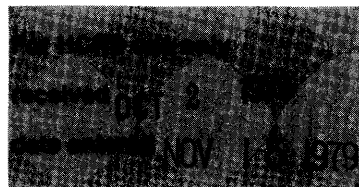


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Towne-Akenson House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1121 West Third Street not for publication

city, town Red Wing vicinity of congressional district First

state Minnesota code 22 county Goodhue code 049

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"/> 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 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 checked="" 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 Adolf O. and Lucille B. Bennett

street & number 1121 West Third Street

city, town Red Wing vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office, Goodhue County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Red Wing state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society - 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Widow Towne-Akenson House, built in 1875, is located on the south side of West Third Street between Pine and Cedar Streets. The house is situated towards the back of its lot with a large nicely landscaped front yard. It is near the western side of Red Wing's Historic Residential District among many other large early residences of similar scale.

The two story house of wood frame construction has a characteristic Italianate three bay front with a side hall. A significant degree of the original design integrity has been retained. The plan is irregular with a wrap-around porch on two sides supported by paired columns. The windows are double hung, two over two, and the front door is framed by leaded glass side-lights. A small porthole window is set in the broken pediment on the Third Street side. The house is capped with a bracketted cornice beneath the deeply overhanging hipped roof.

The only addition appears to be a frame section to the rear of the building which does not detract significantly from the building's outstanding integrity. Stylistically the addition matches the house's only outbuilding, a two story garage - carriage house located in back of the house very close to the alley. Both the addition and the garage also show Italianate detail and were probably built shortly after the main building.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 1875

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Widow Towne-Akenson House is significant as Red Wing's outstanding frame Italianate house. It retains a significant degree of original design integrity and exhibits architectural detail characteristic of the Italianate style in residential architecture. The number of substantial Italianate houses in Red Wing is striking for a town of its size. Most of these houses were built during the 1870s and are indicative of the remarkable commercial growth the city experienced at that time. The Widow Towne-Akenson House is worthy of preservation because it is the best preserved example in frame construction of a style that was very popular in Red Wing during the 1870s.

City records indicate that this house was built by Fannie Towne, a widow, around 1875. She sold the house to Nels Akenson in 1894. The house is best known locally for its association with its second owner. Nels Akenson lived there for some fifty years. He owned a grocery store in Red Wing and was active in local affairs.

The Widow Towne-Akenson House is significant as Red Wing's best preserved frame Italianate house associated with an era of Red Wing's history of tremendous prosperity and local pride.

PLEASE NOTE: The manuscript for this nomination was prepared before the one paragraph limit for significance statements was stipulated.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Goodhue County Abstracts, Goodhue County Abstracts Office.

Red Wing City Directories, 1876, 1894.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Red Wing

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A

1	5	5	3	6	2	8	0	4	9	3	4	1	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 10, Block 13, Freeborn's Addition, a lot measuring 60' x 142' feet.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Britta Bloomberg

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date April 1979

street & number 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

telephone 612-296-0101

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley
Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9/19/79

For HCERS use only

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

Carl D. Skell
Keeper of the National Register

date 11-15-79

Attest:

Kristin O'Connell
Chief of Registration

date 11/13/79