

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation 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 Dodge County Multiple Resource Area

historic Historic Resources of Dodge County (Partial Inventory)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number The County Limits of Dodge County, Minnesota N/A not for publication

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

state Minnesota code 22 county Dodge code 039

3. Classification -- Multiple Resources -- see individual inventory forms

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership -- see individual inventory forms

street & number N/A

city, town N/A N/A vicinity of state N/A

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorders Office, Dodge County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Mantorville state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1980 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society -- 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 15 1982
DATE ENTERED	

Historic Resources of Dodge County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

This Multiple Resource Area Nomination is based on a survey of standing structures conducted in Dodge County by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office as part of a long-range statewide survey of historic resources. The properties included in the nomination represent those which illustrate significant aspects of the history of the county and which have been deemed eligible for nomination to the National Register at the conclusion of the survey. Additional information and new perspectives for evaluation of specific types of historic properties are continually being gained as the statewide survey progresses, and it is quite possible that additional Dodge County properties will be nominated in the future. These may be presented individually or as parts of thematic groups when the entire survey is completed. For this reason, this Multiple Resource Area Nomination should not be construed as representing all properties in Dodge County eligible for nomination.

(The above disclaimer is based on an agreement between Charles Herrington, HCRS, and Russell Fridley, Minnesota SHPO, August 31, 1979)

DODGE COUNTY

MAR 15 1982

Survey Method

Standing Structures

The basis of the survey for this nomination is an inventory of structures which are indicative of various aspects of Dodge County's history. Structures were identified and inventoried during a county-wide survey conducted during the summer of 1980.

Selection of structures for the inventory included both field reconnaissance of pre-identified sites and isolation of sites on a purely visual basis. Pre-identification of sites was limited to a small number of the most significant locations (those unique on a county wide scale, or significantly linked with some aspect of county history). County histories, individual community histories, and photographs from both the state historical society and private collections were researched for site-specific information. General references to common buildings were not noted.

All city streets were walked or driven. All rural non-farm structures, pre-identified sites, and locally suggested buildings were visited. The roads connecting these dispersed sites provided a strong sampling of the rural landscape. Pre-identified sites were inventoried regardless of integrity. Other buildings with unusual integrity or unique features were also inventoried. In general, structures built before 1940 were considered for an inventory.

Follow-up information (both localized specific and generalized contextual) on some sites was gathered to help establish significance.

In each region of the county, at least one and in most cases several local contacts were made through the county historical society and by random inquiry. These were most often helpful in locating information on selected properties, but also in pointing out additional locations for inventory.

From the inventory of approximately 153 sites, 6 properties (and groups of properties) were selected for nomination to the National Register, mostly on the basis of their significance within the county. Information and photographs on all sites are recorded on inventory forms for a permanent record.

MAR 15 1982

DODGE COUNTY

Dodge County is in the southeastern triangle of Minnesota, in the second tier of counties north of the Iowa line. It is rectangular in shape, 24 miles north and south, and 18 miles east and west. On the north is Goodhue County. Olmsted County is on the east, Mower County on the south, and Steele County on the west.

Early Settlement

Government surveys, preliminary to opening southeastern Minnesota to preemption, were started in the summer of 1853. The influx of settlement began in 1854, and before the close of that year the future county was well dotted with cabins, except in the extreme southern and northwestern parts.

Squatters filed on their claims as soon as the Government land office at Winona opened early in 1855, and the public lands in the county were practically all taken before the middle of the 1860s.

A colony of New Hampshire people centered at Rice Lake village in what is now Claremont Township. The first house in the village, erected in 1855, became a stagecoach tavern. People of English background, born in New England and in a few other of the older states, constituted the greater part of the newcomers in the next few years.

A Norwegian colony was started in the middle 1850s and it increased in succeeding years until the people of that nationality formed a compact colony in the southeastern part of the county. Several Swiss families settled in Milton Township in 1856. The village of Bern, which they named from their native canton, became the center of one of the four principal Swiss colonies in Minnesota. The German colony had its beginning in Claremont Township in 1857. Groups of Danes, Irish, British, and Canadians also arrived in substantial numbers before the influx of settlers diminished.

Mantorville has been the seat of government of Dodge County since the first meeting of the first board of county commissioners on August 4, 1855. In 1856 the Legislature officially located the county seat there, but provided that the question of a permanent location should be submitted to the voters. The voters, in the fall of 1857, declared against a proposition to remove the county seat to Sacramento, a village platted in the fall of 1855 on the Zumbro River on the west edge of the present Mantorville Township. In 1859, by a vote of 415 for and 617 against, the voters blocked an attempted removal of the county seat to Wasioja.

Transportation and Settlement

A trail was laid out east and west through Dodge County in July 1852. The route was chosen by three settlers living at Rollingstone /Minnesota City/ a short distance above Winona. It started at the Fort Snelling military road at Rollingstone, passed near or through the future sites of Rochester, Mantorville, and Owatonna, and then turned toward the northwest to meet the Mindota-Big Sioux military road just east of St. Peter. Within two years, north and south roads had been laid out, one passing through Rochester, a few miles east of the present Dodge County, and one through Owatonna, a few miles west. By 1860 the Dodge County settlers had direct highway connection with all the cities and villages of southeastern Minnesota.

Associated with this pre-railroad era of settlement in the county are Wasioja (settled in 1854) and Mantorville, the county seat (platted 1856 and incorporated 1857).

The Minnesota Central Railroad reached Faribault from the north in 1866. Work was continued southward, and in 1867 the tracks were united near Austin with rails which had been built through northeastern Iowa. This line was the first railroad to connect St. Paul with the Eastern States.

The Winona and St. Peter Railroad was built from Rochester to Kasson in 1865 and from Kasson to Owatonna in 1866. A branch of this road was built from Kasson to Mantorville, a distance of 2.91 miles, in 1890, and this was discontinued in 1932.

In 1886, a line later owned by the Chicago, Great Western was built through Dodge County from St. Paul to Lyle on the Iowa border.

A line built from Eden to Wasioja in 1890 was acquired by the Chicago Great Western in 1909, and a line built from Wasioja to Mantorville in 1897 was also acquired by the Chicago Great Western in 1909. The road between Eden and Mantorville was discontinued in 1935.

Settlements generally associated with the arrival and development of the railroad include Kasson (platted 1865 and incorporated 1870), Dodge Center (platted 1869 and incorporated 1872), West Concord (incorporated 1894), Hayfield (incorporated 1896), and Claremont (incorporated 1878).

Agriculture and Manufactures

Agriculture and its closely allied and dependent activities is practically the only industry in Dodge County. The prairie settlers in southeastern Minnesota devoted their first efforts to erecting shelters and to starting the rudiments of subsistence farming. As soon as tracts of sufficient size were broken and prepared for cultivation, farming assumed a commercial aspect with the raising of cereals. In 1859 Dodge County, with an area of but twelve Congressional townships, produced 74,757 bushels of wheat, 66,678 of corn, 51,311 of oats, and 7,749 of barley. The potato yield was 91,474 bushels.

Wheat rapidly forged ahead as the leading crop. The wheat era reached its height in 1880 with a yield of 884,839 bushels from 90,400 acres. The amount decreased to 344,040 bushels in 1900. Since then, the decline in wheat growing has been such that in 1939 the entire production of spring and winter wheat was but 22,561 bushels. The years of the sharp reduction in wheat acreage were marked by a rapid increase in dairying and diversified farming, with particular attention paid to stock raising.

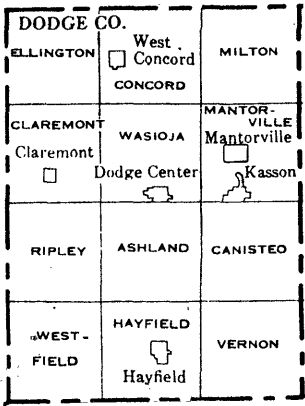
Six creameries and fourteen cheese factories furnished an outlet for a part of the dairy products of Dodge County. There were also two ice cream plants and a pasteurization plant.

Limestone quarrying along the tributaries of the Zumbro River was carried on extensively, beginning in 1856. The industry centered at Mantorville and produced both structural stone and crushed rock. The courthouse at Mantorville is but one of many buildings in southern Minnesota which have been constructed of Dodge County stone. Grist mills were another early industry, and some of these developed into flour mills. In addition to the dairy products establishments already mentioned and the usual grain elevators and municipal improvements in various places, industry has been represented by a canning factory at Dodge Center and a brewery at Mantorville.

Architecture

Architecture in the county is largely of wood frame construction. However, owing to the local limestone and quarrying, there is an abundance of masonry construction, including brick along with the stone. A number of the significant masonry houses in Dodge County have been built in rural areas on farms while the large village and city houses have tended to be wood frame and of less notable style and detail.

(This brief summary of Dodge County's development is adapted from W.P.A. Minnesota Historical Records Survey, Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota: No. 20, Dodge County, St. Paul, 1941.)



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DODGE COUNTY

From the 1850s through the early years of the twentieth century the development of Dodge County has largely paralleled the development of other southern and southeastern counties with the exception that there is little water in the county available for either transportation or power. Generally Dodge County experienced early settlement associated with roads and stage lines, followed by rail line townsite development. With this came agricultural and agri-industrial prosperity. Following regional patterns, agricultural development was initially based on wheat production, later evolving to move diversified operations as wheat moved westward. The only significant industrial activities were associated with these stages of agricultural change.

Early settlement and community development is represented by an extremely rich heritage of buildings and structures in the Wasioja Historic District (1850s, Wasioja Village; placed on the National Register in 1975) and the Mantorville Historic District (1850s to 1918, Mantorville; placed on the National Register in 1974). Together, these two historic districts include the vast majority of significant buildings in the county and also representatives of almost all of the county's major themes. Included are the historically and architecturally important Dodge County Courthouse, the Hubbell House, and many important residences in Mantorville; and in Wasioja are an equally important collection of structures including the Doig House, Wasioja Seminary, Civil War Recruiting Station, and lime kiln.

While these districts represent early city and village settlement and government, rural agricultural prosperity is illustrated by the Holtermann House (c1878-79, Vernon Twp.), Carlson House (1880, Canisteo Twp.), and Nelson House (early 1870s, Concord Twp.) Not only do these houses in their size and design reveal the prosperity enjoyed by county farmers in the late nineteenth century, but in the cases of the Karlson and Nelson houses also represent various settlement groups--Norwegian and Yankee, respectively.

While not encompassing a historic district, urban growth in the county's largest city--Kasson--is reflected in a number of buildings. Largely developed as a rail center, Kasson had a number of hotels in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Eureka Hotel (1894, Kasson) represents both the commercial growth of the city and the rail system, being located directly on the rail line. This commercial prosperity is even more explicitly recognized in the Jacob Leuthold Jr. House (1905, Kasson). Leuthold, beginning in 1878 and continuing into the twentieth century, developed an extensive system of clothing chain stores which eventually included 42 outlets and extended over several states. His operation may have been one of the earliest clothing chains in the nation. Kasson's urban prosperity and sense of civic responsibility is seen in the Kasson Water Tower (1895, Kasson; placed on the National Register in 1976) and the Kasson Municipal Building (1917, Kasson). Both indicate concern with municipal improvements, the water tower being associated with public utilities and the municipal building with modernizing city services in general by gathering them into a single building.

Dodge County - page 2

The county is quite rich in examples of architectural styles, with fine collections of commercial, public, and domestic buildings in the Mantorville and Wasioja historic districts. Of particular note is the stone Courthouse, the only Greek Revival county courthouse surviving in Minnesota. Variations of the domestic Italianate style is well represented in the three farmhouses--Holtermann, Carlson, and Nelson. The design activity of noted architects is seen in the work of Kees and Colburn in the Leuthold House and of Purcell and Elmslie in the Kasson Municipal Building.

Area Significance

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data -- See individual inventory forms

Acres of nominated property N/A

Quadrangle name N/A

UMT References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale N/A

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

N/A see individual inventory forms

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert M. Frame III, Ph.D.
Architectural Historian and Research Historian

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date July 1981

street & number 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

telephone 612-296-9074

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is: See individual inventory forms

N/A 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 2/10/82

For HCRRS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

MAR 15 1932

DODGE COUNTY BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Gebhard, David, and Tom Martinson. Guide to the Architecture of Minnesota. Minneapolis, 1977.
- History of Winona, Olmsted, Dodge Counties. Chicago, 1884.
- Kasson Centennial Corporation. Kasson Centennial: . . . 1865-1965. Kasson, 1965.
- Lebhar, Godfrey M. Chain Stores in America, 1859-1959. New York, 1952, 1959.
- Severson, Harold. Dodge County, 125 Years of Growth. Mantorville, 1979.
- Severson, Harold. Dodge County Profiles, 1960. (Kenyon? 1960?)
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

Item number

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Dodge County Multiple Resource Area
State MN

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Carlson, Ole, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Nelous Byers 4/16/82

Attest

2. Nelson, Perry, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

William H. Brauman 4.16.82

Attest

Linda McClelland 4.15.82

3. Holtermann, Andrew, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Nelous Byers 4/16/82

Attest

4. Eureka Hotel

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Nelous Byers 4/16/82

Attest

5. Kasson Municipal Building

Substantive Review

Keeper

William H. Brauman 4.16.82

Attest

Linda McClelland 4.15.82

6. Leuthold, Jacob, Jr., House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Nelous Byers 4/16/82

Attest

7.

Keeper

Attest

8.

Keeper

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest