

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**DATA SHEET**

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>	
RECEIVED	JUN 2 1975
DATE ENTERED	JUN 10 1975

**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  
Gunderson, Martin T., House

AND/OR COMMON  
Gunderson, Martin T., House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
107 Second Street

CITY, TOWN  
Kenyon

STATE  
Minnesota

VICINITY OF  
First

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
First

COUNTY  
Goodhue

CODE  
049

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<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  
Security State Bank of Kenyon: Executor of Henrietta M. Gunderson Estate

STREET & NUMBER  
602 Second Street

CITY, TOWN  
Kenyon

STATE  
Minnesota

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Registry of Deeds, Goodhue County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
East Avenue at West Fifth Street

CITY, TOWN  
Red Wing

STATE  
Minnesota

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE  
1973

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
Minnesota Historical Society, Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN  
Saint Paul

STATE  
Minnesota

## 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

Built in 1895 by Philip L. Kramer of Kenyon, the Martin T. Gunderson House is a two storey frame residence in the Queen Anne style. It is situated on the approximate center of a one-half block site, surrounded by a broad expanse of stately elms and meticulously maintained lawn. A horse-shoe shaped sidewalk is the pedestrian approach to the front entry although a hedge-lined carriage drive serves as the western (or side) approach. The Gunderson property once comprised the entire block (a modern nursing home now occupies one-half of the block). In addition to the house, there was originally a horse barn and a utility building. All buildings were designed to match in architectural style treatment and color scheme. A tennis court was also on the property. Presently, the Gunderson House is all that remains, the barn, utility building and tennis court are no longer extant.

The exterior of the Gunderson house incorporates typical Queen Anne design motifs such as wrap-around porch, corner tower with octagonal dome roof, cut shingles in gables, stained glass windows, and a polychromatic color scheme to accent design elements. The original earth-red body with light yellow trim has been perpetuated as the color scheme. Structurally, the building is in good condition although weathering is evident on painted surfaces and several wooden members on the two-storey east porch are deteriorated due to water intrusion. The porches have been screened.

The interior of the house is comprised of eleven rooms which exhibit oak and pine varnished woodwork in design of the 1890s period. The woodwork in the front staircase incorporates turned and sawn members in the balustrade and incised carving on newel posts.

Floors throughout the first storey and in the second storey hall have of intricate diamond and hexagon oak and walnut parquetry borders. The foyer is especially handsome in that the entire floor is of parquetry and that there is a corner nook with two windows which is delicately framed with ornamental spoolwork supported by four thin corinthian columns.

There are six major rooms on the first level including the foyer. Each room has an elaborate glass ceiling light fixture of turn of the century vintage. Double oak sliding doors separate foyer, parlor, sitting room, library and dining room. Large bay windows admit ample sunlight to the parlor, sitting room and dining room. The single fireplace is located in the dining room and is of green tile with carved oak mantel.

The second storey is devoted to five bedrooms and bath. The bathroom is noteworthy for original tub, basin, footbath, and white hexagonal tile floor and wainscot.

Many period furnishings are also included and further enhance the Victorian flavor of the residence. Throughout, the residence has been excellently maintained and preserved and is virtually an intact period example of a turn-of-the-century life style.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1895

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Builder: Philip L. Kramer

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Martin T. Gunderson settled in Kenyon, Minnesota, in 1883. At this time he became involved in the operation of the L.A. Felt water-powered grist mill on the Zumbro River. This mill had been in operation on that site since 1855. In 1887 Gunderson, in partnership with J.A. McReynolds, purchased the mill and improved its efficiency to a run of four stones. Later that year, Gunderson bought out his partner's share in the enterprise and became sole owner. In addition to the mill, Gunderson also owned a cooper shop for the manufacture of barrels in which the flour processed at the mill was packed and shipped.

Gunderson prospered and in 1894, a new mill and elevator was constructed in Kenyon along the railroad right-of-way. By 1896 Gunderson had installed a dynamo in the engine room of his mill and generated the first electrical current in Kenyon. Together with his two sons, Raymond and Byron, Gunderson is credited with installation of the electrical poles and lines that provided residential and commercial lighting to the city.

The Gunderson family is significant, therefore, to the Kenyon area as that which produced the first major industrialist and introducer of electric energy in Kenyon's history.

Further, the Gunderson House is a remarkably well preserved and excellent example of late nineteenth century Queen Anne architecture. Both exterior and interior have been completely preserved to the extent of retaining original exterior color scheme, decorative spindlework, fixtures, hardware, and a majority of period furnishings. The Gunderson property continues to be a local show-piece of Victoriana, and although the barn and outbuildings no longer exist, both the house and the grounds continue to be meticulously maintained.

