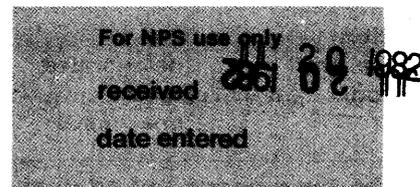


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

historic W. J. Armstrong, Company / Wholesale Grocers

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 202 SW 2nd St. N/A not for publication

city, town Waseca N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~ N/A

state Minnesota code 22 county Waseca code 161

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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
	<u>N/A</u> <input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Southern Minn. Grocery Co.

street & number 202 SW 2nd

city, town Waseca N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 56093

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds -- Waseca County Courthouse

street & number 307 North State Street

city, town Waseca state Minnesota 56093

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1981 federal state county local

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

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The W.J. Armstrong Co. Wholesale Grocer Building is situated on a rail siding adjacent to the Chicago & Northwestern main line, near the corner of Second Street S.W. and Second Avenue S.W. in Waseca. Today, the neighborhood is commercial, but at the time of construction (ca.1900), the surrounding neighborhood combined a mixture of residential and commercial structures, fulfilling the necessity for employees to live in close proximity to their place of work. The front lawn of the W.J. Armstrong building reflects this more residential era. In contrast, nearby businesses have paved or graveled lots.

The W.J. Armstrong Co. Wholesale Grocer is a rectangular three-story red brick warehouse. A smooth brick facade with some decorative brickwork near the roofline and brick corner quoins on a stone foundation make this a typical functional warehouse building.

A wide stone stair entry has double doors and side lights with separate transoms above each side light and door. An ornate brass door handle is notable. The windows have stone sills and brick flat arches. The second and third floors have brick keystones. On either side of the entry are three-part windows which echo the balanced arrangement of the door. Most of the remaining windows are double hung and evenly spaced on all sides of the building.

On the north and south sides, between the second and third floor windows is painted a sign on the brick, extending the full length of the building. The sign presently reads, "SOUTHERN MINNESOTA WHOLESALE GROCERY CO." Prior to 1938, the sign was inscribed with the original owner's name, W.J. Armstrong Co. Wholesale Grocers. The roof is flat.

The building retains complete exterior integrity. The interior has had some alterations, however, contains much of the original office furnishings, including a Mosler Safe Co. vault, metal grill cashier's window, clerk's desk, and golden oak woodwork.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1900 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

After 1867 Waseca rapidly developed into a railroad center, attracting many businesses and industries which relied on proximity to the railroad tracks -- the east/west route of the Winona & St. Peter Railroad (later the Chicago & Northwestern) and the north/south route of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad (later the Chicago & Northwestern).

Among the rail-dependent businesses in Waseca was the W.J. Armstrong Company Wholesale Grocers, established around 1900 one-half block from the depot on the Chicago & Northwestern line. The Armstrong Company received and dispensed goods on its own side track.

Although trucks have superseded trains, the three-story brick structure still functions as a wholesale grocer under the name of Southern Minnesota Wholesale Grocer, with David Isker the owner since 1938.

The W.J. Armstrong Company Wholesale Grocer building is significant as the best preserved building and unaltered business representing an important historical link to the railroad and Waseca's development as a commercial and industrial center.

9. Major Bibliographical References

None

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Waseca Quad. Minn.-Waseca Co.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

The east 191 feet of Block 22, except the North 50 feet: Auditor's Addition to Barney's Addition, the City of Waseca.

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

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peggy Korsmo-Kennon, Director; Jan Brown, Curator

organization Waseca County Historical Society

date May 1, 1982

street & number P.O. Box 314

telephone 507-835-7700

city or town Waseca

state Minnesota 56093

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

7/9/82

For NPS use only

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

Alma Byan

Kept in the National Register

date

8/19/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration