

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Minnesota	
COUNTY: Dakota	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-2-112 70-6-22-0005	DATE 6/22/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Mendota Historic District

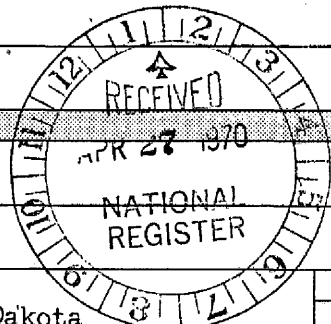
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Old Mendota, St. Peter's

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
SEE #7 for boundaries WA 4/30/70

CITY OR TOWN:
Mendota

STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22 COUNTY: Dakota CODE: 037



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Dakota County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
Hastings Minnesota 22

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Registry of Minnesota Historic Sites

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Minnesota Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
690 Cedar Street

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
St. Paul Minnesota 22

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Minnesota

COUNTY: Dakota

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mendota lies on the south bank of the Minnesota River just at the point where the Mississippi and the Minnesota Rivers unite. The area is approximately 50 acres of hilly lightly wooded land north of Sibley Highway and west of "D" street in Mendota and encompasses 7 historic structures. The border of the nominated property runs south on the east line of Government lot #2, sec. 28, T. 28 N, R 23 W, Dakota County to interstate highway 55; thence southwest on said highway to intersection with Sibley Highway; thence northeast on said highway to intersection with "D" Street; thence northwest on "D" Street to C & NW railroad. Follow a line straight north to the Dakota Ramsey county line; thence southwest on said line to boundary of government lot #2 extended north.

The Church of St. Peter's stands on approximately 18 acres of land owned by the Catholic Church. The first church built on the present site was a log cabin which was replaced in 1853 by the present structure. The church is small (35x75) and was constructed of native limestone. The present stained glass windows were added in 1904 and the original spire has been replaced twice. The cross which originally topped the spire now hangs over the door. The interior of the church has been altered and is of the poorer parish variety. St. Peter's is the oldest church in continuous use in Minnesota. From the front step of St. Peter's, one can see the walls of Fort Snelling Restoration across the Minnesota River.

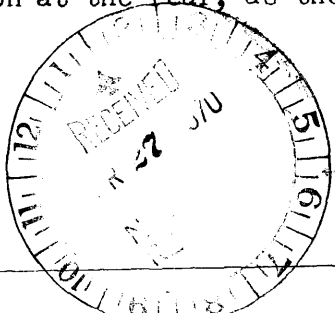
About 640 ft. northeast of St. Peter's and down the hill are the Sibley and Faribault Houses. The 3-storey limestone structures built between 1835 and 1840, are similar in both appearance and repair, Sibley's being the larger of the two. Both had hand hewn timbers and hand split shingles, the limestone having been secured with mud which has since been replaced with mortar. The rooms of the Sibley House have all been furnished after the style of the period with many of Sibley's own furnishings and possessions throughout. In one room a section of the wall has been exposed to show its unique construction.

The Faribault House is used as a meeting place for the D.A.R. and as a library. The kitchen and the dining room in the basement have been restored and the second floor is used as a museum for Indian artifacts.

Located on the grounds surrounding these houses are General Sibley's ice-house, smokehouse and washhouse, also in good repair. The washhouse has been rebuilt as a home for the caretaker.

Up the hill and about 320 ft. southeast of the Sibley and Faribault Houses is the 2-story red brick house built in 1854 by Hipolite DePuis, Sibley's secretary. This house has also been restored and is in good repair. Its appearance has been changed somewhat by the addition of an awning over the entrance and a frame addition at the rear, as the building presently houses a tea-room restaurant.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

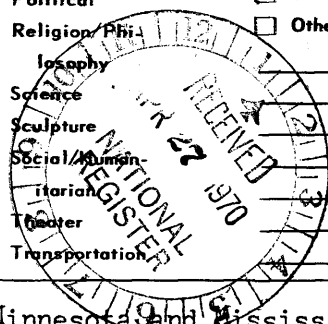
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1836

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The area of land at the meeting of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers was first explored by white men such as Pierre LeSueur in 1690, Jonathan Carver in 1767 and Lieutenant Zebulon Pike in 1805. Since it was such an ideal trade center, the American Fur Company established a post at Mendota, then called St. Peter's, in the early 1800's. Because of the rapid growth of trade and contact with the Sioux in the area, President Monroe name Lawrence Taliaferro as Indian agent to St. Peter's in 1819. Taliaferro was the first Indian agent in the territory. That same year Colonel Henry Leavenworth was commissioned to build an army post in the area. He first chose Mendota as the site, (Cantonment New Hope) but several months later moved across the river, upstream from the present site of Fort Snelling (Camp Coldwater). These fort sites are within the Fort Snelling Historic District.

The fur trade flourished and with the re-organization of the American Fur Company in 1835 a new agent, Henry H. Sibley, came to Mendota. From his installation at Mendota until his death in 1891, Sibley was one of the most important figures in Minnesota's history. The 27 years he spent in Mendota before he moved to St. Paul are the years of Sibley's rise in politics and account for the bulk of Mendota's historical significance.

When Sibley arrived at the small settlement in eastern Minnesota he found only "a small group of log huts". He built the first stone house in the territory there in 1836. This house was used as a fur post as well as a residence and Indians slept on the third floor. The second stone house was built in 1839 by an old fur trader, Jean Baptiste Faribault.

In 1843 Sibley married the daughter of Franklin Steele, settler at Fort Snelling. Sibley hosted and visited a long succession of army officers at the Fort, among them Josiah Snelling and Zachary Taylor. Many of these frontier friendships, born around a log fire in the Mendota trading post, were continued through the decades to the halls of the U.S. Congress, White House, governor's mansion, and state house. In 1848 Alexander Ramsey, first governor of the Minnesota Territory, issued his first proclamation from Sibley's House.

Sibley's popularity grew and in 1849 he was named as the Minnesota Territories first representative to Congress. The same year the village of Mendota was formally organized. Because of his admiration for Sibley, Stephen Douglas nominated Mendota to be Minnesota's state capital. The site, however, was changed to St. Paul at Sibley's request.

(more)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fort Snelling State Park Association, Old Mendota, 1966.
 Holmquist, June and Jean Brookins, Minnesota's Major Historic Sites: A Guide, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, 1963.
 Barrington, Lewis, Historic Restorations of the D.A.R., Richard Smith, New York, 1941.
 Folwell, William W., A History of Minnesota, vol.1; Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, 1921.

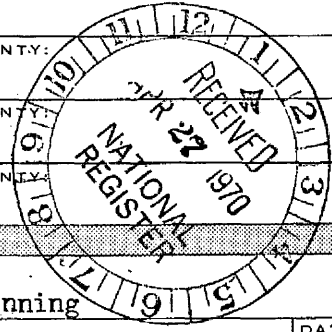
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW.	44°	53'	31"	93°	9'	54"			
NE	44°	53'	21"	93°	10'	1.4"			
SE	44°	53'	8"	93°	10'	7.7"			
SW	44°	52'	57"	93°	10'	28"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 50 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS
 15/486200/4970720
 15/487200/4910400
 JM Ref am
 1-13-70

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: John Grossman, Survey and Planning

ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Historical Society DATE: 3/16/70

STREET AND NUMBER: Fort Snelling Branch, Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Russell W. Fridley

Title: Director, Minn. Historical Society

Date: April 6, 1970

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

Arnet Alvin Connolly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: JUN 22 1970

ATTEST:

William J. Murtagh
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: MAY 27 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

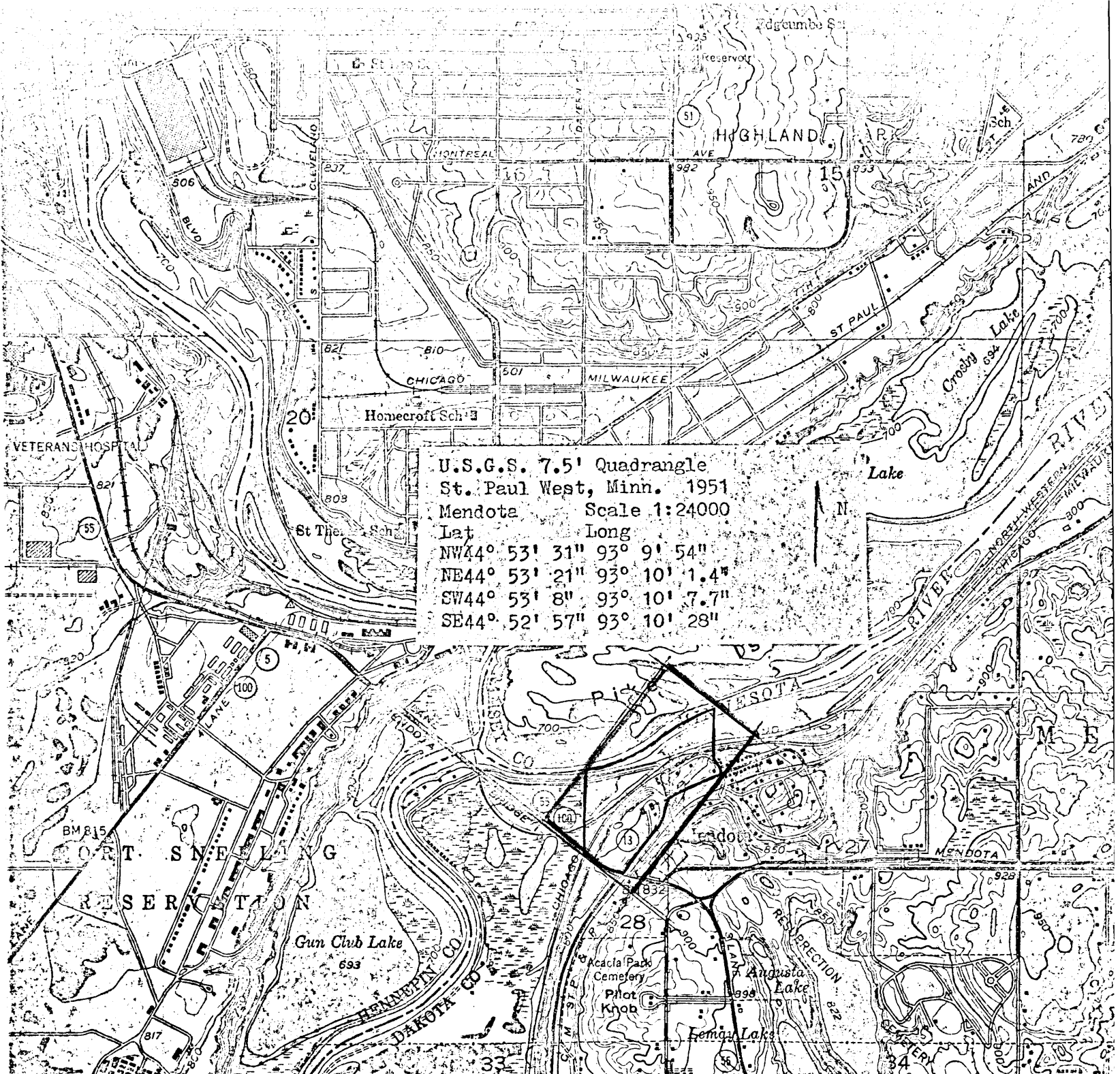
STATE	
Minnesota	
COUNTY	
Dakota	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-6-22-0005	6/22/70

(Number all entries) 8. Significance (continued)

From 1854 to 1857 Mendota served as the county seat for Dakota County. Sibley was serving as a member of the State Constitutional Convention at the time and with the adoption of the constitution came the election of Sibley as first governor of the State. Mendota served as the governor's home until 1862 when Sibley moved to St. Paul.

Despite its fame as a trade center and home of one of the political leaders of the state, Mendota's growth as a town was slow and much surpassed by the city across the river, St. Paul. Yet historically the village provided the seat for Minnesota's first civil government and the first home for the leading men in Minnesota's settlement and growth.

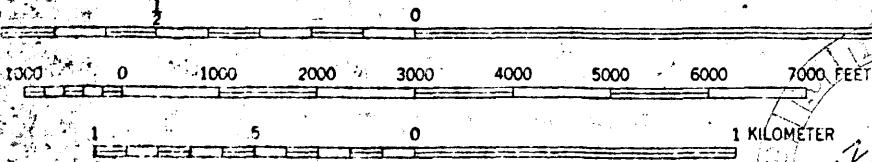




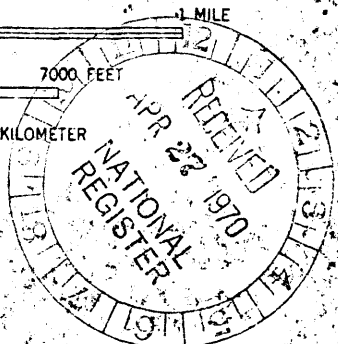
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
 St. Paul West, Minn. 1951
 Mendota Scale 1:24000
 Lat Long
 NW44° 53' 31" 93° 9' 54"
 NE44° 53' 21" 93° 10' 1.4"
 SW44° 53' 8" 93° 10' 7.7"
 SE44° 52' 57" 93° 10' 28"

(ST. PAUL SW) 9.4 MI. TO U.S. 65
 NEW PRAGUE 38 MI. 10' 5 MI. TO U.S. 52
 HASTINGS 21 MI.

SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, FEDERAL CENTER, DENVER, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

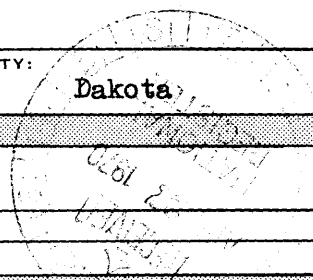
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Minnesota	
COUNTY	
Dakota	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-6-22-0005	6/22/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Mendota			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Old Mendota, St. Peter's, Cantonment New Hope			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Mendota			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Minnesota	22	Dakota	037
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5 Quadrangle			
SCALE: 1"=24000"			
DATE: 1951			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



SECTION 28 MENDOTA HEIGHTS

T. 28 N., R. 23 W.

4th Mer.

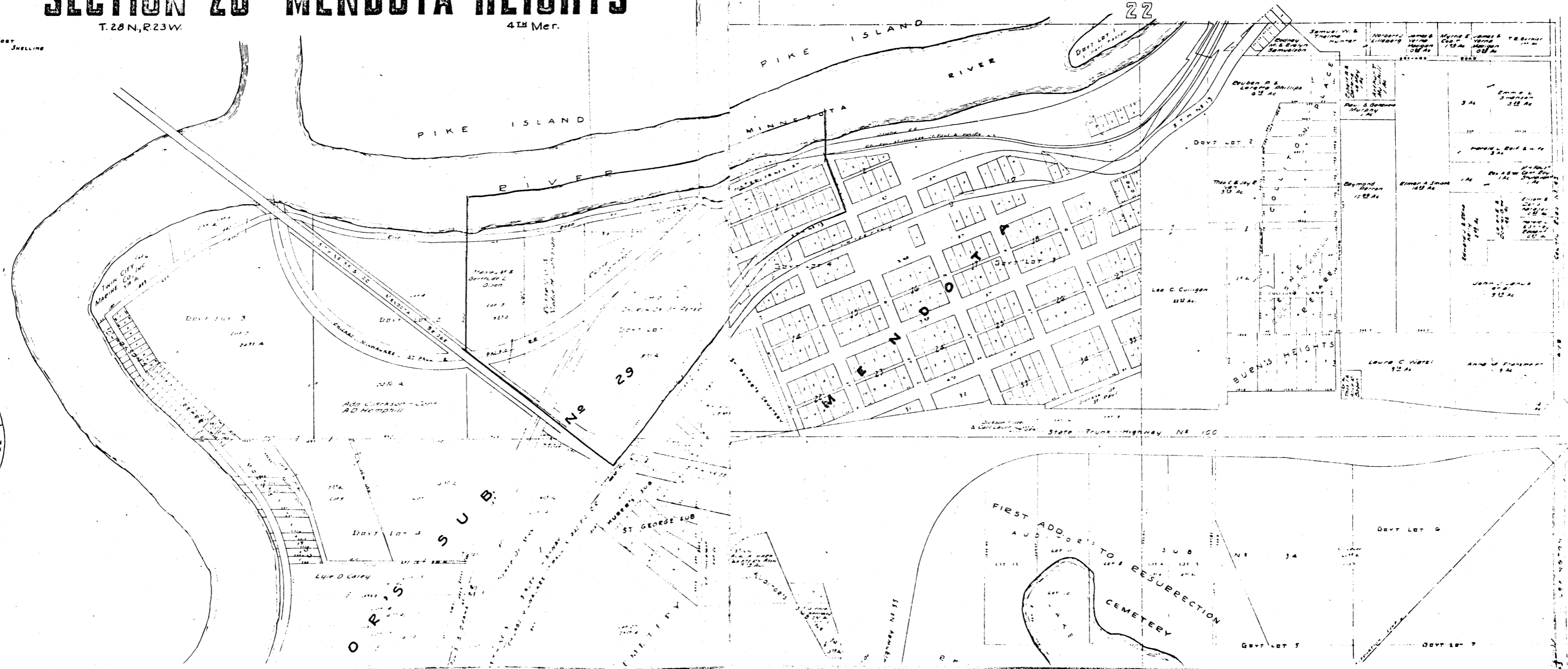
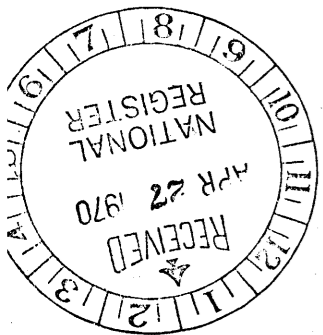
SECTION 27 MENDOTA

T. 28 N., R. 23 W.

MENDOTA

4th P.M.

FOOT SHELLING



Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Minnesota	
COUNTY Dakota	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-22,0005	DATE 6/22/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Mendota			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Old Mendota, St. Peter's, Cantonment New Hope			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Mendota			
STATE: Minnesota	CODE 22	COUNTY: Dakota	CODE 037
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: Title Atlas Company Map Plat Book for Dakota County			
SCALE: 1" = 24 miles			
DATE: 1964			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

