

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

MAR 11 1982

HISTORIC NAME: Clark and McCormack Quarry & House

COUNTY: Stearns

CURRENT NAME: Rockville Quarry

CITY/TWP.: Rockville

LEGAL DESC.: (see bottom of page)

ADDRESS: MN
Hwy. 23 at Pine St.
Rockville

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building _____	Excellent <u>X</u>	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Industry</u>
Structure _____	Good _____	State _____	Secondary _____
Object _____	Fair _____	National <u>X</u>	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		
Site <u>X</u>			

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes ___ No X Restricted ___

PRESENT USE:

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No ___

quarry, residence

OCCUPIED: Yes X No ___

DATE CONSTRUCTED: opened in 1907, house built 1924 ORIGINAL USE: quarry, residence

ORIGINAL OWNER: Clark and McCormack Co.

~~ARGHFEGT~~/BUILDER: John Gordon Clark

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Cold Spring Granite Co.
Cold Spring, MN 56320

ACREAGE: Less than one acre _____
@ 12 acres X

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: N/A

UTM REFERENCE:
A. 15 / 395640 / 5036380
B. 15 / 395860 / 5036480
C. 15 / 395880 / 5036160
D. 15 / 395720 / 5036120
Rockville, MN Quad. 7.5

FORM PREPARED BY: Thomas Harvey
DATE: October 1980

DESCRIPTION:

On the east side of Rockville, between Highway 23 and the Great Northern Railroad tracks, a tall white derrick towers above the Clark and McCormack. The quarry is immense; in 1918 it was the largest producer of structural granite in the state. A great dome of granite, exposed over at least an acre, has disappeared as stone was removed. The quarry is now operating well below the surface. Many of the early buildings associated with the quarry company have been razed as the quarry expanded. The last of the cutting sheds were destroyed by fire. Stone is now shipped by rail to Cold Spring for finishing. No buildings are included in the nomination. The "Rockville pink" stone is uniform and exceptionally coarse grained. There are few irregularities in the stone. Joints are up to 100 feet apart, and sheeting planes are few, hence blocks of immense size can be quarried. Nearly all the stone is fit for use. A noteworthy feature of the quarry is the small waste heap.

The John Clark house is located just across the highway south of the Clark and McCormack quarry, on a large open tract of land. The house is set back from the highway and is surrounded by large trees. The two-story, rectangular plan house, built of rock-faced granite from quarry, has its front entrance centered in the long west facade. Many of the double-sash windows are grouped in twos and threes, with wide, single-slab granite sills and lintels. The hipped roof has a single eyebrow dormer in the front. Stone chimneys are found at both ends of the house. A single-story, flat-roofed sunporch extends off the south side of the house. At the southwest corner of the property - to the front of the house - is a stone three-bay garage with a hipped roof and stone chimney.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Clark and McCormack quarry is significant as a major producer of structural granite in Minnesota and as the best representative quarry of a major industry in the eastern Stearns County and the St. Cloud ("Busy, gritty, granite city") area. While many of the smaller quarries have closed, the old Clark and McCormack quarry continues to produce building stone. The granite quarrying industry in Minnesota started in 1867-68 just across the Mississippi River from St. Cloud. The industry established itself in the last quarter of the 19th century, and after 1900 growth was steady. The Clark and McCormack quarry opened in 1907. Its first major job was to supply 250,000 cubic feet of stone for the Cathedral of St. Paul built in 1906-15. John McCormack managed the company's business office in St. Paul. McCormack had close ties with Bishop John Ireland and was involved with the quarry for the cathedral job alone. In 1916 the partnership dissolved and the quarry operation became the John Clark Company. "Rockville pink" granite from the quarry was used in

SIGNIFICANCE - Cont.

the New York City federal courthouse, the St. Cloud Hospital, and dozens of other buildings throughout the country. The stone is noted for its adaptability for carving and is said to have "a tone, an individuality, like many of the finest marbles."

The John Clark house, built of granite from the Clark and McCormack quarry, reflects the importance of the granite industry in Rockville and Stearns County. It is one of the few residences in Stearns County built of locally quarried granite; the stone was expensive and usually used for public and corporate buildings only. Clark, owner of the quarry across the road from the house, had the dwelling built in 1924. His son, John Gordon Clark, designed the house and company stonemasons built it. John Clark came to the U.S. with stone-cutting experience in Scotland. He worked as a stone-cutter in Youngstown, Ohio, Detroit, and Stratford, Ontario before joining the Matthew Breen firm in St. Paul. (The Breen and Young quarry in Sherburne County was the first commercial granite quarry in the state.) Clark opened the Benzie and Campbell quarries in the St. Cloud area for Breen. In 1907 he formed a partnership with John McCormack and opened the Clark and McCormack quarry in Rockville, a major producer of building stone. Clark maintained a residence in St. Paul until his Rockville home was completed in 1924. The quarry was the most important factor in upbuilding the village and the John Clark house reflects his and the quarry's importance.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Quarry: Roughly the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Township 123, Range 29; bounded on the northwest by the Burlington Northern railroad tracks, on the west by Pine Street, on the south by Highway 23, and on the east by an unnamed street. (See attached map).

House: A portion of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 9, Township 123, Range 29, just east of Rockville; beginning at the southeast corner of Highway 23 and Pine Street, northeast along Highway 23 for 300'; right 90 , thence 300' to Pine Street; right 90 , thence 300' along Pine Street to point of origin.

Oliver Bowles, The Structural and Ornamental Stones of Minnesota, United States Geological Survey, Bulletin 663, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 1918, p. 83