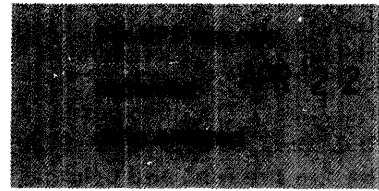


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



1983

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Norseland General Store

and/or common Swensons General Store

2. Location

street & number County Highway 3 ^{CR} N/A not for publication

city, town Lake Prairie Township N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Minnesota code 22 county Nicollet code 103

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Roger W. Swenson

street & number Route 3, Box 48

city, town St. Peter N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Nicollet County Courthouse

street & number Minnesota Avenue

city, town St. Peter state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Minnesota Statewide Historic
title Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society, Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____ N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Norseland General Store is a multi-component wood frame structure comprised of a two-story main element with secondary one-story appendages. A variety of siding types ranging from narrow-lap clapboard on the two-story element and the principal facades to wider-lap and tongue and groove are evident and indicate popular materials used at the various periods of construction.

The two-story portion of the store is the most architecturally distinctive of the components, being embellished with a central "false-front" pediment set within a parapet of patterned shingles and flanked by pressed-metal finials. The second story exhibits a unique combination of double-hung and round (bulls-eye) windows symmetrically arranged in groupings of four and three. On the ground level, the storefronts of both the two-story element and the flanking one-story element retain original design integrity with fixed-plate windows and symmetrical arrangements.

The Norseland General Store is noteworthy for retention of turn of the century architectural character and survives in excellent condition.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 ca. 1900

Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Norseland General Store is significant as an extremely well preserved example of the cross-roads country stores which were found in many rural sections of Minnesota in the latter half of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

In Nicollet County, as in most rural areas of southern Minnesota, organized platted townsites were established throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century, first on rivers and later on rail lines. In certain rural areas where these transportation arteries were somewhat remote, crossroads service centers, often consisting of a general store and a post office, frequently were established. These unplatted, unincorporated hamlets acted as centers of farming communities.

Norseland General Store is typical of this process. In 1865, a post office was established in western lake Prairie Township. Three years later, in 1868, John Burke moved to the township to engage in farming and operate a general store. (Burke, born in Ireland in 1829, came to America in 1841 and lived in New York before moving to St. Paul in 1858.) The store, which he established, and the post office, which was probably moved there, operated in tandem until the post office was discontinued in 1905. In approximately 1893, Burke retired and left the operation of the store to his sons, Henry and George.

The present store was constructed about 1900; by local accounts, it surrounded the original store building. The store was a multi-commercial facility. The east addition constituted the buggy sales and repair shop and later became a Ford dealership. The main portion of the store handled the grocery business on the first floor and dry goods on the second floor. An elevator used to lift merchandise to the second floor remains in the building. Later, a barber shop and apartments replaced the dry goods and today the second floor is solely used as apartments.

In later years, Emil Swenson, father of the present owner, formed a partnership with Henry Burke. Today the store is operated by Emil Swenson's son, Røger.

Nicollet County had at least eight crossroads hamlets around the turn of the century. When most general stores and other structures associated with these communities have been abandoned or removed, the Norseland General Store remains the most representative example of rural vernacular commercial architecture which retains its original integrity and which continues the historic function of providing basic goods and services to local township residents.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gresham, William G., ed., History of Nicollet and LeSueur Counties, Minnesota. Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen, 1916.
 Wetherill, Fred E., Nicollet County Bicentennial Historical Markers. St. Peter: St. Peter Herald, Inc., 1976.
 "Gone to His Reward," St. Peter Herald, 3 April 1903.
 Hiebert, Gareth. "New faces dot scene of past at Norseland." St. Paul Sunday Pioneer Press. 1 May 1977, p. 9.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property _____ less than 1

Quadrangle name Norseland Quad., Minnesota

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A

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4	1	1	2	0	0
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4	9	1	8	0	2	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 3 and 4 of NE ¼ Section 19, T 111 N R 27 W
 "Exc. SE 74 ft. of NW 174 ft. of Lot No. 3
 Lake Prairie Township.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Roth, Research Historian and Charles Nelson, Historical Architect

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date February 24, 1983

street & number Fort Snelling History Center

telephone 612/726-1171

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

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4/7/83

For NPS use only

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

J. Allison Byers
 Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
 National Register

date 5/19/83

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Arlow Lyer
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
Norseland Store in Nicollet County,
Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 83000918

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Nicollet

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF: St. Peter

ADDRESS: Co. Hwy. 3

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

**Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer**

JUN 17 1988

Date

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

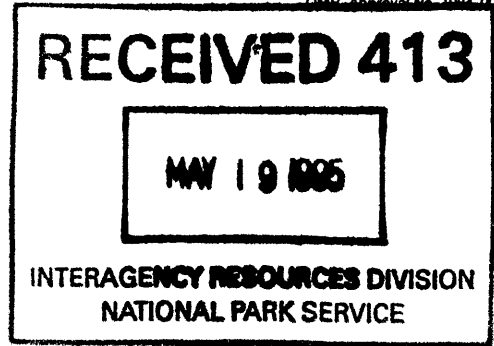
Norseland General Store Nicollet County MINNESOTA 83000918

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED

Guym Rapsley 6/8/95

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**



Section number 2 Page 1

REFERENCE NUMBER: 83000918

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: NICOLLET


RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): NORSELAND GENERAL STORE

CITY/TOWNSHIP: LAKE PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP

VICINITY OF: ST. PETER

ADDRESS: MN HWY. 22

COMMENTS: ADDRESS CORRECTION



Ian Stewart
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

5/8/95
Date