

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Isanti School District #1

COUNTY: Isanti

2007078

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Spencer Brook

LEGAL DESC.: Commence at the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 15, T35R25; ADDRESS: Spencer Brook
thence west along the north line thereof a distance of 50.5 rods
to the point of beginning. Thence south 10 rods, thence west 100 feet, thence north 10 rods
to the north line thereof; thence east 100 feet to the point of beginning.

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:	Yes _____ No _____ Restricted <u>X</u>	PRESENT USE:
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD:	Yes <u>X</u> No _____	Museum
OCCUPIED:	Yes <u>X</u> No _____	

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1874

ORIGINAL USE: School

ORIGINAL OWNER: School District #1

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Isanti County, Courthouse,
237 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Cambridge, Minnesota 55008ACREAGE: Less than one acre XLOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Isanti County Historical Society,
Box 525, Cambridge, Minnesota 55008

UTM REFERENCE:

Wyanett Quad.

FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg

15 / 465340 / 5040795

DATE: December 1979

DESCRIPTION:

The Isanti School District No. 1 is located in the small rural settlement of Spencer Brook in western Isanti County. The surrounding area is wooded and agricultural. The building faces north and is located one half mile west of County Road 7.

The school, constructed in 1874, is a simple one story gable-roofed building measuring approximately twenty-six by thirty-two feet. A square bell tower adorns the north end of the building and is the primary decorative element. Bell tower ornamentation includes small brackets beneath an overhanging hip roof and sawn arched trim with pendants on the upper half of the louvered belfry.

Two four-panel doors with transom lights are located on the front (north) facade. Concrete steps running the width of the building lead up to the two entrances. An commemorative plaque has been placed between the doors by the local historical society. Simple fenestration includes a fanlight in the gable and evenly-spaced double hung windows on the east, west, and south facades. The windows are covered by green wooden shutters of vertical siding. A chimney pierces the south end of the gable roof.

The property also includes a water pump to the west of the school and small frame privy to the south.

The school has been altered little from its original design and remains without modern utilities. The building was vacated and used as a granary for a time after 1945, but it has since been acquired and preserved by the Spencer Brook Historical Association.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Spencer Brook School District No. 1 is primarily significant as a rare surviving structure associated with Spencer Brook, a community settled by New Englanders during the earliest phase of Isanti County's development. Settlers from New England were the first Euro-Americans to make permanent residences in Isanti County, preceding the better-known and more numerous Swedish immigrants who arrived in the area from the late 1860s to the 1890s. Spencer Brook was settled in the late 1850s, mostly by Mainites, who were engaged in lumbering. The village became the largest settlement of native born Americans in the county. The settlers organized the first rural school in the county in 1858. School enrollment outgrew the homes in which it was first held, and land was purchased in 1874 for a school site and the present building was constructed. The school has been closed since 1945, but the Spencer Brook Historical Association was formed in June 1969 for the purpose of restoring and preserving the schoolhouse.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Isanti School District No. 1 in
Isanti County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002078

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Isanti

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): District School No. 1

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Isanti

ADDRESS: off Co. Hwy. 7

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**

Section number 1 Page 1

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002078

STATE: Minnesota

COUNTY: Isanti

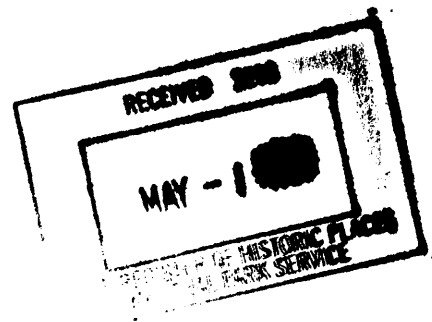
RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): District No. 1 School

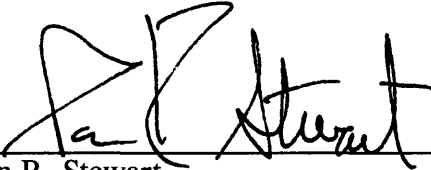
CITY/TOWNSHIP: Spencer Brook Township

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

COMMENTS: Name Correction
1597 County MRA





Ian R. Stewart
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

4/24/98
Date