

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

1. Name

historic Thomas Henry Thompson House
and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 205 Adams Street North not for publication
city, town St. Croix Falls vicinity of
state Wisconsin code 55 county Polk code 095

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 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
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Apt. Bldg.

4. Owner of Property

name James C. Miller
street & number 316 Adams Street North
city, town St. Croix Falls vicinity of state Wisconsin 54024

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Polk County Courthouse
street & number N/A
city, town Balsam Lake state Wisconsin 54810

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1984 federal state county local
depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin
city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good - 937	<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 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

(continued)

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Thomas Henry Thompson House, St. Croix Falls, Polk
Continuation sheet County, Wisconsin Item number 7

Page 1

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	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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
Period of historical significance—	1882-1911		Association with a	
Specific dates	1882 ¹	Builder/Architect	unknown	significant individual

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In the community of St. Croix Falls, the Thomas Henry Thompsen 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.

Architecture

Constructed in 1882, the Thomas Henry Thompson home represents the more symmetrical version of the Italianate style. Characteristically, eave-line 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."² The house was further distinguished as being the first brick residential structure erected in the city.³ 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 ..."⁴ 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 References

Easton, Augustus, ed. 1909. History of the St. Croix Valley. 2 vols. H.C. Cooper, Jr. & Co., Chicago.
Folsom, William. 1888. Fifty Years in the Northwest. Pioneer Press Company.
McKenney, Lucille Dombrock. 1969. Dombrock Family History, 1869 to 1969. Standard Press. April 14, 1911; September 14, 1966.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property .39 acres

Quadrangle name St. Croix Dalles, Wis-Minn

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A

1	5	5	2	7	8	5	0	5	0	2	8	5	0	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

South 32 ft. of Lot 8 and all of Lots 9 and 10 block 33, Original Plat of the city of St. Croix Falls

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

state code county code

state code county 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 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 

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 Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

3/8/84


Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Thomas Henry Thompson House, St. Croix Falls, Polk
Continuation sheet County, Wisconsin Item number 8

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Page 1

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

¹Tax assessment rolls, City of St. Croix Falls (available at the Area Research Center, UW-River Falls)

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

³William Folsom, Fifty Years in the Northwest (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 DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Thompson, Thomas Henry, House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Polk

DATE RECEIVED: 10/27/99 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/11/99
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 84003777

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 11/5/99 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Accepted

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER E Beall _____

DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____

DATE _____

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

84003777

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 2 Page 1

Thompson, Thomas Henry, House
Polk County, Wisconsin

The following is an address correction for the Thompson, Thomas Henry, House, located in Polk County, Wisconsin. The correct information is:

2. Location

street & number 205 South Adams Street n/a not for publication

city or town St Croix Falls n/a vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Polk code 095 zip code 54024

Alicia J. Gee
Signature of certifying official / Title

10/20/99
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau