

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 14 1980

DATE ENTERED JUN 17 1980

**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

N of Stillwater

Arcola Trail SW, SW Sec. 29 T31N, R19W Qot lot 8

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Stillwater

— VICINITY OF

First

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Minnesota

22

Washington

163

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

— DISTRICT

— PUBLIC

☒ OCCUPIED

— AGRICULTURE

— MUSEUM

☒ BUILDING(S)

☒ PRIVATE

— UNOCCUPIED

— COMMERCIAL

— PARK

— STRUCTURE

— BOTH

— WORK IN PROGRESS

— EDUCATIONAL

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☒ SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

— ENTERTAINMENT

— RELIGIOUS

— OBJECT

— IN PROCESS

— YES: RESTRICTED

— GOVERNMENT

— SCIENTIFIC

— BEING CONSIDERED

— YES: UNRESTRICTED

— INDUSTRIAL

— TRANSPORTATION

— NO

— MILITARY

— OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dr. Henry VanMeier

STREET & NUMBER

226 East Myrtle Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Stillwater

— VICINITY OF

Minnesota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Courthouse

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

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☒ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☒ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

1847

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dunn, James Taylor, The St. Croix: Midwest Border River, Holt, Rinehart & Winston: N.Y., 1965
Easton, Augustus B., History of the St. Croix Valley, 2 vols. Chicago: H.C. Cooper Jr. 1909
Folsom, William Henry C., Fifty Years in the Northwest, St. Paul, Mn: Pioneer Press Co 1888.
Gustafson, Ernest B., "The Swedes in Minnesota," Swedish Historical Society of America Year-book - 1925, Vol. 10.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Marine on St. Croix Quad. 7.5

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

UTM NOT VERIFIED **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

A 15 519540 4998160
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

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.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Peggy Lindoo

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

10/3/77

STREET & NUMBER

Bldg. 25 Fort Snelling

TELEPHONE

612/726-1171

CITY OR TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Russell W. Fridley, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3/6/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Ray Luce
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: Kevin J. O'Connell

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6/17/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6/10/80

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Mower House and Arcola Mill Site

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

Neill, Rev. Edward and J. Fletcher Williams, History of Washington County and the
St. Croix Valley, Minneapolis, Minnesota: North Star Publishing Co. 1881.

MOWER HOUSE AND
ARLOLA MILL SITE
WASHINGTON CO., MN
SKETCH MAP NOT TO SCALE

EMBANKMENT

CREEK BED

MODERN
CABIN

MILL CHIMNEY
AND FOUNDATION

ST. CROIX
RIVER

MOWER
HOUSE

Pod

SHEDS





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 1/3 JUN 17 1980

FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Mower House and Arcola Mill ~~Site~~
Stillwater, Minnesota

-- (Vicinity of) -- JAN 22 1979 --

Liza Nagle *Washington Co.*
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 JUN 17 1980



Mower House and Arcola Mill ~~Site~~
Stillwater, Minnesota
(Vicinity of) *Washington Co.*
Liza Nagle JAN 22 1979
Minnesota Historical Society
690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN
May 7, 1976
Arcola Mill Sluce way and mill
engine housing - facing west
01578/9 3/3 JUN 17 1980

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