

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Minnesota
COUNTY:	Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	DEC 17 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Warden's House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Minnesota Territorial/State Prison Warden's House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
602 North Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Stillwater

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First

STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22 COUNTY: Washington CODE: 163

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

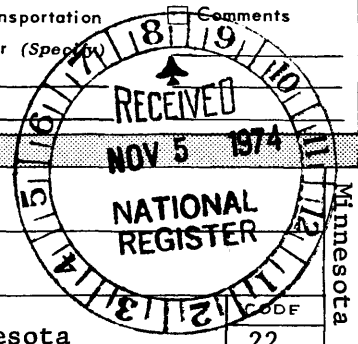
OWNER'S NAME:
Washington County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
602 North Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Stillwater

STATE:
Minnesota

CODE:
22



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Washington County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
14900 North 61st Street - Oak Park Heights

CITY OR TOWN:
Stillwater

STATE:
Minnesota

CODE:
22

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Minnesota Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Minnesota Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Paul

STATE:
Minnesota

CODE:
22

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Minnesota
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Warden's House is located at 602 North Main Street in Stillwater Minnesota. The warden's residence was built outside of the prison walls on the south bank of Battle Hollow ravine and overlooks the site where the Minnesota Territorial and State Prison complex once was situated. The height of the ravine embankment is approximately thirty feet at this point. The site location of the prison was chosen within the ravine because of the close proximity of the St. Croix River and steamboat landings located across Main Street; in addition to the easy availability to purchase the nine acres of quagmire ground.

The Old Warden's House is a two story, low gabled roof structure designed in an early Greek Revival style with Federal influences. The residence was constructed of locally quarried stone between 1851 and 1853. The wood frame additions on the west side were added in 1870. The principle entrance is centered on the east wall which is composed of completely trimmed and dressed limestone. The wood double entrance doors of the first and second floor are set into the stonewall and encased by a two story wood balcony that forms a center gable on the once simple broadside house. This balcony erected about 1910 also encloses one window on each side of the doors. It replaced a full front, post supported, promenade with double posted pillars, supporting the walk-out balcony of the second floor entrance.

The remaining limestone walls are hand tooled random ashlar. The building's corners are accented by quoins, twice the height of the remaining coursing.

Two over two windows are embellished within slim flat openings with thick sandstone lintels and sills. Originally six over six windows were used and were protected by wooden shutters.

A single brick chimney is located at the apex of the north and south gable and a broken pediment is situated on the gabled walls accenting the roof line.

Several wood framed structures were added to the west side of the stone house during a building expansion program in 1870 at the prison site. This west side addition is now a cut back version finalized about 1910. The one and half story frame structure with wood clapboard covering is set upon a red brick foundation. An Italinate bay window, part of the 1870 construction, is located on the south wall of the addition. Six over six windows embellished in a plan molding are located on the ground floor. A smaller plain molding contains the two over two windows that are located on the half floor above. A small enclosed entrance to the house is located on the north side of this clapboard structure.

At one time a large two story framed carriage barn was located about one hundred feet to the rear of the warden's house but was removed around the time the prison was abandoned. A stone storage building constructed during the 1870's encroached upon the north side of the front lawn along Main Street; this facility disappeared in the late 1890's. This storage facility was attached to the prison guard wall that forms the northern boundary for the warden's house property. Today this twenty-five foot limestone wall serves to retain the U-shaped ravine and supports the embankment from eroding.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1853-1914**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Prison Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Warden's House functioned as the Minnesota Territorial and State Prison Warden's residence from 1853 until the prison was abandoned in 1914. The two story limestone building is the only remaining structure of the territorial prison and is the only principle structure left of the state prison institution at Stillwater, Minnesota.

Minnesota's prison was first proposed by Governor Ramsey in his address to the territorial legislature on September 3, 1849. The legislature designated Stillwater as the prison site after Congress appropriated twenty thousand dollars for the structure in June of 1850. The prison was to be erected on the northern edge of the town of Stillwater in Battle Hollow; a ravine named after a bloody encounter between the Dakota and Chippewa Indians in 1839.

Plans for the complex were accepted from Jacob Fisher and the construction contracts were awarded to the firm of Jesse Taylor Company. This first contract specified the outside wall, the warden's house, and the main prison building. Construction began in 1851, and by 1853 these structures were completed. The warden's house was built outside of the prison walls on the south bank of the ravine and overlooked the complex.

The territorial legislature of 1853 provided for an administrative structure and a warden; named by the legislature for a term of five years. Francis R. Delano, one of the contractors of the Jesse Taylor Company, took office April 4, 1853. The first two wardens were appointed to the office by the territorial legislature. The governor, with confirmation from the Senate, appointed the warden's between the years 1858 and 1889, after Minnesota became a state. In 1889, the legislature moved to take away political favoritism out of the prison by vesting direction and control to a five member board of managers who appointed the state prison warden.

Thirteen wardens administered the Stillwater penitentiary during the sixty-one years of the institutions existence. Terms of office varied in length of time between five months to over twenty years. Qualifications to hold the office of warden were as diverse as their length of office terms. A large number of the wardens were lumberman, some were store merchants and in the final years there were two professional penologists.

High points of the Minnesota State Prison Wardens administration in the correctional field are as follows: the prison library initiated

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dunn, James Taylor, "The Minnesota State Prison during the Stillwater Era, 1853-1914", Minnesota History; December 1960, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, pp. 137-151.

____ "The Prison in Battle Hollow", The St. Croix: Midwest Boarder River; Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York, 1962, pp. 115-128.

Eaton, Augustus B., History of the St. Croix Valley, H.C. Cooper, Jr. and Company, Chicago, 1909, pp. 64-71.

Folsom, W.H.C., Fifty Years in the Northwest; Pioneer Press Company, St. Paul, 1888, pp. 410-412, 533-536. (see continuation sheet - p 2)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

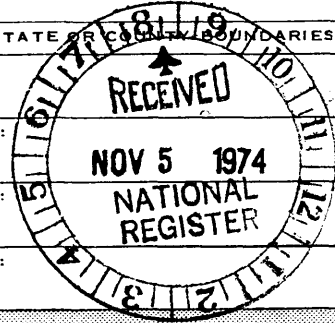
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		45° 03' 42"	92° 48' 26"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
15/515180
4989600
C

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
John J. Hackett, Survey Specialist

ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Historical Society DATE: 10/8/74

STREET AND NUMBER:
Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Russell W. Fridley
Russell W. Fridley, Director

Title Minnesota Historical Society

Date Oct 25, 1974

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

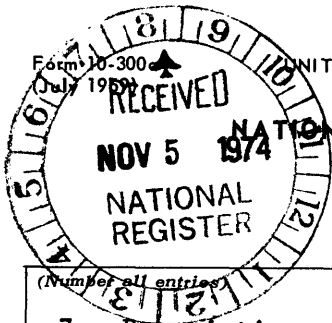
W. R. W. [Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/18/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Date Dec 12, 1974



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Minnesota	
COUNTY	
Washington	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description

In 1941 the Old Warden's House was obtained by the Washington County Historical Society for a museum. The museum's collections contain articles used at the old prison as well as numerous artifacts relating to the history of Washington County. In general, the building is in a good state of preservation.

8. Significance

under the first warden, Francis R. Delano, was to become one of the finest prison libraries in the country in later years. The first prison physician and chaplin were appointed to the institution in 1858. The issuing of the "penitentiary striped" uniform was begun in 1860 for easy identification; this clothing rule was not completely abolished until 1921. A "good conduct scheme" for reducing the lengths of a convict's sentence through good behavior was established in 1862; this system considerably altered and broadened over the years is still in effect today. During the 1860's the use of guards to patrol the prison at night, to curtail the numerous escapes, was commenced. The inmates newspaper, the Prison Mirror, was established in 1887.

Under the administration of Warden Randell, in 1890, the state went into the business of manufacturing twine at the state prison. This was an attempt to break the political power of the "contract system" that began in 1859 involving the leasing of convicts and prison property to private business. It was not until the abandonment of the prison in 1914, that the "contract system" actually terminated.

Under the guidance of the first professional penologist to head the Minnesota State Prison, Albert Garvin, the beginnings of a grading system of convicts and a prison school was undertaken in 1891. Garvin was replaced by Henry Wolfer, another trained penologist who introduced a new era in prison management in Minnesota. Under Warden Wolfer's leadership pardons became authorized by state law, a system of grading convicts was established that lasted until 1953, and the prison school finally became a reality in providing the prisoners with educational rehabilitation. It should be pointed out that the new prison at Bayport in Washington County was built under his supervision; Wolfer was the last warden at the Stillwater prison location.

The prison complex was ordered demolished in 1936 with the exception of the Old Warden's House that was acquired in 1941 by the Washington County Historical Society for a museum; it is still operated for this purpose. The Old Warden's House is significant because it represents the prison warden's residence in Minnesota between the years 1853 to 1914. It is the only remnant of the Minnesota Territorial Prison established in 1853, and the only principle structure left standing of the original Minnesota State Prison at Stillwater, Minnesota.

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Minnesota	
COUNTY	Washington	
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(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References - page 2

Holmquist, June, "Minnesota's First Prison", Minnesota's Major Historical Sites; Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, 1967, pp. 50.

Insurance Maps of Stillwater, Minnesota; Sandborn Map and Publishing Company Limited; 117 Broadway, New York, pp. plat 2-1888, plat 2-1891, plat 5-1898, plat 5-1904, plat 6-1910, plat 2-1924.

Neill, Rev. Edward D. and Williams, J. Fletcher, History of Washington County and the St. Croix Valley; North Star Publishing Company, Minneapolis, 1881, pp. 533-536.

Interviews with: Mrs. Herbert Johnson and Mr. Daniel O'Brien

