

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received OCT 11 1984

date entered NOV 8 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Stewart, William E., House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 733 Range Street N/A not for publication

city, town North Mankato N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Nicollet code 103

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<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 type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Robert E. and Elouise B. Olson

street & number 733 Range Street

city, town North Mankato N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 56001

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Recorder's Office - Nicollet County Courthouse

street & number 502 South Minnesota Avenue

city, town St. Peter state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July 1982 federal state county local

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

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The William E. Stewart House, carriage house, and barn occupy a large wooded lot which is the remnant of a former 63 acre estate directly north of the central business district of North Manakto. The estate consisted of the present extant buildings as well as two kilns, numerous drying sheds, and a brickyard and claypit. Constructed in 1910, the house and ancillary structures remain in an excellent state of preservation and integrity.

The Stewart House is a two story rectangular red brick structure crowned by a dormered hipped roof with broad eaves. Architectural detailing consists of simple, integral pilasters with pseudo-Doric capitals on the two-story front porch, buff-colored Kasota stone lintels, sills, and foundation, balanced two-story polygonal bays centrally placed on the longitudinal facades, and dormers with either full or broken pediments. The front dormer is highlighted by a tripartite window with a lunette in the Palladian mode. Original fenestration survives throughout as does an unaltered interior complete with oak beamed ceilings, fireplaces, finished attic, and other accouterments.

Immediately to the rear, off-set to the southwest, but physically linked to the main house is a two story carriage house also erected of red brick. It is rectangular in plan with the low gabled roof concealed behind stepped parapets. The first story is relegated to the carriage-storage function as evidenced by three sets of double folding or sliding doors. The second floor originally served as an apartment for the brickyard manager and continues to serve a residential function.

The barn is a detached two story brick structure with a simple gable roof. The otherwise plain facades are highlighted by two brick soldier courses which extend around the perimeter and diamond-shaped windows in the upper portions of the gables. Evidence of the original stable function is noted in the sliding double wooden door and the bank of five small windows at former stall locations. The second level of the barn is a hay-loft.

The property continues to be well-maintained with vestiges of original landscaping evident.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1910 **Builder/Architect** Henry C. Gerlach (Mankato)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The William E. Stewart house, barn and carriage house, built for the founder of the Mankato Brick and Tile Company of brick manufactured at the adjacent brickyards, are historically significant for their associations with the brick industry that flourish in Mankato, North Mankato, and Le Hillier in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Brick manufacturing was among the important industries in the Mankato area beginning in 1856 when the first brickyards opened in the city of Mankato. Abundant alluvial clay found in the flood plain of the Minnesota river was used to make bricks. Flood plain clay, as it was known, is generally of fair plasticity, sandy in composition, and red or salmon in color. Higher grades of clay were also present in the area but were of limited availability and were used infrequently, primarily for pottery and drain tile. Production and use of bricks increased steadily until the Civil War. Although it was reported in the Mankato Record in 1867 that "brick here is cheaper than any other point in the state", wood remained a more popular building material as it was less expensive. After the Civil War the coming of the railroad and the subsequent population boom gave renewed impetus to the growth of the brick industry in the area. By 1887 the brick manufacturing industry had crossed the river to North Mankato. Production of bricks in the Mankato area increased from 2,000,000 in 1869 to a peak of 12,500,000 in 1892. At the peak there were fifteen brickyards in the area, four of them in North Mankato. Mankato bricks were shipped by rail to nearby communities and throughout the Midwest.

The first North Mankato brickyard opened in 1887 and was operated by Martin Meihoffer who also had a yard in Mankato. Later that year A.L. Wheeler and O.E. Bennett opened another yard in North Mankato, under the name of Wheeler and Bennett. In 1892 they acquired another yard that had opened in 1888, and the following year they acquired the Meihoffer yard.

William E. Stewart was born in Walnut Lake in 1868. By the time he was thirteen he was living with the family of A.L. Wheeler who later became one of the proprietors of the Wheeler and Bennett brickyard. Stewart no doubt became acquainted with the brick industry through his associations with Wheeler. Stewart attended the Mankato State Normal School and Mankato Commercial College. In 1905 he opened the Mankato Brick and Tile Company, adjacent to the Wheeler and Bennett yard. The Stewart Yard, as it was known, was the last brickyard to be opened, and can be considered the culmination of the brick-making industry in the area. By 1907 twenty-eight men were on the payroll. In 1910 Stewart built his imposing brick house adjacent to the yards. The company produced the following types of brick: common, cistern, veneer, chimney, face, culs, and kiln run.

(see continuation sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hagen, Dennis J. "Historical Geographic Study of the Clay-Related Industries of the Mankato Area." Unpublished M.A. thesis, Mankato State University, December, 1975.
 Hughes, Thomas. History of Blue Earth County and Biographies of its Leading Citizens. Mankato Free Press Special Illustrated Edition, December, 1895. (see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one
 Quadrangle name Mankato West Quad., Minnesota Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>9</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The south 108 feet of the north 248 feet of the west 250 feet of the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter south of Monroe Avenue, Section 12, Township 108 North, Range 27 West.

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sue Hodapp (edited by State Historic Preservation Office Staff)
 organization N/A date 8/27/84
 street & number 2845 North Pascal Street, #1 telephone 612-636-6056
 city or town Roseville 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
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/26/84

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

[Signature] Entered in the National Register date 11-8-84
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet William E. Stewart House Item number 8,9

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8. Significance -- continued

Among the many North Mankato and Mankato buildings constructed of brick from the Stewart brickyards are the Mankato Armory, Hubbard Mill, St. Joseph's Hospital, the International Harvester Company, Citizens Telephone Company, and other commercial buildings, churches, schools, and numerous houses. The company also shipped brick to cities throughout the state, as well as to Iowa, Missouri, and other states. By 1918 the Stewart Yard was the only brickyard operating in the area. It then produced from one to two million bricks annually.

The decline of the brick industry in Mankato is generally attributed to the inevitable depletion of the alluvial clay deposits. The remaining clay had a high lime content and was not suitable for brick making. In addition to the depletion of the clay deposits, brickyards in Chaska and Springfield had become major producers of higher quality brick used for veneering buildings, and the Mankato common brick was primarily used for interior and rear walls. Stewart retired from the company in 1932 and died in 1938, three years after the brickyard closed, ending eighty years of brick production in the Mankato area.

The architect of the Stewart house, Henry C. Gerlach, was born in Milwaukee in 1859 and educated there. He moved to St. Paul in 1883 and to Mankato in 1885 where he established an architectural practice. Among the buildings he designed from 1885 to 1895 are the Mankato State Normal School, the Mankato City High School, the Blue Earth County Jail, a hospital, First Baptist Church in Mankato, the Watonwan County Courthouse in St. James, several commercial buildings, and other structures in New Ulm, St. Peter, Jordan, Mapleton, Madelia, and other communities in southern Minnesota. The Mankato Free Press reported in an 1895 issue that Gerlach used Mankato building materials, including brick, sandstone and granite, where possible in his designs. Though existing records are unclear, the contractor for the Stewart house was probably J.B. Nelsen of Mankato.

9. Major Bibliographical References -- continued

Obituary for William E. Stewart. Mankato Free Press, April 4, 1938.

Mankato Record. January 12, 1867.