

HISTORIC NAME: Osmund Osmundson House

COUNTY: Rice

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Nerstrand

LEGAL DESC.:

See continuation sheet

ADDRESS:

east side of Nerstrand, 2
blocks north of Main Street

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Excellent _____	Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Primary Settlement
Structure _____	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State _____	Secondary Commerce
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes ___ No Restricted ___

PRESENT USE:

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes No ___

Residential

OCCUPIED: Yes No ___

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1880

ORIGINAL USE: Residential

ORIGINAL OWNER: Osmund Osmundson

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Mr. Leonard Osmundson
Nerstrand, MinnesotaACREAGE: Less than one acre
approx. 1 acreLOCAL CONTACT/CRG.: Rice County Historical Society,
P.O. Box 5, Faribault, MN 55021UTM REFERENCE:
Nerstrand Quad. 7.5

FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg

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DATE: February 1981

DESCRIPTION:

The Osmund Osmundson House is located in the northeast portion of the City of Nerstrand. It is situated east of the Chicago Great Western Railway on a small township road which divides the eastern half of section 11, Wheeling Township.

The two story gabled brick house was constructed in 1880 and is painted white with reddish brown trim. The sprawling residence consists of two sections; both feature intersecting gable roofs with wooden shingles. The south section measures two bays by two bays; a portion of this section dates to 1856. The north section measures three bays by two bays with a one-and-one-half story rear (west) extension off the central bay. An enclosed porch surmounted by a balcony is located at the northwest corner of the house and a modified front porch is located across the north section's eastern (three bay) facade. Windows are regularly spaced and slightly arched with two over two lights. Dominant fenestration features are the pointed gothic windows centered in the gable ends on the east and south facades.

Although the house has lost its elaborate balustraded full front porch and red brick color, significant design integrity remains and exterior alterations have been cosmetic rather than structural. The interior has been remodeled, but the original floorplan remains. A garage of recent construction date is located to the north and a combination chicken house/shed is located to the northwest.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Osmund Osmundson House is significant for its association with a prominent Rice County settler and town founder. Norwegian-born Osmund Osmundson immigrated to the United States in 1850, settling in Milwaukee before trying his hand at gold mining in California and finally settling in Wheeling Township in 1856. In 1857 he homesteaded part of section 11, the present site of the City of Nerstrand. Osmundson's vision for a village in the area began to materialize in 1877 when he erected a store on what is now the right of way of the Great Western railroad tracks at the foot of Nerstrand's Main Street. In 1885, the Minnesota and North Western Railway was constructed through the area, and Osmundson platted the village of Nerstrand on the line, naming it after his home in Norway. His brick house was constructed in 1880 replacing a log house constructed at the time of settlement and an 1861 frame house. The house remains as the structure best associated with the establishment of the City of Nerstrand, the principal center serving the surrounding agricultural community of eastern Rice County. In addition to his role as city founder and civic promoter, Osmundson was active in county and state government, serving as county commissioner for two terms and in the state legislature. Osmund Osmundson lived in the house until his death in 1914; third generation Osmundsons are the current resident owners.

Legal Description:

Begin at the southeast corner of the NW SE SE Section 11, T110 R19; commence Nly 250 ft.; thence Ely to west edge of Township Road; thence southeasterly along road to south line of the NW SE SE Section 11; thence Wly to point of beginning.

Bibliography:

History of the Nerstrand Community, Nerstrand Women's Club, 1949.

Swanberg, L.E., ed., Then and Now, A History of Rice County, Faribault and Communities, Faribault: 1976.