

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

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| HISTORIC NAME: Westerman Lumber Office and Residence <i>House</i> | | COUNTY: LeSueur |
| CURRENT NAME: | | CITY/TWP.: Montgomery |
| LEGAL DESC.: Lots 2 & 3, Block 8, City of Montgomery | | ADDRESS: 201 First Street South |
| CLASSIFICATION: Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure _____ Object _____ District _____ | CONDITION: Excellent _____ Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair _____ Deteriorated _____ | SIGNIFICANCE: Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State _____ National _____ |
| OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes _____ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted _____ | | THEME/S: Primary <u>Commerce</u> Secondary <u>Building</u> Others _____ Technology _____ |
| PRESENT USE: Residence | | |
| VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____ | | |
| OCCUPIED: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____ | | |
| DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1895 | | ORIGINAL USE: Residence and offices |
| ORIGINAL OWNER: Unknown | | ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown |
| OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Neil R. Bohnsack 201 First Street South Montgomery, MN 56069 | | ACREAGE: Less than one acre <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: LeSueur County Historical Society Box 577, Elysian, MN 56028 | | UTM REFERENCE: Montgomery Quad. 15 / 453800 / 4920430 |
| FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg DATE: 8/80 | | |

DESCRIPTION:

The Westerman Lumber Office and Residence is located in the heart of Montgomery's principal business district on the east side of First Street. The railroad tracks are immediately east of the building. The building's domestic appearance distinguishes it among the commercial structures of the downtown area.

The house was constructed in the 1880s as a small frame office building. In 1895 the back section was added, and the structure was veneered in buff colored brick. The building is L-shaped with an intersecting gable roof which folds at a 45-degree angle over the front facade. Brick pilaster strips are located at the corners of the building and between the bays of the front ell. The west facade (front) utilizes rectilinear windows with green wood trim featuring a stylized floral design in the wood lintels. Double-hung windows occupy the three bays on the second floor while large nine paned windows occupy the side bays of the first floor. Only the wooden lintel remains of the original entry in the center bay (the opening was bricked c. 1915). Windows on the north facade are arched featuring brick hoods and decorative panels composed of exposed brick corners beneath the sills. A half round window surrounded by decorative brick work is located in the gable end of the back ell on the north facade. Fenestration on the south and east facades is asymmetrical featuring both of the window treatments utilized on the street facades.

An enclosed entry is located on the south side of the building, and a two story screened porch is located at the rear. A cement wall (about 16 inches high) and a free standing entryway have been added south of the building along the sidewalk. Also located on the property is a frame garage at the rear.

The building's interior has undergone a number of changes to accommodate a variety of commercial and residential needs. In spite of these changes the exterior integrity has been well preserved. Now used as a residence, the building stands as one of the most architecturally distinctive in Montgomery's downtown.

(see continuation sheet)

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Westerman Lumber Office and Residence is significant both for its association with the Westerman Lumber Company, a Montgomery founded company which has become an important south-central Minnesota lumber firm, and as an outstanding representative of the brick buildings constructed during the late nineteenth century in the Montgomery and New Prague area. Henry E. Westerman settled in the county in 1873 and moved to Montgomery to establish a sawmill when the town was founded in 1877. In 1889 he established the Westerman Lumber Company. Two years later he purchased a frame building for use as the company lumber office, and shortly thereafter enlarged the building and veneered it in brick. The structure was utilized as the family residence as well as the lumber office. Westerman sold the building in 1915. The Westerman Lumber Company has since grown to be a large south-central Minnesota concern with branch offices in towns across the area. During the late nineteenth century, brick manufactured in the Minnesota River Valley area was utilized for the construction of a wide range of buildings in the Montgomery and New Prague area. With its ties to the beginnings of a locally important company, and with its well preserved condition, the Westerman Lumber Office is a distinguished example of this locally popular building phenomena.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Recorder's Records, LeSueur County Recorder's Office, LeCenter, Minnesota.

Sanborn Insurance Co. Maps, 1894, 1899, 1911.

