

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

Redwood County Multiple Resource Area

HISTORIC

Historic and Prehistoric Resources of Redwood County.

AND/OR COMMON

(see continuation sheet)

2 LOCATION

various locations in Redwood County

STREET & NUMBER

The county limits of Redwood County,
Minnesota

CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Minnesota

VICINITY OF

CODE
22COUNTY
RedwoodCODE
127**3 CLASSIFICATION**

Multiple Resources

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
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple Ownership - see inventory forms

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder's Office - Redwood County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Redwood Falls, Minnesota

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

See continuation sheet - page 1

For explanation, see Survey
Methodology

Statewide Survey of Historic Resources

DATE

1978

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society - 240 Summit Avenue - Hill House

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE
Minnesota

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Historic and Prehistoric Resources of Redwood County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 1

PAGE 1

This Multiple Resource Area Nomination is based on a survey of prehistoric sites and standing structures conducted in Redwood County by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office as part of a long-range statewide survey of historic resources. The properties included in the nomination represent those which illustrate significant aspects of the history of the county and which have been deemed eligible for nomination at the conclusion of the survey. Additional information and new perspectives for evaluation of specific types of historic and prehistoric properties are continually being gained as the statewide survey progresses, and it is quite possible that additional Redwood County properties will be nominated in the future. These may be presented individually or as parts of thematic groups when the entire survey is completed. For this reason, this Multiple Resource Area Nomination should not be construed as representing all properties in Redwood County eligible for nomination.

(The above disclaimer is based on an agreement between Charles Harrington, HCRS, and Russell W. Fridley, Minnesota SHPO, August 31, 1979).

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Historic and Prehistoric Resources of Redwood County, Minnesota

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS:

The following properties, included in this nomination, are also included in the survey "Five Redwood County Towns" (Gimmestad, Dennis A. and James Nestingen. Duplicated. Lucan, Minnesota: The Rural Cities Administration, 1977.):

Commercial Hotel, Wabasso
Milroy State Bank, Milroy

Milroy Block, Milroy
C & NW Railroad Depot, Lucan

The following county properties have previously been listed in the National Register:

Lower Sioux Agency, Sherman Township
Odeon Theatre, Belview

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Survey Method

The survey upon which this nomination is based was conducted by the State Historic Preservation Office of the Minnesota Historical Society in conjunction with a similar survey in adjoining Brown County. The archaeological portion of the survey was conducted by two two-member teams under the aegis of the Statewide Archaeological Survey, a program funded by the Minnesota State Legislature and supervised by Ted Lofstrom, SHPO Archaeologist. Archaeological field work took place in April through June of 1978 under the direction of Tom Trow, with the assistance of Lee Radzak, Brent Olson, and Thomas Hruby. The standing structure portion of the survey was conducted during the spring and summer of 1978 by SHPO Survey Analyst Dennis Gimmetad. Brief descriptions of the methods employed for each portion of the survey follow.

Archaeological Method

The Statewide Archaeological Survey has as a major objective the delineation of the distribution of prehistoric sites throughout Minnesota. To accomplish this most economically the Survey has adopted a standardized, stratified random sampling strategy which is applied to selected areas of the state.

"Random" or probability sampling is employed to eliminate the possibility that the archaeologist's expectations may influence the selection of areas to be surveyed and consequently the results of the study. The term "stratified" means that the area to be surveyed is divided into "strata" or zones, each of which is sampled separately. These subdivisions are defined on the basis of information that suggests that they differ from each other in some important quality or characteristic. For the Statewide Archaeological Survey each survey area is stratified by proximity to permanent water. This was done because several lines of research indicate that prehistoric sites are typically located on the shores of lakes and streams (no doubt reflecting the importance of aquatic resources to Minnesota's prehistoric inhabitants). Drained or silted in lakes have been included with extant lakes in the survey.

The specific stratified random sampling strategy employed by the Statewide Archaeological Survey was designed by Dr. Frank Martin, Director of the Statitital Center, Department of Applied Statistics, University of Minnesota.

