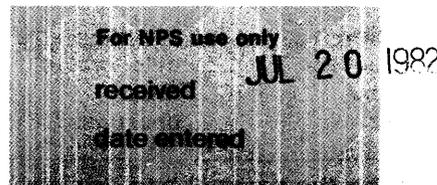


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 John F. Cook/George A. Hormel House Cook-Hormel House

and/or common YWCA

2. Location

street & number 208 4th Avenue N.W. <sup>9 9</sup> N/A not for publication

city, town Austin N/A vicinity of congressional district N/A

state Minnesota code 22 county Mower code 099

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <u>YWCA</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> park
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Board of Trustees of the YWCA

street & number 208 4th Avenue N.W.

city, town Austin N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Mower County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Austin state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A N/A  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society -- Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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		

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on the northeast corner of Fourth Avenue and Second Street Northwest in Austin, Minnesota, the Cook-Hormel House was constructed by John F. Cook in 1871. Constructed principally of red brick, the rambling residence was Italianate in design. It was, however, extensively altered by its second owner and resident, George A. Hormel, in 1902.

Photographic documentation indicates that the original house was two stories in height and had a bracketted complex hip/gable roof. A one-story open porch with square columns extended the length of the entire front facade. Of the Italianate features, only selected segmentally arched double-hung windows remain.

In the 1902 remodelling, the residence was given a Neo-classic appearance on the exterior by adding a two story Ionic portico. The roof lines were changed to intersecting gables, totally eliminating the Italianate hip. The multi-bracketted cornice was retained as a distinctive architectural design element. Other alterations included construction of a one story porch on the southeast corner (enclosed for a sunroom in 1906) and the extensions of bays in the dining and living room areas. The entire exterior brick surface was sheathed with stucco, probably to mask alterations made with dissimilar brick.

The interior of the residence was also extensively altered in 1902 with fine woodwork in the classic style, evidenced by highly polished Ionic columns, carved garlands and swags, and dentillated cove mouldings. Leaded glass windows were installed in the dining room bay windows and buffet.

Two garage structures were added to the rear of the residence. These were remodelled to serve as local Girl Scout headquarters in 1939-40. Given to the YWCA by the Hormels in 1927, the property continues to serve the needs of this organization and is excellently maintained.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1871 & 1902      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Cook-Hormel House is significant for its association with John Cook, Austin Mayor and businessman and George Hormel, founder of Geo. Hormel and Company, a nationwide meat packer and processor and as one of the most visually distinctive residences in Austin.

John Cook, first owner of the house, was born in Malone, New York in 1823 and settled permanently in Austin in 1864. Active in business and civic affairs, Cook served as mayor in 1870 and 1874. It was during his first term in office that he built the house.

In 1901, George Hormel bought the house. Hormel, born in New York in 1860, was raised in Toledo. He moved to Austin in 1887 after working as a buyer in northern Iowa and southern Minnesota for Oberne, Hosick and Company, a hide, wool, and fur company.

Tired of being on the road for seven years, Hormel bought a meat market in Austin in 1887 in partnership with A.L. Friedrich. Never thinking of himself as a meat retailer, Hormel, dissolved his relationship with Friedrich in 1892 and began the operation of a small slaughtering plant in a former creamery.

In 1901 the Geo. A. Hormel & Co. was incorporated with Hormel serving as president until his retirement in 1928. Under his leadership a handful of local workers grew to over 8,000 employees nationwide with slaughtering operations, distribution plants and sales offices located across the United States and in four foreign countries. The annual sales of one-half billion dollars makes Hormel and Co. the fifth largest meat packer and processor in the United States.

In 1928 George and Belle Hormel retired to Beverly Hills and at Belle's suggestion presented their home to the YWCA. Belle saw to the house's maintenance and in 1939 made provision for the construction of an addition for the Girl Scouts.

Although the Hormel's died in 1946, the house has remained with the two organizations. The house remains a visible link to the nationally recognized meat packing industry developed by Hormel and to the philanthropic activities of Mr. and Mrs. Hormel.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

- "Business to Halt as City Pays Tribute to Hormel Co. Founder," Austin Daily Herald, 9 June 1946.  
 "Funeral Service for Mrs. Hormel to be at YWCA," Austin Daily Herald, March 1946.  
 "In Honor of Geo. A. Hormel," Squeal (Hormel News Magazine) Vol. XVI, Nov., 1941.  
 "Mrs. Julia Cook recalls Interesting Family History." Austin Daily Herald, 8 August 1953.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Austin Quad, MINN.

Quadrangle scale 15

UMT References Latitude:  $43^{\circ} 40' 16''$  Longitude:  $92^{\circ} 59' 38''$

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 Zone Easting Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The south 36.74 feet of lots 4 and 5, all of lots 6, 7, and 8, Block 2, Morgans Addition, City of Austin, Minnesota.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Roth, Research Historian and Charles Nelson, Historical Architect

organization Minnesota Historical Society date April 20, 1982

street & number Fort Snelling History Center 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Russell W. Fridley

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/9/82

For NPS use only

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

Allous Byers  
 Keeper of the National Register

Included in the  
 National Register

date 8/19/82

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date