

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Minnesota
COUNTY: Ramsey
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUN 18 1975

1. NAME

COMMON: Strong, Ossian R. House
AND/OR HISTORIC: Rau/Strong House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 2 George Street			
CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 4th	
STATE: Minnesota	CODE: 22	COUNTY: Ramsey	CODE: 123

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Ruth G. Strong		
STREET AND NUMBER: 2 George Street		
CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul	STATE: Minnesota	CODE: 22

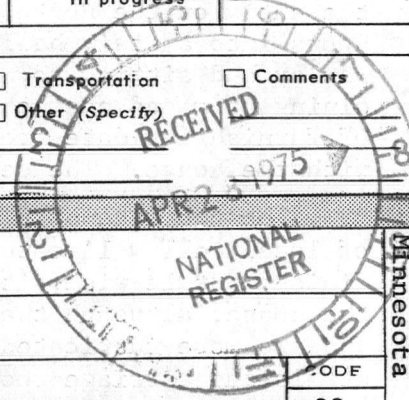
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Ramsey County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds		
STREET AND NUMBER: 15 West Kellogg Blvd.		
CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul	STATE: Minnesota	CODE: 22

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Statewide Historic Sites Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1972-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Minnesota Historical Society			
STREET AND NUMBER: Building 25, Fort Snelling			
CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul	STATE: Minnesota	CODE: 22	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Minnesota
COUNTY: Ramsey
ENTRY NUMBER: JUN 18 1975
DATE: JUN 18 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rau/Strong House is located at 2 George Street in West Saint Paul (Lots 1,2,3, Block 97, West Saint Paul Proper). The property consists of three lots upon which are two structures, a two storey limestone dwelling and a limestone carriage barn. The site is hilly and spacious lawns separate the house from the barn.

Constructed between 1884 and 1886, the house reflects the eclectic tastes of the high Victorian era in that it combines architectural design features of the Italianate, the Second Empire, and the Eastlake styles. It is two storeys with a gabled mansard roof. Although constructed of local yellow limestone, it has been faced with a finish coat of plaster/stucco to conceal the rusticated nature of the stone. Brush-hammered quoins mark corners. A prominent feature are the high floor to ceiling windows throughout, a feature of the Italianate style. The Eastlake is featured in the pierced-work decoration found in the gables.

In plan, the house is basically Italianate, with formal rooms located in a front mass and kitchen and service functions in a rear appendage of smaller proportions. A stair tower (or pavilion) marks the entry on the north facade. One enters through a pair of double doors into a stair hall which opens to the right and front into the parlor and sitting room respectively. In these two rooms as in the dining room and chamber in the main portion of the house, the majority of furnishings date from the late nineteenth century and are contemporary with the house. The second floor contains chambers and bedrooms.

The carriage barn to the southeast of the house is also constructed of local yellow limestone, although not covered with the plaster/stucco finish. Style-wise, it reflects the same design influences as seen in the house, although the degree of finishwork is less, and the whole appears more rusticated. It is a simple cupolaed structure with horse-stalls and carriage room on the first level and loft on the second level. It, as in the case of the house, remains relatively intact.

In general, both structures are in a good state of preservation, but are beginning to show the deterioration relative to age and weather. The present occupants are elderly and little has been done in recent years in grounds-keeping and maintenance. The property is one of extremely few urban "estates" in West Saint Paul which has retained the features of original site development.....grounds and outbuilding. The area is subject to possible redevelopment and the future of the Rau/Strong House is uncertain.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1886**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1867 Adam Rau purchased the property at 2 George Street in West Saint Paul. This parcel consisted of three hilly lots a short distance from the Mississippi River. Rau, a stone-cutter of foreign descent held this property for seventeen years until, in 1884, he applied for a permit to construct a limestone dwelling and barn on the property. Two years later, the buildings were completed. However, in 1888, Rau moved on selling the house, barn and property to Ossian R. Strong, for the sum of \$8,000. The property has remained to the present day in the hands of the descendents of Ossian Strong who have preserved it relatively intact.

The Rau/Strong House is primarily significant as a representative of middle class taste during the last half of the nineteenth century in Saint Paul. Although Rau is credited with constructing the buildings himself, these buildings are typical of the varied tastes of the era. Land was relatively plentiful and the idea of the urban "mansion" with carriage barn and spacious grounds was in vogue. Rau therefore constructed his "mansion" on the northwest corner of his three lots with the carriage barn on the southeast corner separated by an expanse of lawn and gardens. Significant also is the craftsmanship with which the buildings were designed and constructed.... reflecting Rau's skill as a stone-cutter. They are of local yellow limestone laid in courses with brush-hammered quoins at corners. They also reflect Rau's eclectic tastes in design, as the architectural features are derived through a combination of the Italianate, the Second Empire, and the Eastlake.

Further, the property has remained in the hands of the Strong family since its purchase in 1888. Strong, a clerk for the P.H. Kelley Company of Saint Paul, made no changes in the structures nor have his descendents. Rather, the house and barn have been preserved along with many original furnishings to convey an accurate picture of middle class urban life in the Victorian Saint Paul.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

St. Paul City Directories 1865-1890

Registry of Deeds, 1851-1886

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		UTM Reference 15 / 493340 / 497 4900	UTM OK HL	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **approx. 1 acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Charles W. Nelson - Historic Sites Survey and Planning

ORGANIZATION: **Minnesota Historical Society** DATE: **8 November 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Paul** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **22**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Russell W. Fridley
 Title: Minnesota Historical Society
 Date: 3/28/75

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

AK Morsensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JUN 18 1975

Date _____

ATTEST:
W. M. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

JUN 17 1975

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Property

Rau / Strong House

75001015
Ramsey

State Minnesota

Working Number 4.28.75.760

TECHNICAL

Photos 3 sep
Maps 1

Photo coming later

CONTROL

OK ^{cm} 4.29.75

OK if photos are OK
called 5/6/75 - Will send photos

HISTORIAN

Accept 6/11/75
W.R. Lunde
5/5/75

FORM SEEMS ADEQUATE, BUT NO PHOTO.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

LEBOVICH
5-5-75

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accorn
Cole
6.17.75

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

[Signature]
JUN 17 1975

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered JUN 18 1975

Federal Register Entry 8-5-75

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 10 1975

DATE ENTERED

JUN 18 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Rau/Strong House

AND/OR COMMON

Strong, Ossian R., House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Saint Paul

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Ramsey

STATE

Minnesota

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Charles W. Nelson

DATE OF PHOTO May, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Minnesota Historical Society, 690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minn. 55101

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 01209/17

Perspective view from Northeast

1003



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 10 1975

DATE ENTERED

JUN 18 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Rau/Strong House

AND/OR COMMON

Strong, Ossian R., House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Saint Paul

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Ramsey

STATE

Minnesota

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Charles W. Nelson

DATE OF PHOTO May, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Minnesota Historical Society, 690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minn. 55101

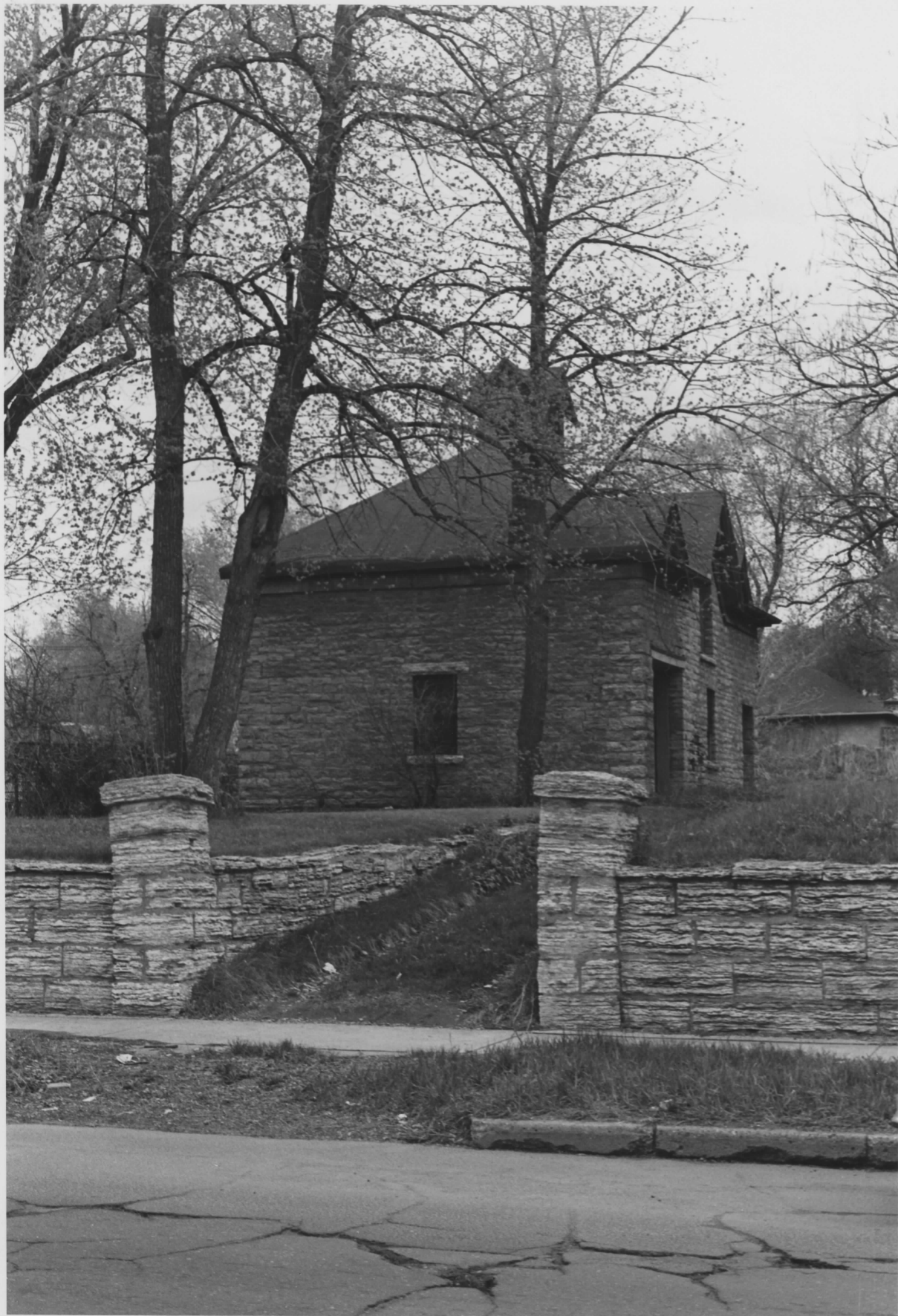
4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 01209/15

