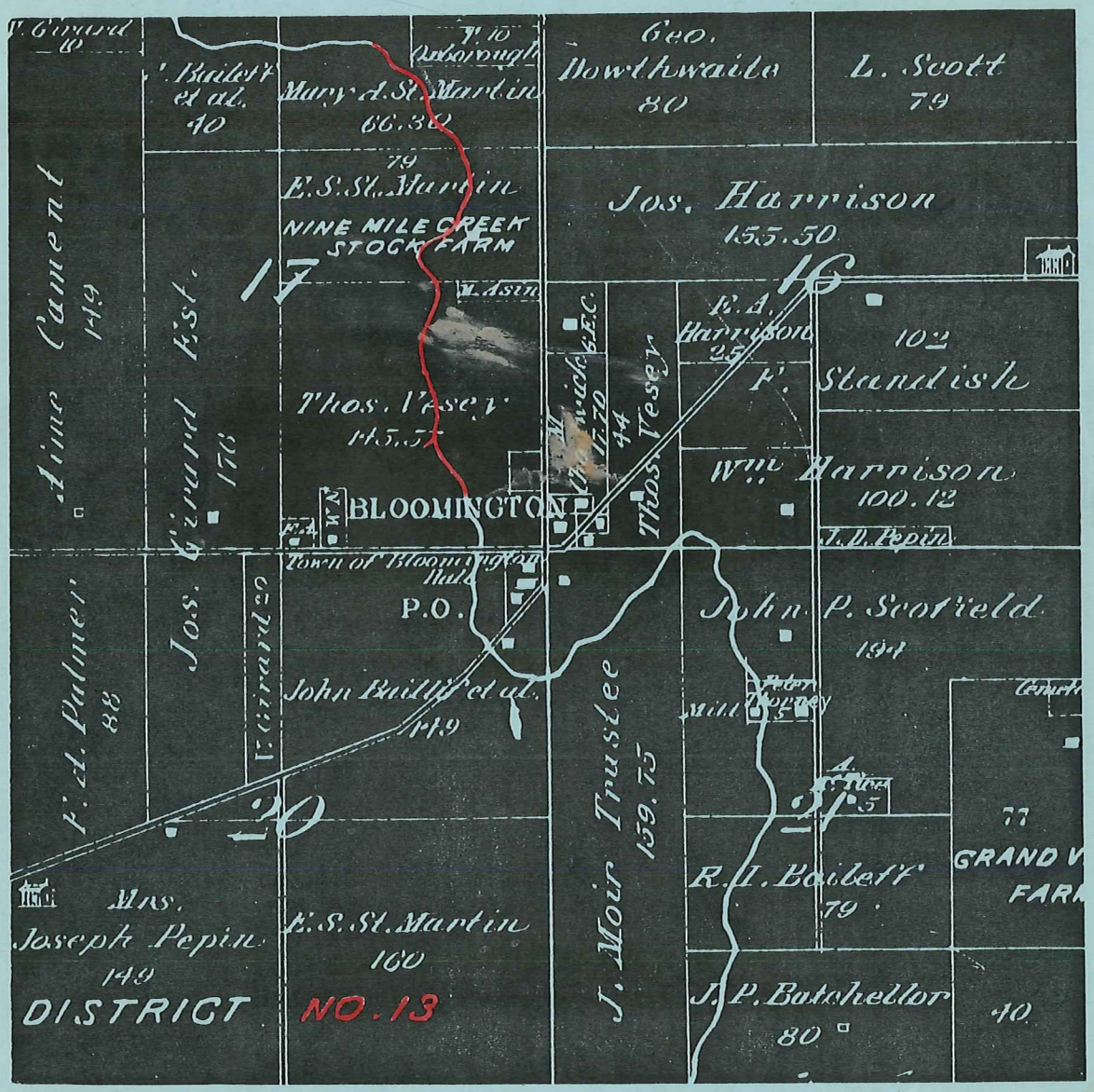


# BLOOMINGTON

## A COMMUNITY SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES

MILLER · DUNWIDDIE · ARCHITECTS · INC.

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# I. INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF SURVEY

The purpose of this survey commissioned by the City of Bloomington is to identify historic and prehistoric sites remaining within its boundaries. It is the intent of the survey to identify, locate and briefly describe these sites using readily available historic data, city records and on-site inspections.

The scope of the survey includes the remaining 19th century historic structures and sites within the city, along with the prehistoric earthworks that survive. Some early twentieth century historic sites are included, however the major concentration is on those of the nineteenth century.

The survey is the result of the cooperation of the City of Bloomington, the Bloomington Historical Society and the Ad Hoc Survey Committee. Additional materials have come from the collections of the Hennepin County Historical Society and the Minnesota Historical Society.

This survey is intended as an inventory of existing historic sites which illustrate the evolution of nineteenth century architecture in Bloomington. Prehistoric sites have also been included.

Other than two broad categories, no attempt has been made to establish priorities for preservation of individual sites. It is recommended that in-depth research not possible within the scope of this survey should be undertaken on an individual basis as detailed plans for preservation, restoration, interpretation or disposition are considered.

It is expected that the inventory will have two types of usefulness. The first is to identify sites of potential significance in the community and to protect these sites until more detailed research can establish their significance and guide preservation efforts.

The second type of usefulness is to create an awareness of Bloomington's architectural heritage and to give interested persons a guide for touring the historic areas of the City.

## II. HISTORY OF DEVELOPMENT AND STYLES

The first permanent white settlement in Bloomington occurred in 1843 while it was still Indian land.[1] Two men, Peter Quinn, a fur trapper and trader of Irish descent, and Gideon Pond, a missionary from Connecticut, were allowed to settle and serve the Dakota people which had recently been driven to the Minnesota River Valley by the Ojibwa.[2] Quinn, who had been an interpreter and assistant at Lac Qui Parle, was given the chance by the governmen- of teaching the art of farming.[3] Pond, on the other hand, was there to serve their soul and intellect. He and his brother Samuel had developed a written language for the Dakota and in addition to missionary services to the villages, the Pond Brothers began to teach them to read.[4] The major influx of settlers did not come until after the signing of the Lea-Ramsey Treaty of 1851 which ceded the land to the government and the subsequent surveys of 1852-54.[5] Initial settlement in 1851-2 was in the area around Bloomington Ferry where the St. Paul to Shakopee Trail, now Old Shakopee Road, forded the Minnesota River.[6] A ferry was established and attempts were made to promote this area as a townsite. However, they ended in failure.[7]

It is possible to draw some general conclusions about settlement patterns. There was an initial rush to pre-empt land and by 1855 there were 162 pre-emptors holding property.[8] Some were speculators, and a number must have moved on to what appears to be greener pastures. In comparing the original list with landowners in 1879, we find only about one-third remained. Others came to fill in the gaps and in 1879 there were 200 landowners, an increase of 38 from 1855.[9]

This initial group settled where there was access to transportation and where the land was easy to farm. This meant settlement either on the prairie

which stretched East from present day I35W to the river bluffs[10] or along the St. Paul-Shakopee Trail, now Old Shakopee Road. These areas, particularly the prairies, were preferred almost 2 to 1 over the wooded rough land in West Bloomington.[11]

Several distinct communities began to develop in the township. The first was at Bloomington Ferry where an attempt was made to establish a townsite on speculation.[12] A hotel was built as early as 1855[13] and a post office was established.[14] However, the town refused to grow and by 1878 it consisted of the hotel, post office, ferry and a blacksmith shop.[15] A group of early farms appeared nearby in the 1860's on what is now Auto Club Road and a community of farms loosely linked to the ferry by the post office developed.

The halfway point along the Old Shakopee Road between Fort Snelling and Shakopee was the location of what was probably the most significant nineteenth century community in Bloomington. This was the town of Bloomington itself. Located at the point where Old Shakopee Road crosses Nine Mile Creek, it provided a stage stop for travelers on their way to Shakopee. A hotel and store opened there quite early.[16] A flouring mill was built in the middle 1870's just downstream.[17] Gideon Pond's Oak Grove Presbyterian Church was moved to this location, a town hall was erected, and the local chapter of the Patrons of Husbandry built their grange hall. In the 1870's and '80's when development had reached a plateau in other parts of the township, this area continued to grow.[18]

Another community developed near the Old Assumption Church and school on the border of Bloomington and Richfield between Nicollet and Portland Avenues. This area was settled by German Catholics and the center of the community was the Church of St. Valentine built in 1876, later destroyed by lightning and replaced in 1886 with the brick structure recently razed.[19]

Because this was a community of people from both Richfield and Bloomington townships the area around St. Valentine's was called Bloomfield.[20]

After an initial building boom to house the first settlers, the construction of new farmhouses slowed almost to a halt in the decades of the 1870's and 1880's.[21] Population was increasing slowly at a rate of about 100 in ten years,[22] yet little new housing was added suggesting that it was not the numbers of families that were increasing but the numbers within families. As a matter of fact, it appears the major reason for an increase in housing units in the 1890-98 period was a division of existing homesteads among maturing children as original settlers retired or died.[23]

This plateau in the construction of new farm houses is generally consistent throughout Bloomington and may explain the absence of structures built in styles popular in those decades.

Bloomington was for the most part a stable farming community in the 19th century. Its population grew but not in the spectacular fashion that was to come. Its architectural heritage was composed of either buildings dating prior to 1874 or those dating from the 1890's. Many of the families had been on their land for at least 30 years[24] and had little reason to leave Bloomington.

What appears to have a major impact on development and more recent growth was access to transportation. However, in 1898 people walked, rode a horse or drove a carriage or wagon to reach their destination. Transportation needs were minimal and the means simple.

Two bridges across the Minnesota River were built in the late 1880's and early 1890's.[25] However, they seemed to have little impact on development. The Bloomington ferry bridge was simply replacing one form of crossing with another. There was more concern over the fate of the ferryman, John Cameron, than over the construction of the new bridge.[26] (Quite in contrast to contemporary concerns). The Cedar Avenue bridge, built to appease legislators

from St. Paul, had little real impact on Bloomington's development. No growing business areas or additional housing resulted from this construction, at least initially.[27]

M. W. Savage, the flamboyant owner of the International Stock Food Company and his famous trotting horse Dan Patch, brought the railroad to Bloomington in 1910.[28] Savage, like his predecessor at Twin City Rapid Transit Co. built an amusement park on the line near Prairie Lake in Lakeville.[29] Savage was hoping to extend his "Dan Patch Line" to Dubuque, Iowa. However, Northfield became the southern terminus. Savage envisioned growth and development along this new transportation corridor but it never really materialized.[30] Apparently the people in Bloomington had little need to take the train to Minneapolis to conduct business. Their business was in Bloomington and vice versa. In 1916 shortly after Savage's death the line went bankrupt and eventually became part of the Minneapolis-Northfield & Southern Railway.[31]

It was the product that rolled out of Elmer Scott's new Ford Garage in 1913 that effectively changed the face of Bloomington. The automobile made it possible for a man to go where he pleased, work where he pleased and live where he pleased, removing the restraints imposed by distance or location. This factor changed the face of Bloomington. The town grew from a community of 1000[32] in 1900 to one of 79,500 today. Growth has been even more dramatic in the last 35 years, increasing from about 3,600 in 1940 to 79,500 in 1976.[33] Where subdivisions of the 1920's like Waleswood failed due to lack of interest[34] those of the late '40's and '50's couldn't expand fast enough to meet the demand. It seemed that all of Minneapolis had decided to move to Bloomington.

There was abundant land available for this expansion but not without the loss of a good portion of the architectural history of the ninteenth century township. Significant buildings like the McLeod House, the Scofield/Kelly home and the St. Martin house fell victim to the pressures of escalating land values. A 1973 "windshield survey" indicated that about 1/2 of the houses existing in 1898 were still standing.[35] Unfortunately, some of the most significant structures had disappeared.

What is the architectural heritage of Bloomington? What did the first group of settlers build for themselves?

Architecture is usually identified by style. This identification appears at first glance to be quite simple. However, the style of a building can be an elusive thing. Each builder or architect interpreted architectural style according to his own needs and tastes. For this reason there are few examples which are real benchmarks for a particular architectural style. Buildings are then classified according to the number and importance of certain characteristic design elements or details which are similar to an established style. A style is a collection of details and a building with more details of better quality is a superior example of a particular architectural style. Sometimes design elements of several architectural styles are combined in one building to further complicate identification by style.

The reasons people chose to build in certain styles were as varied as the builders. However, certain styles became very popular and extended great influence on building "fashion". One of the prime reasons in the 19th century for this kind of popularity was the publication of plan books with text to justify the stylistic statements. Often the justification was emulation of another country, another time or simply a neighbor. America in the 19th century was seeking an identity and tried a wide variety of architectural styles.

A number of these architectural styles found expression in Bloomington, however the strongest influence by far was that of the Greek revival style.

Greek revival architecture was popular in the United States from its first introduction in 1798 to the 1860's. It is a plain style emulating Greek temples. Buildings were either a simple rectangular form or a composition of these forms covered by a low gable roof. Window and door openings were arranged formally in bilateral symmetry, that is if a wall or facade were divided in half by a vertical line the left half of the facade would be identical to the right. Wooden imitations of stone columns, lintels and cornices are the only decoration and visually frame the exterior walls. Smaller buildings are often without any ornament. Wooden buildings were invariably painted white. Particular details common to the Greek revival locally were wood frame construction, simple cornices with returns at the gable ends, vertical pilaster strips at the exterior corners, front doors with side and/or transom lights, 4/4 or 6/6 light double hung sash and narrow clapboard siding. The earlier buildings were smaller, had heavier trim and detailing together with the characteristic low pitched gable roof and many had exterior blinds or shutters. This was the style of the pioneers, especially those from New York and New England. It was popular in this area from the 1830's and 40's through the early 1870's. By the 1870's however, especially in rural areas, changes were taking place in the Greek revival farmhouse. Roof pitches were becoming steeper, the houses became "T" or "L" shaped in plan often with a cross gable roof. Pilaster strips became simple corner boards and gable returns tended to disappear. 2/2 light windows replaced the earlier smaller paned sash. Some of the doors began to have a Victorian look about them and decorative arched windows sometimes appeared. Despite the fact that this style traces most of its imspiration from the Greek revival style, many of the elements characteristic of the style are diluted or

missing except its basic simplicity. It could be classified as late Greek revival but because of its almost universal use locally, it could be called a "vernacular" style applied to local farmhouses. It was popular from the 1870's through the 1890's in rural areas of the state. It was often found combined with a little Victorian trim. But what it was, for its time, was a basic house that implied the solidarity of the Greek revival style house which preceded it and did not partake of the wild extravagance of some of the Victorian styles.

There is one Federal or Adam style house in Bloomington. It is unusual to find an example of this style in Minnesota as its popularity dates from about 1775 - 1820. The building is the Gideon Pond house and although it is a simplified example, its basic design elements are based on the Federal style. Basic characteristics of the Federal style found in the Pond house are the box-like form capped by a low pitched hip roof and a light delicate cornice with similar trim elements.[37] There is an absence of Greek revival ornamentation or detail in the house. The owner/builder, Gideon Pond was probably familiar with the Greek revival style but chose the Federal style because it reminded him of the buildings he had known and lived in in the small Connecticut town from which he came. Whatever the reason, Pond's house is more Federal than Greek revival style. It is interesting to note that within a year of the construction of Pond's house, another was built at Bloomington ferry by William Chambers using exactly the same materials including bricks, handmade in the same molds and is a fine example of the Greek revival style. So it appears it was a clear choice of Pond to build in the earlier Federal style.

What makes a building significant?

Usually a building's significance is established by a combination of factors including, but not limited to, age, style, quality, association with a historic person or event, expression of a lifestyle or social change, association with a famous designer or rarity. Buildings can be significant in their relationship to a region, community, neighborhood or street. They can, as the house of William Oxborough c. 1853, standing along modern Lyndale Avenue, express with some eloquence the changes a community experiences in 125 years. In looking at the remaining 19th and early 20th century structures, we find that they fall into two basic groups. The first group (Group I) emerges as the earliest houses, structures associated with significant people or events, buildings expressing social change or lifestyles, or structures which are good examples of a particular style of architecture. The second group of sites (Group II) are those without the clear associations found in the first group or those which have been altered or moved. They are an important historic resource and should be considered as carefully as those in thr first group. They form the majority of the historic fabric remaining in Bloomington and are the typical examples of 19th century architecture.

## III. METHODOLOGY

This report was prepared by reviewing readily available historic documentary materials, consultation with the Ad Hoc Survey Committee and a physical inspection of potential sites. Potential sites were identified primarily through the use of historic plat maps dated 1860, 1874, 1879, 1886, 1890, 1898 and 1913. These maps show land ownership and those between 1874 and 1898 also show the location and number of principal buildings. It is possible through an analysis of these maps to obtain a list of landowners and an indication of the existence of buildings and their locations. The 1898 map was used to identify potential sites and those locations were inspected along with sites suggested by historic records and local tradition. Those indicated by inspection to remain were analyzed in the following manner:
An ownership profile of the property was obtained from the maps and indications of the existence of dwellings and their location was noted. These locations were checked against aerial photographs to determine whether the relationship of the present structure was consistent with that found on the historic maps. The building was then visually inspected in the field and analyzed to determine whether its architectural style was consistent with the date it first appeared on the maps.

The names appearing on the maps were then checked against historical documentary sources, both published and unpublished. Extensive use was made of information from the files of the Bloomington Historical Society. Any information on the families or site in question was noted and this information along with that from maps and visual inspections was used to prepare a brief description of the sites. A construction date, if applicable, was suggested and the site was placed in either Group I or Group II.

Prehistoric sites within the community were analyzed with the aid of Winchell's Aborigines of Minnesota and the Archaeology staff of the Minnesota Historical Society who supplied us with a list of the Indian mounds which have survived.

Finally, a brief statistical analysis of development was made using the numbers of dwellings shown on the historic maps on a section by section basis. Results of this analysis are included in the section on History of Development and Styles.

Although this survey is based upon extensive research, the research was confined to readily available documentary and cartographic materials. It can be anticipated that additional in-depth research will uncover additional information regarding individual structures. For this reason it is important to use this survey or inventory as a starting point for further analysis of potential historic sites. Its primary purpose is to identify historic sites. It is recommended that in-depth research not possible within the scope of this survey should be undertaken on an individual basis as detailed plans for preservation, restoration, interpretation or disposition are considered.

# BLOOMINGTON:

# A COMMUNITY SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES

FOR

THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

2215 W. OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD

BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA

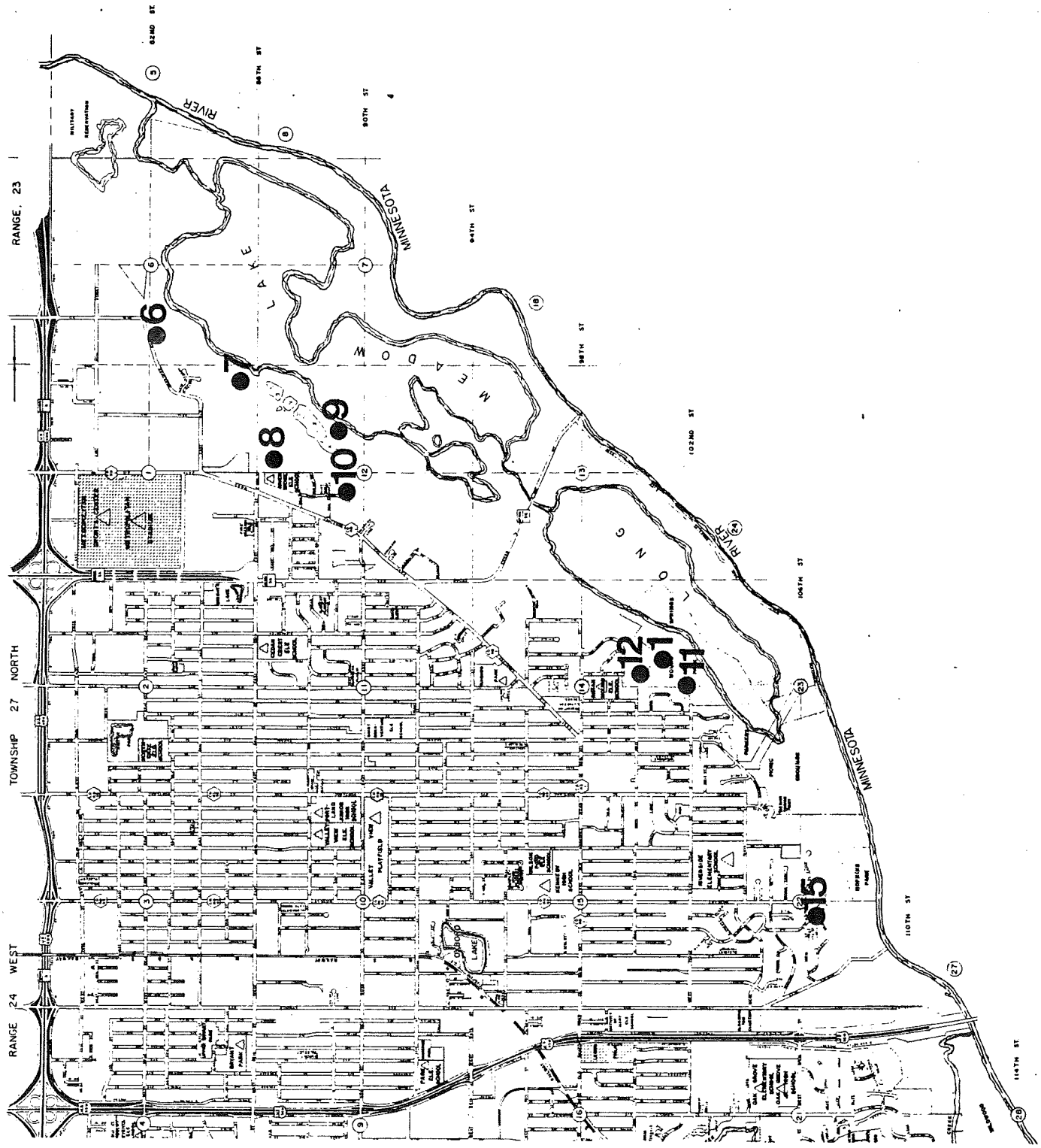
MILLER-DUNWIDDIE-ARCHITECTS, INC.

7913 SOUTHTOWN CENTER

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55431

1977

# PREHISTORIC SITES / EAST BLOOMINGTON



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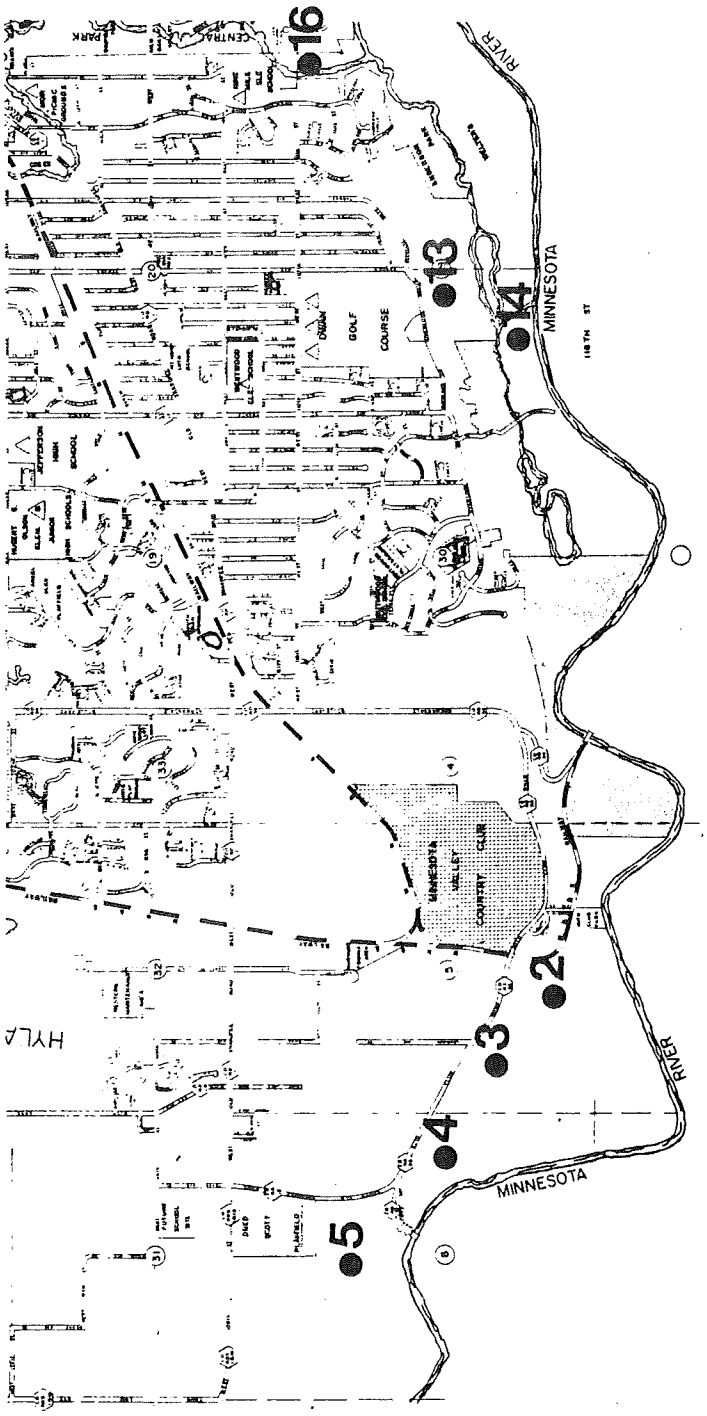


## IV PREHISTORIC SITES

Prehistoric sites in Bloomington were concentrated along the North bank of the Minnesota River from the Western boundary of the township to about four miles upstream from Fort Snelling. They consist primarily of burial mounds and related earthworks.[38]

The first extensive survey took place in the 1880's and was reported in The Aborigines of Minnesota by N. H. Winchell published in 1911. Winchell collected archaeological evidence along with historic records pertaining to Indian populations as they moved through what was to become Minnesota. He concluded that the mounds found in Bloomington were not the work of the group of Dakota Indians Samuel and Gideon Pond ministered to in 1834. He postulated that an earlier group of Dakotas, the Iowas were responsible for these earthworks.[39] The Mdewakanton Dakota the Ponds knew, maintained that they had driven the mound builders off to the South. It does appear clear that this later band of Dakota did not construct , use, or know much about these mounds.[40] Few of the mounds noted by Winchell have survived. Most of them were either plowed under in cultivated areas or demolished in the ensuing years by later subdivision development. They were generally low in profile, many only projecting two to three feet above the terrain. Consequently, they were easily altered or destroyed. An Archaeological Survey undertaken by the Minnesota Historical Society has examined the locations noted in Winchell. Their findings are the basis for the information contained in this report.

### A. Existing Prehistoric Sites

1. Findlay Mounds, Group I, Sec.14, T.27, R.24. Winchell p. 246.

   Located in Mound Springs Park. As many as 17 of 36 remain. In 1971 mounds 1-8, 10, 13-16 and 19-22 were visible. 19-22 are in the backyard

of 10101 Mound Springs Terrace. These mounds range in height from 1 to 4-1/2 feet and in diameter from 18 to 40 feet. (1971, 1975)[41]

2. Mounds, W.1/2 of S.E. 1/4, Sec. 5, T.115 R.21 Winchell p. 242-244. Located along and South of Auto Club Road across from John Brown farm. Of 14 mounds, 2 remain, numbers 1 (which is partially destroyed) and 3. In addition the Minnesota Historical Society indicates a newly discovered mound located along the North side of Auto Club Road. Mound 1 was originally 83 ft. in diameter and 11 ft. high. (1971)[42]

3. Cunningham Group W.1/2 of S.W.1/4,Sec.5,T.115 r.21, Winchell p. 244. Of 11 mounds, 1 remains, number 7, which measures 25 ft. in diameter and 1-1/2 ft. high. (1972)[43]

4. Mounds, S.E.1/4 of N.E.1/4, Sec. 6, T.115, R.21, Winchell p. 247. Of 7 mounds, 1 remains, number 7. (1972)[44]

5. Bloomington Ferry Mounds, S.W.1/4, Sec. 31, T.116, R.21, Winchell p. 248. Originally 97 mounds, 2 were destroyed before 1882, 10 remain. (1972)[45]

B. Destroyed or Unlocated Prehistoric Sites.

6. Lincoln Mounds, S.W.1/4 of N.W.1/4 and the N.W.1/4 of the S.W.1/4 Sec. 6, T.27, R.23, Winchell p. 244. Originally 6 mounds, all destroyed (1974)[46]

7. Van Ness Mounds, S.E.1/4 of S.E.1/4, Sec. 1, T.27, R.24, Winchell p. 244. Originally 24 mounds, totally destroyed.[47]

8. Hanson Mounds, N.W.1/4 of N.E.1/4, Sec. 12, T.27, R.24 Winchell p. 244-245. Originally 9 mounds, not visible. (1975)[48]

9. Hogback Group, E1/2, Sec. 12, T.27, R.24, Winchell p. 244. Originally 20 mounds, destroyed.[49]

10. Mahoney Mounds, Lot 2, Sec. 12, T.27, R.24, Winchell p. 247. Originally 2 mounds, destroyed.[50]

11. Findlay Mounds, Group II, Lot 5, Sec. 14, T.27, R.24, Winchell p. 246. Originally 8 mounds, destroyed. (1971)[51]

12. Findlay Mounds, Group III, Lot 4, Sec.14, T.27, R.24, Winchell p. 246-247. Originally 9 mounds, unlocated (1971), destroyed. (1975)[52]

13. Palmer Mounds, Group I, Lot 3, Sec.29, T.27, R.24, Winchell p.247. Originally 2 mounds, not surveyed by M.H.S. (1977)

14. Palmer Mounds, Group II, S.W.1/4 Sec. 27, T.116, R.22,(sic) Winchell, p. 247 Originally 5 mounds, not surveyed by M.H.S. (1977)

15. Hopkins Mounds, Lot 3, Sec.22, T.27,R.24, Winchell p. 247. Existing houses on site.[53]

16. Indian Village, Sec.28, T.27, R.24, Nine Mile Creek, 1 mile South of Bloomington Village. Not located.[54]

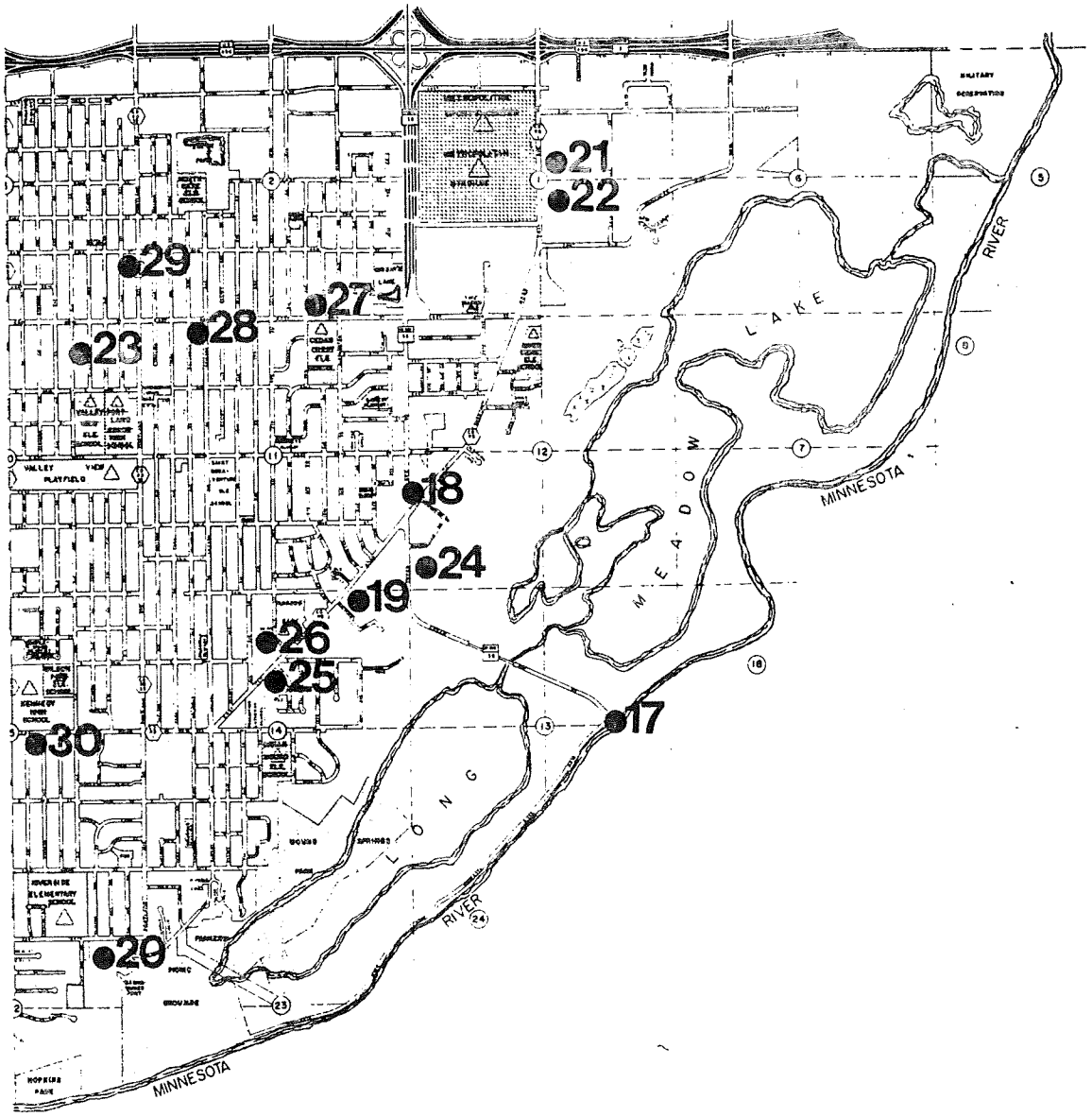
# V HISTORIC SITES

This study has with few exceptions been restricted to existing structures. The sites are divided into two groups. Sites in Group I are generally more significant architecturally or historically than those in Group II. Group II sites though less significant are regarded as important since they represent the remaining historic fabric of the 19th century from which the Group I buildings have been selected. Group II sites represent the mainstream of 19th century life in Bloomington and because of their limited number are considered significant.

The survey is arranged in the same format as the historic tours prepared in 1976 by the Bloomington Bicentennial Committee. It can be used in conjunction with these tours to give a relatively complete look at historic sites within the city. Bloomington is then divided into five areas, (1) East Bloomington, bordered on the West by Nicollet and on the South and East by the river; (2) Oxborough, bordered by Nicollet Avenue on the East, I35W on the West and the river to the South; (3) Central Bloomington, from I35W on the East to France Avenue on the West and the river to the South; (4) Bush Lake, the remaining land West of France and North of 102nd Street; and (5) Bloomington Ferry, the area West of France and South from 102nd Street to the river. Each description of a site will include a brief history together with a description of the structure including an estimated construction date, if applicable.

Group I sites are listed first within each geographic area.

# HISTORIC SITES / EAST BLOOMINGTON



A. East Bloomington

4 Group I sites, 12 Group II sites.

GROUP I

17. Cedar Avenue Swing Bridge c. 1890, Cedar Ave. at the Minnesota River. The Cedar Avenue Swing Bridge was built as a compromise with legislators from St. Paul who protested the location of the Bloomington Ferry Bridge.[55] It is the oldest of two swing bridges in the state still in use for vehicular or rail traffic.[56] Its construction was authorized in 1889 by the same bill which authorized the construction of the Bloomington Ferry Bridge. (Now razed). Construction is an iron truss pivoting on a central stone pier. The bridge floor is of wood.

18. Elmer Scott Ford Agency c. 1913, 9133 Cedar Avenue South. Elmer Scott's Garage served Bloomington as its first automobile dealership. Scott sold Fords at this site from 1913 until his retirement in 1961.[57]

The structure is built in the style of local blacksmith shops, reflecting along with the cars of the era the dominance of the horse and carriage. It was the automobile, forty years later, that was instrumental in the growth of Suburban Bloomington. This was the first structure in the city devoted solely to the sale and repair of the automobile.

19. Brousseau/Reed House, 1869, 1629 East Old Shakopee Road. Construction on the Brousseau/Reed house began in 1869 and was completed in 1872 by Francis X. Brousseau, a St. Paul lawyer. His wife, Margaret, was the daughter of Peter Quinn and widow of Samuel Findley.[58] It was on Findley's preemption claim that the house was

built. The property passed to Annie E. Findley, the only surviving child of Mrs. Brousseau, between 1874 and 1879.[59] Mrs. Brousseau and her mother, Louise Quinn, lived in the house until L.A. Reed purchased the property in 1896.[60]

The architectural style is Greek Revival and much of the original detailing and trim remains unaltered. Originally "L" shaped, the house was brought to its present configuration by L. A. Reed after his purchase in 1896. In 1941 Reed's son, Albert, remodeled one half of the structure to serve as a year-round dwelling. The other half remains essentially unchanged.[61]

20. Gideon Pond House, 1856, 401 E. 104th Street.

In 1834, two brothers, Gideon and Samuel Pond, came to Minnesota to serve as missionaries to the Dakota Indians. After establishing a temporary mission at Lake Calhoun, the brothers moved to permanent sites along the Minnesota River, Samuel locating near Shakopee on the South bank of the river and Gideon in Bloomington. The original Oak Grove Mission was built a short distance Southeast of the present house.[62] A year after his first wife's death in 1853, Pond married Sarah Hopkins, widow of another missionary, Robert Hopkins.[63] Their combined families were too large for the mission and preemption cabin located on the site. Accordingly in May of 1856, Pond began to manufacture bricks for the present house using clay from the site.[64] The house was completed in the Fall of that year[65] and Pond lived in the dwelling until his death in 1878.[66] The house has been occupied by his direct descendants throughout its history.

The house is in the Federal style, expressed primarily in massing, roofline and detailing. Few alterations have been made in its 121 year history. Some interior changes were made in 1873-4[67], the original pre-emption cabin/summer kitchen was replaced by the present two story wood frame addition in 1910.[68] Stoves were replaced by a furnace in 1925,[69] electricity was installed in 1937,[70] and the four original chimneys were removed in 1947.[71]

The house was surveyed by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1936 and was placed on the National register of Historic Places in 1970.

Other important elements on the property include the site of the Oak Grove Mission, brick making site, clay deposits used for bricks, early spring used as a water source, early wagon roads, ancillary structures erected by Pond, and the graves of Indians buried on the site between 1843 and 1866.

GROUP II

21. Residence, 8137 - 24th Avenue South

In the spring of 1955 there were three farm complexes located on the West side of 24th Avenue South on the site of Metropolitan Stadium.[72] The locations of these complexes correspond to those shown in 1898.[73] Specifications for the sitework in conjunction with the construction of the stadium, provide for the owners to move or dispose of those structures at their discretion.[74] Since there are no dwellings indicated on the East side of 24th Avenue South by historical sources,[75] it is likely that both this structure and another immediately to the South were moved to their present locations at this time. Without further research it is difficult to determine which

of the dwellings were moved. Of the three dwellings, one dated prior to 1874,[76] one between 1874 and 1879,[77] and the third between 1890 and 1898.[78]

This 1-1/2 story vernacular farmhouse has been moved and resided with modern materials. It rests on a modern foundation. Little remains on the exterior to establish a construction date. A modern porch addition has been erected on the West side.

22. Residence, c. 1870-1880, 8205 - 24th Avenue South

Like the preceding residence located at 8137 - 24th Avenue South, this dwelling was probably moved from the present Metropolitan Stadium site on the West side of 24th Avenue South.

The two story vernacular style farmhouse retains some of its original fenestration although modern materials have covered original roofing and siding. The style, size and visible original elements would date this structure c. 1870-1880.

23. J. H. Bradbury House, c. 1874-79, 8701 - 3rd Avenue South.

This structure appears to have been built by John Bradbury between 1874 and 1879.[79]

The massing, roofline and fenestration are typical of houses in the Italianate style. This Victorian style was popular in Minnesota in the period between 1860 and 1880. However, examples are rare in Bloomington because of the general lack of construction during the time of its popularity. Additions have been made to the dwelling on the West and South. Some of the exterior fabric has been altered by the addition of modern materials.

24. Jeremiah Scott House, moved to site c. 1894-98, 9347 Cedar Avenue South.

Between 1890 and 1898 Jeremiah J. Scott appears to have purchased the small 4.6 acre piece of land upon which this house was placed.[81] Cedar Avenue

was extended past the property when the Cedar Avenue Bridge was constructed in the early 1890's providing access to the site.[82] A news item in January 1894 tells of Scott purchasing a building at the Regan Fish Hatchery in Burnsville and moving it across the Cedar Avenue Bridge to his farm.[83]

It is possible this is that building.

The architectural style is difficult to describe. Some late Victorian influences can be seen in the corner window bay, however, the basic fabric is typical of an earlier vernacular style. Probably this structure is not original to the site but was moved here late in the 19th century. It is now vacant. (December 1977)

25. Abram T. Palmer House, c. 1890-98, 1125 East Old Shakopee Road.

Between 1890 and 1898 Wilbur Palmer transferred this property to his son, Abram T. Palmer. By 1898 Abram had erected what is probably this house.[84] The structure is a "T" shaped vernacular style farmhouse. The original exterior surfaces and detailing have been covered with modern materials.

26. Second Wilbur Palmer House, c. 1879, 9516 - 12th Avenue South.

Wilbur Palmer came to Bloomington in 1859[86] and settled about 1/2 mile East of this location.[87] By 1879 he had purchased the land on which this dwelling is located and built what is probably this house.[88]

His sons, Abram T. and George Palmer, became the owners of the original property.[89] In 1902, at the time of Wilbur Palmer's death,[90] this property was transferred to his son George Palmer.[91]

This "T" shaped vernacular style farmhouse has a 2-story addition to the East. Original clapboard siding survives, however, the roof has been replaced and the foundation covered with modern materials.

27. Joseph Linke House, c. 1874-79, 1516 East 86th Street.

Joseph Linke pre-empted land in Sections one and two in 1853-4.[92] He settled on Section 2.[93] Between 1874 and 1879[94] he built this frame dwelling. Linke was a charter member of Assumption Church.[95] This "T" shaped vernacular farmhouse retains much of its original fabric. Only the roof is covered with modern materials. There has been an addition on the East side.

28. John T. Palmer House, c. 1870-74, 801 East 86th Street.

John Palmer was a cabinet maker for the St.Paul & Pacific Railroad for six years before coming to Bloomington in 1870.[96]

He was an active member of the Bloomington Grange, farming 103 acres.[97] A farmhouse is indicated on this site by 1874.[98] This "L"-shaped vernacular farmhouse retains its original clapboard siding. However, other original exterior trim elements have been covered by modern materials.

29. Mary Christian House, 8428 Portland Avenue South.

There is evidence of a dwelling on this site from 1874 to the present.[99] However, it is difficult to determine whether the present house dates from 1874. It has been significantly altered, possibly late in the nineteenth century as suggested by the porch. Local tradition indicates the house was built for Mary Christian, the owner in 1898, by Peter Christian,[100] an early resident who had moved to Richfield.[101] The style is difficult to classify because of later alterations. Further investigation will be required to determine its exact age.

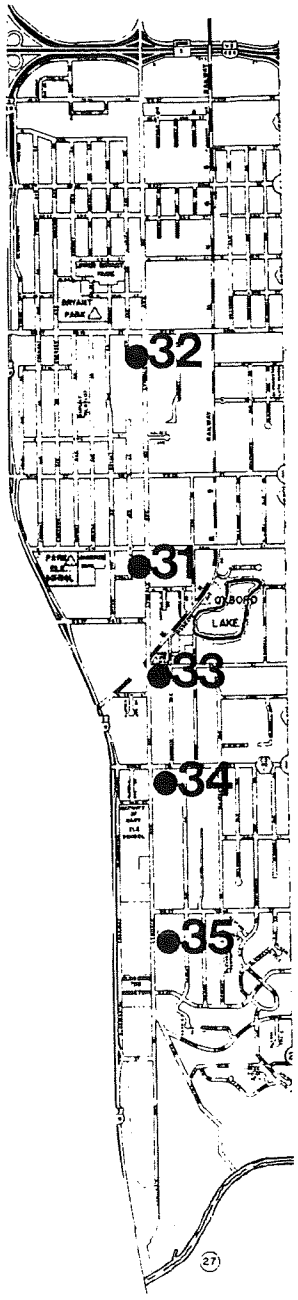
30. Sever G. St. Martin House, c. 1874-79, 125 East 98th Street.

After taking a claim with his brothers in Sections 8 and 5,[102] Sever G. St. Martin purchased this 80-acre tract between 1874 and 1879. After the

latter date a farmhouse is indicated on the site.[103] St. Martin owned the property through 1913.[104] However, by the 1920's his son, E. S. St. Martin, subdivided it into 2 and 5 acre lots.[105]

Much of the original trim and detail of this "T"-shaped vernacular style farmhouse remains intact. A number of additions have been made to the rear of the structure.

# HISTORIC SITES / OXBOROUGH



B. Oxborough

1 Group I Site, 6 Group II Sites.

GROUP I

31. William Oxborough House, c. 1853-4, 9212 Lyndale Avenue South.

William Oxborough came to Bloomington with his brothers, pre-empting this land in 1853-4.[106]

The property remained in possession of the family through 1913.[107]

It is probable that this small Greek revival house is the one built shortly after Oxborough's arrival. Its size and Greek revival detailing are consistent with this period. The cornice and gable returns remain although the fenestration has been altered and the original siding covered by a layer of stucco. More detailed research is necessary to document its age more carefully. The structure is on a particularily hostile site and care should be taken to safeguard its existence until the circumstances of its origin and age can be more carefully documented.

GROUP II

32. David Haeg House, c. 1890-1900, 8654 Lyndale Avenue South

Local tradition associates this house with David Haeg,[108] son of Valentine Haeg, an original pre-emptor in sections four and five.[109]

The elder Haeg was instrumental in the establishment of a Catholic Church in the area and David Haeg was one of the first to be baptised at Assumption Church in St. Paul.[110]

No buildings are indicated on this location until 1890 when the area was platted as "Lyndale Garden Lots".[111] Individual houses are not generally shown within platted areas, however, this vernacular style brick farmhouse would be consistent with that period. Additions on the

West and North were constructed prior to 1910.[112]

*33. Swanson's Blacksmith Shop, c. 1916, 9505 Lyndale Avenue South

This machine/blacksmith shop dates from c. 1916 when Joe Swanson moved his business here from the East side of Lyndale near 96th Street.[113] It was operated for several years by George Sunde who in 1926 moved to his present location just South of 98th Street on Lyndale Avenue South. This concrete block building is typical of the blacksmith shop/garages built in the early 20th century. Its utilitarian design can be traced to the blacksmith shops typical locally in the 19th century.

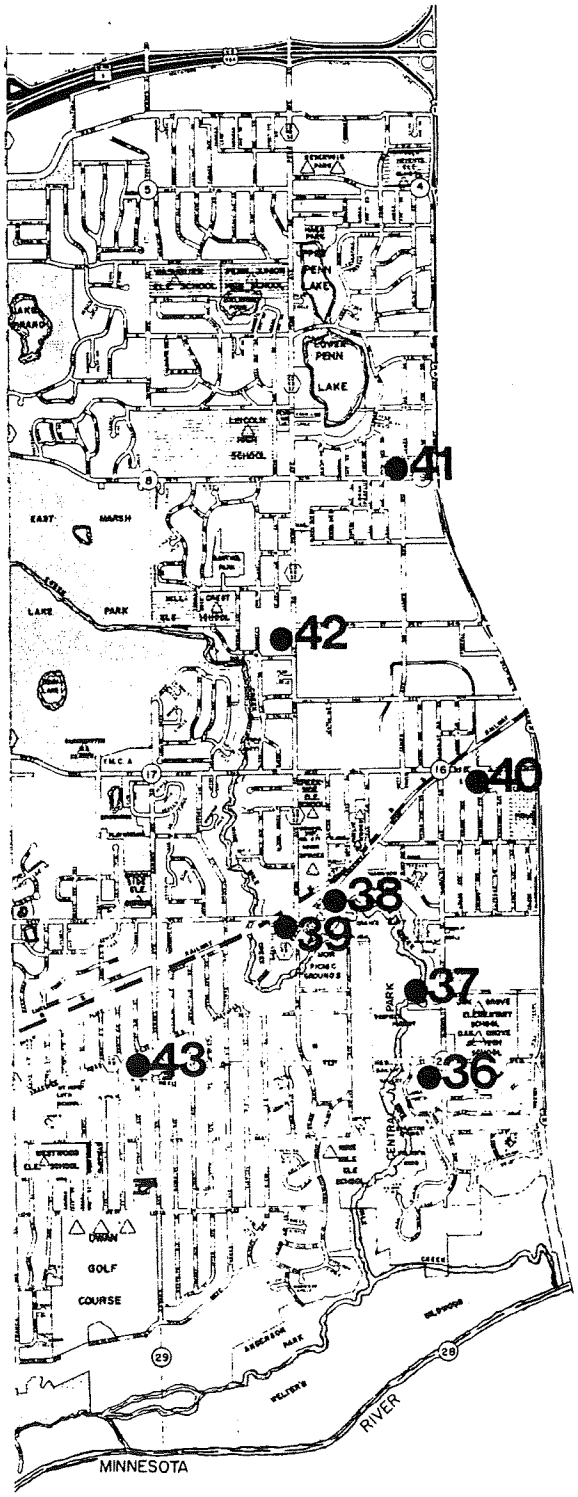
34. St. Martins Barn, 9825 Lyndale Avenue South.

This rectangular barn with lean-to additions on the East and West may have been associated with a homestead on this property that can be dated as early as 1866.[115] Since barns and outbuildings are not generally recorded historically a more thorough examination of the structure and its construction is recommended to determine its exact age.

35. William Davis House, c. 1879-1886, 10225 Lyndale Avenue South

A house in this location appears as early as 1879 when the property belonged to John Moll.[116] Between 1879 and 1886 William Davis became the owner.[117] Local tradition along with the style point to Davis as the original builder.[118] Small square houses in the French Second Empire style with their characteristic mansart roofs were being built in Minneapolis during the 1880's.[119] Significant additions and alterations have been made to the structure and a detailed inspection is recommended to determine the extent of the original fabric remaining.

# HISTORIC SITES / CENTRAL BLOOMINGTON



C. Central Bloomington

4 Group I Sites, 3 Group II Sites.

GROUP I

36. Rene L. A. Baillif House, 1875-1889, 10624 Humboldt Avenue South

In 1869, Rene L. A. Baillif entered into a partnership with J. P. Bachelor to purchase approximately 280 acres of land[120] in Section 28.[121] In 1877, he bought out his partner's interest, acquired an existing one-room dwelling and moved it to the present site.[122] He subsequently added a second story room. In 1889, he added four rooms and a summer kitchen to the first floor, three rooms to the second floor and faced the entire structure with Shakopee brick.[123] The resulting two story T-shaped structure is an early example of the Queen Anne style made popular by plan books such as those published by Palliser & Palliser in 1887.[124] Much of the wooden detailing and trim has disappeared, however, the massing and decorative brickwork remain.[125]

37. McAfee Mill Site, Nine Mile Creek near 104th Street and Humboldt Avenue South.

In 1877, William McAfee came to Bloomington from St. Paul[126] and purchased 5 acres along Nine Mile Creek from J. D. Scofield for the purpose of building a flouring mill.[127] The three story, 30x40 foot, wooden structure was finished that same year.[128] By 1881, 3 runs of stone and 1 set of rollers were being powered by a 20" Leffel turbine producing 20 barrels of flour a day.[129]

The mill produced feed, cornmeal, graham and rye flours.[130] About 1886 McAfee sold the mill[131] and it continued to operate until about 1905 when the dam washed out.[132] The building disappeared around the time of World War I.[133] However remmnants of the earthen dam and foundations remain at the site.

38. Dunbar/Chadwick Blacksmith Shop, c. 1868, 2117 West Old Shakopee Road.

The blacksmith shop at Old Shakopee Road and Penn Avenue South may date

prior to 1868. A history of Hennepin County published in that year describes a blacksmith shop in the location.[134] It was first operated by W. P. Dunbar.[135] From 1878-1880 a man by the name of Cumming ran the shop.[136] In 1880 Hector Chadwick left the shop he had established at Bloomington Ferry and purchased this property. He continued to operate the shop until 1919.[137]

This wood frame structure is typical of the small blacksmith shops which were an integral part of 19th century communities. The plain architecture with a false front emphasize the commercial/utilitarian use of the building. A good portion of the original fabric remains despite its present use as a body shop.

39. Bloomington Town Hall, 10200 Penn Avenue South, 1892.

The Bloomington Town Hall was built in 1892 to serve as a meeting place for the town board.[138] It was used for governmental purposes from that year until the construction of the present city offices in 1964.[139] Bloomington was incorporated as a village here in May of 1953.[140] It is presently used by the Bloomington Historical Society to store their collections.

Originally the building had a bell tower located at the peak of the roof at the front. Decorative arches over the windows along with some wooden bracketing were among the details present.[141] Much of the original detailing has been covered with modern materials and the bell tower has been removed. In 1924 the structure was moved a few feet South to allow for the improvement of 102nd Street.[142]

## GROUP II

40. Florentine Standish House, c. 1874-79, ~~1311 West 98th Street.~~ 9809 GIRARD Circle

Florentine Standish came to Bloomington in 1857 after spending a year in Rockford, Minnesota.[143] In 1868 he purchased this property,[144] however, there is no indication of a dwelling until 1879.[145] This is consistent with local tradition.[146] It is possible stylistically for it to have been built as early as 1868, however, a more detailed examination is necessary to confirm the earlier date. Standish served as a volunteer during the Indian uprising of 1862 and was one of those who marched to save Fort Ridgely.[147] He continued to own the property until 1913.[148]

The exterior of this "L"-shaped vernacular farmhouse has been covered by modern materials obscuring much of the original detail. An addition has been made on the South.

41. Robert "Doc" Oxborough House, c. 1907, 1724 West 90th Street

Robert Oxborough was a son of Robert H. Oxborough[149] one of the original pre emptors of land in Bloomington.[150] It appears he built this house about the time of his marriage in 1907.[151] His original family home stood on the South side of 90th Street between Irving and James Avenues South.[152]

Few alterations to the exterior of this "L"-shaped vernacular style farmhouse have been made. Original detailing, siding and fenestration remain. It is interesting to note that this simple architectural style had been in use in Bloomington with few changes for about half a century when this house was built.

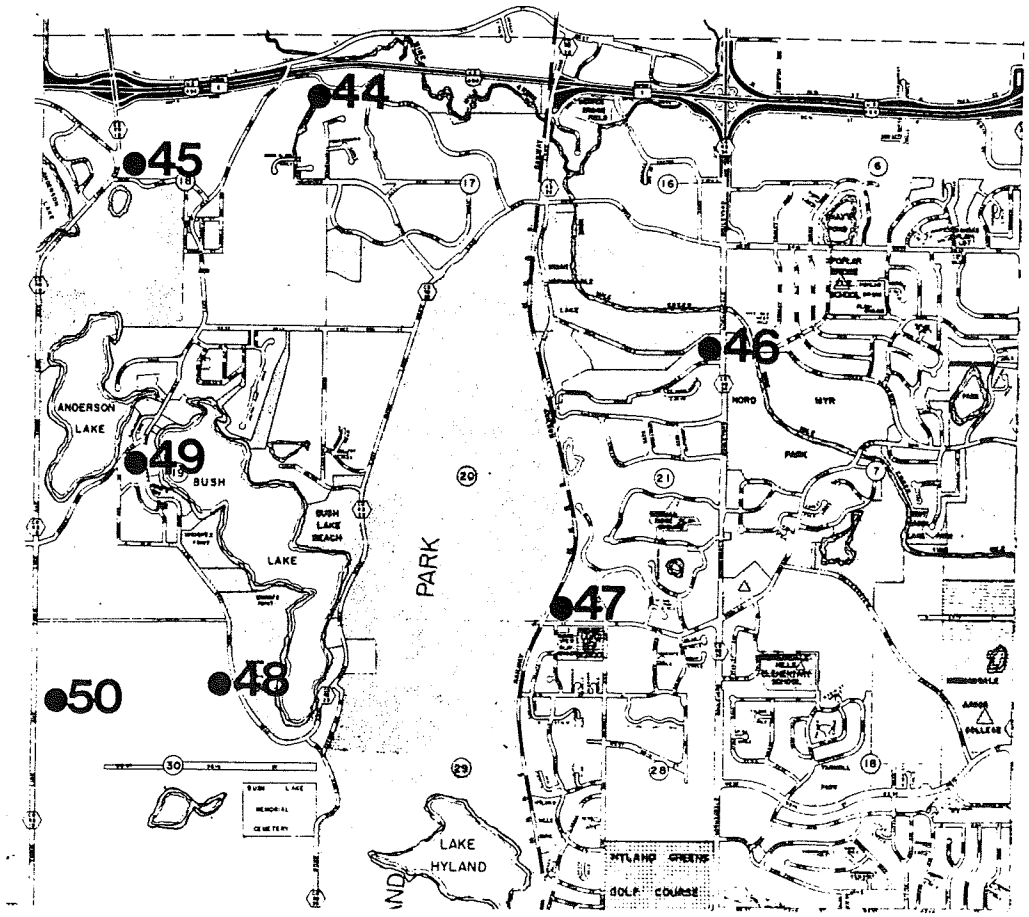
42. Second Thomas Oxborough House, 9440 Penn Avenue South

Thomas Oxborough was one of the original pre-emptors of land in Bloomington.[153] He left his original claim in Section 9 between 1890 and 1898 and purchased ten acres on this site,[154] presumably to retire from active farming. Stylistically it is possible that this house was built as late as 1898, however, certain design elements such as the bracketed bay window on the South suggest an earlier period. It is possible this structure was moved to the site from another location. Further research should be undertaken to determine its origin. Most of the exterior fabric of this vernacular farmhouse has been covered with modern materials. Only the bracketed bay window on the South remains intact on the exterior.

43. Residence, 3111 West Old Shakopee Road

There is little to indicate a dwelling on this site prior to 1898.[155] The land was part of larger farms whose principal dwellings were located elswhere. Joseph Pepin's Blacksmith Shop and house was located about 1/4 mile West of this site on Old Shakopee Road.[156] However, it is unlikely that this structure was moved from that location. Without further research it is difficult to establish a construction date or place. Modern materials cover original fabric which might give a clue to the age or owner of the dwelling. Additions or alterations appear to have been made to the North and South facades of the building.

# HISTORIC SITES / BUSH LAKE



D. Bush Lake

2 Group I, 5 Group II

GROUP I

44. Joseph Lorence House, c. 1900, 7335 Marth Road

This cruciform plan brick farmhouse was built in an individual and vernacular style by Joseph Lorence, c. 1900. Lorence was a carpenter and bricklayer from Czechoslovakia who settled variously in Jordan, Silver Lake and Hopkins before coming to Bloomington.[157] Unusual detailing includes decorative keyed arches over windows and truncated corners on the first level supporting full corners above by means of arches. The house rests on a fieldstone and poured concrete foundation. Short returns appear at gable ends expressing the influence of a Georgian Revival style popular at the time. A majority of the original fabric remains intact and in good condition.

45. Bush Lake School, 1911, 8308 West 82nd Street.

Built in 1911, this is the last one-room school to be built in Bloomington and, because it was not included in the school consolidation of 1918, it was the last to close.[158] It served grades 1-8 from 1912 through 1943-44 when its district was divided.[159] It is a typical rectangular one-room school house with a gable roof. Architectural detailing in the pilaster strips, gable returns and semi-circular window in the gable reflect the Georgian Revival style popular at the time of its construction. It has been converted to a single family dwelling.

GROUP II

46. Max Gerard House, 8614 Normandale Road.

No dwelling is indicated on this site until c. 1890-98.[160] However, the structure on the site appears to date from an earlier period. Tradi-

tion indicates the house was moved from the Jake Miller farm in Section 30 for Max Gerard between 1888 and 1890.[161] Gerard was the son of a Bloomington pioneer, Joseph Gerard .[162] According to maps, however, Gerard did not acquire the property until after 1898.[163] Original fenestration and detailing appear to remain on this "L"-shaped vernacular farmhouse. Its details would be consistent with houses built in the 1860's and 1870's supporting the possibility of its having been moved from another site. It is recommended for further study to determine the original origin and age of this building. The structure appears vacant at the present time. (December 1977)

47. Keough House, c. 1874-79, 6040 West 94th Street.

In 1853-54 Richard and Roger Keough pre-empted land in Sections 20 and 28 in West Bloomington.[164] Apparently they were still living in their pre-emption cabin in 1874 as no frame structure is indicated.[165] However, by 1879, a building in this location appears.[166] In 1886 Richard Keough had built a house of his own and Roger continued to live in the earlier dwelling.[167] The property remained in the hands of the family through 1950.[168]

This simple vernacular farmhouse has been only slightly altered. Modern materials cover the original roof and siding but some of the original 6/6 light windows remain. It is typical of the houses built in the decades of the 1866's and 1870's and is possible it could pre-date 1874.

48. Veness House, c. 1912, 9526 West Bush Lake Road.

Historic records indicate a structure on or near this site as early as 1874.[169] It is unlikely the present house is that structure. Elements of style along with local tradition point to a construction date after 1900. By 1913 William Veness owned the property[170] and tradition in-

dicates it was built by him with materials from the site during the previous year.[171] More in-depth research would be necessary to confirm this information.

This one and one half story L-shaped structure appears to be derived from the vernacular farmhouses common to the area. Original detailing remaining among a confused array of dormers and additions would point to a post 1900 construction date. However, without a more detailed examination of the structure it is difficult to determine a more precise date.

