NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME
HISTORIC
Mower House and Arcola Mill Site
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
Arcola Trail SW, SW Sec. 29 T31N, R19W Cot lot 8
CITY. TOWN
Stillwater
STATE
Minnesota

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
DISTRICT
BUILDING(S)
STRUCTURE
SITE
OBJECT
OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC
PRIVATE
BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
IN PROCESS
BEING CONSIDERED
STATUS
OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED
WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE
COMMERCIAL
PARK
EDUCATIONAL
ENTERTAINMENT
RELIGIOUS
GOVERNMENT
SCIENTIFIC
INDUSTRIAL
MILITARY
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
TRANSPORTATION
OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
Dr. Henry VanMeier
STREET & NUMBER
226 East Myrtle Street
CITY. TOWN
Stillwater
STATE
Minnesota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE.
Washington County Courthouse
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
STREET & NUMBER
14900 North 61st Street
CITY. TOWN
Stillwater
STATE
Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
St. Croix National Scenic Riverway Survey of Historic Structures
DATE
June 1976
FEDERAL
STATE
COUNTY
LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Minnesota Historical Society, Bldg. 25 Fort Snelling
CITY. TOWN
St. Paul
STATE
Minnesota
The Mower House and Arcola Mill Site are located on the St. Croix River seven miles north of Stillwater. The Mower House was built in the Greek Revival style in 1847. It is a wood frame building with clapboard siding. The floor plan is basically T-shaped with a two-storey addition to the south side. The original house plan was rectangular and measured 36 by 50 feet. The rear (west) and south additions are early (1870's) and were built by the Mowers.

The front facade has five bays. On the first storey, the centrally placed double door is flanked on either side by two windows. The original full-front porch has been screened in and the porch stairs removed. Above at the second storey level, two sets of windows flank a door with side lights which leads out onto an open deck with low railing.

The gable roof has a chimney at either end of the main (north-south) axis of the house. The gable ends have a broken pediment and classical corner pilasters. The windows throughout the house are six over six, and the shutters are original to the house. A door on the north side of the rear addition has a transom and side lights. A screened porch has been added to the south side by the present owners.

The mill site is located several hundred feet up river from the Mower House. A cabin has been built on the mill site by the present owners which utilizes the old mill foundation and the 40 foot chimney. The cabin is rectangular with two storeys and built into the hill so that the west entrance is on the second storey level. It is sided with elm bark.

A modern swimming pool and two sheds are in close proximity to the Mower House. A small cabin built from a grounded houseboat is located between the House and the mill site.
SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD
_—PREHISTORIC
_—1400-1499
_—1500-1599
_—1600-1699
_—1700-1799
_—1800-1899
_—1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW
_—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
_—ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
_—AGRICULTURE
_—ARCHITECTURE
_—ART
_—COMMERCIAL
_—COMMUNICATIONS
_—COMMUNITY PLANNING
_—CONSERVATION
_—ARCHITECTURE
_—ARCHITECTURE
_—ECONOMICS
_—EDUCATION
_—ENGINEERING
_—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
_—FINANCE
_—LAW
_—LITERATURE
_—MILITARY
_—MUSIC
_—PHILOSOPHY
_—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
_—RELIGION
_—SCIENCE
_—SCULPTURE
_—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_—THEATER
_—TRANSPORTATION
_—OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1847

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mower House and the Arcola Mill were built by brothers John and Martin Mower in Arcola in 1847. The Mower House is significant as an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture. The Arcola Mill was one of the earliest lumber mills on the St. Croix River. The Mower House and the mill site are all that remains of the community of Arcola which once included shops and houses built for the mill employees.

The Mower brothers are prominent figures in the history of the St. Croix Valley. John Mower was a member of the territorial legislature in 1854, and Mower County in southern Minnesota was named after him. Martin Mower was the managing owner of the St. Croix Boom Company for many years. (The St. Croix Boom Site is a National Landmark).

Originally from Maine, John Mower moved to St. Croix Falls in 1842 and worked with a lumbering company. He and his family moved to Stillwater in 1844 and built a house there.

Martin Mower came to Minnesota in 1843. He and three partners formed a company to build a saw mill and go into the lumbering business. In 1846 they moved to land seven miles above Stillwater and agreed upon the name Arcola. When the mill was finished in 1847, two of the partners sold out, and John Mower bought an interest in the enterprise.

The original mill built in 1847 measured 40 by 60 feet with one sash saw and an edger. It was powered by a water wheel 34 feet in diameter enclosed in a wheel house. The water was brought from a spring 100 rods away. The mill had a capacity of one million board feet a year.

In 1856, the Mowers rebuilt the mill and powered it by steam. It had a capacity of two million board feet. In 1859 a new engine and machinery were added, and the capacity was expanded to five million board feet.

Sometime in the 1870s, however, the mill ceased to operate. Martin Mower was deeply involved in the management of the St. Croix Boom Company and John Mower had other business and political interests.

All that remains of the Arcola Mill today are the chimney, foundation, engine mount, and structural embankment for the sluiceway. A modern cabin has been built on the site using the old mill foundation and chimney.

The Mower House was built on the St. Croix River in 1847, a few hundred feet south of the mill. Martin, who never married, lived there along with John Mower, his wife, and children.

The house is a good example of Greek Revival architecture and was one of the largest and most elegant houses along the St. Croix River. The house remained in the Mower family until 1935 when the present owners bought it. It is now used only as a summer residence.


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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES:

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<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

From a point 750' E of the SW corner of Sec. 29, T31, R19, on the south side of the section, 500' N, thence 200' E, thence 500' S, thence 200' W to point of origin.

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LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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**FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE: Peggy Lindoo

ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Historical Society

ADDRESS: Bldg. 25 Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul

STATE: Minnesota

DATE: 10/3/77

TELEPHONE: 612/726-1171

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**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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.

TITLE: Russell W. Fridley, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE: 3/6/80

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FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST: 

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE: 6/17/80

DATE: 6/10/80

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GPO 892-453
Mower House and Arcola Mill Site

Mower House and Arcola Mill Site
Arcola Trail, SW SW sec. 29 T31N,
R19W Got lot 8 Washington Co.,
Stillwater, Minnesota
(Vicinity of) JAN 22 1979
Liza Nagle
Minnesota Historical Society
690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN
May 7, 1976
East (front) and South facades of
house
01578/10 /3 JUN 17 1980

FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THIS PHOTOGRAPH IS FOR REFERENCE USE ONLY; IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED OR SOLD WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION.
Mower House and Arcola Mill Site
Stillwater, Minnesota
(Vicinity of)

Liza Nagle
Minnesota Historical Society
690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN

May 7, 1976

East and North facades of
Arcola Mill Chimney and attached
house built on original mill
foundation

01578/8 2/3
Mower House and Arcola Mill Site
Stillwater, Minnesota

(Vicinity of) Washington Co.

Liza Nagle  JAN 2 2 1979
Minnesota Historical Society
690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN

May 7, 1976

Arcola Mill Sluice way and mill
engine housing - facing west

01578/9  3/3  JUN 17 1980