Each survey area consists of a relatively compact area between 200 and 1000 square miles in size. Each is divided into a population of 40-acre quarter-quarter section sample units as defined by the U.S. General Land Office Public Land Survey. The quarter-quarter section was selected as the sample unit. Consequently, each survey area contains a total population of between 3200 and 16,000 sample units. Of these a random sample of about 2000 sample units (less in the smaller areas), is selected and plotted on the appropriate base maps. Each of these 2000 sample units is then assigned to one of the strata defined for the survey area. By stratifying a large sample of units within the

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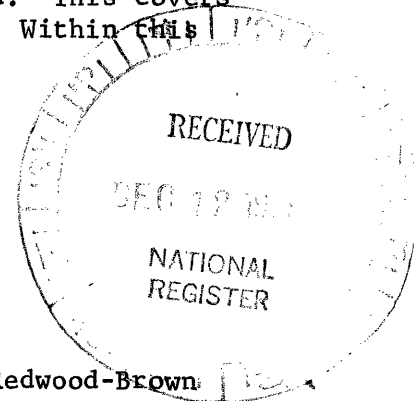
survey area, it allows us to accurately estimate for the whole survey area how many total sample units are located on lakeshores, stream shores, etc. After the initial sample of 2000 sample units is assigned to strata, a smaller sample of about 60 units (in some cases, less) is randomly selected from each stratum. This second, smaller sample is examined in the field to determine the presence of prehistoric archaeological sites. Based on the ratio of sample units containing sites, an estimate of the frequency of sites in each stratum may be made.

In addition to surveying sample units, the field archaeologists examine all recorded sites and other locations that may contain sites.

Most of Redwood and Brown counties falls into the Blue Earth Till Plain physiographic area, which is flat to gently rolling.

For the random sampling survey an area defined by the watershed of the Cottonwood River and Sleepy Eye Creek was delineated. This covers approximately the southern half of the two county area. Within this area seven strata were defined. These are:

1. Islands
2. Lake inlet or outlet
3. Lake/Lake basin shoreline
4. Confluence of 2 streams
5. Streamshore
6. Wetlands
7. Away from water



The following table summarizes the results of the Redwood-Brown county survey:

Stratum	Total Units Surveyed	Number of Units Containing Sites	% of Units Containing Sites
1	2	0	0
2	8	1	12.5
3	41	10	24
4	26	3	11.5
5	46	6	13
6	21	2	9.5
7	49	3	6
	193	25	6

The small number of units surveyed in strata 1 and 2 reflects the low frequency islands and clear cut lake inlets and outlets in the survey area.

71 additional prehistoric sites were discovered in the two county survey. Of the total 96 sites discovered, 44 were found in Redwood County, and 13 known sites were re-examined. From this total, a selection of sites which spans prehistory and early Euro-American settlement was selected for nomination. The sites include the best preserved, least disturbed, and potentially most informative sites encountered in the course of the survey.

Standing Structure Method

The basis for the standing structure portion of the survey is an inventory of structures which are indicative of various aspects of the county's history.

Selection of structures for this inventory included both field reconnaissance of pre-identified sites and isolation of sites on a purely visual basis. Pre-identification of sites was limited to a small number of the most significant locations (those unique on a county-wide scale, or significantly linked with some aspect of county history.) Two Redwood County histories (Curtiss-Wedge, 1916, and Webb, 1964), individual community histories, and photographs from both the state and county societies and private collections were researched for site-specific information. General references to common buildings were not noted.

Township maps from 1898 and 1930 county atlases were copied for field use. Plat maps on file in the county recorder's office were researched for original plat information (proprietors, survey and filing dates) and for addition dates. The filing dates for the various platted areas were noted on current highway department city maps. This collection of maps was extremely useful in gaining a localized sense of development for areas of the county.

All city streets and a sampling of township roads were walked or driven. Pre-identified sites were inventoried regardless of integrity. (The number of pre-identified sites was small - less than 30 for the county.) Other buildings with unusual integrity or unique features were also inventoried.

In general, structures built before 1940 were considered for an inventory. No attempt was made to locate "the oldest" structures in any one location, except as related to specific historical or physical significance.

Follow-up information (both localized specific and generalized contextual) on some sites was gathered to help establish significance.

In each community, at least one and in most cases several local contacts were made through the county historical society and by random inquiry. These were used most often to locate information on selected properties, but also were helpful in pointing out additional locations for inventory.

From the inventory of approximately 150 sites, 20 were selected for nomination to the National Register, mostly on the basis of their significance in the county. Information and photographs on all sites is recorded on inventory forms for a permanent record.

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Area Description

Redwood County is located in the area of the state variously referred to as "Southwest Minnesota" and, by the Minnesota Department of Economic Development, as "Pioneerland". The Minnesota River forms a portion of its northern limits; five adjacent counties define the remainder of its varying but rectilinear boundaries.

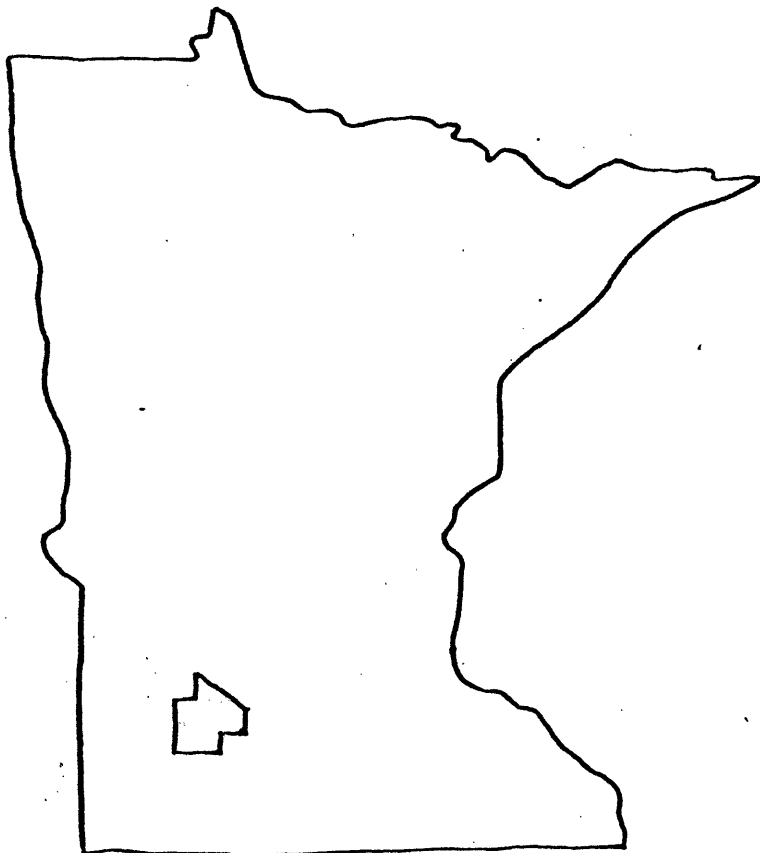
The county's agricultural lands are both its most valuable natural resource and its most dominant visual feature. Several small lakes and marshes, once providing breaks in the generally flat to gently rolling topography, have been eliminated by an extensive drainage system begun in 1905. In 1978, the U.S. Soil and Water Conservation District indicated that 88% of the county's area was devoted to cropland.

The major variant features on this cultivated landscape are the 17 townships, the more than 1,960 farmsteads, the ubiquitous grid of the section line road system, and the five major river systems (the Minnesota, with its valley extending up to 1.5 miles into the northern edge of the county, and the smaller Cottonwood, Redwood, Ramsey, and Sleepy Eye systems crossing the county on a generally east-west line.)

Several gravel pits occur along the river systems; granite quarries (most of which are inactive) are located in Swedes Forest, Honnor, and Granite Rock Townships. Occasional, irregular tree rows mark shorelines remaining from drained lakes, as in the Three Lakes area of Three Lakes Township and the Swan Lake area of Underwood Township. Several wetland areas have been preserved by the Department of Natural Resources since the beginning of the Save the Wetlands Program in the early 1950s. The rail system remains intact, though deteriorated, except for abandoned sections east of Wabasso to Evan (in Brown County) and between Wabasso and Wanda. In early 1978, shippers along the 24.8

mile Chicago and North Western branch between Redwood Falls and Sleepy Eye were the first in the nation to receive rehabilitation funds under the federal local rail service continuation program, but railroad officials were publically skeptical of the future of the line.

Township population (the total for unincorporated places) peaked in 1920 at 13,265, and has dwindled steadily to a 9,074 total in 1970. The number of farms in the county, based on totals for the first year of each decade only, shows a maximum of 2,667 in 1940, as compared with 1,960 today. A slight



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city population increase during recent decades has not compensated for the township decline, and the county totals have dropped from 22,290 in 1940 to 20,024 in 1970.

Following in this section are descriptions of the county's archaeological (pre-historic) background, of its historical evolution during the development years, and of the types of building stock that have been employed in the area.

Archaeological Description

For 90,000 of the last 100,000 years, Redwood County lay beneath the vast weight of glacial ice. Its lakes, rivers, and gently rolling plains were formed by those glaciers, their final shape determined as the ice melted away nearly 10,000 years ago. From then until 2,000 B.C. the look of the county continued to change, as a succession of various plant communities appeared and vanished in turn. At first the land was like arctic tundra, then a spruce forest, then pine woods, evolving through the years until the prairie finally emerged as the dominant pattern.

Rivers, streams, and scattered lakes broke the pattern occasionally, but the open grasslands offered easy passage to any of the various nomadic creatures which chose to wander the wide expanse. Bison in large numbers roamed the high ground through the warm months, and sought shelter in the protection of the wooded river valleys in the cold of winter. Deer and elk shared that river environment with the buffalo, as well as with the two prominent dangers to life on the prairie: fire and human beings.

In order to sustain its delicate balance, a prairie must periodically burn, and, in fact, has done so easily. Early human inhabitants of the plains no doubt understood how to control and use fire, directing its effects to beneficial ends for themselves. The evidence is scant, though, through the earlier Paleo-Indian and Archaic periods until the Indians of the Woodland pattern first appeared around 200 B.C. These people chose to live on islands in the lakes within the prairies, the one safe place to be when the grasslands burned. In the winter they too may have moved to the warmer river valleys, never living far from the animals that sustained their lives.

The great wealth of bison, the game found in the wooded valleys, the fish and turtles in the lakes, and in later times, the excellent soil for farming gave the Indians of prehistoric Redwood County a rich and varied basis for survival, and encouraged their life ways through nearly 8,000 years of continuous occupation of the land.

Historical Description

The evolution of Redwood County's man-made physical layout during the historic period reflects the development of a system of farming,

Area Description

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Area Description

service areas, and transportation. This development occurred basically between the 1860s and the early 1900s.

Much of the area that is now within the county boundaries was ceded by the Dakota Indians in the Treaty at Traverse des Sioux in 1851. A ten-mile wide strip along the Minnesota River was retained as reservation land, and the Lower Agency was established within this strip as a government administrative center for the Lower Sioux Tribes. (The diagonal slash of the reservation line across the section grid remains visible more than 100 years later as field boundaries in several areas of the county. A dirt road in section 11 of Brookville Township, known locally as the "reservation road", follows the line for half a mile, then reverts to the section grid.)

County histories mention some individuals living in the area during the period the agency was in existence, but during the Indian Uprising of 1862, most settlers vacated. As a consequence of the Uprising, the Dakota gave up the final reservation area and were moved westward.

Settling in the county in 1864 was a group including Col. Sam McPhail, who had participated in one of the expeditions of the war. McPhail's plat for a city near the falls of the Redwood River (the site of the Agency sawmill) remained the only town in the county until the advent of the railroads in 1872.

During the 1860s, the government survey of county lands was completed, the Homestead Act was instituted, and the reservation lands were opened for settlement. The assessment rolls of 1867 show land taken in 11 of the 26 township areas. While some settlement preceded railroad construction, population figures in most townships increase markedly during the decade immediately following the institution of rail service.

The first railroad to cross the county was the Winona and St. Peter in 1872, along the county's southern edge. Villages appeared slowly: the Walnut Grove plat was not filed until 1874; Lamberton was settled in 1873, but its plat was not filed until 1878; Sanborn's plat was filed in 1881; and Revere's plat was filed in 1886. The villages appear to reflect a mixture of private effort (Walnut Grove by the Bedal brothers, Sanborn by John Yaeger) and railroad involvement (Lamberton was created on land purchased by H.W. Lamberton of Winona, a land commissioner for the railroad. Revere was platted directly by the company.)

Before the last of these towns in the southern tier of the county were created, a spur line had been constructed in 1878 from a point on the Winona and St. Peter in Brown County to Redwood Falls, along the county's eastern edge. Towns platted by apparent private developers were Morgan (1878) and Paxton (1878, vacated 1917). The Gilfillan farm, including a siding, with a depot and elevator, was later developed near the Paxton site.

The Wisconsin, Minnesota, & Pacific, a line of the Minneapolis and St. Louis, built across the northern edge of the county in 1884, and

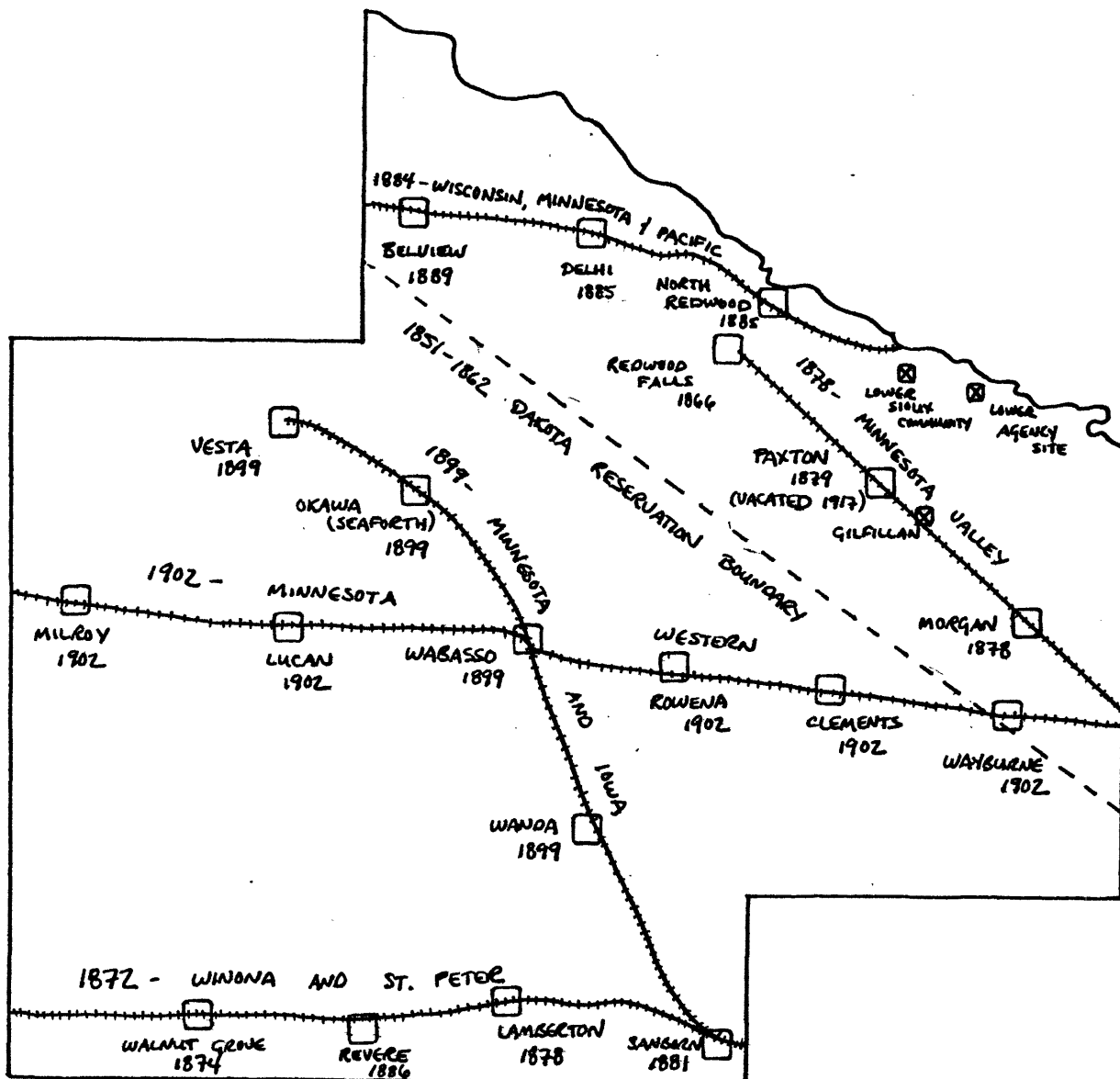
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the towns of North Redwood (1884), Delhi (1884), and Belview (1889) followed, all apparently platted by individual developers.

Development of townsites and the subsequent increased township population did not occur in the central portion of the county until 1899. The Minnesota and Iowa laid tracks through the center of the county between Sanborn (already existing) and the Vesta townsite in 1899, and the Minnesota Western connected Evan (in Brown County) to Marshall (in Lyon County) with a line across the county's east-west center in 1902. Both of these companies were divisions of the Chicago and NorthWestern, whose subsidiary, the Western Town Lot Company, platted nine townsites on the two lines: Wanda, Wabasso, Okawa (later Seaforth), and Vesta in 1899, and Wayburne, Clements, Rowena, Lucan, and Milroy in 1902. Lots were sold at auction and "instant" towns created in a few months. Wabasso, at the junction of the two

Area Description



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Area Description

lines, remains the largest of these last towns (population 738). Wayburne is a cultivated field that gives no clue of a townsite; Rowena consists of an elevator, township hall, and a few residences. The other Western Town Lot Company towns in the county remain near their original size and retain a number of buildings dating from their creation, although the majority of these have undergone alteration, and most areas are interspersed with structures of more recent construction dates.

A current map of the county closely resembles one dating from the first decade of the century after the last towns were established. Gradual changes for both township areas and villages have taken place with school consolidations and the consolidation of many types of business functions.

Architectural Description

Most structures of Redwood County have been simple functional forms based on economically available building materials. The earliest structures employed the log, sod, and dugout construction methods typical of pioneer buildings. As individual and line lumber yards were established near newly-constructed rail lines, the frame structure of mass-produced lumber became the basis for virtually every type of residential building, progressing through a series of common builder styles. Beginning before the turn of the century, most institutional and commercial structures have utilized masonry construction. More recently, a large proportion of agricultural buildings - and some commercial structures - have been constructed of metal.

The county historical society has marked the depressions of a dugout in North Hero Township that became the setting for author Laura Ingalls Wilder's On The Banks of Plum Creek. The warehouse at the Lower Agency also dates from the earliest buildings, and is one of very few area structures constructed of stone.

While the style of most frame residential structures has been simple and unadorned, a few early homes display detailing characteristic of traditional architectural styles. The H.D. Chollar House (c.1878) in Redwood Falls, an Italianate residence, and the J.A. Anderson House (c.1900) in Lamberton, a Queen Anne residence, are the best examples. The most identifiable of the later frame residential builder styles in the county is the bungalow, which appeared throughout the county from the early teens through the 1920s. Subsequent builder styles eliminated most detailing.

Today, most commercial districts contain a mixture of generally earlier frame and later masonry structures; Redwood Falls' greater growth has resulted in an all-masonry downtown district. The Bank of Redwood Falls Building (c.1885) is a masonry structure with Richardsonian Romanesque features that replaced an earlier frame building. The greatest concentration of original frame commercial buildings is

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Area Description

in Lucan; most of these have been altered on the street level. The Milroy Block and the State Bank of Milroy, both of brick, illustrate the use of this material for initial townsites structures by the time the last townsites were platted.

Early brick commercial buildings often display style detailing in brickwork and cornices. Several later commercial structures built of rainbow-colored block manufactured by the American Artstone Company in New Ulm are readily identifiable by a cast-concrete detailing reflecting a prairie school influence.

Structures built of locally-quarried North Redwood granite include the Gothic Revival St. Cornelia's Episcopal Mission Church (1889-91) at the Lower Sioux Agency (Paxton Township), the Neo-classic Redwood Falls Public Library (1904) in Redwood Falls, and the WPA-constructed Ramsey Park Swayback Bridge (1938) in Redwood Falls.

Most frame barns are of a moderate size appropriate for the diversified family operation. Both earlier frame and later block and metal farm buildings are of a strictly functional design. Farmsteads have generally undergone radical alteration in recent years.

Structures in the 17 communities of the county are generally situated in one compartment of a grid plat, as this characteristic form for railroad townsites has been employed almost exclusively in village space organization.

The original plat area of Redwood Falls is a formal 20-block area with the courthouse square situated at the terminus of a street central to the plat as a whole. Development of the commercial district occurred to one side of the original plat, however, and there is little feeling of centrality for the courthouse area.

The grid system continued in use for additions to Redwood Falls (until the curvilinear Sunnyside Heights Addition of the 1940s and 50s) and for the platted areas of both the individually surveyed and railroad surveyed trackside towns of the county. A few of these towns tilt the grid to correspond with the angle of the rails, but most original areas and virtually all later grid additions are made at cardinal directions. Most commercial districts have developed along a T-town plan, with the business area perpendicular to the tracks, and are generally about two blocks in length.

School sites and parks are most often situated on one block of the grid. Variants on this placement are the circular Belview Park and the river-side Sanborn Park, and a number of school sites placed at terminal street locations. Most of the terminal focus has been lost through school building additions, abandonment, and removal.

Township land division follows the conventional lines of the government survey system. A variant of this scheme is the long lot divisions of the original area of the Lower Sioux Community. This area was subdivided in the 1890s after purchase by the federal government. The Community was created to be held in trust for use by members of the Mdewakanton tribe who had lived in the area before the Uprising of 1862.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

☒ PREHISTORIC
☒ 1400-1499
☒ 1500-1599
☒ 1600-1699
☒ 1700-1799
☒ 1800-1899
☒ 1900-

☒ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
☒ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
☒ AGRICULTURE
☒ ARCHITECTURE
☐ ART
☒ COMMERCE
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING
☐ CONSERVATION
☐ ECONOMICS
☒ EDUCATION
☒ ENGINEERING
☒ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
☒ INDUSTRY
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
☐ LAW
☐ LITERATURE
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSIC
☐ PHILOSOPHY
☒ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☒ RELIGION
☐ SCIENCE
☐ SCULPTURE
☒ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ THEATER
☒ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

See Area Significance

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Area Significance

Redwood County's central archaeological significance is in sites which can yield information on prairie life before Euro-American settlement. A major significant single event, the Sioux Uprising of 1862, marked the transition from Indian to Euro-American occupancy. The central historic significance of the county has been and continues to be that of a producer and exporter of agricultural products.

This section will examine aspects of the archaeological, historical and architectural significance of the area as related to the individual properties included in the nomination.

Archaeological Significance

The archaeological record for prehistoric Redwood County is just now beginning to be examined. From 1887 until the Statewide Archaeological Survey by the State Historic Preservation Office in the spring of 1978 only 12 sites were on file for the county. In four weeks of field work, 46 more have been added.

For an accurate understanding of the county's role in the story of prehistoric Minnesota, however, much more work is needed. Through intensive examination of the newly inventoried and other remaining sites, we will at some time be able to develop answers to the questions that appear and multiply with each new find:

Did Paleo-Indian hunters of 8,000 B.C. to 5,000 B.C. ever roam Redwood County in search of mammoths or giant bison?

What did the homes and lifeways of Archaic peoples of the prairie look like? How did they change during 4,000 years on the plains?

What caused the shift to the Woodland pattern after 1,000 B.C.? Did the people of this time live in one place throughout the year, or did they move with the seasons?

How and when did farming first appear in this area? Was agriculture present before the arrival of Middle Mississippian influences around A.D. 1000?

Were the Late Woodland peoples living alongside the Mississippian peoples, or were they successional?

How did Euro-American influences change the lifestyle of the Indians from the 16th to the 19th century?

These and many other questions basic to the study of the archaeology of southwestern Minnesota remain unanswered. Redwood County may contain the information required to develop some important solutions; the numerous small lakes, the rich bottomlands, and the following rivers

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Area Significance

have lured people here for thousands of years. Any research conducted here on the eastern edge of the prairie areas of America will have to include a familiarity with the boundaries. Redwood County is very near to being within the border zone, and very near to telling us a great deal about life on the prairie before Euro-American settlement.

The three prehistoric archaeological properties included in this nomination - the Plum Creek Site, the Holmberg Site, and the Bellig Site - may provide significant information on these questions. The Laura Ingalls Wilder Site - a historic archaeological site - may further provide information on an initial building method utilized by the first Euro-American settlers.

Historical and Architectural Significance

One major and several minor episodes of the Indian Uprising of 1862 mark that war as an event of prime importance in Redwood County history. The Uprising ranged over a wide area of the Upper Minnesota Valley; the Lower Agency (in present Sherman Township, Redwood County) was the site of the first battle, and, later, of the trials of the Dakota involved in the war. As the final take-over of Minnesota's Dakota Indian lands by the U.S. Government, the Uprising was an event whose consequences had a wide spatial and temporal impact. The Lower Agency's stone warehouse (1861) remains standing, and the area is the site of an interpretative center administered by the Minnesota Historical Society (and placed on the National Register in 1970). Numerous markers were erected by the Minnesota Valley Historical Society around the turn of the century at other Uprising sites. Camp Pope, in present Delhi Township, was used in campaigns to combat rumored post-Uprising Indian offenses in 1863-4. (Sam McPhail was at Pope during the 1863 campaign, and returned the following year to found Redwood Falls).

During the settlement process after the war and the evolution of agricultural production and exporting functions, the major significance of the county became based on its position as a component part of a larger, developing agricultural region. Most of the county agricultural processing functions (creameries, flour mills, meat processing concerns) were oriented to local markets; products produced for outside sale were generally shipped and processed elsewhere.

The basic functional mechanisms for development of such an area are the units of production (here, the family farm), the means of goods transport (initially, the railroad), and the commerce-educational-governmental-religious-cultural support systems for the populace of the area.

The post-Uprising historic resources of the county derive their significance, then, from the role they have played in the development of such a system. Many key decisions have been made outside the county

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(i.e. determination of railroad routes and townsites by the railroad company, or erection of mill-owned line elevators for transport of products to outside mills); most county resources illustrate the direct consequences of these outside decisions or are parts of the general system of county organization they have created. Single and unique individuals and events of widespread outside impact and importance are not necessarily components of such a system, and accordingly, most resources are not of significance because of such associations.

A major period of development for the county, as discussed earlier, was the period of agricultural settlement, railroad construction, and townsite development, extending from 1864 through the first decade of the century. Initial agricultural buildings retaining integrity have disappeared. The most visible extant structures constructed by the railroad are the Chicago and North Western Depot (1902) in Lucan and the Minneapolis and St. Louis Depot (1892) in Belview.