49. John Logan House, c. 1890-98, 8940 West Bush Lake Road.

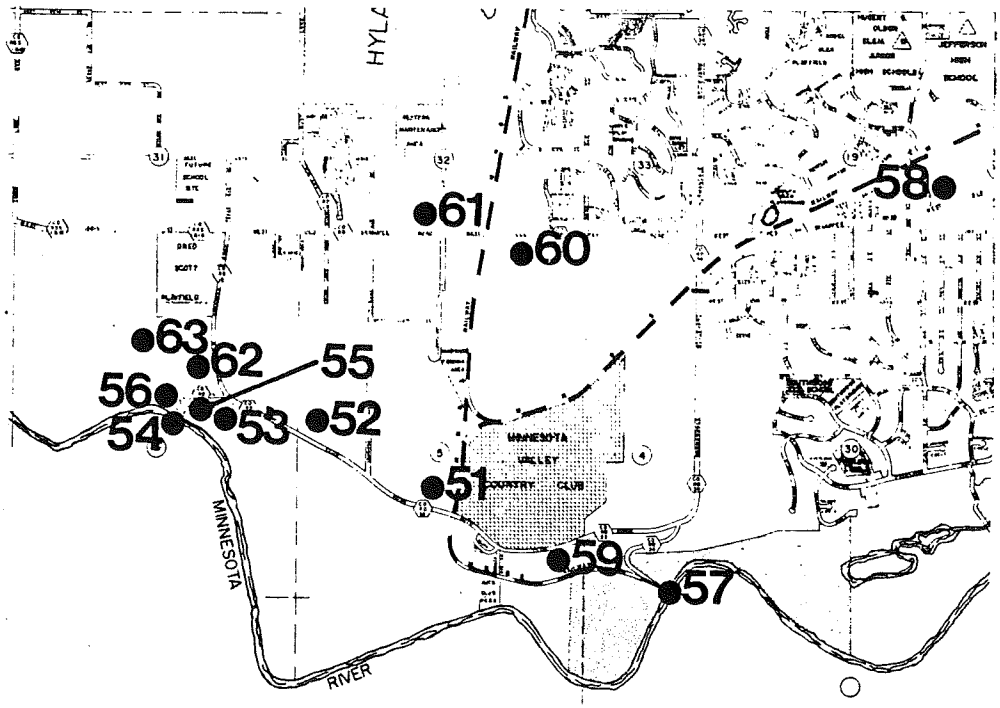
This structure appears to be the newer of two houses indicated on the property in 1898.[172] The earlier structure built prior to 1874[173] by John Logan appears to have been replaced by this structure. Logan sold the house to the Harvey family in 1903[174] and by 1913 the property was in the hands of A. J. Deaney.[175]

This is a full two-story, L-shaped vernacular farmhouse. Trim, fenestration and massing indicate a construction date in the 1880's or 1890's. It has been altered only slightly on the exterior and appears to have a later glazed in porch filling the "L".

50 Samuel McClay House, c. 1890-1898, 9601 South County Highway 18.

There is little to indicate a house on this property until 1890-1898.[176] Samuel McClay was one of a family of McClays that settled and commenced farming in West Bloomington in the 1850's. Samuel McClay was listed as both a farmer and cabinetmaker living on this property in 1874,[177] although no frame house is indicated. It is likely he either lived in his pre-emption cabin or with relatives who farmed on Section 32.[178] This structure appears to date from a period much closer to the turn of the century than the 1870's.

# HISTORIC SITES / BLOOMINGTON FERRY



E. Bloomington Ferry

6 Group I Sites, 6 Group II Sites

GROUP I

51. John Brown House, c. 1865, 6630 Auto Club Road.

John Brown came to Minnesota with his family in 1849. His father was stationed at Fort Snelling after his service in the War with Mexico.[179] Brown pre-empted land in Sections 4 and 8 in West Bloomington[180] and farmed them until enlisting in the 1st Minnesota Regiment in 1861.[181] A year after mustering out in 1864, he married Anna Ames, daughter of Orville Ames,[182] and purchased property just East of her father's homestead. It is probable that the Eastern portion of this house dates from that time. By 1907 the present West addition perpendicular to the original house along with a large porch had appeared. The exterior,[183] with the exception of some porch trim, remains virtually unchanged from that period.

The original two-story house is an example of the transition from the Greek revival style to vernacular style farmhouse. Greek revival detailing such as returns at gable ends and heavy pilaster strips has disappeared, yet the massing, fenestration and remaining trim are typical of the style. The later addition includes the Victorian porch and paired windows along with classic overtones in a Palladian window in the South gable. Modern materials cover roof and foundation, however, original 4/4 fenestration appears on the second floor East.

52. William Ellison House, c. 1860, 7240 Auto Club Road.

The present house appears to have been built by William W. Ellison about 1860.[184] H. D. Cunningham married Ellison's daughter, Mary Ellison, in 1874 and became owner of the house.[185] In 1898 Walter Brown, son of John Brown, purchased the farm naming it the Fairview Stock Farm.

The structure is a two-story, Greek revival, temple style farmhouse with a one-story kitchen built on the North side. Under the kitchen was a brick cistern.[187] It retains the stylistic elements such as the heavy pilaster strips and returns at the gable ends typical of earlier Greek houses in Bloomington. Original roofing and foundation materials are covered with modern materials.

53. William Chambers House, c. 1856, ~~7648 Auto Club Road~~. 11245 Bloomington Ferry Circle

The William Chambers house is one of the oldest houses in Bloomington and the only Greek revival house executed in brick. William Chambers along with Joseph Dean came to Bloomington c. 1852 to operate a ferry on the St. Paul to Shakopee road.[188] They first lived in Dean's cabin until Dean sold his share of the operation to the Goodriches and left in 1855.[189] Chambers borrowed the brick molds used in the construction of the Gideon Pond house and using local materials built this temple style, two-story, Greek revival house.[190] Chambers occupied the house and operated the ferry until his death in 1868.[191]

The structure is an excellent example of a Greek revival house executed in local brick. Original Greek revival elements remaining include returns at gable ends along with cornices and some fenestration. An early porch across the front of the main house along with a two-story modern frame addition to the rear of the kitchen wing appear to be the major

alterations. The original fabric of the house remains essentially intact.

54. Bloomington Ferry Bridge Site, 1889-1977

Replaced by a modern "temporary" structure, the original Bloomington Ferry Bridge was built in 1889-90[192] to replace the ferry which had operated at this river crossing from 1854 to 1890.[193] Construction of this bridge along with the Cedar Avenue Bridge was authorized by the Minnesota Legislature in April of 1889.[194]

Both structures were of iron truss construction with wooden bridge decks. They were swing bridges pivoting on a central limestone pier to allow river traffic to pass. This type of bridge is rare in Minnesota with only three of these structures erected in the state according to the Minnesota Historical Society.[195] All of these span or spanned the Minnesota River providing access points from Bloomington to Scott and Dakota Counties on the South. The two earlier bridges at Cedar Avenue and Bloomington Ferry carried pedestrians, wagon and later, motor traffic. The later bridge at Normandale Road carried railroad traffic as well.

The ferry the bridge replaced was at a ford in the river used originally by Indians. The ferry built by Joseph Dean and William Chambers c. 1853-4 consisted of a wire cable stretched across the river by which a flat barge long enough for one good sized wagon and team could be guided and pulled across the river. The cable was raised and lowered by means of a winch to allow boat traffic to pass.[196] After Chambers died in 1868 the ferry was sold to James Brown and in turn sold to John Cameron in 1872.[197] Cameron was killed while tending the ferry in 1879 and his son, John Cameron, Jr., took over operations until the construction of the bridge. After the bridge was completed, Cameron served the bridge tender,

opening and closing the bridge for passing boats.[198] The ferry was located just downstream from the bridge.[199] No trace of the ferry save the evidence of the original approaches remains. The ferry bridge was demolished in 1977 despite efforts of the City of Bloomington and other groups to preserve the structure.

55. Bloomington Ferry Hotel Site, 1855-1905

In 1855 several St. Paul businessmen including William Brewster and Albee Smith bought Joseph Dean's property at Bloomington Ferry for a townsite.[200] One of the promises made by the investors and the only one to be realized was the construction of a hotel. The 16-room hotel was built by Albee Smith between 1855 and 1858 and served the area as a hotel, store and post office throughout its existence.[201] By the time the Camerons acquired the ferry in 1872, the hotel had become the property of the ferry operator. It was located just West of the present Chambers house where the original road turned South to the ferry crossing.[202] Historic photographs indicate it was a two-story Greek revival structure with a five bay facade - four windows across the front on each floor and a central doorway on the first floor.[203] Bloomington ferry was the first area in Bloomington to have a distinct identity and the only area to have been a speculative townsite. Like many of its counterparts, it failed to live up to the glowing claims of its developers and the area around Penn Avenue and Old Shakopee Road supplanted Bloomington ferry as the most active 19th century Bloomington community. The Bloomington ferry area remains virtually unchanged with the exception of the bridge until around the beginning of the 20th century when the Joseph Dean cabin finally disappeared[204] and the hotel burned.[205]

56. Joseph Dean Cabin Site, 1852 - 1894

Joseph Dean came to Bloomington in the winter of 1851-2 with a charter for a ferry.[206] He and his partner, William Chambers, built a structure of squared logs.[207] They established Bloomington Ferry and operated the Bloomington Ferry Post Office, first in Hennepin County outside Fort Snelling[208] from this cabin.

By 1855, the ferry was well established and Dean sold his share in the ferry to A. C. and S. A. Goodrich of Bloomington[209] and his land to a group of St. Paul investors including Albee Smith for a townsite.[210] Dean left Bloomington for the lumber business in Minneapolis where he was successful. He died there in 1890.[211] After Dean departed, the use of the cabin is uncertain. It could be assumed Chambers lived in the cabin until his house was built in 1856-7, however, after that period there is little to indicate its use. In P.M. Dahl's survey for the ferry bridge in 1889 a structure labeled as a "barn" is shown on the approximate cabin site. Photographs of the structure indicate it was a one story building with a loft, rectangular in plan with a lean-to on one side. The front facade had two 6/6 light sash flanking a central planked door. Construction was of logs hewn square and notched at the ends in the English manner. The roof was of cedar shingles with a board ridge. The single chimney was of brick.[212]

The cabin site is located West of the present Bloomington Ferry Bridge Road at the foot of the bluffs on the North side of the River. Some evidence of the cabin may remain in the form of a slight depression and foundation stones.

57. Savage Swing Bridge, c. 1907-1910, Normandale Road and Minnesota River

Built originally for the Dan Patch Line the Savage Swing Bridge is the newest of the three swing bridges crossing the Minnesota River in Bloomington. It is unique in its design to carry both vehicular and rail traffic. In the period between 1907 and 1910 Marion W. Savage, owner of the International Stock Food Company, was engaged in building a railroad from Minneapolis to Dubuque.[213] This line was never realized beyond Northfield and Savage decided to move passengers instead of freight. He hoped residential development would occur along the railroad right-of-way and he purchased property 25 miles South of Minneapolis for speculation.[214] It was, it appeared, too far away and Savage had no takers.[215] Excursions to the Savage Barns in Savage and Antlers Park in Lakeville were popular and promoted by Savage to increase passenger use of the line.[216] Trains were pulled by some of the first gas-electric locomotives. These machines were the ancestors of the modern diesel electric locomotives but their use in 1910 when the line opened was unusual.[217]

The bridge swinging on a central pier is an iron truss with a wooden bridge deck. It is one of three of this type in the state according to the Minnesota Historical Society[218] and the only one built to carry both vehicular and rail traffic.

GROUP II

58. James Palmer House, d. 1874-1886, 4304 West Old Shakopee Road.

A structure is indicated on this site as early as 1874[219] however, probably the present building has replaced an earlier dwelling. James Palmer was the principal owner of the property although his brother Henry and father are listed as joint owners in 1879.[220]

The house remained in the Palmer family through 1913. This two story

vernacular farmhouse has several Victorian influences as seen in the front porch and the paired windows centered above it.

These elements along with the fenestration point to a later construction date, however insufficient information exists at present to make a more accurate determination.

Modern materials cover the siding and roof and a modern one story addition has been erected on the West side.

59. Goodrich/Pond House, c. 1874-79, 6101 Auto Club Road.

By 1874, Thomas Vessey had built two structures on property[221] he had settled in 1858.[222] This house is probably the newer structure of the two and may have been built for sale. By 1879 this structure and a small acreage had been sold to Emily Goodrich[223] wife of pioneer S. A. Goodrich.

In 1856 Gideon Pond, Jr. married Winnifred Goodrich, a daughter and appears as the property owner.[224] The property remained in his hands through 1913.[225]

This small rectangular one and 1/2 story vernacular farmhouse has been somewhat altered with modern siding and a large porch. It appears consistent in massing and fenestration with structures built in the 1870's in Bloomington.

60. Robert Kelly House, 6211 ~~West Old Shakopee Road.~~ Auto Club Road

Similar to the James Palmer House, this two story structure appears to have been built later than a dwelling shown on the property in 1874.[226] Local tradition indicates the house was the home of Robert W. Kelly, Jr., and built c. 1900 to replace an earlier one.[227] This would seem reasonable, however, a more detailed examination is necessary before a more accurate construction date can be established.

The two story house is a late vernacular farmhouse with similar massing and fenestration to the James Palmer House. A one story porch and shed appear on the front and rear facades. The porch has been enclosed. Modern materials cover the roof. Clapboard siding and some fenestration may be original.

61. West/McClay House, c. 1874-79, 6600 West Old Shakopee Road. William West came to Section 32 in 1863 at the age of 16 with his wife, Susanna. She died and he was remarried in 1872 to Mary Kell.[228] By 1879 this frame structure probably replaced an earlier claim cabin.[229] Between 1880 and 1886 West sold the property to John McClay[230] and died shortly thereafter. His wife married Andrew Glenn in whose name the farm appears in 1886.[231] The property was passed to James McClay, a son, before 1890[232] and he continued to own the property through 1913.[233] This 1-1/2 story L-shaped vernacular farmhouse is typical of those built in Bloomington during the 1870's. A simple exterior and symmetrical fenestration, some of it original, remain intact. Original roof and foundation materials remain exposed as well. A large 1 story porch appears to have been added to the side. The one-story addition on the opposite side had a metal roof.

62. Henry Wigley House, c. 1890-98, 11124 South Old Shakopee Road. This structure appears to have been built between 1890 and 1898[234] by Henry Wigley, the blacksmith, who bought Hector Chadwick's shop on ferry hill in 1880.[235] Local tradition indicates this house served as the Bloomington Ferry Post Office for a time.[236] However, maps indicate the post office during this period was located on the Ellingson property.[237] Without further research it is difficult to confirm the presence of the post office in this structure.

The massing of this 1-1/2 story T-shaped structure suggests a vernacular farmhouse but the brick exterior and fenestration are not typical of the style. A modern garage has been added to the North. A more detailed examination of the structure is necessary to establish its age and originality to the site.

63. Edward L. Ellingson House, c. 1890-98, 8101 West 108th Street. This house appears to have been built between 1890 and 1898.[238] Local tradition indicates it was built by Edward L. Ellingson, son of Sever Ellingson, an early settler of Bloomington.[239] The elder Ellingson built a house on the N.W.1/4 of the N.E.1/4 of Section 6, T.115N, R.21W, prior to 1879.[240] This house burned in 1916 and was replaced by the house now owned by Mendon E. Tapping at 11050 South Old Shakopee Road.[241]

The Edward Ellingson house is typical of many vernacular style farmhouses built around the turn of the century. It is basically square with a cross gable roof. Decorative trim occurs at the top of the principal gable. Original siding is covered by modern materials. Original fenestration including a stained glass window remains.

A two story addition has been built on the rear of the house.

## VI. CONCLUSION

The rural character of Bloomington's initial settlement and its first 50 years are reflected in the historic structures which remain in the city. Its significant historic sites are, for the most part, scattered and isolated. Notable exceptions are the Bloomington Ferry area and "Old" Bloomington, at the crossing of Old Shakopee Road and Nine Mile Creek. The various ethnic groups which settled in Bloomington did not tend to erect ethnic architecture. 19th century architecture remaining in Bloomington is dominated by the simple vernacular farmhouse and its predecessors in the Greek revival style. There is little Victorian romanticism to be found in the city. The major reason for the lack of Victorian architecture appears to be the slow rate of growth of the city at the time these styles were popular. One fine example of the Victorian period, the Douthwaite House at 94th and Penn Avenue, has recently been razed. On the other hand, there are quite a number of good examples of Greek revival style houses surviving in the city that, in other areas in the county, were replaced by the more exuberant Victorian styles. Particularly important sites include the William Oxborough House at 92nd and Lyndale Avenue South, the Brousseau House, the John Brown House, the William Ellison House, the Bloomington Ferry area, the Cedar Avenue and Savage Bridges, the McAfee Mill site and the Gideon Pond house. Of these, only the Pond House is on the National Register of Historic places. It is recommended that preservation of these and other Group I and II sites be encouraged and that consideration be given to the nomination of the Group I sites to the National Register.

A historic district nomination to the Register for the Bloomington Ferry area is also recommended because of the concentration of pre-

historic and historic sites remaining in the area.

Planning for future preservation goals may include recognition of buildings and sites relating to the explosive growth from 1940 to the present. Bloomington architecture from this period represents an excellent cross section of the rapid suburban growth and development typical of the post World War II period with excellent examples of a wide variety of architectural types and styles from "ramblers" to solar heated idea homes and townhouse developments.

The automobile, from Elmer Scott's Ford Agency to present day I494 and I35W, has formed the fabric of Bloomington in the twentieth century. Its legacy of the freeway and the suburban development, particularly as it has occurred, in Bloomington, will provide an insight into the lives of our own time. History is never static. Today's events become tomorrow's history. Historic preservation planning in the future should recognize this fact and seek out and preserve representative architecture of <u>all</u> periods in the growth and development of the city.

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| 61. 6600 West Old Shakopee Road, West/McClay House | 39 |
| 62. 11124 South Old Shakopee Road, Henry Wigley House | 39 |
| 63. 8101 West 108th Street, Edward L. Ellingson House | 40 |

# BLOOMINGTON HISTORICAL REGISTER

## Existing Prehistoric Sites

| | |
|---|---|
| Findlay Mounds | Sec.14, T.27, R.24 |
| Mounds | W.1/2 of S.E. 1/4, Sec.5, T.115, R.21 |
| Cunningham Group | W.1/2 of S.W. 1/4, Sec. 5, T.115, r. 21 |
| Mounds | S.E.1/4 of N.E.1/4, Sec. 6, T. 115, r.21 |
| Bloomington Ferry Mounds | S.W. 1/4, Sec. 31, T. 116, R.21 |

## Class I Sites

| | |
|---|---|
| Gideon Pond House | 401 East 104th Street |
| William Chambers House | 7648 Auto Club Road |
| Brousseau/Reed House | 1629 E. Old Shakopee Road |
| Rene L. A. Baillif House | 10624 Humboldt Avenue |
| Joseph Lorence House | 7335 Marth Road |
| John Brown House | 6630 Auto Club Road |
| Joseph Linke HOuse | 1516 E. 86th Street |
| Bloomington Town Hall | 10200 Penn Avenue |
| Bush Lake School | 8308 W. Bush Lake Road |

## Class II Sites

| | |
|---|---|
| Robert "Doc" Oxborough House | 1724 W. 90th Street |
| John Logan House | 8940 W. Bush Lake Road |
| J. H. Bradbury House | 8701 3rd Avenue |
| Sever G. St. Martin House | 125 E. Old Shakopee Road |
| Wigley House | 11124 S. Old Shakopee Road |
| St. Martins Barn | 9825 Lyndale Avenue |

## Class III Sites

| | |
|---|---|
| Jeremiah Scott House | 9347 Cedar Avenue |
| 2nd Wilbur Palmer House | 9516 12th Avenue |
| John T. Palmer House | 801 E. 86th Street |
| Mary Christian House | 8428 Portland Avenue |
| William Oxborough House | 9212 Lyndale Avenue |
| William Davis House | 10225 Lyndale Avenue |
| 2nd Thomas Oxborough House | 9440 Penn Avenue |
| Veness House | 9526 W. Bush Lake Road |

## Class IV Sites

| | |
|---|---|
| Elmer Scott Ford Agency | 9133 Cedar Avenue |
| Residence | 8205 24th Avenue |
| Abram T. Palmer House | 1125 E. Old Shakopee Road |
| Florentine Standish House | 1311 W. 98th Street |
| James Palmer House | 4304 W. Old Shakopee Road |
| Goodrich/Pond House | 6101 Auto Club Road |

Class IV Sites continued

| | |
|---|---|
| Robert Kelly House | 6211 Auto Club Road |
| Dunbar/Chadwick Blacksmith Shop | 2117 West Old Shakopee Road |
| Residence | 3111 West Old Shakopee Road |
| Swansons Blacksmith Shop | 9505 Lyndale Avenue |