

## MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

MAR 15 1982

HISTORIC NAME: William Sauntry Residence & Recreation Hall		COUNTY: Washington
CURRENT NAME:		CITY/TWP.: Stillwater
LEGAL DESC.: Northerly 75 feet of Block 4, original town	ADDRESS: 626 North Fourth Street and 625 North Fifth Street	
CLASSIFICATION: Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure _____ Object _____ District _____	CONDITION: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good _____ Fair _____ Deteriorated _____	SIGNIFICANCE: Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State _____ National _____
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes ___ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted ___		THEME/S: Primary Industry Secondary Architecture Others _____
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____		PRESENT USE: Residences
OCCUPIED: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____		
DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1891, 1902	ORIGINAL USE: Residence & gymnasium	
ORIGINAL OWNER: William Sauntry	ARCHITECT/BUILDER: unknown	
OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: See continuation sheet	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
LOCAL CONTACT/CRG.: N/A	UTM REFERENCE: Stillwater, Minn-Wis. 7.5 15 / 514760 / 4989550	
FORM PREPARED BY: Thomas Harvey		
DATE: March 1981		

## DESCRIPTION:

William Sauntry's substantial mansion and adjacent recreational hall, historically (and once physically) linked, are of different architectural styles. The long, basically rectangular, residence shows elements of the Queen Anne style. Projecting gable and hipped-gable roofed bays have fish scale shingles on the attic level. The front bay has a round window; others are double-sash. Exterior walls are of horizontal siding. The front porch wraps partially around both sides of the house. Corinthian columns support the porch roof. A recessed porch on the north side facade has been enclosed.

The bungalow style "palace" or recreational hall, with its Islamic Revival interior, is the architectural highlight of the complex. Built immediately behind the residence, the gymnasium was once attached by a second level enclosed walkway. The gymnasium housed a ballroom, a two-story reception hall, bowling alley, and swimming pool. It has been adapted to use as three apartments, but retains much of its original detail and feeling. The bowling alley and pool have been removed, but the main section of the building has been sympathetically adapted.

The exterior is stucco with inlaid granite stones. The roof is hipped with a wide gable dormer above the front porch. Projecting rafters and triangular brackets support wide overhanging eaves. The front dormer has a Palladian window adapted to Moorish style with star-shaped tracery. Wall window treatment varies, but large panels predominate, employing round, star patterned windows above sash windows and French doors. Windows are set in patterned concrete.

The interior includes carved woodwork, a two-story reception hall, leaded glass double doors, Moorish arches, carved forms and pillars, and Arabic inccriptions. The interior decoration is richly carved and painted.

## SIGNIFICANCE:

William Sauntry's "Moorish palace" recreation hall is one of Minnesota's great architectural follies and a rare example of Islamic Revival architecture in the state. Sauntry's house and gymnasium reflect his success in the St. Croix Valley lumber industry and reveal his whimsical nature. Sauntry's business concerns illustrate the cumulative financial power of early lumbermen, achieved by diversifying into affiliated businesses including real estate and manufacturing. He made his fortune in the Musser-Sauntry Land, Logging & Manufacturing Company, as well as from his interests in other corporations including the St. Croix Boom Corporation, St. Croix Lumbermen's Dam and Boom Company, the

Atwood Lumber Company, Rutledge Lumber and Manufacturing Company, the Ann River Land Company, the Superior Timber Company, and the Pine Tree Lumber Company. His timber land holdings led to speculation in northern Minnesota iron ore and an affiliation with the Weyerhaeuser forest products business. Sauntry's recreational hall was a culmination of his lavish entertaining style. Oral history suggests the building was designed following a trip Sauntry made to Spain, where he observed the Alhambra.

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS & LEGAL

William Sauntry Residence  
N. 75' of Block 4, excluding  
the westerly 153'.

Kenneth M. Schotl  
9351 130th Street North  
Hugo, MN 55038

Moorish Palace  
Westerly 153' of the Northerly  
75' of Block 4.

Burgee & Joyce Amdahl  
625 North Fifth Street  
Stillwater, MN 55082