second wife stepped easily into the same role. Ida was also an active leader of the State Federation of Women's Clubs.¹⁴

At a 1938 banquet honoring the doctor, one speaker noted his widespread influence on all aspects of life in Long Prairie, saying, "Whatever has been for the welfare and advancement of the community during the half century has received the earnest support and cooperation of Doctor Christie."¹⁵

Hospitals for Long Prairie

A hospital was the key to improved medical service. As one historian noted, "Hospitals were few and far between; consultation was difficult to procure, and laboratory diagnosis was hard to obtain." Although Minnesota had its first hospital in 1853, when the St. Joseph's Hospital was founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, smaller towns generally lacked advanced medical facilities. Within the profession, by the late nineteenth century, there was increasing importance given to invasive surgery (rather than simply amputations), the use of anaesthetics, and the need for sterile surroundings. This also led to a subsequent need for extended post-operative care. In addition, the state medical profession pressed to shift births from home to the antiseptic hospital environment. This led to the demand for hospital facilities in moderate-sized towns across Minnesota.¹⁶

As early as 1900, Dr. Christie drew up plans for such an institution in Long Prairie. Waylaid during a period when he built a new house and a new downtown building, he returned to the plan following the tragic loss of his daughter, Edith. In 1903, he joined with his friend, William Lee, a local businessman, C. F. Miller, and another physician, Byron Van Valkenburg, to announce the construction of a small private hospital, described as "costing \$10,000 or \$12,000." The plans, however, never reached fruition and, instead, Christie kept sending patients to Asbury Hospital in Minneapolis, where he would perform surgery.¹⁷

¹⁴ *Long Prairie Leader*, 18 September 1919. Christie remarried in 1911, one year after his first wife's death. The local newspaper declared that the marriage was "a great surprise."

¹⁵ Theodore Christianson, *Minnesota: The Land of Sky-Tinted Waters*, Vol. 3 (Chicago and New York: American Historical Society, 1935), 346-347.

¹⁶ George E. Sherwood, "Country Medicine—Past and Present," *Minnesota Medicine*, 30 (January 1947), 37.

¹⁷ "Hospital in sight," *Long Prairie Leader*, 26 January 1900; "To Have a Hospital," *Long Prairie Democrat*, 1 October 1903.

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In 1914, a nurse, Estella Meyers, resuscitated the idea of a local hospital, renting a residence and announcing plans to open a hospital.¹⁸ A local newspaper trumpeted:

The new institution is something that Long Prairie and the vicinity has long been in need of. Heretofore, the doctors were compelled to make all their surgical operations in a private dwelling and it was most inconvenient. It gives this vicinity the very best of conveniences to take care of the sick.¹⁹

Within a year, Dr. Van Valkenburg stepped in and acquired the building and turned it into a substantial institution, complete with an operating room and convalescent rooms. All three local doctors used the facilities. The new hospital provided not only better medical care, it helped to establish Long Prairie as a growing, prosperous community. As a reporter said, "There is no institution in any town of greater worth than a well-equipped building for the care of the ill and injured. To have an institution of such a character right here in our own city means much to us."²⁰

Five years later, Dr. Christie decided to open a new facility and joined with Dr. B. W. Parrott to build another hospital, known locally as the Losey Hospital after its first staff, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Losey. The public announcement read:

The [hospital] will include a large operating room and three large wards, each of the latter capable of accommodating three or four patients. Patients of Dr. B. W. Parrott and Dr. G. R. Christie of this village and Dr. M. L. Murphy, of Browerville, will be cared for at the new institution. Mr. and Mrs. Losey will occupy the lower floor of the building and Mrs. Losey, who is a trained nurse, will be in charge of the hospital.²¹

This hospital proved successful, both medically and financially. In 1926, management changed hands when the hospital was leased to Mrs. R. G. Quinlan, a nurse trained at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth. It remained in operation until 1941.²²

In 1921, the community took another significant step in providing medical care to county residents when the Todd County Public Health Nursing Service was established by the Red Cross. A paid nurse traveled throughout the county, typically visiting schools, supervising inoculations, testing for tuberculosis, and conducting training classes. Although Dr. Christie was not closely involved with the management of the program, he often participated in inoculation clinics and screenings.²³

¹⁸ *Todd County Argus*, 7 August 1913.

