

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Minnesota	
COUNTY: Nicollet	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
4	APR 4 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Harkin-Massopust Store

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Alexander Harkin Store *in so that*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
on **Nicollet County Road #21 - ~~Old Fort Ridgely Road~~**

CITY OR TOWN:
About ten miles west of New Ulm *New Ulm note*

STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **23** COUNTY: **Nicollet** CODE: **103**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Richard & Janet Massopust

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **West Newton** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **23**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Nicollet County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Peter** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **23**

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **5 acres**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

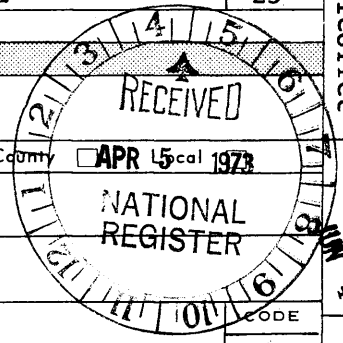
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Minnesota State Register

DATE OF SURVEY: **1965** Federal State County **APR 15 cal 1973**

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Minnesota Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
690 Cedar Street

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Paul** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **23**



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Minnesota
COUNTY: Nicollet
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site of the ghost town of West Newton is located about half way between Fort Ridgely and New Ulm, Minnesota near the spot where one of the early ferries crossed the Minnesota River. At one time the village included the Alexander Harkin store and post office, a hotel, three saloons, a livery stable, two blacksmith shops, a brewery, a sawmill and a wagon works. Today the store, a hotel (now a residence) and a cemetery are all that remain.

The one story store building was built in 1871 of native pine and black walnut held together with square head nails. It is located behind the farm house overlooking the river. Harkin also had a carriage house and a grainery across from the store.

The Harkin-Massopust store is presently in a deteriorated condition. When the store was closed in 1901 none of the merchandise was removed or changed. Much of this stock still remains today, along with the wood burning stove and display cases. The Harkin family home also remains though it has been enlarged and extensively remodeled.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Minnesota
COUNTY	Nicollet
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 4 1973

(Number all entries) #7 DESCRIPTION (cont.)

The store building is typical of the once-common mid-nineteenth century rural stores which dotted southwestern Minnesota. These stores often had open porches running the entire length of their fronts where customers and town-folk would gather to discuss the news of the day. They were utilitarian buildings of a non-permanent nature - their size, appearance, and merchandise ever-changing to meet the demands of the market. The rural character of the Harkin-Massopust Store has remained in an unaltered state although it has been the victim of years of weathering and deterioration.

In later years the store was linked to the original portion of the house by means of a wooden passageway. A storage lean-to on the west side of the store has been recently removed due to its extensively deteriorated condition. This lean-to was not original to the store building.

The house was originally a typical two story simple classic-revival farmhouse constructed in the 1860's of square-hewn logs and sided with clapboard. This served as both residence and store until the present store was constructed in 1871. In the latter part of the nineteenth century, an addition was made to the house by removing the original porch (similar in form to that on the store) and constructing a two story section to the front. This addition contains a parlor and bedroom, with an unfinished second story. The original house and addition are presently in a good state of preservation.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1871-1901**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

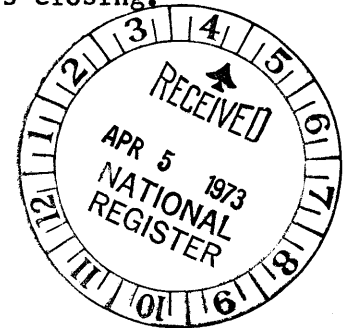
Aboriginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		_____
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Alexander Harkin and his wife Janet settled in Minnesota in 1856. In 1867 Harkin established a store in part of his home. When he became postmaster of West Newton, Harkin built the present building (1871) to serve as both post office and store. Besides operating the store and post office Harkin was justice of the peace, land salesman, and administrator of estates.

The Alexander Harkin store once rivaled New Ulm in trade. Farmers came from considerable distances to West Newton to pick up their mail, shop for hardware, dry goods, drugs and foodstuffs, barter muskrat skins, philosophize around the wood stove and cracker barrel and discuss politics and the weather.

In 1901, with the advent of Rural Free Delivery, the post office and store in West Newton were closed. All the merchandise, with the exception of the perishables, was left on the shelves and most remains in the store today. Even the account books have been preserved, showing a total of \$3,700 in unpaid accounts at the time of the store's closing.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Frontier Shopping Center", Minnesota History News, Minnesota Historical Society, December, 1959.

Gresham, William, A History of Nicollet and LeSueur Counties, B. F. Bowen & Company, Inc., Indianapolis, 1916.

A History of the Church of St. George of West Newton, 1958.

Neill, E. D., History of the Minnesota Valley, North Star Publishing Company, Minneapolis, 1882.

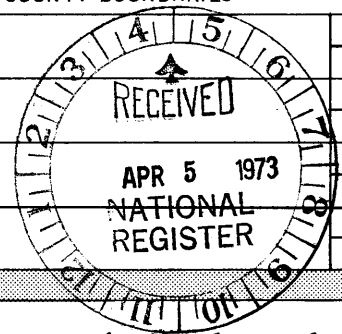
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	44°	23'	14"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	94°	35'	57"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

UTM
15/372650
4915880
CD

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Diana Mitchell, Survey and Planning (Approved: Charles Nelson)

ORGANIZATION: **Minnesota Historical Society** DATE: **March 30, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Paul** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **23**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Russell W. Fridley
Director, Minnesota Historical Society

Title: _____

Date: March 30, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert W. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/4/73

ATTEST:

W. Bradford
Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5/30/73

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn
11/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Note: These changes apply to
Harkin, Alexander, Store in
Nicollet County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 73000989

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Nicollet

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: Co. Hwy. 21

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

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

JUN 17 1988

Date