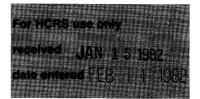
United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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

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1. Nam	<u> </u>			
historic	JOHN N. BENSEN HOUSE		and the second of the second o	and the second
and/or common	Witt House			
2. Loca	ation			,
street & number	402 6th Ave nu	➤ South		not for publication
	St. Cloud	vicinity of	congressional district	6th
city, town Minne		20	Stearns	1/5
State	code	22 county	oceanis	code 143
3. Clas	Sification Ownership	Status	Present Use	
district _X_ building(s) structure site object	public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted x	agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X private residence religious scientific transportation other:
street & number	402 6th Avenue	South		
city, town	St. Cloud	vicinity of	state	Minnesota 56301
	ation of Lega	l Description	on	-
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc.	earns County Court	house	<i>*</i>
street & number				
city, town	St. Cloud		state	Minnesota
6. Rep	resentation i	n Existing S	Surveys	
	vide Survey of ric Resources	has this pro	perty been determined el	egible? yes _X_ n
date 1980)		federalX sta	te county loc
depository for su	urvey records Minneso	ta Historical Soci	ety 240 Summit A	lvenue
city, town	St. Paul		state	Minnesota

Condition X excellent good fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one X unaltered altered	Check oneX original site moved date	e	 	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

7. Description

The John N. Bensen House is a two-and-a-half story red brick Queen Anne style house. The full basement foundation is constructed of rock-faced granite as are the window sills. A wide verandah extends across the front of the house and encircles an octagonal tower located on the northwest corner. At the southeast corner a frame porch encloses the rear entrance. A hipped roof is marked by dormers on the west, north, and east sides. On the south side a center gable extends over a full two-story bay. Queen Anne details include a recessed porch on the second floor, fish scale shingles in the south gable, and decorative brickwork on the tower walls. The interior retains its integrity. A built-in buffet, interior columns and scrollwork, and decorative moldings in oak and maple high-light the house. Stained and leaded glass windows are found throughout the first floor. A barn-like carriage house is located on the alley behind the residence. It too is of red brick construction, with a cross-gable gambrel roof.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture architecture artX commerce communications		landscape architecture law literature military music t philosophy politics/government	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1904	Builder/Architect	Samuel H. Haas	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John N. Bensen House is significant for its architectural design and integrity and for its association with John Bensen, its first owner. The May 19, 1903 St. Cloud Daily Times described the house as "a handsome design of the late style of architecture." The red brick dwelling is one of St. Cloud's finest examples of the Queen Anne style. The interior integrity and large carriage house add to the architectural significance. John Bensen migrated to St. Cloud from Germany by way of Brooklyn and St. Paul. With experience as a grocer, he opened a grocery business with his brother in 1872. (The grocery and an additional commercial building built by the Bensens stand on Fifth Avenue South.) In 1903, John Bensen entered the real estate business. From 1905 to 1906 he served as mayor of St. Cloud, and in 1908 he became president of the Merchants Bank of St. Cloud. The house at 402 Sixth Avenue South attests to his success and importance in the commercial development of St. Cloud.

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