

JAN 8 1980

HISTORIC NAME: J.W. Gerber House COUNTY: Rock
 CURRENT NAME: Holm Funeral Home CITY/TWP.: Luverne
 LEGAL DESC.: South 152' of Lot 4, Block 4 ADDRESS: 324 West Main Street
 P.J. Kniss Addition

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes ___ No ___ Restricted X PRESENT USE:
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No ___ Funeral Home
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No ___

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1901 ORIGINAL USE: Residence
 ORIGINAL OWNER: J.W. Gerber ARCHITECT/BUILDER: W.E.E. Greene

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Lydia R. Holm 324 West Main Street Luverne, Minnesota 56156	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Owner	UTM REFERENCE: 14 / 724655 / 4837060
FORM PREPARED BY: Thomas Harvey DATE: November 26, 1978	Luverne, Minnesota; 1:24,000

DESCRIPTION:

The J.W. Gerber House is one of the finest residences in Luverne. It is located on a large corner lot at 324 W. Main Street. The home exhibits the rectangular plan characteristic of its Colonial Revival style. The two-story wood frame clapboarded building contains a large attic floor beneath its gambrel roof. An impressive gambrel roofed portico is supported by eight two-story fluted columns. Palladian windows are located in the portico and end gambrels. Dormers project from the main roof on either side of the portico in the front and from similar locations in the rear of the house. The front door was a transom and sidelight and is covered by a bracketed balcony. A sidelighted door on the second floor opens onto the balustrated balcony. Transomed tripartite windows are located at either side of the door on the first floor. Large double-hung sash windows are centered above these doors on the second floor. Projecting bay windows are located in the ends of the house.

A simple brick garage is located at the northeast corner of the property. Much of the original interior remains, but some alterations have been made to accommodate the present use.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Holm Funeral Home is significant both as the residence of an early Luverne businessman and as one of the county's finest houses. Successful adaptive use and pride of ownership have maintained the building's integrity.

The house was built in 1901 by J.W. Gerber, one of Luverne's early businessmen. He moved to the town in 1878 and in 1880 bought an interest in a hardware store. His commercial success is reflected in the house, built at a cost of \$8,000. Active in community affairs, Gerber was an early county commissioner, helped organize Holy Trinity Church, and was captain of the local fire engine company.

The immense Colonial Revival style is unique in the county. It was designed by W.E.E. Greene, a prominent local architect.