United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received FEB - 7 1984 date entered

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

| | | ble sections | | | | · |
|------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|--|--|--------------|
| | | | | | * | |
| nistoric | / Thoma | as Henry Thom | npson/Ho | use | | i et e |
| and/or common | N/A | | | State of the state | | |
| 2. Loca | Ator common N/A Location St. Croix Falls | | | | | |
| street & number | 205 <i>I</i> | dams St reet | Nortk | | not for publica | ition |
| city, town | St. Croix Fall | Ls vici | nity of | * 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | |
| state y | Visconsin | code 55 | county | Polk | code 0 | 95 |
| 3. Clas | sification | * | | | | |
| X building(s) structure site | public _X_ private both Public Acquisition in process being considered | occupie unoccup work in Accessible yes: res yes: unr | pied progress tricted | agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial | park private resi private resi private resi private resi | tion |
| 4. Own | er of Prop | erty | | | | |
| name | James | c. Miller | | b | | |
| treet & number | 316 A | dams Street | North | | | <u> </u> |
| ity, town | St. C | roix Fallsyici | nity of | state | Wisconsin 5 | 4024 |
| 5. Loca | ation of Le | egal Desc | riptio | n | | |
| ourthouse, regis | stry of deeds, etc. | Polk County | Courtho | use | | , |
| treet & number | N/A | | | | : | |
| ity, town | | Balsam Lake | | state | Wisconsin | <u>54810</u> |
| 6. Repi | resentatio | n in Exis | ting S | urveys | | |
| Wiscons | in Inventory | of Historic _h | as this prop | erty been determined el | igible? yes | _X_ no |
| ate 1984 | | | , | federal Xsta | te county _ | local |
| lepository for su | rvey records Sta | te Historica | l Socie | ty of Wisconsir | 1 | |
| ity, town | Mad | ison | | state | Wisconsin | 53706 |

7. Description

| Condition | Check one | Check one |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| excellent deteriorated | unaltered | _X_ original site |
| ruins unexposed | _X_ altered | moved date |
| unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Thomas Henry Thompson house, an Italianate residence located in the Polk County community of St. Croix Falls, is situated atop the river terrace that parallels the St. Croix River. Facing east, the structure "turns its back" on the river and the city's business district which is at the foot of the terrace. The large two story painted brick house is composed of a main rectangular block and a smaller two story rear addition that "steps down" the sloping site. Also located on the property (to the north and west of the house) is a clapboard sided garage which is not considered significant to the nomination. Both sections of the building, which rests on a stone foundation, are characterized by low pitched roofs, dentils and paired brackets at the eave line, and segmental arch openings emphasized by decorative caps. The roofs, which were originally metal-covered, are now covered by interlocking composition shingles. A bay window is located on the south facade, while the main entrance is centered on the east facade. The east facade is also distinguished by a veranda which replaced (in c. 1910) the original, intricately detailed element. Other alterations (the addition and deletion of windows, painting of the brick exterior, etc.) occurred in the mid-twentieth century when the property was converted to multiple family housing. While these changes are noticeable, the residence does retain the major features and the grace and distinction of its period of construction. Additionally, the proposed restoration of the building insures that the building will be returned to its original appearance.

Five openings appear on both the first and second floors of the main (east) facade of the Thompson house. On the ground floor the entrance is flanked on either side by two segmental arch windows, which, like all of the building's original windows, are highlighted by denticulated caps and stone sills. These openings have also been covered with aluminum storm windows and the wooden shutters, which were formerly present, have been removed. The entrance itself is highlighted by a transom window that is included within a segmental arch. An elaborate brickwork pattern outlines the arch. The original door has been replaced by a modern component and the sidelights have been covered. The veranda, an early twentieth century addition, is supported by Tuscan columns that rest on tall rectangular pedestals. Panels of wood fill the lower one third of the area between the supports. On the second floor the large segmental arch windows correspond to the openings below.

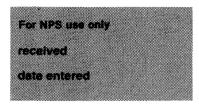
The south facade features a small bay window distinguished by paired brackets and a pattern of incised detail at its eave line. On this side of the building as well as the north and west (rear) sides small windows have been added. Also, at the rear of the building, particularly in the addition, original openings have been bricked in or

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reduced in size. A side (north side) entrance and a small frame storage area located at the very rear of the structure are additional alterations.

The interior of the Thompson house has been substantially altered. In c. 1951 the building was modified to accommodate five apartments. During this and subsequent remodelings, the fireplaces were removed and the original ceilings and walls covered with a variety of materials including wood paneling and tile. Some remnants of the original woodwork do remain and these will be retained during any future remodeling work.

8. Significance

| Period prehistoric | Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric | | | re religion |
|---|--|--|-------------------------------|--|
| 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 X 1800-1899 | archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications | conservation conservation economics education engineering exploration/settle | law literature military music | science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater |
| | storical significance | | | X other (specify) |
| Specific dates | 1882 1882-1911 | Builder/Architect ¹ | | cant individual |

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In the community of St. Croix Falls, the Thomas Henry Thomspon house is recognized as possessing both architectural and historical significance. The two story brick residence, itself a noteworthy example of Italianate architecture, best reflects the contributions of Thomas Henry Thompson, a prominent citizen and successful businessman, whose mercantile establishment, in particular, was vital to the growth of the St. Croix Falls area.

<u>Architecture</u>

Constructed in 1882, the Thomas Henry Thompson home represents the more symmetrical version of the Italianate style. Characteristically, eaveline brackets, decorative window treatments, and a bay window enliven the structure's regular form. In a regional history published in 1909 Thompson's spacious residence was described as a "beautiful and well furnished home ..., pretty enough to adorn a corner lot in the residence (sic) sections of any of the large cities." The house was further distinguished as being the first brick residential structure erected in the city. The rich, reddish-colored bricks were manufactured locally by August Dombrock who had learned the brick making trade in his native Germany.

Two similar examples of the Italianate style exist in St. Croix Falls. Of these three buildings, all of which have been altered, the Thompson house is the largest and visually most prominent. In addition, the present owner, a local businessman, plans a complete exterior restoration of the property in the hopes of stimulating additional preservation activity in the community.

Association with a Significant Individual

Thomas Henry Thompson, a native of Ireland, settled in St. Croix Falls in 1856 and with his brother James entered the lumber business. The brothers worked in the woods and invested in a sawmill at nearby Balsam Lake where Thomas lived from c. 1861 to 1866. In September of 1866 Thomas and James bought the J.C. Christie store in St. Croix Falls and established a mercantile business. The partnership ended after two years with James deciding to open his own general store and later (1879) a flour mill. Thomas remained at the original location and his store became the "trading center for the northwestern part of Polk County ..." Thompson's provided the supplies - groceries, clothing, hardware, and tinware - for the residents of St. Croix Falls as well as for the

(continued)

| 9. Major Bibliographical Re | eferences |
|---|--|
| Easton, Augustus, ed. 1909. <u>History or</u> Cooper, Jr. & Co., Chicago. Folsom, William. 1888. <u>Fifty Years in</u> McKenney, Lucille Dombrock. 1969. <u>Dom</u> Standard Press. April 14, 1911: Septe | the Northwest. Pioneer Press Company brock Family History, 1869 to 1969. |
| 10. Geographical Data | |
| Acreage of nominated property39_acres Quadrangle name St. Croix Dalles, Wis-Min | Quadrangle scale 1:62500 |
| A 1 5 5 2 7 8 5 0 5 0 2 8 5 0 0 Rorthing C | Zone Easting Northing D |
| Verbal boundary description and justification | |
| South 32 ft. of Lot 8 and all of Lots of the city of St. Croix Falls | 9 and 10 block 33, Original Plat |
| List all states and counties for properties overlapping | state or county boundaries |
| state code cou | inty code |
| state code code | inty code |
| 11. Form Prepared By name/title Mary E. Taylor/Consultant | |
| organization N/A | date May, Dec., 1983 |
| street & number 8269 Doolittle Rd. | telephone (715) 356-2555 |
| city or town Minocqua | state Wisconsin 54548 |
| 12. State Historic Preserva | ation Officer Certification |
| The evaluated significance of this property within the state is: national state X locality is: | al |
| As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the M 665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the Natio according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Natio | nal Register and certify that it has been evaluated |
| State Historic Preservation Officer signature title Director, Historic Preservation Division | , SHSW date FEB. 1, 1984 |
| For NPS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Entered National Register | nal Register |
| Attest: Chief of Registration | date |
| Cinc. or neglectation | |

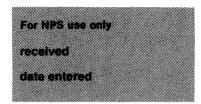
OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82)

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farmers and loggers in the surrounding countryside. The store also served as an informal bank, accepting deposits and offering loans, until the Bank of St. Croix Falls was incorporated in 1888.

Thompson, possibly because of this banking experience but more likely because of his reputation as an honest and generous man, was named vice president of the Bank of St. Croix Falls in 1891 and president in 1900. He remained with the financial institution until his death in 1911; the management of the store had been turned over to his son George in 1895.

In addition to these activities, Thompson had an interest in the local telephone company and was an early automobile enthusiast. Although he never held elected office, the businessman was described as taking an "active part in everything that tended toward the betterment of the village and the progress of the county." 5

Tax assessment rolls, City of St. Croix Falls (available at the Area Research Center, UW-River Falls)

²Augustus Easton, ed. <u>History of the St. Croix Valley</u> (Chicago: H.C. Cooper, Jr. & Co., 1909), p. 1148.

³William Folsom, <u>Fifty Years in the Northwest</u> (Pioneer Press Co., 1888), p. 112.

⁴Standard Press, "Thompson's Store Notes 100th Year in Business", September 14, 1966.

⁵Easton, p. 1148.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

| REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUME | NTATION | |
|---|---|-------------|
| PROPERTY Thompson, Thomas Henry, H NAME: | ouse | |
| MULTIPLE NAME: | | |
| STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Polk | I | |
| DATE RECEIVED: 10/27/99 D. DATE OF 16TH DAY: D. DATE OF WEEKLY LIST: | ATE OF PENDING LIST: ATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/11 | /99 |
| REFERENCE NUMBER: 84003777 | | |
| NOMINATOR: STATE | l e | ! |
| REASONS FOR REVIEW: | | |
| APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCA OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRA | N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: | N N N |
| COMMENT WAIVER: N | 100 | 1 |
| ACCEPTRETURNREJECT | 1/5/99 DATE | |
| ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS: | | į |
| Additional Docum | entation Accepted | I |
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| RECOM./CRITERIA | · | 1 |
| REVIEWER Beall | DISCIPLINE | |
| TELEPHONE | DATE | <u> </u> |
| | | |

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

State or Federal agency and bureau

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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|---------------|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------|---------|----------|--------------|---------|
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| in Polk | llowing is an ac County, Wisc | | | | iomas He | nry, House, | located |
| 2. Loc | ation | | | | | ··· | |
| street | & number 2 | 05 South Ada | ms Street | | n/a | not for publ | icatior |
| city or | town S | St Croix Falls | - III-U | | n/a | vicinity | |
| state | Wisconsin | code WI | county | Polk co | ode 095 | zip code | 54024 |
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| 46 | wis L. | Coce | | | 18/ | 20/99 | |
| / Signature o | of certifying official / | Γitle | 0 | Date | | • | |
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