

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

800 02010
JAN 29 1980
Moorhead, Minn.

HISTORIC NAME: R.M. Probstfield House COUNTY: Clay
CURRENT NAME: Probstfield House CITY/TWP.: Oakport Township

LEGAL DESC.: NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 21, T. 140, R. 48, From a point 900' north of the south boundary of Sec. 21, and 300' west of County Road 96: East 50', South 50', West 50' and North 50' to point of origin. ADDRESS: County Road 96

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| CLASSIFICATION: | CONDITION: | SIGNIFICANCE: | THEME/S: |
| Building <u>X</u> | Excellent _____ | Local <u>X</u> | Primary <u>Settlement</u> |
| Structure _____ | Good <u>X</u> | State _____ | Secondary <u>Agriculture</u> |
| Object _____ | Fair _____ | National _____ | Others <u>Civic Affairs</u> |
| District _____ | Deteriorated _____ | | |

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

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1869 ORIGINAL USE: Residence
ORIGINAL OWNER: R.M. Probstfield ARCHITECT/BUILDER: R.M. Probstfield

| | |
|---|--|
| OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Raymond Gesell Route 3 Moorhead, MN 56560 | ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u> |
| LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: | UTM REFERENCE: 14 / 671130 / 5198745 Fargo North 7.5 Quad. |
| FORM PREPARED BY: Tom Harvey DATE: September 1979 | |

DESCRIPTION:
The R.M. Probstfield House is a 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ story structure located north of Moorhead on the Red River. The original section of the house has a gable roof with a plain boxed cornice with return. Several shed additions have been made to the house over the years. The original rectangular plan is now irregular. The white-painted, clapboard additions altered the house but are in keeping with the original portion of the structure.

SIGNIFICANCE:
The Probstfield House, the oldest known house in Clay County is significant for its association with Randolph M. Probstfield, one of Clay County's most prominent early citizens. Probstfield came to the Red River Valley in 1859, along with two other men, and was thus one of the first three permanent settlers in the area. He was the first postmaster at Georgetown, and from 1865-1868 was manager of the Hudson's Bay Trading Post there. In 1869, Probstfield built his permanent home. Probstfield took a prominent role in the civic affairs, politics, education, and agriculture in the Moorhead area. He served as public assessor, county clerk, school board director, and as a state senator. Perhaps his most important role was in the promotion of agriculture in the Red River Valley. Probstfield's extensive diaries, covering from 1859 to his death in 1911, show a deep involvement in agricultural experimentation and development, and offer a great opportunity for interpretation of the farm site. (The diaries were continued by the Probstfield family until 1962.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn
11/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Note: These changes apply to
Probstfield, R. M., House in
Clay County, Minnesota.

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002019

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Clay

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Probstfield, Randolph M., House

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Moorhead

ADDRESS: Co. Hwy. 96

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Probstfield, Randolph M., House

Name of property

Clay County, MN

County and State

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Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

National Register Number: 80002019

Location, Street & Number: 4555 Oakport St. N.



12/2/08
Date

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