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

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
APR 2 2 1983
received
date entered

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

Type all entries	s—complete applic	able sections				
1. Nan	1e					
historic	The Frederick	κ A. Donahowe	r House			
and/or common		The state of the s				
	<sub>N/A</sub>					
	ation	-				
street & number	r 720 Sout	th Minnesota	Avenue	N/.	A not for publ	ication
city, town	St. Pete	er N/A	vicinity of			
state	Minnesota	code 22	county	Nicollet	code	103
3. Clas	sification	n				
Category  district _X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition N/A in process being consider	on Access yes	ccupied k in progress	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park _X_ private r religious scientific transpor	residence S
4. Owr	er of Pro	perty			· .	
	an Michael and					
street & number		nnesota Avenue	2			<u></u>
city, town	St. Peter		vicinity of		Minnesota	
5. Loca	ation of L	egal De	scriptio	on		
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc.	Nicollet Co	ounty Courth	ouse		
street & number	Minnesota	Avenue				
city, town	St. Peter			state	Minnesota	
	resentati	on in Ex	istina S			
	sota Statewide					
title Sit	es Survey		has this prop	perty been determined	eligible? ye	s <u>X</u> no
date July	1982			federal X st	tate county	loca
depository for s	urvey records Min	nesota Histo	rical Societ	y Fort Snellin	ng History Cer	iter
city town S	t. Paul			state	Minneso	ota

### 7. Description

tair unexposed	Condition  X excellent  good fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one unaltered altered	Check one  X original s  moved	site date <u> </u>	N/A	
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#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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The Frederick A. Donahower House is a two story brick residence executed in the Italianate style. It is situated on a prominent and spacious corner lot at the southern end of St. Peter's main business thoroughfare.

The primary materials utilized in the construction of the Donahower House are buff brick and limestone. The foundation is of coursed ashlar with a finished water table separating the brick of the main body from the foundation. Observation suggests that the structure is frame with an applied brick veneer.

In plan the residence is irregular, consisting of a higher frontal "L" with a lower rectangular rear appendage. The roof is a combination of intersecting gables and low hips. Porches are located at the front (east) and side rear (south) facades.

In terms of decorative treatment, the Donahower House is embellished by a dominant eaveline supported by a combination of dentils, modillions, and paired brackets executed in scroll patterns. The paired brackets with intermittent modillions are repeated in the polygonal one-story bays on the east and south facades. Paired second story windows on these two facades are accentuated by ornate double wooden hoods with carved filigree, dentils and turned pendants. The remaining window hoods are exectuted in brick with stone keystones and are slightly corbelled from the facade plane.

The Donahower House has retained substantial integrity and is maintained in good condition.

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### 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799X 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C  archeology-prehistoric agricultureX architecture artX commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	landscape architecture law literature military music philosophy politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	ca.1875	Builder/Architect	unknown	

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Frederick A. Donahower House is significant for its association with Frederick A. Donahower, organizer and president of the First National Bank, and as one of the most visually distinctive residences in St. Peter.

Donahower, born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, on 16 September 1830, completed a rudimentary education before becoming a store clerk at the age of 17 in Reading, Pennsylvania. In 1851, he moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, and two years later moved to St. Paul entering the employ of private banker C.H. Parker. During this period, Donahower, under Parker's direction, compiled the first set of abstracts for Ramsey County. In 1855, Donahower, left Parker to become a teller for Mackubin and Edgerton, a private banking firm in St. Paul.

In May of 1857, Donahower moved to St. Peter, a city founded three years earlier on the Minnesota River, and with E.S. Edgerton and Alva Smith founded a private bank. During this same time Donahower, initially with H.M. Ketcham and later with C. Amundson, operated a general merchandise store until 1887. In 1871, the private bank of Edgerton, Donahower and Smith organized into the First National Bank and Donahower was appointed cashier, a post he held until his selection as president in 1889.

At the time of his retirement in 1914, after serving as president and chief executive officer, Donahower was credited with the establishment and management of a bank which not only weathered the financial panics of 1857, 1873, 1893 and 1907, but actually increased capitol holdings during the uncertain economic periods.

In addition to his banking interests, Donahower is considered to be one of the persons influential in organizing the construction of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion and serving terms on the Nicollet County Board of Commissioners, City Council and School Board.

Donahower died in his home in February, 1917, at the age of 86. His house, which is located on a prominent residential lot on St. Peter's main thoroughfare, is an excellent example of the Italianate style dwelling popular with business people who constructed their homes to reflect their position in the community. Although, not generally flamboyant in appearance, the house is a significant and accurate reflection of Donahower's steady and substantial contributions to the financial well being of St. Peter from its earliest settlement to after the turn of the century.

(see continuation sheet)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

(See continuation sheet - page 2)

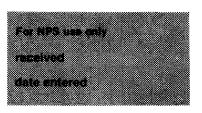
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List all	states and count	ies for properties	overlap	ping state	or county bound	daries	
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state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
11.	Form Pr	epared B	V				
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organizat	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		-				
street & r	number Fort Sn	elling History	Center	· 	telephone	612-726-1171	\$ · v
city or to	wn St. Pau	1		.ev **: «	. , , state ; ; ; , , , , ,	Minnesota <u>Reference (2)</u>	
<b>12.</b>	State Hi	storic Pr	ese	rvatio	n Office	r Certifica	ation
The evalu	uated significance o	of this property with	in the sta	te is:			
	national	state		Xlocal			
665), I he according	ereby nominate this	property for inclusion procedures set fort	on in the	National Reg	ister and certify th	tion Act of 1966 (Publi	
JIAIU MIS	Russell W. F		usa	uce v	VI Imal	1/1/1/20	
title		ic Preservatio	n Offic	cer		date 4///83	
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Chief	of Registration					<b>《新版》,《新版》,《新版》</b>	425

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St. Peter was one of several river towns to be founded along the Minnesota River during the 1850s. The earlier building stock of these communities contrasts with that of the "railroad" communities of south central Minnesota, many of which weren't founded until the later decades of the century. The integrity and detailing of the Donahower House mark it as one of the most distinctive Italianate houses of the Minnesota River Valley and it significantly defines the position of St. Peter during its early development.

<sup>1</sup>Doniver A. Lund, <u>A History of First National Bank of St. Peter</u>, <u>Minnesota</u>. (St. Peter Herald, Inc. St. Peter, 1967), p.24.

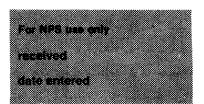
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The Book of Minnesotans. Ed. by Albert N. Marquis. Chicago: Marquis, 1907. "Death of Pioneer Banker," St. Peter Tribune, 28 February 1917.

"F.A. Donahower," St. Peter Free Press, 3 March 1917.

Gresham, William G., ed. <u>History of Nicollet and LeSueur Counties</u>, <u>Minnesota</u>. Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen, 1916.

History of the Minnesota Valley by Rev. Edward D. Neill. Comp. by George E. Warner and Charles M. Foote. Minneapolis: North Star Pub. Co. 1882.

Little Sketches of Big Folks, Minnesota 1907. St. Paul: R.L. Polk, 1907.

Lund, Doniver A. A History of First National Bank of St. Peter, Minnesota. St. Peter: Herald, 1967.