Perspective view from Northwest showing relationship of house and carriage barn.

#203



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 10 1975

DATE ENTERED JUN 18 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Rau/Strong House

AND/OR COMMON

Strong, Ossian R., House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Saint Paul

___VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Ramsey

STATE

Minnesota

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Charles W. Nelson

DATE OF PHOTO May, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Minnesota Historical Society, 690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minn. 55101

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 01209/18

Perspective view of Carriage Barn from Northwest.

#303

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

APR 28 1975

DATE ENTERED

JUN 18 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Rau/Strong House

AND/OR COMMON

Strong, Ossian R. House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Ramsey

STATE

Minnesota

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

USGS - Saint Paul East Quadrangle - 7.5 Minute Series

SCALE

1:24000

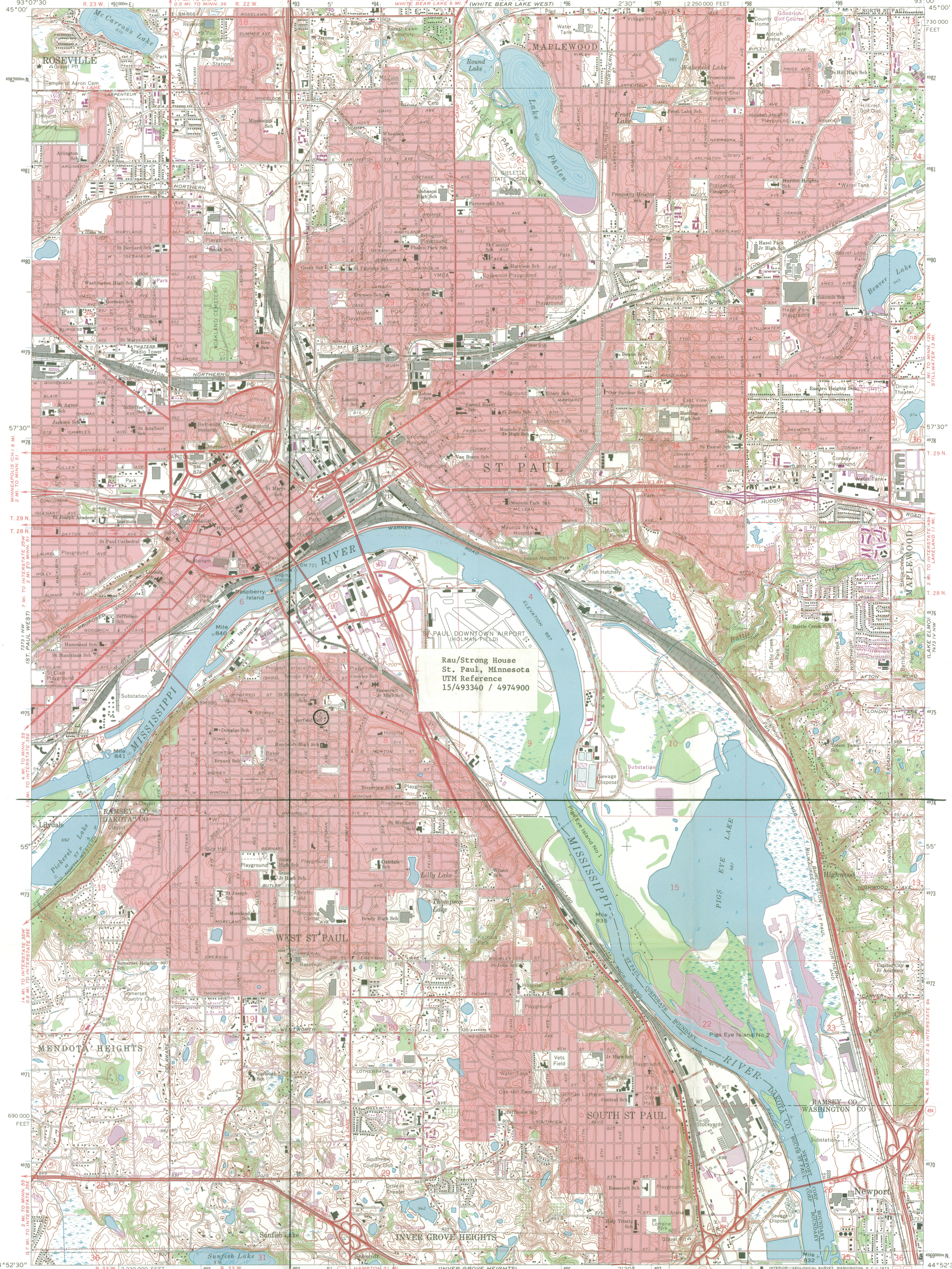
DATE 1967

Photorevised 1972

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



Rau/Strong House
St. Paul, Minnesota
UTM Reference
15/493340 / 4974900

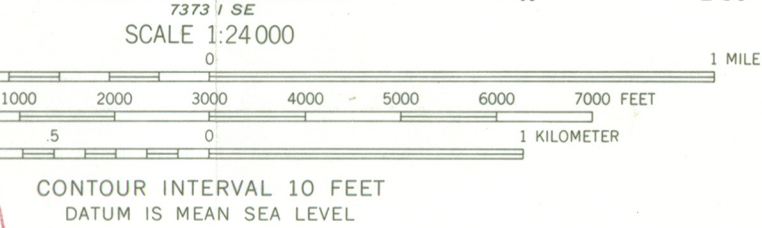
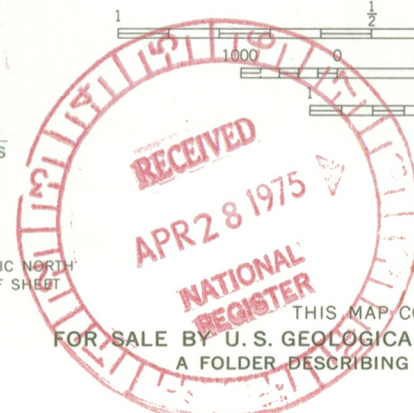
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1947. Field checked 1951. Revised from aerial
photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967

Hydrography compiled from information furnished by
Minnesota Department of Conservation

Polygonic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Minnesota coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route



ST. PAUL EAST, MINN.
NE/4 ST. PAUL 15' QUADRANGLE
N4452.5-W9300.7/5

1967
PHOTOREVISED 1972
AMS 7373 1 NE-SERIES 8782

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1972. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fort Snelling Branch (Building 25), Fort Snelling, St. Paul, Minnesota 55111 • 612-726-1171

27 March 1975



Dr. William Murtagh
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Attached please find the nomination for the Rau/Strong House (common name: Strong, Ossian R. House). The photos will be forthcoming in the near future.

We are sorry for this inconvenience.

Respectfully,

Charles W. Nelson
Historic Sites Survey and Planning

CWN/fr
Encl.

