

**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 Woodbury House

and/or common Woodbury House

2. Location

street & number 1632 South Ferry Street _____ not for publication

city, town Anoka _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 8th

state Minnesota code 22 county Anoka code 003

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. and Mrs. Victor Johnston

street & number 1632 South Ferry Street

city, town Anoka _____ vicinity of _____ state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anoka County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Anoka _____ state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1978, 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 Woodbury House is located on the crest of a hill overlooking the confluence of the Rum and Mississippi Rivers. The four acre parcel of land upon which the house is located is bounded by a beautifully executed river rock wall (ca. 1890) on the south, west, and north, and by the Rum River on the east. The imposing natural setting of the house, its massive size (vix a vis the predominance of small-scale residences in Anoka), and its architectural features combine to make it an object of local pride.

The original square-shaped, two-story house (which now forms the central portion of the house) was designed in 1857 to incorporate design features of the Federal and Greek Revival styles. It is constructed on a stone foundation of locally logged pine. The pine frame is sheathed in narrow clapboard. The hipped roof is slightly pitched and has over-hanging eaves. Pilaster strips appear at each corner of the house. The principal entry to this section, originally the formal front entrance to the house (located at the northeast corner), contains a fanlight transom and sidelights. The original twelve over twelve windows have been retained throughout this section.

After the turn of the century a one-story, L-shaped addition was constructed on the west facade of the house, and a one-story colonnaded porch was added along the north and east facades, and partially along the south facade. These additions reflect the design of the original two-story section. The colonnaded porch was expanded and screened-in in 1937.

Although the interior of the house was remodeled in the 1940s, it does not detract from the overall architectural significance of the house.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" 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 1857-1858

Builder/Architect

Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Woodbury House is significant due to its association with the people and events closely related with the city of Anoka's earliest history. The house is additionally significant as a well-preserved example of two of Anoka's earliest and predominant architectural styles -- the Federal and the Greek Revival styles.

The central section of the Woodbury House was constructed in 1857-1858, only three years after building lots became available in Anoka. Its size and its architectural design marked a notable departure from the design of Anoka's earlier residences. Prior to the construction of the Woodbury House, Anoka's settlers had constructed small-scale rectangular shaped dwellings of locally logged pine. The design of the Woodbury House reflected the financial status and the eastern origin of its builder, Dr. Samuel Shaw.

In 1853, after suffering a physical breakdown, Dr. Shaw moved from New York to Anoka in pursuit of the healthful climate for which Minnesota was then widely acclaimed. In addition to practicing medicine in Anoka, Dr. Shaw, his father, and his brothers purchased a 160 acre tract of land on the west bank of the Rum River. In 1854 this section of land was surveyed, platted, and filed as Shaw's Addition to the Original Town of Anoka. Dr. Shaw sold this house in 1860 to Dwight Woodbury, the man most frequently associated (and often-times mistakenly referred to as its first owner) with this house.

Woodbury, a native of Massachusetts, settled in Anoka in 1854. He and his brothers were the first settlers to invest large amounts of capital to improve the newly platted towns of Anoka and St. Francis (St. Francis is fifteen miles north of Anoka on the Rum River). In 1855 Woodbury purchased the water power at both Anoka and St. Francis and constructed a dam at each location. In subsequent years he built a flour mill, a sawmill, and a lath mill at Anoka. He built and operated, along with members of his family, a hotel, a flour mill, and a sawmill at St. Francis. From 1855 until his death in 1884, Dwight Woodbury continued to operate a number of businesses and industries in Anoka St. Francis. In 1863, he was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives, serving one term. Among the civic improvements attributed to Woodbury, is the donation of land for public squares in Anoka and St. Francis, and funds for the construction of schools and churches at both locations.

In 1884 this house was willed to Woodbury's daughter and son-in-law, Mary and Irving A. Caswell. Caswell, a member of one of Anoka's pioneer families, owned and published the Anoka Herald from 1892 to 1901; he served as postmaster of Anoka from 1901 to 1904, and held the position of Clerk of the Supreme Court from 1909 to 1919.

In 1936 Charles Kiewell, president of Grain Belt Brewery of Minneapolis, purchased the house from the Caswell's. It was during Kiewel's ownership (1936-1957), that major alterations were made to the interior of the house.

The present owners of the house, Dr. and Mrs. Victor Johnston, have preserved the house and its grounds since 1957.

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 4 acres

Quadrangle name Anoka

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A

1	5	4	6	9	1	0	0	5	0	0	4	5	4	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

Caswell's Addition
 Lots 7, 8
 Block 50

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 Lynne VanBrocklin Spaeth

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date March 1979

street & number 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

contact Dennis Gimmetad
 telephone (612) 296-9545

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

11/1/79

For HCRS use only

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

Sally G. O'Brien
 Keeper of the National Register

date

12/26/79

Attest:

Kristen O'Connell

date

12/26/79

Chief of Registration