

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received MAY 14 1986
date entered 6-13-86

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Isaac Barga House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 1215 Mountain Lake Road N/A not for publication

city, town Mountain Lake N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 27 county Cottonwood code 033

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Leo Harder

street & number 1215 Mountain Lake Road

city, town Mountain Lake N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office, Cottonwood County Courthouse

street & number Third Avenue

city, town Windom state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Minnesota Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society-Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Isaac Barga House is a Queen Anne-inspired pattern book farmhouse facing south on the lot. It has irregular massing with an intersecting off-set gabled roof and prominent corner tower. The exterior of the house is sheathed in clapboards with diamond-patterned shingles in the gables, a wide frieze under the gables, and a cut stone foundation. The roof has painted cedar shingles.

In addition to the shingled gables, the house has several other decorative elements. The front entrance projects with a gabled entrance with returned eaves and wooden spool work between the Eastlake porch posts. Windows are 1 over 1 double hung with screens and storm windows divided 2 over 2. The corner tower has wood panels and cross pieces above the second floor window, and small wooden brackets at the eaves. There are two shallow rectangular bays on the south and east sides of the house, one with a small hipped roof, the other with a mansard roof reminiscent of the Italianate style.

Changes to the house are minor. A new kitchen was installed in the 1960s and new kitchen windows were added at the east rear and rear of the house. The lean to shed addition at the back door on the east side is an early addition, not original to the house. The shed roof is metal, painted green to match the roof of the house.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1888

Builder/Architect

Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Isaac Bargaen house, built in the summer of 1888, is significant for its association with the career of Isaac I. Bargaen (1857-1943), a pioneer educator in Cottonwood County and member of the German Mennonite community at Mountain Lake. Bargaen's career is particularly significant as he represented the first generation of Mennonites to accept the secular educational system of the county and to take an active role in its political affairs.

Isaac Bargaen and his family joined the exodus of German-speaking Mennonites from Russia, and arrived at Mountain Lake in 1878. In his new home he began teaching in German private schools. In the fall of 1881, he became the first Mountain Lake Mennonite to enroll in Mankato Teachers' College. On graduation in 1885, he became principal of Mountain Lake public school. In November 1890 he won a narrow victory in the election for County Superintendent of Schools; this election made him the first Mennonite to hold county-wide elective office. After losing his elective office in 1902, Bargaen was appointed postmaster at Mountain Lake, holding this post until 1933. He was also the founder and proprietor of the Mountain Lake View (1902-1914) and a German language weekly newspaper, Unser Besucher.

Bargaen is significant as a transitional figure in the Mennonite community; he represented a younger generation, less suspicious of government and secularism. In education he was an advocate of the public school system to which his elders objected for its prohibition of religious education and its use of English as the language of instruction. Bargaen, supported by a number of Mennonite businessmen, worked to improve Mountain Lake public schools; he was responsible for introducing the state's high school curriculum to his community. He also led the Sunday school movement as a means of providing religious education outside of school. This was a matter of some controversy in Mennonite circles, but Bargaen remained a leader in the Sunday school movement as late as 1915. In his political ambitions, growing out of his educational concerns, Bargaen parted company with traditional Mennonite distrust of government. His success as County Superintendent of Schools helped bring younger Mennonites into active participation in the county's political life.

With a single interruption, Bargaen lived in his house on lot 31, auditor's subdivision No. 1, at Mountain Lake until his death in 1943. The house's significance is therefore closely identified with his career and his signal contribution to Mountain Lake and Cottonwood County.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1915

Windom Reporter, 1888-1892; 1900, 1915, 1943 Cottonwood County Citizen, 1888-1892, 1900, 1900, Cottonwood County Historical Society, The Centennial History of Cottonwood County (Windom (?) F.P. Schultz, The Settlement of German Mennonites from Russia at Mountain Lake, Minnesota 1970) (Minneapolis, 1938)
 Clerk of Court's Office, Cottonwood County - Birth and Death Records, Probate Records

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 2 acres
 Quadrangle name Mountain Lake, Minn. (1970)

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	15	345540	4866242	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Norene A. Roberts and Charles Quinn
 organization Historical Research, Inc. date July 5, 1985
 street & number 5535 Richmond Curve telephone (612) 929-2921
 city or town Minneapolis state Minnesota 55410

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Russell W. Fridley*
 title Russell W. Fridley State Historic Preservation Officer date 5/8/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

J. Delores Byers Entered in the National Register date 6-13-86
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Chief of Registration date

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National Park Service**

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Isaac Bargaen House, Mountain Lake, Cottonwood County, Minnesota

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Continuation sheet

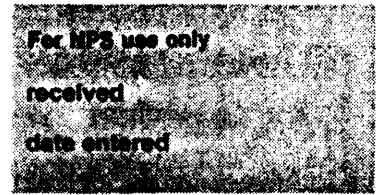
Resource Count

Item number 8

Page 1

The Isaac Bargaen House nomination contains
1 contributing building.

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National Park Service**



**National Register of Historic Places
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Isaac Bargaen House, Mountain Lake, Cottonwood County, MN

Continuation sheet Verbal Boundary Description Item number 10

Page 1

Isaac Bargaen House, Mountain Lake, Minnesota:

All that part of Lot 31 in County Auditor's Subdivision No. 1 (One), in the Village of Mountain Lake, described as follows: Commencing at the southeast corner of said lot; thence west along the south boundary line of said lot a distance of 151.5' to a point which is a distance of 135.75' west from the southwest corner of said lot; thence north parallel with the west boundary line of said lot, a distance of 150'; thence west parallel to the wouth buildary line of said lot a distance of 62'; thence parallel with the west boundary line of said lot a distance of 10'; thence west parallel with the south boundary of said lot a distance of 60.2' to a point which is a distance of 207.3; south of the north boundary line of said lot; thence east parallel with the south boundary line of said lot a distance of 263.25' to a point of intersection with the east boundary line of said lot; thence south along the east boundary line of said lot a distance of 200.2; to the place of beginning.