

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 3 1978
DATE ENTERED DEC 13 1978

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John A. Oldenburg House/"Villa Blanca"

AND/OR COMMON

"Villa Blanca"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

R.R. #1, Box 208 Hwy 18

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Finlayson

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Minnesota

VICINITY OF

CODE

22

COUNTY

Pine

CODE

115

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Barry E. Wood

STREET & NUMBER

R.R. #1, Box 208

CITY, TOWN

Finlayson

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds/Pine County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Pine City

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NONE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John A. Oldenburg House, also known as the "Villa Blanca", is situated on a wooded site immediately east of Finlayson, Minnesota. The site provides direct access to Saint John's Lake, a small lake created by dredging for peat. The house is essentially square in plan with the exception of two one storey lean-to's on the north facade. The foundation is of local sandstone, the remainder of the structure being of frame construction.

The Oldenburg House is three storeys in height. The first two storeys are sheathed in clapboard; the third is contained within an attenuated mansard roof which appears to virtually double the height of the building. There are five dormers, each with a pedimented gable roof. An open one-storey porch supported by doric columns extends around the south (front) and east sides. The walls of the structure are constructed with 2 x 6 studs, sheathed on the outside with clapboard over planks and on the inside with lath and plaster.

Of note is the principal entry door; a frosted glass panel with the "Hand of Liberty" occupies the upper portion. On the interior, there is an open stairway with oak railing which extends to the second floor. Other woodwork is also of oak. The lower storey consists primarily of living-room, dining room and kitchen facilities; the second, of chambers, and the third (within the mansard), a large party or ball room. Decorative interior features include a stained glass window in the living room and a carved swinging door between butler's pantry and the dining room.

In summary, the Oldenburg House continues to serve as a single-family residence. It has survived in a relatively unaltered state and is in good condition.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

- PREHISTORIC
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <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 1896

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J.A. Oldenburg

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John A. Oldenburg House near Finlayson is significant as the home of one of Finlayson's prominent early developers. Oldenburg, born and educated in Finland, came to America in 1881 and located at Chicago, Illinois, where he entered the mercantile business. He migrated to Finlayson in 1896 and established the Oldenburg Mercantile Company and the Bank of Finlayson. During the remainder of his lifetime in Finlayson, he engaged in the activities and operations of other enterprises, among them, a livery stable, the post office, a lumber-yard and lumber mill, and a "dray" line.

Oldenburg's residence was one of the most fashionable residences in the area, and was known as a social gathering place. The large white house was named "Villa Blanca" and was surrounded by spacious lawns and gardens.

This house was featured on ½¢ post cards in early 1900's and is included in local history books concerned with Pine County.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Book of Minnesotans, p. 385
History of the Scandinavians in the United States, by O. N. Nelson, 1904
One Hundred Years of History in Pine County.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	5 0 6 5 5 0	5 1 1 6 ^{2 00} 4 5 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Barry E. Wood/Owner / Charles W. Nelson/Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

-- / Minnesota Historical Society 3/2/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

RR 1, Box 208 / Bldg. 25 Fort Snelling 726-1171

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Finlayson / St. Paul Minnesota

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

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 Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

6/28/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Charles W. Nelson*
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
Mary S. Franklin
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12-13-78
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 1-22-78