

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Minnesota	
COUNTY: Nicollet	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.12.27.0029	DATE 12/2/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Ridgely

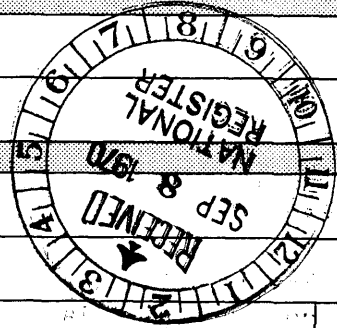
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Section 6, Township 113 N., Range 32 W

CITY OR TOWN:
Fairfax

STATE Minnesota	CODE 55332	COUNTY: Nicollet	CODE 103
---------------------------	----------------------	----------------------------	--------------------



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Minnesota Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
690 Cedar Street

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Paul

STATE:
Minnesota

CODE:
22

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Nicollet County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Peter

STATE:
Minnesota

CODE:
22

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Minnesota State Register of Historical Sites

DATE OF SURVEY: **1969** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Minnesota Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
690 Cedar Street

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Paul

STATE:
Minnesota

CODE:
22

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Minnesota**

COUNTY: **Nicollet**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: **70.12.27.0029**

DATE: **12/2/70**

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

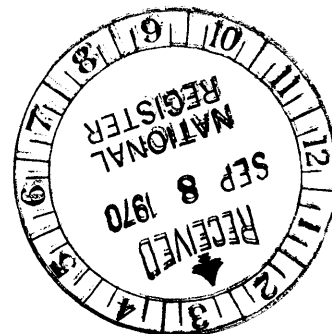
The boundaries of the nominated property are the same as Fort Ridgely State Park boundaries on the east and south except extending west on County Road 29 to the North/South boundary of Section 6, R 32 W, T 111 N; thence, north on this line to the Renville/Nicollet County border and east on this line to the present State Park border.

When Fort Ridgely was completed in 1855 it consisted of the commandant's and surgeon's homes, a stone barracks, officer's quarters, a bakery, a laundry, and the commissary, grouped around a parade ground about 300 feet square. Outside this main grouping were various other structures including stables, sutlers' buildings, a hospital, small log residences for non-commissioned officers and civilians, two powder magazines and various ice houses and root cellars. The original plan of the Fort called for a stockade and two block-houses. These were never built.

In 1935 when excavation of the site was begun, all that remained of the original buildings were the south, east and west walls of the stone commissary and one of the log powder magazines which had been moved from its original site.

Presently the foundations of eight of these original buildings can be seen, having been exposed by the excavation in 1935. These foundations are marked with interpretive plaques. The powder magazine has been moved back to the fort area. The commissary building was restored in 1937 as a joint project of the Minnesota Historical Society, the C.C.C., Minnesota State Parks, and the National Park Service. The building is presently being used as a museum and interpretive center.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

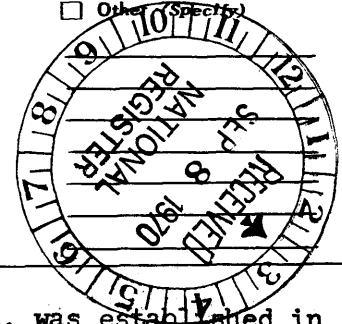
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Ridgely, Minnesota's third military post, was established in 1853 to defend the frontier and watch over the Sioux Indians in the Minnesota Valley. In the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux of 1851, the Sioux had agreed to move to new reservations along the upper Minnesota River which roughly included lands on each side of the river extending from near the present-day town of Granite Falls to New Ulm.

The first proposal to establish a fort on the Minnesota River was made in the summer of 1852 by Henry Sibley, Minnesota's Territorial delegate to Congress. This proposal was made to the General in Chief of the U.S. Army. It was pointed out that the hundreds of settlers taking up lands in the Valley would need protection. The proposal was approved by Congressmen from Wisconsin and Iowa and was quickly accepted. That same year, the site was selected inside the eastern boundary of the Sioux Reservation. It was on a level plateau, 150 feet above the valley floor and about three-fourths of a mile north of the river. It had certain drawbacks in the steep-wooded ravines, but there were certain advantages, namely, building stone, wood, and water.

In 1853, three companies of the 6th United States Infantry were assigned to build the new post. On April 29, 1853, two companies arrived at the "Point" as the site was called. They traveled to the site on the "West Newton", which was the first steamboat to travel this far up the Minnesota River.

The fort was completed in 1855. From 1853 to 1861, the fort was garrisoned by U.S. Army troops. With the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, the post was manned by Minnesota Volunteer Regiments. For 10 years, 1852-1862, the settlers and troops at Fort Ridgely lived in peace with their Indian neighbors. The Sioux Indians attacked the Lower Agency at Redwood Falls on August 18. By noon of that day, refugees were pouring into the fort. On August 20, 400 Sioux warriors attacked the fort and were beaten off. An even larger band, estimated at 800 to 1000, attacked the fort on August 22. Only one regular army soldier was on the grounds at the time of the attack. However, the volunteers, some untrained and some with previous military experience, used artillery to repulse attacks. The fort was not taken.

Fort Ridgely was garrisoned until 1867. Five years later, it passed into ruins and history. The commander of the fort, Col. Sheean, and a citizen, Mr. Hopkins, began an early movement to protect the Fort's ruins. In 1896, the state erected a monument in the center of the Fort parade grounds. Today, the foundations, one restoration and one of the three original powder houses remain as visible evidence of the frontier military post. Fort Ridgely will be further interpreted as an illustration of the frontier military history of the United States and Minnesota.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carley, Kenneth, Sioux Uprising, 1862
 Fridley, Russell W & June Holmquist, History Along the Highways
 Fridley, Russell W & Peter Popovich, Gopher Reader
 Holmquist, June and Jean Brookins, Major Historic Sites in Minnesota
 Folwell, William W., History of Minnesota (vol. 2)

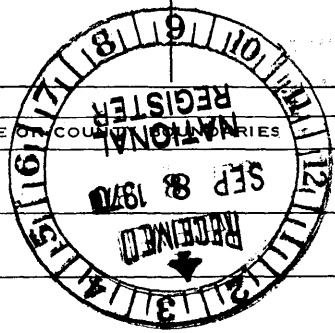
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	44	22	25	94	44	40.4			
NE	44	22	25	94	43	9.8			
SE	44	26	45	94	43	9.8			
SW	44	26	45	94	44	40.4			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 484

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
John Grossman, Survey and Planning

ORGANIZATION: **Minnesota Historical Society** DATE: **March 24, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Fort Snelling Branch Building 25

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Paul** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **22**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Russell W. Fridley

Title: Director, Minnesota Historical Society

Date: _____

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

Ernest Allen Casarey
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 DEC 2 1970

Date: _____

ATTEST:

William J. Mustang
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: **NOV 1 1970**

100-2567/1970
 100-2567/1970
 100-2567/1970

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

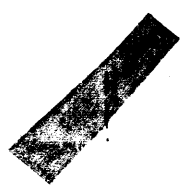
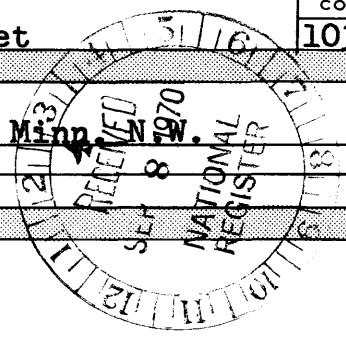
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Minnesota	
COUNTY Nicollet	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.12.27.0029	DATE 12/2/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Fort Ridgely	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Fairfax			
STATE: Minnesota	CODE 22	COUNTY: Nicollet	CODE 103
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5 Quadrangle, Sleepy Eye, Minn.			
SCALE: 1" = 24000"			
DATE: 1964			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Fort Ridgely in Nicollet County,
Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 70000304

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Nicollet

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Fairfax

ADDRESS: Mn. Hwy. 4

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date