

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Pfeiffer, John Gottlieb, House other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 931 3rd Avenue NW city, town Faribault state Minnesota code MN county Rice code 131 zip code 55021

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked), public-local, public-State, public-Federal. Category of Property: building(s) (checked), district, site, structure, object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 1 buildings, 1 Total.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A. Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets (checked) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: Ian R. Stewart, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Minnesota Historical Society. Date: 6/25/90

In my opinion, the property meets (checked) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official: Date: State or Federal agency and bureau:

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register (checked), determined eligible for the National Register, determined not eligible for the National Register, removed from the National Register, other (explain:). Entered in the National Register: Mark J. Baker, August 3, 1990. Signature of the Keeper, Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic, single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic, single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone

walls limestone

roof asphalt, shingles

other limestone sills, lintels,
and quoins

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See continuation sheet

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetPfeiffer, John Gottlieb, House
Section number 7 Page 1

The John Gottlieb and Magdalena Remund Pfeiffer House built in 1868, is a detached two story vernacular dwelling constructed of locally quarried limestone and displays Federal style detailing in the symmetry of design, corner quoins and in its ca. 1930 classical entry. The house is set upon a cut limestone foundation with a limestone water table. Its box-like massing displays random ashlar masonry, symmetrical fenestration and finely rusticated corner quoining. Windows are double wood sash, some with older two-over-two lights, and others with a more recent one-over-one light configuration. As in other stone residences of its kind in Faribault, windows are set into interior bevelled wall openings with flush exterior stone lintels and projecting sills. The truncated hipped roof is finished with asphalt shingles and plain boxed eaves.

The federal style front entry is composed of four square wood posts and a simple second story balustrade with square balusters. Sanborn fire insurance maps indicate that this entry replaced an earlier single story wood frame porch sometime after 1930. The renovation of older houses with colonial and federal revival embellishments was common throughout the United States during the 1930s. The alteration does not, however significantly impact the original design or construction of the house. It also does not significantly detract from the ca. 1870 vernacular characteristics that mark this house as one of Faribault's earliest and finest; use of locally available building materials, simple massing, labor intensive building techniques and early construction date.

A two story wood frame and clapboard addition was built in two phases onto the rear (east) elevation some time in the 1940s. It obscures the original rear entry at approximately the center of that elevation as well as a second story window at the south end of the elevation (now a door to the frame addition).

The location of the addition on the rear facade minimizes the visual impact of the construction and did not significantly alter the original material integrity of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer, John Gottlieb, House

Section number 7 Page 2

house. A later constructed non-contributing frame garage sits on the back, east end, of the lot.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1868-1904

Significant Dates

1868
ca. 1930

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Pfeiffer, John Gottlieb

Architect/Builder

Pfeiffer, John Gottlieb, builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetPfeiffer, John Gottlieb, House
Section number 8 Page 1

The Pfeiffer House is significant within the context of the period of early settlement (ca. 1855-1875) in Faribault. This period encompasses roughly the first twenty years of settlement and corresponds to the Minnesota State Historical Society's *Early Agriculture and River Settlement* context. Within that broad context, the Pfeiffer House is specifically significant as a particularly well preserved example of the type of vernacular native stone housing built by Faribault's working class during the early settlement days. It is also significant for its association with stone cutter and mason, John Gottlieb Pfeiffer, who is recorded as having built or supervised the building of some of Faribault's most outstanding native stone buildings.

Faribault's early settlement period was marked by the rapid influx of a variety of ethnic groups, both Yankee and European, and the establishment of the early local economy. That economy included a mix of local businesses including drygoods and hardware stores, clothing stores, meat and grocery markets, drug stores, boot and shoe shops, a wagon and sleigh building shop, furniture stores, restaurants and saloons, livery stables and blacksmith shops. This period also witnessed the development and the decline of the highly competitive milling (lumber, wool, and flour) industry along the Straight River Valley. Another of Faribault's earliest industries was the quarrying of stone. The variety of limestone that was quarried in this locale was eventually shipped throughout the region and was used for homes, churches and public buildings. The stone also comprises the building material of some of Faribault's earliest buildings. Faribault's later role in the regional economy was nurtured with the arrival of the first railroad in 1865 and the beginning expansion of trade outside the immediate vicinity of Faribault.

The rapid immigration to and formation of an economy in Faribault was owed to a location that initially brought settlers into Rice County via steam travel up the river valleys. As early as 1855, Faribault found itself at the intersection of an early network of roads including the Lake Pepin, Spirit Lake, Dodd (and St. Paul), and Hastings roads that brought immigrants from all directions. Faribault's strategic location on the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Pfeiffer, John Gottlieb, House

Section number 8 Page 2

Straight River and at the intersection of new roads, combined itself with an environment of bountiful waterways, hardwood forests, and farmland, and drew settlers who saw the potential for entrepreneurship and a better life.

The arrival of many ethnic laborers in Faribault, among them Irish and German stonemasons, influenced the design and material of many of Faribault's earliest buildings. Having come from areas in Europe with stone building traditions, these local builders continued to use their masonry skill and sense of design in many of Faribault's most handsome and well-constructed buildings.

The simple plan, modest size and minimal decoration of the Pfeiffer House is typical of the type of early settlement housing built by stone masons in Faribault. Because the house was built ten years after Pfeiffer settled in Faribault, the Federal design, though austere, probably represents the kind of house he aspired to. Although a rather late example, the Pfeiffer House characterizes the Federal style by its box-like plan, low pitched roof, and windows aligned horizontally and vertically in symmetrical rows. There are twelve other extant stone vernacular houses in Faribault, all built by working class families after an initial period of establishment within the Faribault economy. All exhibit simple plans, minimal stylistic embellishment, and labor intensive building techniques. They are distinctive for their flush stone lintels, protruding door and window sills, interior beveled window openings and approximately 20-inch deep walls.

John Gottlieb Pfeiffer's life history and career as a stone cutter in Faribault is representative of other early working class laborers who plied their trades and raised families in the city. Pfeiffer (1831-1904) immigrated from Wurttemberg, Germany to the United States in 1853. Once here, he utilized his stone-cutting skills in New Jersey and Pennsylvania for two years before arriving in Hastings, Minnesota, a common point of entry to southeastern Minnesota from eastern states.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Pfeiffer, John Gottlieb, House

Section number 8 Page 3

Pfeiffer was employed as a stone-cutter in Faribault as early as 1856, traveling between there and his home in Waseca. Examples of his work in Faribault include the Cathedral of Our Merciful Saviour (1862) and its tower (1901) and the Immaculate Conception Church (1901). He also is reputed to have supervised the cutting on the Minnesota Institute for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Building (no longer extant) and other unidentified public and state buildings in Faribault.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Fort Snelling History Center
Saint Paul, Minnesota

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 15 478250 4905180
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies
Lot 7, Block 15, Paquin's Addition.

N/A See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the city lot that has historically been associated with the property. City legal description.

N/A See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas R. Zahn, Jacqueline Sluss

organization Thomas R. Zahn & Associates, Inc. date July 31, 1989

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Pfeiffer, John Gottlieb, House
Section number 9 Page 1

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Granger, Susan. *Faribault's Historic Contexts: Final Report of a Historic Preservation Planning Project*. Heritage Preservation Commission, Faribault, Minnesota. June 30, 1986.

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