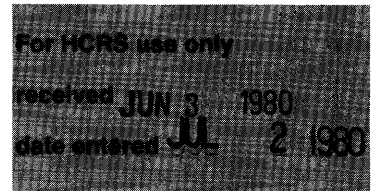


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Oronoco School

and/or common Oronoco School

**2. Location**

street & number Off U.S. 52 \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Oronoco \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district First

state Minnesota code 22 county Olmsted code 109

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b> ___ district <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) ___ structure ___ site ___ object	<b>Ownership</b> ___ public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private ___ both <b>Public Acquisition</b> ___ in process ___ being considered	<b>Status</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied ___ unoccupied ___ work in progress <b>Accessible</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted ___ yes: unrestricted ___ no	<b>Present Use</b> ___ agriculture ___ commercial ___ educational ___ entertainment ___ government ___ industrial ___ military	___ museum ___ park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence ___ religious ___ scientific ___ transportation ___ other:
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**4. Owner of Property**

name David Kemmer

street & number Box 196

city, town Oronoco \_\_\_ vicinity of state Minnesota 55960

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Olmsted County Courthouse

street & number 515 Second Street SW

city, town Rochester state Minnesota 55901

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources

has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date 1973; 1979-80 \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

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

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

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## 7. Description

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

date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Oronoco School building is located on the south bank of the Mid Fork of the Zumbro River, across from the commercial area of Oronoco, and just east of Bridge No. 448. It is an Italianate two-story symmetrical orange brick structure on a stone foundation which is exposed to the rear. A central hip-roofed rectangle containing the large classrooms is situated on an east-west axis, with gable-roofed bays extending to the north and south. Wide bracketed eaves, returned at the gables, extend around the building. Fenestration consists of symmetrically placed four-over-four double-hung sash in very tall, narrow openings with segmental arch brick hoods. The south (front) bay has paired sash in a single round arch opening, centered above double wood doors with arched glass transom. With the exception of the removal of a bell tower in the 1920s, the exterior facades have retained complete design integrity. The interior remains structurally intact.

# 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 checked="" 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** Architect: L. Andrus  
 Builder: D. J. Bascomb

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

The Oronoco School building is significant as a fine example of rural community institutional Italianate architecture in an excellent state of preservation. It also is significant as a representative of rural community education for the half-century from its construction in 1875 until the construction of a new consolidated Oronoco school in 1926. Settled in the 1850s, Oronoco had shown great promise of growth by the 1870s with the establishment of an important flour mill. Both railroads in the county bypassed Oronoco, however, and by 1900 the community's prosperity had declined considerably. The school, which was described in 1910 as "the most prominent feature of the village," survives as a representative of Oronoco's boom years. The present owner uses the building as a residence and plans to use the large, high-ceilinged rooms as a music hall.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Winona and Olmsted Counties . . . . Chicago: H.H. Hill & Co., 1883. p. 857

# 10. Geographical Data

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1

Quadrangle name Oronoco, Minn.

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	5	5	3	7	2	8	0	4	8	8	9	7	5	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**

All of block 39 except road right of way, original plat of the city of Oronoco.

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert M. Frame III, Architectural Historian/Research Historian

organization Minnesota Historical Society date April 1980

street & number 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House telephone 612-296-9074

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 5/22/80

For HCRS use only

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

for [Signature] Ray Luce date 7/2/80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Justin O'Connell date 6/30/80

Chief of Registration



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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**Note: These changes apply to  
Oronoco School in Olmsted County,  
Minnesota.**

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** 80004536

**STATE:** MINNESOTA

**COUNTY:** Olmsted

**RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):**

**CITY:**

**VICINITY OF:**

**ADDRESS:** Co. Hwy. 18

**CERTIFICATION DATE:**

**REMOVED DATE:**

**COMMENTS:**

*Nina M. Archabal*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Nina M. Archabal**  
**State Historic Preservation Officer**

**JUN 17 1988**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**