

HISTORIC NAME: Sayer House

COUNTY: Chisago

80002002

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Harris

LEGAL DESC.: Part of the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Sec. 28, T36R21 in the city of Harris. Commencing at the NE corner of the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Sec. 28; thence west 750 ft. on the section line; thence south at right angles 30 ft. to place of beginning; thence west parallel with section line 195 1/2 ft; thence south 194 ft; thence east 210 ft; thence north 194 ft. to place of beginning.

ADDRESS: Intersection of County Roads 30 and 9

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

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: | Yes ___ No <u>X</u> Restricted ___ | PRESENT USE: |
| VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: | Yes <u>X</u> No ___ | Residence |
| OCCUPIED: | Yes <u>X</u> No ___ | |

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------|
| DATE CONSTRUCTED: | ca.1875 | ORIGINAL USE: | Residence |
| ORIGINAL OWNER: | George Flanders | ARCHITECT/BUILDER: | |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------|
| OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: | Mrs. Sally Carlson Harris, Minnesota 55032 | ACREAGE: | Less than one acre <u>X</u> 1 3/4 |
| LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: | Chisago County Historical Society, North Chapter, Rush City, MN | UTM REFERENCE: | Rush City Quad. 15 / 502010 / 5047830 |
| FORM PREPARED BY: | Britta Bloomberg | | |
| DATE: | January 1980 | | |

DESCRIPTION:

The Sayer House occupies a prominent position on the southeast corner of County Roads 30 and 9 in the city of Harris. The house is located across the highway and railroad tracks from the principal section of town.

The Italianate structure, dating ca.1875, is distinctive among the housing stock of Harris, a very small trackside town. Its large scale and its utilization of a local interpretation of a popular style make it a local landmark. The two story frame house features a low hip roof with scroll-sawn brackets under the eaves. The building is comprised of two rectangular sections. The north section measures two bays wide by three bays deep; the south section, which is set back further from the street and houses the main entrance, is three bays wide by one bay deep. Windows are double hung, two over two lights, and are flanked by wooden shutters. A bay window is located on the south facade. The main entry is located in an enclosed front porch which extends across the front of the south section of the house. A rear entry covered by a hood is located on the east facade of the north section. A smaller section, possibly pre-dating the rest of the house, is located at the rear of the house where the principal sections join.

A one story gable-roofed garage is located immediately east of the house.

The house has been well maintained and retains significant design integrity. Exterior alteration is limited to the enclosed front porch. The interior is also well preserved.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Sayer House is significant as a locally distinctive residence in the small trackside of community of Harris, representing the speculative plans of the area's early settlers. The Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad crossed the county in 1869 precipitating considerable growth and founding of several new towns. Four years later the town of Harris was platted and named for one of its original proprietors, a prominent officer in the railway company. County records indicate that George Flanders, an early Harris settler and local promoter, likely built the house shortly after the town was platted. The building was allegedly planned for use both as a private residence and as a stop for rail travelers between St. Paul and Duluth and horse and wagon travelers between Taylors Falls and Cambridge. The town of Harris did not undergo significant later growth as did the neighboring trackside towns of North Branch and Rush City, and the Sayer House remains a dominant structure in the community. Distinctive for its large scale and greater attention to architectural design elements, the house is a link to the speculative era of the settlement of Chisago County. The house today is better known for its association with the Sayer family, who have owned the building since 1889, and is a landmark in Harris reflective of the area's nineteenth century development process.

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
Sayer House in Chisago County,
Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002002

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Chisago

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: Co. Hwys. 30 and 9

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date