

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAY 23 1977  
DATE ENTERED DEC 16 1977

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

\*\* Captain John Oliver House

AND/OR COMMON

Cedarlawn

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1544 Rivercrest Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lakeland

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

22

COUNTY

Washington

CODE

163

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. William Roth

STREET & NUMBER

1544 Rivercrest Road

CITY, TOWN

Lakeland

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Stillwater

STATE

Minnesota

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Minnesota Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society, Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated on a bluff overlooking the St. Croix River near Lakeland, the Captain John Oliver House is a two story clapboard Greek Revival building. The principal, or east facade, is three bays wide. Greek Revival features include regularly spaced windows with dog-eared molding, simple entablature, massive corner pilasters, smaller pilasters flanking a front door surrounded by glass sidelights and transom, and pediments at the gable ends. The bottom leg of the pediment at the gable ends of the house is broken, and horizontal continuation of the entablature is suggested by the returns above the corner pilasters. A Gothic window is situated in the center of the east gable end.

Additions to the exterior include a one story front porch on the east facade and a kitchen wing and lean-to on the west facade. The structural integrity of the original exterior is not affected by the additions; they could be dismantled without injury to the house.

The original interior classic plan has been altered over the years to provide for fewer and more commodious rooms on the first floor. The original room arrangement on the second floor remains intact. The attic story has been opened and remodeled to provide for a bedroom. Door and window moldings and the original walnut newell post and balustrade remain intact throughout.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1849-present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Captain John Oliver House, built in 1849, is significant for its association with the settlement of Lakeland Township, the organization of the Town of Lakeland and as an example of the Greek Revival style of architecture.

Captain John Oliver and his family were among the first settlers of Lakeland Township in 1848. In that year Captain Oliver pre-empted land and began the construction of this house. Deeds and historic plat maps show that Oliver and his sons acquired a large amount of property in Lakeland Township during the last half of the 19th century.

Captain John Oliver was a British Naval Officer who emigrated to Boston, Massachusetts in 1820. He served as the Boston Harbor Pilot for twenty two years prior to settling in Lakeland Township. From 1850 until his death in 1869 he operated the ferry between Lakeland and Hudson, Wisconsin.

The Oliver family was closely associated with the platting and organization of the Town of Lakeland and the organization of the local school system. George A. and Charles A. Oliver, sons of Captain Oliver, are credited with setting up the governmental organization of Lakeland. John A. Oliver, Jr. was responsible for the establishment of the Lakeland school.

Architecturally, the house is significant as one of a dwindling number of Greek Revival buildings dating to the 1850s in Minnesota. Although additions have been made to the exterior and alterations to the interior the original Greek Revival features remain intact.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Dunn, James Taylor, The St. Croix: Midwest Border River, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Chicago, New York and San Francisco, 1965.
- Easton, Augustus B., ed., History of the St. Croix Valley, Volume I, H.C. Cooper and Co., Chicago, 1909.
- Neil, Reverend Edward D., History of Washington County and the St. Croix Valley, North Star Publishing Co., Minneapolis, 1884.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	5 1 7 5 6 0	4 9 7 9 9 6 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE <u>Lynne VanBrocklin Spaeth - State Historic Preservation Office</u>	
ORGANIZATION <u>Minnesota Historical Society</u>	DATE <u>11 April 1977</u>
STREET & NUMBER <u>Building 25, Fort Snelling</u>	TELEPHONE <u>612-726-1171</u>
CITY OR TOWN <u>St. Paul</u>	STATE <u>Minnesota</u>

# 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 DATE 5/13/77  
State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION W. M. ... DATE 12/16/77  
 ATTEST: Charles ... KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 12-13-77  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER