

## MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Union Hotel

COUNTY: LeSueur

CURRENT NAME: Rainbow Hotel

CITY/TWP.: Waterville

LEGAL DESC.: South 55 ft. of W 144 ft. of lot 10 in block 13,  
Waterville

ADDRESS: 201 Paquin Street East

## CLASSIFICATION:

Building   X    
Structure \_\_\_\_\_  
Object \_\_\_\_\_  
District \_\_\_\_\_

## CONDITION:

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_  
Good       X        
Fair \_\_\_\_\_  
Deteriorated \_\_\_\_\_

## SIGNIFICANCE:

Local       X        
State \_\_\_\_\_  
National \_\_\_\_\_

## THEME/S:

Primary   Commerce    
Secondary \_\_\_\_\_  
Others \_\_\_\_\_OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Restricted   X  

PRESENT USE: Hotel

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes   X   No \_\_\_\_\_OCCUPIED: Yes   X   No \_\_\_\_\_

DATE CONSTRUCTED: c. 1888

ORIGINAL USE: Hotel

ORIGINAL OWNER: Michael McGuire

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Rosetta E. Miller  
Waterville, MNACREAGE: Less than one acre   X  LOCAL CONTACT/CRG.: LeSueur County Historical Society  
Box 577, Elysian, MN 56028

UTM REFERENCE:

Waterville Quad.

FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg

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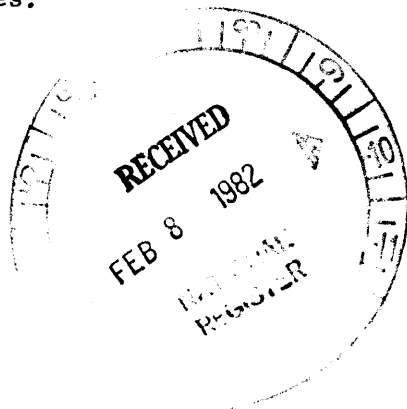
DATE: 8/80

## DESCRIPTION:

The Union Hotel is located on the northeast corner of Second and Paquin Streets on the south edge of Waterville's principal business district. Immediately to the north are commercial buildings of similar scale and materials. To the south is a residential neighborhood.

The two story red brick commercial building features Victorian Italianate styling. The southern section was completed in 1888 and measures five bays on each street facade. The north section was completed c. 1895 and measures three bays on Second Street. Narrow central doorways with transom lights are located in the center of each section on the Second Street facade. Windows are rectangular set in segmentally arched openings. A continuous painted band links the tops of the second story windows; the pattern is repeated on the first story in relief brickwork. The words "Union Hotel" are painted at the top of both street facades. A brick corbelled cornice caps the building. The rear of the building repeats the pattern of street facades without the cornice.

The major alteration to the building has been the removal of a second story balcony on the north section. Awnings over the Paquin Street entry and at the rear and the "Rainbow Hotel" sign suspended from the corner of the building are recent additions. The interior has been cosmetically altered but retains most of the building's original floor plan and some features.



(continued)

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

The Union Hotel provides a link to the most important development period in one of Le Sueur County's leading communities. In 1877 the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad constructed a line through Waterville (platted 1856) connecting Minneapolis and Albert Lea, and spurred the transformation of a small rural community into a thriving commercial center. The completion of the Wisconsin, Minnesota and Pacific in 1886 (connecting Red Wing and Faribault to the east with Mankato to the west) precipitated additional growth in the community. It was at this time that most of Waterville's business district was constructed. The two rail lines linking Waterville with major Minnesota trade centers increased the need for temporary housing in the community; the Union Hotel was constructed in 1888 to help meet this need. Waterville's picturesque setting on two large lakes earned it the reputation of a popular vacation spot easily accessible by rail, and the Union Hotel catered not only to transients but also to vacationers. The Union Hotel is Waterville's best representative of the businesses that were established during the community's 19th century development.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Historic Photographs, LeSueur County Historical Society Museum, Elysian, Minnesota.

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

Sanborn Insurance Co. Maps., 1894, 1900, 1909, 1914, 1924.

