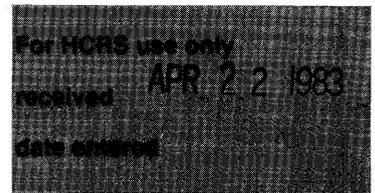


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Giesen-Hauser House

and/or common Gregory & Nancy Ward Residence

2. Location

street & number 827 Mound Street N/A not for publication

city, town St. Paul N/A vicinity of congressional district N/A

state Minnesota code 22 county Ramsey code 123

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Gregory and Nancy Ward

street & number 827 Mound Street

city, town St. Paul N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 55106

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ramsey County Register of Deeds Office

street & number City Hall & Court House, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd.

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55102

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal N/A state N/A county N/A local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

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 _____ N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on the crest of a wooded one-acre parcel overlooking the city of Saint Paul, the Giesen House at 827 Mound street is a prominent example of brick Queen Anne architecture. Erected in 1891, the design of the residence exemplifies many of the popular elements contributing to the diversity and picturesque qualities of Victorian building. The Giesen House is important for its retention of this character, both in the integrity of the site, and in the integrity of the building.

The Giesen House is executed on an irregular plan, enhanced by curvilinear and polygonal bays. It is three stories in height and has a roof configuration formed by a complex arrangement of gables and hips, punctuated by small dormers and tall chimneys. The three story corner tower is crowned by an octagonal spire above an open, belfry-like observation porch. An expansive open wrap-around porch with classical columns and intricately carved pediment provides a horizontal emphasis to the otherwise vertically attenuated front facade.

Decorative elements include the carved pediment previously mentioned; brick balustrades with lattice-type openings; rusticated sandstone copings, lintels, sills, and banding; carved columns on the third story of the tower, and pressed metal finials and dormers.

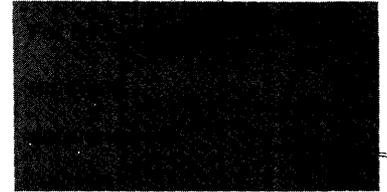
The interior of the house is noteworthy for its use of fine woods, carved built-ins and mantels, stained glass, and spacious rooms with high ceilings. Although the house was used for many years as apartments and more recently as a half-way house, (prior to its present re-conversion to original single-family use) many of the original architectural features remain intact. Principal among these is the two-story entrance hall with winding staircase, double-tiered light fixture, and vaulted stained glass skylight over the landing. Woodwork is richly carved and turned oak. Although the first floor contains nearly 2,200 square feet, it has only four principal rooms (hall,

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Giesen-Hauser House, St. Paul, MN; Ramsey County

OMB NO. 1024-0018
EXP. 10/31/01



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

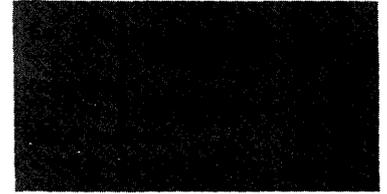
parlor, sitting room, and dining room) with secondary spaces allotted to a conservatory and pantry. The kitchen and service areas are relegated to the rear wing and separated from the main section of the house by doors. Vertical circulation is provided by a narrow service staircase. The second and third floors are partitioned into bedrooms, baths, and service and storage-oriented spaces.

Restoration of the Giesen House is presently in progress. The structure is sound, although in need of minor re-pointing. A new roof is being installed and plans call for replacement of the front porch deck. The interior has been returned to the original floor plan with removal of later partitions, plumbing, etc. During this process, original wall treatment and stencilling were discovered and recorded for use in the final restoration process.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Giesen-Hauser House, St. Paul, Ramsey County



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

In 1916, Hauser purchased the bankrupt, four-year old Multnomah Hotel; which occupied an entire city block in Portland, Oregon, and turned it into one of the most successful hotels in that state. In 1928 it was written of Hauser: "The business which he controls is one of extensive proportions and his constantly expanding powers have placed him with the foremost contractors of the country." The Hauser family owned and occupied the house at 827 Mound Street, until 1944, or for 37 years.

Today, the 90 year old Giesen-Hauser-Ward House is being restored by its new owners, Gregory and Nancy Ward, and is significant because it is the only surviving building in St. Paul associated with Peter Joseph Giesen and Eric V. Hauser. The house also merits consideration singularly on its architectural assets, described previously.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1891 ~~XXXXXX~~ Architect Architect: Albert Zschocke

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Saint Paul architect Albert Zschocke, (1859-1892) was commissioned in 1891 to design a family residence for Peter J. Giesen, at 827 Mound street, in a fashionable section of the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. German-born and educated, Zschocke emigrated to the United States in 1882 and began his business in St. Paul in 1885. Although his career was short-lived, Zschocke designed some of the most prestigious buildings ever erected in the city. His plans included those for churches, schools, business blocks, apartment buildings, hotels, and private residences. Unfortunately, few of his buildings survive today; urban renewal having destroyed the core of our inner-city. The Giesen House is the only surviving unaltered work of Albert Zschocke.

Peter Joseph Giesen, the original owner of the house, was born in Germany in 1833, came to the United States in 1853, and settled in St. Paul three years later. By then he had learned the trade of book binding and began work as a journeyman for a pioneer St. Paul bindery. By the mid-1860's he became partner in a bindery firm, and in 1870 established his own company. Six years later he received the contract for the bindery work for the West law book publishers. In 1900 he was described as "the owner and operator of the largest law book bindery in the United States!" Upon his retirement from the book binding business he became the president of the Volkszeitung Printing and Publishing Company, publishers of the German language daily newspaper. Giesen is also remembered for his promotion of the cultural interests of the city's German population. In 1857 he established a German singing society, and was also instrumental in building the first German cultural hall in St. Paul, the Athenaeum, erected in 1859. He later helped organize the Germania Turnverein and the Mozart Society. A contemporary historian of 1900 said of Giesen: "It is due to the interest and efforts of such men as he that St. Paul is the great and prosperous city that it is today."

Peter's wife, Mary Dreis Giesen (1844-1929) was also a pioneer St. Paulite, having arrived in 1854. In 1872 she established a theatrical costuming business, which, under her guidance grew into one of the largest in the Midwest. For a period of years the company was said to have possessed the third largest collection of costumes in the entire world! Mrs. Giesen's youngest son Martin followed her into the business and the firm remained in the family for 88 years. The house the Giesen's built on Mound street is a reflection of the prosperity earned by an industrious pioneer couple; who as immigrants arrived in this city with empty pockets, but hearts filled with hopes and aspiration.

In 1907, the Giesen's sold the house to Eric V. Hauser, (1864-1929) Minneapolis born railroad contractor and philanthropist. In 1900, Hauser and his brother Willard E., began in the railroad contracting business and became partners in the Grant Smith Construction Company, home-based in Spokane, Washington. Ten years later, Eric V. Hauser was president and treasurer of the company. The company was involved in some of the largest construction projects for the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railroads, and also aided in building the subway in New York city. In World War I he established a shipyard in Portland, Oregon where he constructed wooden vessels for the Navy, the profits from which he turned over to the Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

(continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

St. Paul City Directories, 1856-1977
 St. Paul Pioneer Press newspaper
 St. Paul Dispatch newspaper
 Interviews with Giesen & Hauser descendants

Pen Pictures of St. Paul, T.M. Newsom
 History of Ramsey County, E.D. Neill
 Sturdy Sons of St. Paul, Junior Pioneers
 Building Records, St. Paul

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 1 acre
 Quadrangle name St. Paul East, Minnesota
 UMT References

Quadrangle scale 7.5

A

1	5	4	9	4	7	2	0	4	9	7	7	2	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

 C

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 E

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 G

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B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

 D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet - page 3

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

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James A. Szevich
 organization The House Detective date May 7, 1981
 street & number 956 Bradley Street telephone 778-1381
 city or town St. Paul state Minnesota 55101

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
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 4/7/83

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 Entered in the National Register date 5/11/83
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Giesen-Hauser House, St. Paul, Ramsey Co.

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 3

Legal Description:

Lots 7, 8, 9 and 10, Block 5 of McLean's Reservation, Ramsey County, Minn., except that part of Lots 9 and 10 aforesaid described as follows: Beginning at the Northwesterly corner of Lot 10 on the East line of Mounds St. and running thence Northeasterly along the Northwesterly line of said Lot 10, 210.485 feet to the center line of Maple St. in Yandes' addition adjoining said Lot 10, thence Southeasterly on center line of Maple St. extended 50 feet, thence in a straight line to the Easterly line of Mounds Street and to a point 50 feet Southeasterly from the starting point, thence Northwesterly and along said Easterly line of Mounds Street 50 feet to place of beginning; And except all that part of Lot 10, Block 5, McLean's Reservation described as follows: Beginning at a point on the Northerly line of said Lot 10 distant 89.1 feet Southwest from the East corner of Lot 7, Block 1, Yandes' Addition to Saint Paul; thence running Southeast at right angles to said Northerly line to an intersection with a Westerly extension of the South line of Lot 1, Block 1, of Hirsch's Subdivision of Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, Block 5, and Lots 12, 13, 14 and 15 of Block 11 of McLean's Reservation to Saint Paul; thence East on said extension to the East line of said Lot 10; thence North on said East line to the Northeast corner of said Lot 10; thence Southwest on said Northerly line to the point of beginning.