

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Removal
Property Name: Columbian Hotel
Multiple Name:
State & County: MINNESOTA, Big Stone

Date Received: 9/25/2018 Date of Pending List: 10/17/2018 Date of 16th Day: 11/1/2018 Date of 45th Day: 11/9/2018 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: OT85001766
Nominator: State
Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 11/1/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Burned 2012
Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer  Control Unit Discipline _____
Telephone _____ Date 10/1/2018

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

Minnesota Historic Preservation Office

Request for Removal from the National Register of Historic Places

Name of Property: Columbian Hotel (NR 85001766)

Address: 305 NW Second Street

City/Township: Ortonville

County: Big Stone

Reason for Removal: The property has ceased to meet the criteria for listing because the qualities which caused it to be listed have been lost or destroyed (36 CFR 60.15 (a)).

Dates and Nature of Change: Burned, 26 October 2012

Comments:

The Columbian's storied history as a luxury hotel for businessmen and tourists had already faded in 1985 when it was both nominated to the National Register of Historic Places and put up for sale.¹ Over the next quarter century, it changed hands several times before finally being acquired by the Ortonville Economic Development Authority (EDA) from the state through a tax forfeiture process. The Ortonville EDA then sold it in 2008 for \$1 to Dan and Gayle Johnson with a three-year plan to restore the Victorian-style commercial building and convert it into apartments, a hotel, and a fine-dining restaurant.²

This plan was lost, however, when the structure, made of brick with a two-story wood-frame tower, was destroyed by fire while undergoing renovations on 26 October 2012.³ In 2016, the property was listed as a tax-forfeited property owned by the State of Minnesota.⁴

At the time of its nomination, the Columbian Hotel retained the seven aspects of integrity (location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling and association). The property's *setting* is undisturbed; the surrounding area is still part of the Ortonville Commercial Historic District. But its *location, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association* were lost when the hotel burned.

References:

¹Granger, Susan. "Columbian Hotel," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1985. Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul.

²"Columbian Hotel Sold, To Be Restored to Its Original State," *Ortonville Independent*, 11 November 2008, 1.

³"Blaze Engulfs Hotel Built in 1892," *Star Tribune*, 27 October 2012.

⁴ Parcel Report for Parcel Identification Number 22-0157-00, Big Stone County, Minnesota.
Accessed from <http://gis.co.big-stone.mn.us/link/jsfe/index.aspx>, 8 May 2016.

Field Check By:

Emily Ganzel, 28 May 2016

Legal Description:

Lots 9, 10, 11, & 12, Block 9, Original Plat of Ortonville



9/20/18

Amy Spong

Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, MN Department of Admin



COLUMBIAN

HOTEL



COLUMBIAN HOTEL BIG STONE COUNTY MN 28 MAY 2016 CAMERA FACING W

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JUL 18 1985
date entered AUG 15 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Columbian Hotel

and or common Columbian Hotel

2. Location

street & number 305 N.W. Second Street N/A not for publication

city, town Ortonville N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Big Stone code 011

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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: residential

4. Owner of Property

hotel

name Larry Ische

street & number 305 N.W. Second Street

city, town Ortonville N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 56278

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Big Stone County Courthouse

street & number 20 S.E. Second Street

city, town Ortonville state Minnesota 56278

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Minnesota Statewide Historic
title Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983-84 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

7. Description

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved

date

N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Columbian Hotel is located at the northwest corner of Second Street and Jefferson Avenue at the north end of Ortonville's business district, 1½ blocks east of Big Stone Lake. The hotel is surrounded by circa 1900 commercial buildings and two parking lots.

The hotel, completed in 1892, is a good example of Victorian commercial architecture and is the largest brick commercial building standing in Ortonville. Unfortunately, the architect and contractor of the three story, L-shaped building are not known. The hotel was built on a stone foundation and is faced with soft, five course American bonded brick painted gray. The building's design is dominated by a two story woodframe tower at the southeast corner which has rectangular 1/1 sash and decorative panelling at the base of each story. The tower was once topped by a polygonal "witch's cap" roof with a flared base and a ball finial. The east facade of the building is spanned by a recessed open porch which supports the east edge of the second story. The porch is supported by fluted Tuscan columns on raised bases. Within the porch are the entrances to the lobby and the hotel restaurant, each located within a cast iron storefront with fluted piers. The lobby and restaurant areas are lighted by large rectangular windows and there was once a secondary entrance on the south facade.

The east and south facades of the hotel feature rectangular 1/1 sash on the second story and rounded arched 1/1 sash at the third story, both linked horizontally by bands of decorative brickwork near the top of each window. The building is further ornamented with a metal cornice with dentils above the first story and rockfaced limestone sills and lintels. The brick cornice at the roofline was once somewhat taller, and the brick piers dividing the bays on the east and south facades originally projected above the cornice with ball and urn-like finials. The north and west facades of the building are relatively plain, with tall segmental arched 1/1 sash. Because the hotel was built into a hill, four stories are exposed at the rear of the building. The exterior of the hotel is in fair condition and basically intact. Alterations to the exterior include painting the building gray, replacing the windows, removing the tower roof in 1959, removing a portion of the brick cornice, and installing fire escapes.

The Columbian Hotel was designed to contain a large lobby on the south side of the first story, a dining area and kitchen on the north side, a grand stairway to the upper floors, and approximately fifty rooms. Interior alterations have included redecorating the lobby with new wall coverings and a suspended ceiling obscuring the original metal ceiling, partitioning the dining area into several small apartments with temporary walls, and installing fire doors. The interior retains oak woodwork with decorative cornerblocks in the lobby, ornate pressed metal ceilings above the stairway and dining area, metal columns with ornate capitals supporting the dining room ceiling, an oak staircase, and a front desk with an oak call box used to communicate with hotel guests. The buildings is now used as a residential hotel and is for sale.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 1892 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Columbian Hotel, built in 1892 at 305 N.W. Second Street in Ortonville, is architecturally and historically significant as one of western Minnesota's vanishing number of large Victorian hotels, as a good example of Victorian hotel architecture, as a building which has served as a visual and social focal point in downtown Ortonville since the 1890's, and as a hotel which contributed to Ortonville's importance as a regional trade center, seat of county government, and turn of the century resort area.

Ortonville, located at the South Dakota border on Big Stone Lake, was platted in the early 1870's, received rail service in 1879 when the Hastings and Dakota branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad reached the town, and became the county seat of Big Stone County in 1881. The community soon grew to become the largest town in Big Stone County and by the 1890's had a healthy business district which spanned four city blocks.

The Columbian Hotel was built during the summer of 1892 for owner Holver O. Jarsaw (1853-1899), an unmarried Norwegian-born businessman. The architect and contractor for the building are not known, although local workers Eric Borg and Henry E. Klatter and the Charles H. Betcher Lumber Company of Ortonville filed liens against the property in 1893 for materials and labor. The hotel officially opened in November of 1892 with Jarshaw as proprietor. Early advertisements boasted that the Columbian was the only "first class" hotel in Ortonville and featured forty-eight elegantly furnished rooms, steam heat, electric call bells, baths and other modern conveniences, and rates of \$2.00 and \$2.50 per day.

For over seventy-five years the Columbian remained Ortonville's largest and most luxurious hotel. It became the headquarters for travelling salesmen who arrived in town on the train and sold merchandise to retailers and individuals in the Columbian's large sample rooms. The hotel catered to farmers and businessmen trading in Ortonville, politicians and officials staying in Ortonville on government business, and travellers passing through town on the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul railroad. Located only 1½ blocks from Big Stone Lake, the Columbian became an important tourist hotel providing accommodations for summer visitors who fished and swam in the lake, visited two nearby "healing" springs, and enjoyed public and chartered excursions on the lake. From 1889-1922 the Big Stone Lake Association held Chautauquas each summer on the shore of Big Stone Lake across from the hotel. The Milwaukee Road offered special rates to the crowds who attended the camps, and many participants stayed at the Columbian. The hotel dining room was the scene of many important social, political, and cultural events held in the community, and in later years the hotel accommodated hundreds of pheasant and duck hunters to visited Ortonville each fall.

Two years after the hotel was built, in 1894, it was sold to Minneapolis investor John D. Van Norman for \$9,000. From 1893-1897 the hotel was operated by Holver Jarshaw's niece, Nellie Jarshaw Scholberg, and her husband S. H. Scholberg. In 1898 the hotel was sold to George Kahler (1868-1945), a member of the Kahler family which operated a number of hotels and early hospitals in Rochester, Minnesota. George Kahler owned hotels in California and Dundas, Northfield, and Appleton, Minnesota before purchasing the Columbian. He lived in Ortonville and operated the Columbian and the Lake House, a smaller hotel built in 1881 one block north of the Columbian, until his retirement in 1908. Kahler's brother, Roy

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ortonville Independent, Oct. 13, 1932; Nov. 29, 1945; and May 14, 1980.
Big Stone Lake Assembly, Chautauqua brochure, 1893.
Sparrow, Magdelene. Unpublished research on the Columbian Hotel, Big Stone County Historical Society, Ortonville.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one
Quadrangle name Ortonville Quad. Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A	<u>14</u>	<u>700080</u>	<u>5020040</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
E	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 9-10-11-12, Block 9, Original Plat of Ortonville.

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Granger, Field Assistant
State Historic Preservation Office
 organization Minnesota Historical Society date July 1984
 street & number Fort Snelling History Center telephone (612) 726-1171
 city or town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Russell W. Fridley
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 6/27/85

For NPS use only

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

Meloy Dyer Keoper of the National Register Entered in the National Register date 8-15-85

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Columbian Hotel

Item number 8

Page 1

Item #8 (Significance) continued:

Kahler (1880-1932), owned and operated the Columbian from circa 1913-1932 after owning a hotel in Granite Falls, Minnesota.

The Columbian remained in the Kahler family until 1952. During the last twenty years of Kahler ownership hotel business declined considerably, largely due to widespread increases in automobile use which caused a decline in railroad passenger business, allowed tourists to travel farther from home, provided travelling salesmen with the freedom and convenience of their own cars, and reduced the number of people who stayed overnight in Ortonville on business. As competition from automobile-oriented motels increased, the Columbian's transient business declined even further and it became primarily a residential hotel. The Columbian has been owned for the past twenty-eight years by Larry Ische, but it is presently for sale.



COLUMBIAN HOTEL BOSTONVILLE, MASS.

Columbian Hotel

Ortonville, MN; Big Stone County

photographer: unknown

ca.1915-20

Neg. filed at: Big Stone County

Historical Society, Ortonville,
MN.

Looking northwest

No contact #



06807⁺20A

Columbian Hotel
Ortonville, MN; Big Stone County
Susan Granger
1984
Minnesota Historical Society, 690
Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55101
Looking northwest
06807/20A

FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DO NOT REPRODUCE
WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION

NOTICE:
This Material may be
protected by Copyright
Law (Title 17 U.S. Code)



Columbian Hotel
Ortonville, MN; Big Stone County
Susan Granger
1984
Minnesota Historical Society, 690
Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55101
Looking northeast
06817/3

06817#3

FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DO NOT REPRODUCE
WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION

NOTICE:
This Material may be
protected by Copyright
Law (Title 17 U.S. Code)



COLUMBIAN
HOTEL

THIS BUSINESS
AND BUILDING
FOR SALE

Columbian Hotel
Ortonville, MN; Big Stone County
Susan Granger
1984
Minnesota Historical Society, 690
Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55101
Looking southwest
06807/18A