4.28.74 P2nd.



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fort Snelling Branch (Building 25), Fort Snelling, St. Paul, Minnesota 55111 • 612-726-1171

5 June 1975

Mr. Ray Luce
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Mr. Luce:

Enclosed please find the pictures for the:

Historic name: Rau/Strong House
Common Name: Strong, Ossian R., House
Saint Paul, Minnesota
Ramsey County

The nomination was mailed to you on 27 March 1975.

We are sorry for any inconvenience this delay may have caused.

Respectfully,

Charles W. Nelson
Historic Sites Survey and Planning

CWN/fr
Encl.

RESOURCE BOND

50% COTTON

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MINNESOTA

Date Entered JUN 18 1975

Name

Location

Rau/Strong House

**St. Paul
Ramsey County**

Also Notified

**Hon. Walter F. Mondale
Hon. Hubert H. Humphrey
Hon. Joseph E. Karth
Regional Director, Midwest Region**

**State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Russell W. Fridley
Director
Minnesota Historical Society
690 Cedar Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101**

PR MMott/row 6/19/75

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Rau/Strong House
 2 OTHER NAMES: Strong, Ossian R., House *rec.*
 3 date of entry: 6/18/75
 4 county code: 123

5 LOCATION street & number: 2 George Street
 city / town: St. Paul
 vicinity of: _____
 state: MN
 county: Ramsey
 6 NPS REGION: Midwest

7 OWNER: PRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY MULTIPLE FEDERAL (agency name)
 8 ADMINISTRATOR: _____

9 EXISTING SURVEYS: HABS HAER NHL
 10 FUNDED? YES NO
 11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 4TH
 12 SOURCE of NOMINATION: STATE FEDERAL

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES, NAME _____ NO
 14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES, NAME _____ NO
 15 ACREAGE: APPROX. 1 ACRE
 if state who prepared form? SHPO
 LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

16 CONDITION: deteriorated altered original site
 excellent ruins unaltered moved
 good unexposed reconstructed unknown
 fair unexcavated excavated
 17 features: INTERIOR: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 NOT INTACT-0
 UNKNOWN-4 NOT APPLICABLE-7
 EXTERIOR: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 NOT INTACT-0
 UNKNOWN-5 NOT APPLICABLE-8
 ENVIRONMENT: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 NOT INTACT-0
 UNKNOWN-6 NOT APPLICABLE-9

18 ACCESS: YES - Restricted YES - Unrestricted No Access Unknown
 19 ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO
 20 SAVED? YES NO
 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no

21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:
 ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric-2 COMMERCE-6
 ARCHEOLOGY - historic-1 COMMUNICATIONS-7
 AGRICULTURE-3 CONSERVATION-8
 ARCHITECTURE-4 ECONOMICS-9
 ART-5 EDUCATION-10
 ENGINEERING-11 ENTERTAINMENT-26
 EXPLORATION-12 HEALTH-27
 INDUSTRY-13 INVENTION-14
 LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 LAW-16
 LITERATURE-17 MILITARY-18
 MUSIC-19 PHILOSOPHY-20
 POLITICS / GOVT.-21 RELIGION-22
 SCIENCE-23 SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24
 SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30 TRANSPORTATION-25
 RECREATION-28 SETTLEMENT-29
 URBAN PLANNING-31 OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

22 CLAIMS: explain
 'first'
 'oldest'
 'only'

23 functions: WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: Private Residence
 CURRENTLY: Private Residence
 24 dates of initial construction: 1884--86
 major alterations: _____
 historic events: _____
 25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION: _____

26 architectural style(s): Elements of Italianate and Queen Anne
 27 architect: _____
 28 master builder: _____
 29 engineer: _____

30 landscape architect / garden designer: _____
 31 interior decorator: _____
 32 artist: _____
 33 artisan: Adam Rau - stone cutter/builder
 34 builder/contractor: _____

35 NAMES give role & date
 PERSONAL: (1) Adam Rau - original owner-builder/stone cutter.

EVENTS: _____

INSTITUTIONAL: _____

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP: Limestone, stuccoed; 2½ stories, modified rectangle, steep truncated hipped roof with gabled sections, interior chimney with corbeled cap, front off-center paneled double-door entrance with transom, set in slightly projecting 2-story bay capped with truncated pyramidal roof, 1-story entrance and side porches, intersecting gables with attic lights and decorative bargeboards, 2-story side window bay, paired windows, decorative cornice, quoins; original interiors; cupola stone carriage house. Elements of Italianate and Queen Anne. Built by original owner, Adam Rau, immigrant stone cutter; example of intact late 19th C. middle-class residence.