

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 11 1975
DATE ENTERED MAY 4 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Munch, Paul, House

AND/OR COMMON

Munch, Paul, House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Block 21 (Fire Number : Franconia N-907)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Village of Franconia

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8th

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

27

COUNTY

Chisago

CODE

025

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

William K. Gamber

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Shafer

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds - Chisago County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Center City

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society, Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

Saint Paul

STATE

Minnesota

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED since 1870 | <input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>ca. 1865</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Munch House is a two-story, clapboard-sided frame building 35'-5" long by 26'-5" deep with a 21'-1½" wide by 26'-2" deep one story kitchen wing at the rear. The structure is painted white with green blinds. It rests on foundation walls of dressed local sandstone. There is a full, dirt-floored basement under the main portion of the house. The crawl space under the kitchen is accessible only by doors to the outside on the south elevation of that wing. In style, it is a late example of the same Greek Revival as that of many of its many New England antecedents which were essentially Georgian or Federal with Greek detail applied. In the Munch House that detail consists principally of a deep but simple entablature, massive corner pilasters, and smaller pilasters flanking a front door that is surrounded by narrow glass sidelights and transom. The doorway is centered in the long facade of the house, facing northeast toward a road that as Summer Street once served as the main commercial thoroughfare of the village. Extending the length of the front elevation is a 7'-10" deep one story porch distinguished by thin posts with trim matching that of the entrance pilasters and supporting flat ogee arches. The bottom leg of the pediment at the gable ends of the house is broken, and horizontal continuation of the entablature on these sides of the building is only suggested by the "returns" above the corner pilasters. Except for that around the front door the wood trim surrounding exterior openings is narrow and undecorated. At the roof near the gable ends of both the main and kitchen wings are new chimneys. These are made of Galena sand mold brick and match as much as possible the location, color, and texture of the originals. The latter were the slim, rather insignificant elements typical of Greek Revival. The somewhat larger size of the replacements was required to accommodate the recent addition of a fireplace in the east parlor and an oil fired furnace. There were no fireplaces in the house, which until recent years was heated by stoves.

The house has the classic plan with a 6'-0½" wide central stairhall leading to the kitchen wing at the rear. A 23'-10½" deep by 13'-11" wide parlor opens off the hall on the east half of the main wing. Across the hall in the northwest corner is the 15'-5½" deep by 13'-11" wide library. Immediately south and opening directly to that room as well as to the hall is an 8'-10" deep by 13'-11" wide dining room. The wide, heavy Victorian moldings around the door and window openings in the library, which were probably added in the 1870 remodeling, have been retained. In current remodeling, however, more classic molding with eaved architraves were added to the window and door openings at all other rooms of the first floor in the main wing to replace existing interior trim; which like that of the exterior was simple and narrow. Except for that in the kitchen, where replacement was required, floors throughout the house are of the wide, thick original pine boards.

The newel post and balustrade are walnut. Upstairs the 14'-0" long by 13'-11" deep master bedroom above the east parlor is dominated by large, round headed openings containing double doors leading to closets at the north and south ends of the room. The south closet has been converted into a bathroom. Two smaller bedrooms open to the west off the 7'-9" wide upstairs hall. The northwest bedroom is 8'-6" by 12'-7" and the southwest room is 10'-8½" by 12'-7". Each of the west bedrooms has a long, narrow closet built under the lower end of the roof slope.

(see continuation sheet)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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In 1870, the house was extensively remodeled. Except for an enclosed porch added to the east side of the kitchen wing earlier in this century but removed in the current restoration, few other interior or exterior changes have been made. None of the oldest residents or neighbors recall seeing any paint on the exterior of the structure, but vestiges were noted in areas which were earlier exterior but subsequently covered by additional construction.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES ca.1855, 1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Munch House is the most imposing of the few remaining buildings in what was once the flourishing lumber and flour milling village of Franconia, Minnesota. Franconia was first settled by Ansel Smith in 1852, and was probably named after a city in his native New Hampshire. The village, located on the St. Croix River several miles below Taylors Falls, was bypassed by a railroad, unable to profitably make the sharp descent into its small, deep valley setting. That physical isolation, together with the disappearance of both the river traffic and the area's lumber supply, brought rapid decline after 1900. Today the town is essentially a summer retreat with only a few year-around residents.

The original builder and owner of the house is not known. In Munch family tradition, it is said that the main wing of the structure was built in the mid-1850s in a location several blocks to the east to serve as the company house for the saw-mill. On his return from army service in the Civil War, Paul Munch acquired the building and moved it to its present location across the street from a new stone grist mill which he and his brother, Gustave, built between St. Lawrence Creek and Church Hill. Paul was one of a number of brothers who came to Minnesota Territory from Germany in 1852 and first settled in neighboring Taylors Falls. There they operated a carpentry shop behind their home that is now known as the Munch-Roos House, and is listed on the National Register.

The house remained in possession of the Munch family until 1968, at which time it was purchased by its present owner. The latter, appreciative of its architectural merit, is currently completing a thorough restoration.

The Munch House is significant as an excellent and increasingly rare Minnesota example of a prosperous family home in the late Greek Revival style.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn
11/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Note: These changes apply to
Munch, Paul, House in Chisago
County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 76001050

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Chisago

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Taylors Falls

ADDRESS: Summer St.

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

**Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer**

JUN 17 1988

Date