Representative of other aspects of the settlement process and county layout development are the Honnor-Hosken House (1872) in North Redwood (an instance of railroad townsite creation by a county resident), the identical Milroy and Clements State Bank Buildings (1902) (representative of the "line" nature of the final railroad-platted communities), and St. Cornelia's Episcopal Mission (1889-90) at the Lower Sioux Community (a building begun during the pre-Uprising settlement of the Lower Agency and rebuilt by several Dakota Indians who returned to form the Lower Sioux Community more than two decades later).

After the initial wheat growing phase common in newly settled agricultural areas, the county's farms gradually adopted more scientific farming practices, and the diversified operation continued as the dominant unit of production until more recent specialization. Charles O. Gilfillan, who began development of the Gilfillan farm in Paxton and adjoining townships in the 1880's, and his son Charles O. who managed the operation after 1902, were early promoters of the diversified operation, being among the first in the area to grow alfalfa in a cattle-hogs-corn-clover-alfalfa combination. The Gilfillans also extended family farming practices through the gradual sale of the 35 farms of the operation to the individual tenants. Most of these individual farmsteads today have been radically altered as a result of the adoption of new technological methods and the specialization in individual farmstead operations.

Other resources of importance are component parts of the various support systems of the county. Most of these are located within townsite areas, although some of the educational, religious, and government components remain in township areas. It should be noted that these elements illustrate discrete and specific components of various systems rather than presenting a complete three-dimensional picture.

Area Significance

The early town as the center of commerce for the area contained the necessary range of service, retail, and processing businesses. Pivotal structures for railroad towns are the grain elevators; they provided a means of transport for agricultural products to the outside market. Several early wood cribbed elevators exist in the county (many original to the townsites); the Lamberton Farmers Elevator (1916) is unique in the county for its brick construction.

The City Blacksmith Shop (c. 1898) in Lamberton represents a prime agriculture service related concern. The Scenic City Cooperative Oil Company Building (c. 1925) in Redwood Falls, built at the time when the number of automobiles in the county was sufficient to support the county's first cooperative oil company, was a service establishment whose *raison d'être* has created a changing pattern of commerce in the county that continues today.

The Commercial Hotel (1901) in Wabasso is indicative of the increased commerce in Wabasso when two railroad lines crossed adjacent to the hotel site. An agent of commerce itself as well as an active promoter of the commerce of the area was the Land and Loan Office (1892) in Belview, established during a period after land had passed from government to private hands but when ownership was still unstable enough to permit in-migrations of groups of farmers and when vigorous promotion of the area was still practiced by land dealers.

Constructed to house a general store, a grocery store, a drug store, an opera house, and several residences, the massive Milroy Block (1902) is typical of the two story brick commercial structures of the period, but is unusual for its location in the very small community of Milroy and for its construction as an initial townsite structure soon after the first town lots were sold.

The early frame schools, numbering over 100 shortly before 1920, have deferred to sprawling brick assemblages of parts with mazelike interiors and a wide range of construction dates. School District #8 (1908), in New Avon Township, is unusual among surviving early schools in that both its complementary barn and outhouse are intact. Another educational institution, the Redwood Falls Public Library (1904), is a brick and North Redwood granite building which has survived in nearly original condition.

City government in the county has often centered in buildings such as the Odeon Theatre (1902) in Belview (placed on the National Register in 1973). The School District #8, discussed earlier, now serves as the New Avon Township Hall. The Revere Fire Hall (c. 1900) is an example of an early special-function building of local government.

Industries in the county were of minor importance compared with agricultural activity. Granite quarrying did develop in at least three areas of the county. Both of the principal owners of the Honnor-Hosken House (1872) in North Redwood were active in the development of the quarries located there.

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The most significant individual contributors to the social and humanitarian needs have been Charles D. and Charles O. Gilfillan. Gilfillan donations financed several community buildings in the county and Gilfillan-financed medical memorial funds remain in operation on township, county, and state levels.

A few structures are significant as physical objects rather than as components of developing systems. The structure stock of the county has been discussed earlier. Of note for architectural style are the Itallinate Chollar House (c. 1878) in Redwood Falls, the Queen Anne Anderson House (c. 1900) in Lamberton, and the Romanesque Bank of Redwood Falls Building (c. 1885) in Redwood Falls. A structure of engineering importance is the graceful and functional Ramsey Park Swayback Bridge (1938) in Redwood Falls.

Area Significance

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheets - pages 2-4

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see individual inventory sheets

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

Dennis Gimmetad, State Historic Preservation Office

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

September, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

240 Summit Avenue - Hill House

TELEPHONE

612-296-9545

CITY OR TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

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

TITLE Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

11/29/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

8/11/80

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8/6/80

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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