

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Brandrup, J.R., House
 CURRENT NAME: Steil, William, House
 LEGAL DESC.: Lewis & Shabuts Addition
 Lots 1 & 2
 Block 4

COUNTY: Blue Earth
 CITY/TWP.: Mankato
 ADDRESS: 704 Byron

MAY 20 1980

JUL 28 1980

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent <u>X</u>	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Education</u>
Structure _____	Good _____	State _____	Secondary <u>Architecture</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes ___ No X Restricted ___
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No ___
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No ___

PRESENT USE:
 Residence

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1904

ORIGINAL USE: Residence

ORIGINAL OWNER: J.R. Brandrup

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Albert Schippel, Mankato

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: William & J.M. Steil
 704 Byron
 Mankato, MN 56001

ACREAGE: Less than one acre X

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Blue Earth County Historical Society,
 606 Broad, Mankato, MN 56001

UTM REFERENCE:

Mankato West 7.5

15 / 419330 / 4889360

FORM PREPARED BY: Dennis Gimmetad

DATE: January 1980

DESCRIPTION:

The J.R. Brandrup House is located on a prominent site in the Lincoln Park area of Mankato, southwest of the central business district. The house is situated on the edge of one of the early platted additions to the city, and the property drops sharply into a ravine at its southern boundary.

The house is a two-and-one-half story frame structure with an irregular roof and clap-board siding, constructed on a rock-faced stone foundation. A stair bay is located on the south facade and a two-story window bay is on the north facade. At the northwest corner is a two story, three-sided bay capped by a pedimented gable with oculus. One-story open porches are at the front and north sides. Classical Revival millwork on the house includes Palladian windows in the three principal attic gables, ornamental modillions under the eaves, curvilinear relief panels on the corner bay, and columns and turned balustrades on the front and side porches. A large rectangular chimney (somewhat altered) pierces the roof near the rear of the structure.

The interior of the house is basically unaltered and retains original millwork. According to a reference in the autobiography of the original owner, the millwork was manufactured in Winona, Minnesota.

A carriage house is located at the northwestern corner of the property. The one-and-one-half story frame structure has a simple gable roof with cupola and a large dormer on the north (front) side. The construction date of the carriage house has not been documented.

The architect's specifications for the house are in the collections of the Blue Earth County Historical Society.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The J.R. Brandrup House is significant for the role its builder assumed in the establishment and development of one of Mankato's important educational institutions, and is outstanding in Mankato's Lincoln Park neighborhood for its prominent siting and elaborate Classical Revival detailing. J.R. Brandrup was born in 1864 in North Schleswig, a province that had just been transferred from Danish to German rule. In 1885, he immigrated to Minnesota, farming with an uncle near Breckenridge and acquiring business training in Minneapolis. After a teaching stint at Luther Academy in Albert Lea, he moved to Mankato in 1891 to assume one of two teaching posts with the newly-established Northwestern College of Commerce. By July 1892, he had acquired one-half interest in the institution. He owned the school, which

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Blue Earth County
Mankato, Minnesota

became known as the Mankato Commercial College, with three different partners before assuming full control in 1922. As a successful private institution of vocational training, the school served the active commercial and business life of the area, as well as providing an early educational "alternative" to the Mankato State Normal School, which had been established in 1868. The school continues in operation today. Brandrup constructed his Byron Street home in 1904, choosing a site overlooking one of the many ravines which bisect the Mankato townsite. He lived in the house until his death in 1944.

Bibliography

Brandrup, J.R. Saga of a Commercial Educator. Mankato: privately published, 1937(?).

Hughes, Thomas. History of Blue Earth County, and Biographies of Its Leading Citizens. Chicago: Middle West Publishing Company, 1909(?). pp. 208, 221.