

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: John Olness House

COUNTY: Clay

80007015
JAN 19 1980

CURRENT NAME: Richards House

CITY/TWP.: Kragnes Township

LEGAL DESC.: SW $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec. 27, T141, R48,
From a point 200' north and 100' east of the SW corner of
Sec. 27: 50' north, 100' east, 50' south, and 100' west to
point of origin.

ADDRESS: U.S. Highway 75

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes _____ No X Restricted _____

PRESENT USE:

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No _____

Residence

OCCUPIED: Yes X No _____

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1902

ORIGINAL USE: Residence

ORIGINAL OWNER: John Olness

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Brattenborg

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Donald W. Richards
Route 1
Moorhead, MN 56560ACREAGE: Less than one acre X

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:

UTM REFERENCE:

14 / 670910 / 5206510

FORM PREPARED BY: Tom Harvey

Fargo North 7.5 quad.

DATE: October 1979

DESCRIPTION:

The Olness House is a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ story, frame structure basically square in plan, with porches and bay windows. The gable roof runs parallel to the front facade. The symmetrical Classical front facade gives way to Queen Anne details.

The front entrance is in an extended pavillion with a gable roof. Steps lead to a double door, with transom. The door surround is engaged Tuscan columns. Similar columns support the projecting pavillion. Porches run the width of the house on both floors. The first floor front windows are in segmental arched openings, while the second floor windows have semi-circular arches.

Bay windows extend off both sides of the house near the rear wall. The west side bay is polygonal; the east side bay is rectangular. Both bays have pedimented gable roofs. The gables on the bay windows, as on the pavillion, are decorated with scroll and garland woodwork. The polygonal bay has a section of diagonal boards below an eyebrow window. Dentils decorate the boxed cornice roof eaves.

Interior woodwork is oak and maple. Of note are the stairway and built in buffet. There are several stained glass windows in the house.

SIGNIFICANCE:

In addition to its architectural significance in Clay County, the Olness House represents the commercial and speculative successes of small town merchants. The town of Kragnes, platted in 1907 by Almond White, Solomon G. Comstock's partner in railroad townsite development, post-dates the rail line by twenty-four years. But the business core of Kragnes was established some years before the formal plat. John Olness at one time owned the Kragnes general merchandise store, grain elevator, and lumber yard - the key business concerns in small towns of the Red River Valley. He also owned two sections of land near the town. While the town of Kragnes was never really successful (it has never been large enough to incorporate), John Olness was quite successful as a merchant and land speculator. His house reflects his importance at the turn-of-the-century.

MAY 7 1980

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper *Albion Lyman*
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Olness, John, House in Clay County,
Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002018

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Clay

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Georgetown

ADDRESS: U.S. Hwy.75

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Olness, John, House

MULTIPLE NAME: Clay County MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MINNESOTA, Clay

DATE RECEIVED: 12/09/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/22/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002018

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Accepted

RECOM./CRITERIA *Accept*
REVIEWER *Edson Beall* DISCIPLINE *Historian*
TELEPHONE _____ DATE *1-22-09*

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Olness, John, House

Name of property

Clay County, MN

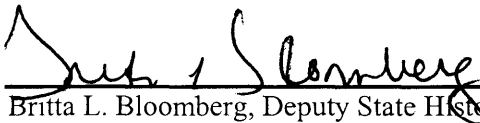
County and State

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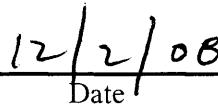
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

National Register Number: 80002018

Location, Street & Number: 10066 20th St. N.



Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Minnesota Historical Society


Date