

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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APR 28 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAY 6 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**HISTORIC The Justus Ramsey Stone HouseAND/OR COMMON The Justus Ramsey House**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER
252 West Seventh Street

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

VICINITY OF

4th

STATE

Minnesota

CODE 27

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 PROPERTYNAME
George E. WilmSTREET & NUMBER
250 West Seventh Street

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds - Ramsey County CourthouseSTREET & NUMBER
Kellogg Boulevard and St. Peter Street

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul,

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYSTITLE
Statewide Historic Sites Survey/Historic St. Paul Bldgs. Survey

DATE

1973/1964

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Minnesota Historical Society/St. Paul Planning Department

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Justus C. Ramsey House is a one-room stone cottage constructed between 1855 and 1857 with locally quarried limestone, laid in rough ashlar courses. The front facade is trimmed stone while the side and rear walls are merely rough "slag" pieces of stones roughly laid up in 18-inch thick walls. Originally, the only windows were at the front facade, along with the door, but two windows were cut in the east wall sometime after the turn of the century. The house is roofed with a simple gable with a single chimney midway along the roof peak. Wide, unornamented cornice boards give definition to the early Greek Revival appearance. Noteworthy are the heavy dressed stone lintels over the windows and door at the front facade.

The building is in need of repair and restoration, although in very good structural condition for its age. The interior, however, has been badly altered, for in the course of past repairs to the building the interior butternut woodwork and baseboards had been inadvertently destroyed.

The cottage is located near the St. Paul central business district and along one of the city's busiest traffic arterials, West Seventh Street, which is the old Fort Snelling Road. The site is presently endangered due to a contemplated widening of the street in the near future.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Immigration and settlement
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1855-57

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built between 1855 and 1857 and a well-preserved representation of an early pioneer cottage, the stone building, known commonly as The Justus Ramsey House is an excellent example of frontier stone craftsmanship.

Justus Ramsey, brother and business/real estate partner of the Minnesota political giant, Alexander Ramsey (see nomination form for the Alexander Ramsey House) is commonly attributed to have built this house as his first residence. However, a check of the Minnesota Historical Society's Ramsey manuscripts, a collection of business and personal records for both brothers, reveal that the first reference to the building is a lease in 1857 to a well-known historical family in early Minnesota. Also a thorough check of the early St. Paul city directories and land transfer records fail to uncover any evidence of a Ramsey residency. They do, however, reveal that the building was constructed during Ramsey's ownership. This is further reinforced by a check of the city real estate tax records which show a major tax increase for 1857.

Ramsey lost the building in 1859 as a result of the financial crash which nearly bankrupted the embryonic state and the stone house then went through a lengthy series of land transfers until the turn of the century. The house has traditionally been used as income property since its earliest days and has served as residence for some of St. Paul's most colorful pioneers. The Munger brothers, a family who later became millionaires, trading in grain issues at Duluth, Minnesota are the first recorded residents. One brother, W. A. Munger, is especially well known for he is locally attributed to have commissioned Dan Emmett, the brother of the state's first Supreme Court Justice, Lafayette Emmett, to write the famous song "Dixie." This apparently took place during Emmett's visit to St. Paul in the late 1850s and a specially requested work for Munger's band, the first private band organized in Minnesota. Should further research prove this true, the house would be the only extant site to interpret this incident.

The house, during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century was the home of a pioneer clothier, a real estate entrepreneur, and even functioned for a short time as a kitchen for the neighboring boarding house. In the 1930s the house was bought by its present owner, and has been used as part of an antique store ever since.

The Justus C. Ramsey House is mainly important for its association with the Ramsey family. Justus and Alexander were tightly associated in their early business dealings and no doubt that the location of the stone house had some part in the location of the first Alexander Ramsey House, the first permanent governor's house, on the lot to the rear. When the stone house first exchanged hands, both brothers owned an equal share of the property.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic St. Paul Buildings; St. Paul City Planning Department,
 St. Paul, Minnesota 1964
 St. Paul City Directions; 1856-1900
 "Register of Deeds Land Records," Register of Deeds, St. Paul, Minnesota
 "The Ramsey Papers Collection," Minnesota Historical Society Manuscripts Department,
 St. Paul, Minnesota

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM OK
 CD

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	4, 9, 1, 7, 9, 0	4, 9, 7, 6, 3, 8, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Thomas Lutz

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

3/26/75

STREET & NUMBER

Building 25, Fort Snelling

TELEPHONE

612-726-1171

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 National Park Service.

SIGNATURE

Russell W. Fridley

3/28/75

TITLE

Russell W. Fridley
 State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

R. W. Anderson

DATE

5/6/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

Charles [unclear]

DATE

5-11-75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER