

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 2 1975
DATE ENTERED	SEP 5 1975

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Taylor, George W., House

AND/OR COMMON

Taylor, George W., House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

103 South Second Street

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Le Sueur

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
2nd

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

27

COUNTY

Le Sueur

CODE

079

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**
 DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT
**OWNERSHIP**
 PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE
 BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED
**STATUS**
 OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS
**ACCESSIBLE**
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO
**PRESENT USE**
 AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER:
**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Willis E. Roberts

STREET &amp; NUMBER

103 South Second Street

CITY, TOWN

Le Sueur

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds, Le Sueur County Counthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

LeCenter

STATE

Minnesota

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1973

—FEDERAL  STATE —COUNTY —LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society, Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

Saint Paul

STATE

Minnesota

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The George W. Taylor House is situated on a sloping corner site one block from the central business district of LeSueur, Minnesota (Lots 9 & 10, Block 32, Town of Le Sueur). In addition to location and elevation of the site, the soaring rooflines and elaborate architectural features make the Taylor House the most prominent residence in LeSueur,

Constructed in 1890, the Taylor House is a commodious three storey frame structure executed in a flamboyant Eastlake design. The exterior treatment combines a multitude of design elements to give an overall feeling of "carpenters' frenzy". (There is a strong possibility that this design was the product of an architect rather than of a general builder (as in the case of many Victorian residence), however no supporting documentation has been found to date.) The Second Street facade (front) incorporates such motifs as scalloped shingles, quatrefoil medallions, horizontal ribbed banding, molded and sawn dentils, mock half-timber stick style applique, horizontal, vertical and diagonal siding, fake gable trusses, spindle and lattice work, brackets and pendants projecting gables, wrap-around porches, and stained glass. Similar motifs are carried through each facade and into interior ornamental work.

The exterior was originally polychrome in color scheme; this has since changed to tan and recently to a light green. With the exception of removal of the roof over the north tower early in the twentieth century, the exterior of the building remains as constructed in 1890.

The interior of the Taylor House has been adapted for use as apartments. This was accomplished with a minimum of physical alteration; no walls or decorative treatment were removed in the process. The main floor is occupied by the owners and comprises eight rooms. Each room corresponds to the original plan and retains original woodwork and decorative features. Noteworthy is the central stairhall; all rooms are arranged around the hall and are directly accessible to it.

The George W. Taylor House is presently in excellent repair. It is one of extremely few Eastlake-style residences to survive relatively intact in Minnesota, chiefly due to concern of past and present owners to recognize and preserve it for its unique ornamental design features.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The George W. Taylor House in LeSueur is significant as the residence of a major figure in local and state commerce during the late nineteenth century and represents an excellent example of the Eastlake style of architectural design in Minnesota. } good

George W. Taylor was born in Toronto, Canada in 1841, the son of George and Mary Taylor. When three years old he lost his father and made his home with an uncle. At an early age he started making his own way by working on farms, attending school in the winter.

He worked as a salesman in a store until 1865 when he came to LeSueur. He spent a period in the U.S. Quartermaster Department at Ft. Abercrombie and Ft. Wadsworth, then returned to LeSueur. From 1868 to 1877 he worked in the H.C. Smith store. He then entered the firm of W.H. Patten & Co. It soon became Taylor, Patten & Co. In 1893 he bought the entire stock in the business. He conducted it until 1909 when he sold it to A.H. Nelson and Paul W. Baumann.

Wm. Gresham in his History of Nicollet & LeSueur Counties says, "Not only was George W. Taylor notably successful as a merchant, but in other lines of business activity he has shown himself to be a man of ability and resource, this being evidenced by his position as a stockholder in the Farmers' Bank and also by his occupancy of the office of president of the Minnesota Valley Canning Co. (now Green Giant Co.)."

In 1874 he was married to Ludusky J. Patten, who was born and reared in LeSueur County. Mrs. Taylor was the national president of the Women's Relief Corps in 1903, also was president of the Minnesota department for 2 years, 1894-1895. She was active in the Women's Christian Temperance Union and was the local president.

The Taylor House is one of the finest Eastlake-style residences in Minnesota. The facades are illustrative of virtually all Eastlake design motifs used generously and in varying combinations. The present monochrome scheme tends to camouflage much of the variation in shapes and textures, however these features are intact and would be greatly amplified if returned to original polychrome. Conscientious efforts over the years have preserved the lavish ornamentation of the Taylor House and have made possible its distinction of being one of extremely few examples of the Eastlake mode of architecture in Minnesota to have retained original decorative design treatment. } good

