

HISTORIC NAME: J.C. Carlson House

COUNTY: Chisago

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Rush City

LEGAL DESC.: A piece of land described as follows: Begin at a point 175 feet south of the SW corner of lot 7, block 24; thence east to west line of Ave. A; thence south to north line of 6th St.; thence west 350 feet; thence north on east line of Ave. B to place of beginning.

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Restricted X  
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No \_\_\_  
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No \_\_\_

PRESENT USE:  
 Offices/nursing home

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1899

ORIGINAL USE: Residence

ORIGINAL OWNER: J.C. Carlson

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: A.F. Gauger/William Skjod

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Hillcrest Nursing Home Inc.  
 Rush City, Minnesota 55069

ACREAGE: Less than one acre  
 approx. 2.8

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:

UTM REFERENCE:  
 15 / 503050 / 5058610

FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg

DATE: December 1979

## DESCRIPTION:

The J.C. Carlson House occupies a prominent position on the east side of County Road 30 on the eastern side of Rush City. The residence is situated on a hillside overlooking Rush Creek, the highway, and the rest of Rush City. A large lot sets off the house from the surrounding area of residences and commercial buildings; the Hillcrest Health Care Center is its nearest neighbor and is located immediately to the south.

The large two story Queen Anne house was constructed in 1899 according to plans by Augustus F. Gauger. It is irregular in plan and has a complex hip and gable roof pierced by three chimneys and modillions at the roof lines. The front (west) facade features a three story polygonal tower with windows on each side capped by a six sided conical roof and a wrap-around porch at the southwest corner with paired narrow columns and turned balusters. The gable end includes a large palladian window and a pent roof with a large three-part window at the second story. An elaborate entry with leaded glass transom and side lights is located at the southwest corner. Windows throughout are double hung with one over one lights. A two story bay is located on the south facade. The narrow clapboard siding is painted a creamy tan color and trimmed in white.

The house has been very well preserved. Exterior alterations are limited to small frame additions at the rear and the southeast corner and the fire escape on the front facade. The interior includes original woodwork, including a formal staircase, built-in dining room buffets, original lighting fixtures, and three fireplaces with imported English tile.

Other structures on the property include a red frame barn at the rear, a gazebo to the north, and a covered platform which was once part of a bridge across Rush Creek to the west.

The building housed the J.C. Carlson family until 1943. Since that time it has been utilized as a board and care home and a nursing home. The present owners, the Hillcrest Health Care Center, built the adjacent nursing home in 1967. They maintain the house for additional office space and conference rooms and the second floor for sleeping apartments. A complete set of architect's plans are in the possession of the Center.

## SIGNIFICANCE:

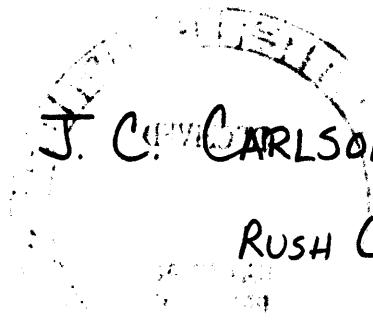
The J.C. Carlson House is significant as the home of a leading entrepreneur in Chisago County's most important railroad center, Rush City, and as a well preserved Queen Anne house designed by St. Paul architect Augustus F. Gauger. J.C. Carlson first made permanent residence in Rush City in 1882. In 1895, he became president of the State Bank of Rush City, a position

(see continuation sheet)

J.C. Carlson House

Chisago County  
Rush City, Minnesota

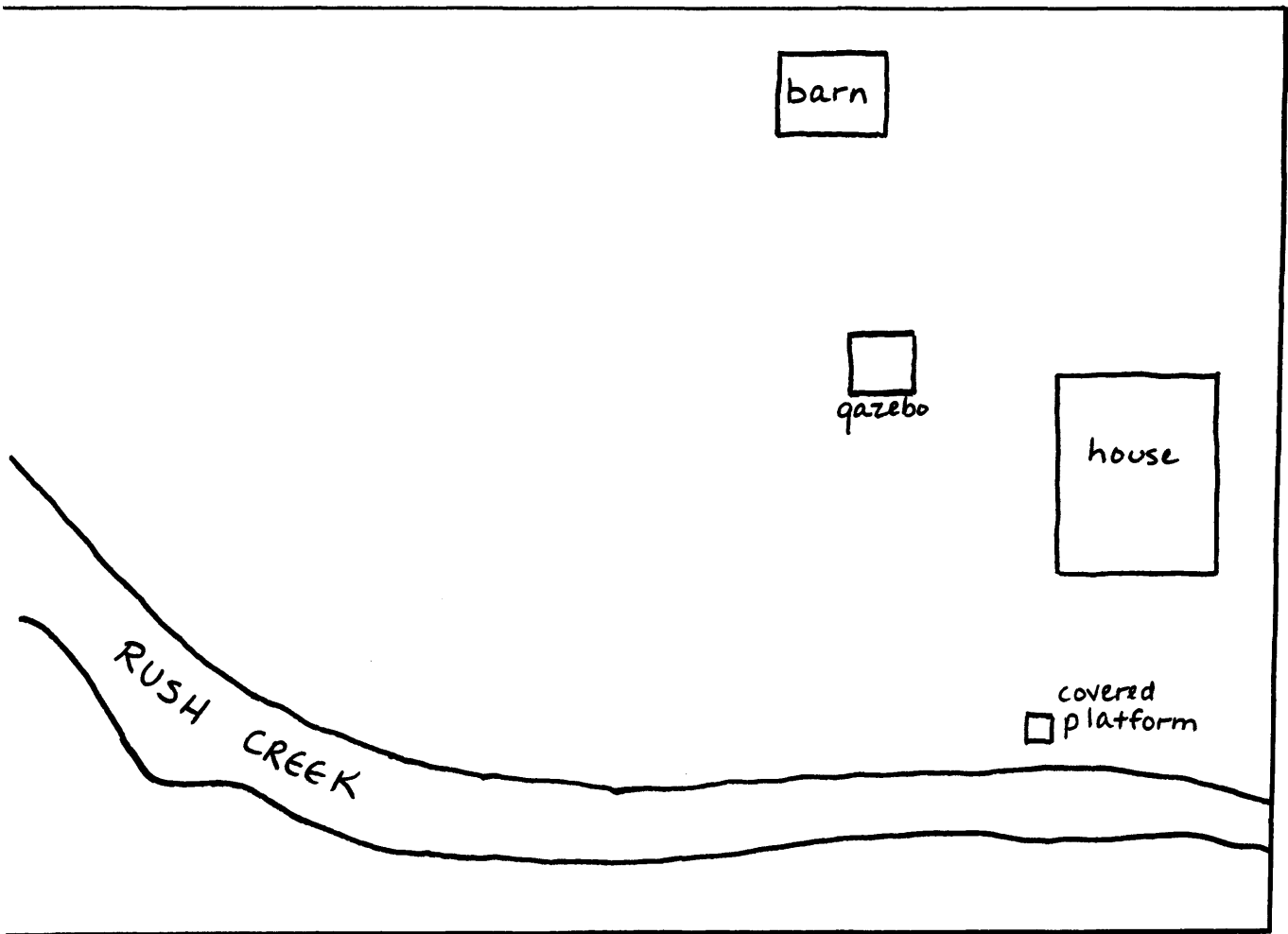
he retained until his death in 1942. Carlson was a successful banker and prominent in local civic, political, and religious activities. He constructed a Queen Anne residence for his family home in 1899 and lived there until his death. The house was designed by the St. Paul architect Augustus F. Gauger, who was one of St. Paul's earliest and most prolific architects. He is known to have designed numerous schools, churches, commercial buildings, and residences in Minnesota, as well as several courthouses outside the state. The Carlson House, one of the few architect-designed residences in Chisago County, reflects the status and success achievable by a prominent leader in a successful railroad community at the turn of the century.



# J. C. CARLSON HOUSE

RUSH CITY, MINNESOTA (CHISAGO COUNTY)

← AVENUE A →



← AVENUE B →

SKETCHMAP SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATIONS  
OF BUILDINGS  
NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Carlson, J. C., House

MULTIPLE NAME: Chisago County MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MINNESOTA, Chisago

DATE RECEIVED: 9/15/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/29/06  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002004

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

     ACCEPT      RETURN      REJECT                      DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

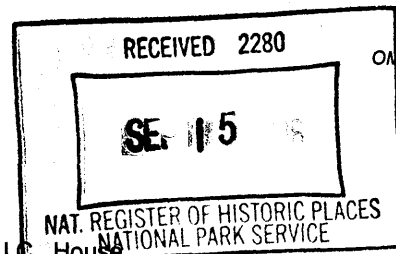
**Additional Documentation Accepted**

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept  
REVIEWER Edson Beall DISCIPLINE Historian  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 10.18.06

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Carlson, J.C. House

Name of property

Chisago County, Minnesota

County and State

Section 2 Page 1

**Reference Number:** 80002004

**State:** Minnesota

**County:** Chisago

**Resource Name (Historic):** Carlson, J.C., House

**Location, Street & Number:** 640 Bremer Ave. S.

**Comments:** The address has been changed from Bremer and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets to 640 Bremer Ave. S.

Britta L. Bloomberg  
Deputy State Historic  
Preservation Officer

9/6/06

Date