¹⁹ "Long Prairie's New Hospital," *Todd County Argus*, 14 January 1914.

²⁰ "Benefit for Long Prairie's Hospital," *Long Prairie Leader*, 22 April 1915.

²¹ "Long Prairie to have more hospital facilities," *Long Prairie Leader*, 15 April 1920.

²² "Leases Losey Hospital," *Long Prairie Leader*, 26 March 1926.

²³ For example, the *Long Prairie Leader*, 6 May 1926, noted Dr. Christie's participation in a diphtheria clinic at the high school that saw 136 children inoculated.

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Dr. Christie continued to practice medicine until almost the end of his life, although he turned most patients over to his son, Robert, and devoted himself to real estate investments. Robert, who lived as well as worked in his father's home, established his own place in the community. Born in 1892, he graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School in 1917. He served in the Navy during WWI, then returned to Long Prairie and began practicing medicine with his father in 1921.

George Christie died in 1947 at Asbury (Methodist) Hospital in Minneapolis. He was eulogized as "A good citizen, a splendid physician, a man who found for civic and business interests . . . he tended to the physical wants of three generations."²⁴

Robert Christie continued his medical practice and, for most of his career, was one of three physicians in the community. In addition, he developed a solid reputation as a skin specialist and served as a consultant to the Mayo Clinic.²⁵

In 1941 local physicians finally took action to open a community hospital managed as a nonprofit corporation. Although two younger doctors were in the lead, Dr. Robert Christie was also a part of the new hospital's surgical staff. The new institution had beds for sixteen adults, four children, and six infants, with an operating room, an obstetrical delivery room, a laboratory, examination rooms, and a complete x-ray department. The local paper proudly claimed that it gave "the community as good or better medical facilities than any village of this size in the state."²⁶

The house, though, was quieter, as he never married and is recalled by older residents as "a bit of a recluse." Upon Robert's death in 1976, his heirs donated the house to the City of Long Prairie. It opened to the public that year under the care of the Christie Home Historical Society.

The home and its well-preserved furnishings are testimony to the social, economic, and professional roles that a physician played in small-town Minnesota.

²⁴ "Christie Home," *Minneapolis Tribune*, 15 August 1976; "Dr. Christie, Veteran Todd Physician, Dies," 23 January 1947.

²⁵ "Laing Christie," *Long Prairie Leader*, 8 April 1976.

²⁶ "New Hospital and Clinic," *Long Prairie Leader*, 20 February 1941.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet**

Christie, Dr. George R., House

Name of property

Todd County, Minnesota

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9. Bibliography

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Todd County Tribune

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Christie, Dr. George R., House

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lots 1 and 2, Block 4, Tweed's 2nd Addition to City of Long Prairie. [P.I.N. 36-4000700]

Boundary Justification:

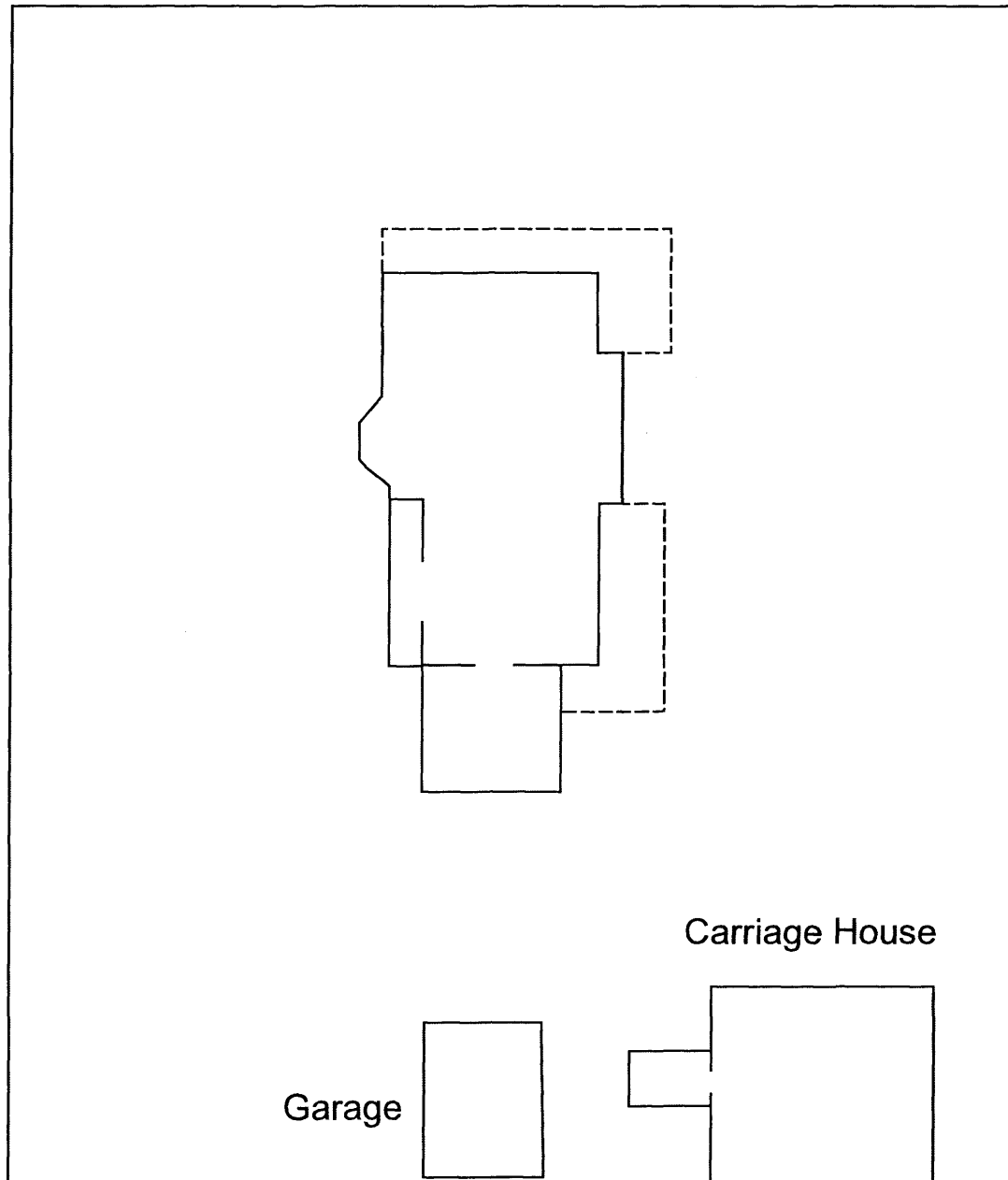
The boundary of the nominated property includes the parcel of land historically associated with the house.

Christie House
Long Prairie, Todd County, Minnesota

not to scale



Central Avenue



1st Street South

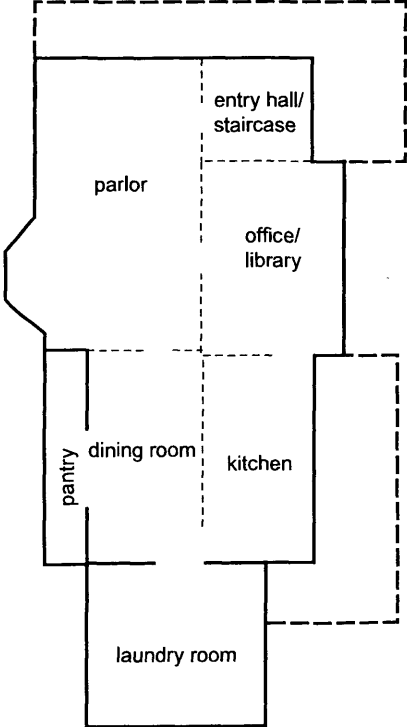
Carriage House

Garage

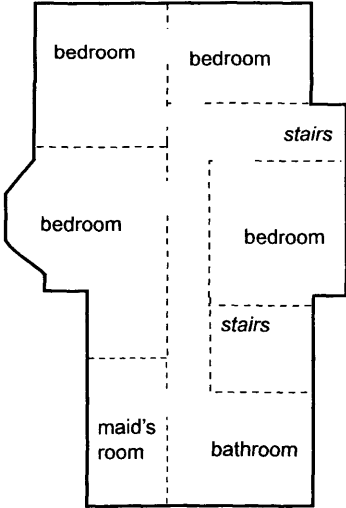
Alley

Christie House Long Prairie, Todd County, Minnesota

not to scale



First floor



Second floor