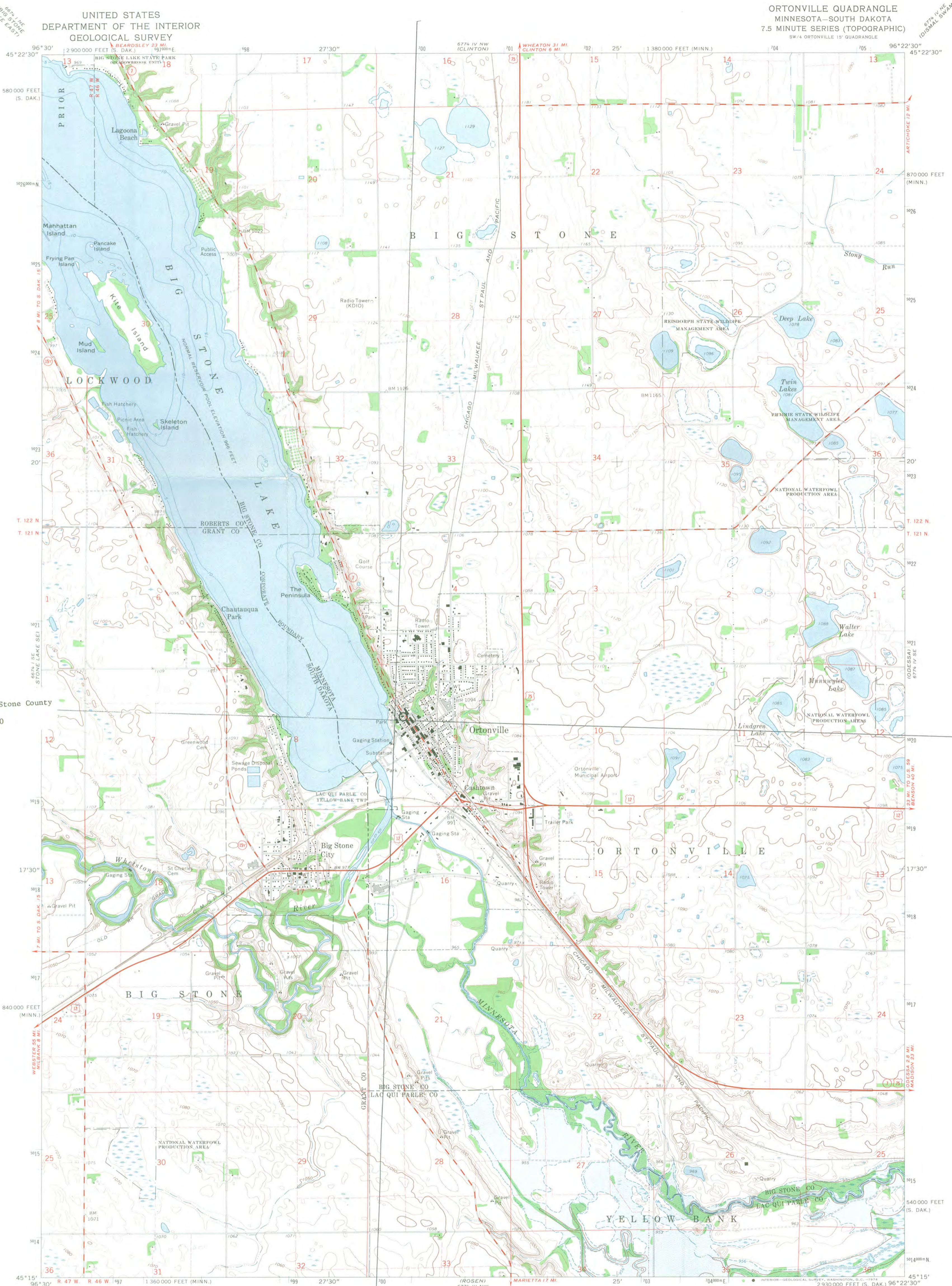
06807 # 18A

FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DO NOT REPRODUCE
WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION

NOTICE:
This Material may be
protected by Copyright
Law (Title 17 U.S. Code)

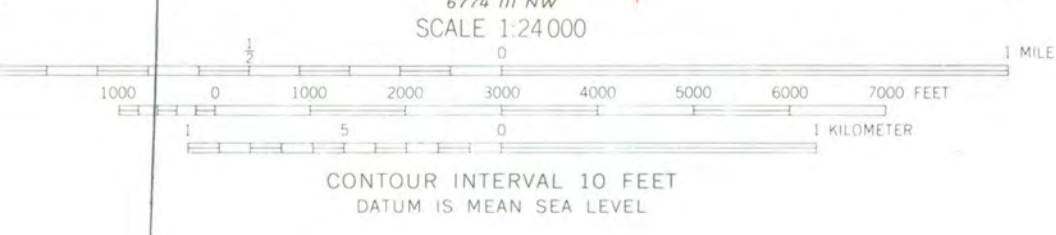
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

ORTONVILLE QUADRANGLE
MINNESOTA—SOUTH DAKOTA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW 1/4 ORTONVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE



Columbian Hotel
Ortonville, MN; Big Stone County
UTM References
14 / 700080 / 5020040

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS and Minnesota Highway Department
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1971
Hydrography compiled from information furnished by
Minnesota Department of Conservation
Projection: Minnesota coordinate system, south zone
(Lambert conformal conic)
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Minnesota coordinate
system, south zone, and South Dakota coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks
zone 14, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum
Blue hatching indicates area to be submerged by Highway 75 Dam
Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern
are subject to controlled inundation
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ORTONVILLE, MINN.—S. DAK.
SW 1/4 ORTONVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE
N4515—W9622.5/7.5
1971
AMS 6774 IV SW—SERIES V872

C148

Re: #
85001766

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Columbian Hotel
Big Stone County
MINNESOTA

Working No. JUL 18 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/4/86
Date Due: 8/15/85 - 9/1/85
Action: ACCEPT 8-15-85
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

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

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

Minnesota Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Office
345 Kellogg Blvd West, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102
651.201.3292



TO: Joy Beasley, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Denis P. Gardner

DATE: 9/21/2018

NAME OF PROPERTY: Columbian Hotel

COUNTY AND STATE: Big Stone County, Minnesota

SUBJECT: National Register:
 Nomination
 Multiple Property Documentation Form
 Request for determination of eligibility
 Request for removal (Reference No. 85001766)
 Nomination resubmission
 Boundary increase/decrease (Reference No.)
 Additional documentation (Reference No.)

DOCUMENTATION:

- Original National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
- Multiple Property Documentation Form
- Continuation Sheets
- Removal Documentation
- Photographs
- CD w/ image files
- Original USGS Map
- Sketch map(s)
- Correspondence
 - Owner Objection
 - The enclosed owner objections
 - Do Do not constitute a majority of property owners

STAFF COMMENTS: