

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED  
APR 28 1975

DATE ENTERED  
MAY 6 1975

**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 The Justus Ramsey Stone House

AND/OR COMMON The Justus Ramsey House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
252 West Seventh Street

CITY, TOWN  
St. Paul

VICINITY OF  
CODE 27

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
4th

STATE  
Minnesota

COUNTY  
Ramsey CODE 123

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
George E. Wilm

STREET & NUMBER  
250 West Seventh Street

CITY, TOWN  
St. Paul

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Minnesota

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds - Ramsey County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
Kellogg Boulevard and St. Peter Street

CITY, TOWN  
St. Paul

STATE  
Minnesota

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Statewide Historic Sites Survey/Historic St. Paul Bldgs. Survey

DATE  
1973/1964

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Minnesota Historical Society/St. Paul Planning Department

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 Justus C. Ramsey House is a one-room stone cottage constructed between 1855 and 1857 with locally quarried limestone, laid in rough ashlar courses. The front facade is trimmed stone while the side and rear walls are merely rough "slag" pieces of stones roughly laid up in 18-inch thick walls. Originally, the only windows were at the front facade, along with the door, but two windows were cut in the east wall sometime after the turn of the century. The house is roofed with a simple gable with a single chimney midway along the roof peak. Wide, unornamented cornice boards give definition to the early Greek Revival appearance. Noteworthy are the heavy dressed stone lintels over the windows and door at the front facade.

The building is in need of repair and restoration, although in very good structural condition for its age. The interior, however, has been badly altered, for in the course of past repairs to the building the interior butternut woodwork and baseboards had been inadvertently destroyed.

The cottage is located near the St. Paul central business district and along one of the city's busiest traffic arterials, West Seventh Street, which is the old Fort Snelling Road. The site is presently endangered due to a contemplated widening of the street in the near future.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1855-57

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built between 1855 and 1857 and a well-preserved representation of an early pioneer cottage, the stone building, known commonly as The Justus Ramsey House is an excellent example of frontier stone craftsmanship.

Justus Ramsey, brother and business/real estate partner of the Minnesota political giant, Alexander Ramsey (see nomination form for the Alexander Ramsey House) is commonly attributed to have built this house as his first residence. However, a check of the Minnesota Historical Society's Ramsey manuscripts, a collection of business and personal records for both brothers, reveal that the first reference to the building is a lease in 1857 to a well-known historical family in early Minnesota. Also a thorough check of the early St. Paul city directories and land transfer records fail to uncover any evidence of a Ramsey residency. They do, however, reveal that the building was constructed during Ramsey's ownership. This is further reinforced by a check of the city real estate tax records which show a major tax increase for 1857.

Ramsey lost the building in 1859 as a result of the financial crash which nearly bankrupted the embryonic state and the stone house then went through a lengthy series of land transfers until the turn of the century. The house has traditionally been used as income property since its earliest days and has served as residence for some of St. Paul's most colorful pioneers. The Munger brothers, a family who later became millionaires, trading in grain issues at Duluth, Minnesota are the first recorded residents. One brother, W. A. Munger, is especially well known for he is locally attributed to have commissioned Dan Emmett, the brother of the state's first Supreme Court Justice, Lafayette Emmett, to write the famous song "Dixie." This apparently took place during Emmett's visit to St. Paul in the late 1850s and a specially requested work for Munger's band, the first private band organized in Minnesota. Should further research prove this true, the house would be the only extant site to interpret this incident.

The house, during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century was the home of a pioneer clothier, a real estate entrepreneur, and even functioned for a short time as a kitchen for the neighboring boarding house. In the 1930s the house was bought by its present owner, and has been used as part of an antique store ever since.

The Justus C. Ramsey House is mainly important for its association with the Ramsey family. Justus and Alexander were tightly associated in their early business dealings and no doubt that the location of the stone house had some part in the location of the first Alexander Ramsey House, the first permanent governor's house, on the lot to the rear. When the stone house first exchanged hands, both brothers owned an equal share of the property.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Historic St. Paul Buildings; St. Paul City Planning Department,  
St. Paul, Minnesota 1964  
St. Paul City Directions; 1856-1900  
"Register of Deeds Land Records," Register of Deeds, St. Paul, Minnesota  
"The Ramsey Papers Collection," Minnesota Historical Society Manuscripts Department,

St. Paul, Minnesota

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM OK  
CD

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 5 | 4, 9, 1, 7, 9, 0 | 4, 9, 7, 6, 3, 9, 0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Thomas Lutz

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

3/26/75

STREET & NUMBER

Building 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

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.

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ SIGNATURE

*Russell W. Fridley*

3/28/75

TITLE

Russell W. Fridley  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*AK Maclean*

DATE

5/6/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*Charles ...*

DATE

5-11-75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Chapman*

Property Ramsey, The Justus, Stone House  
State Minnesota Working Number 4.28.75.758

Ramsey  
75001014

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 1  
Maps 1

**CONTROL**

OK <sup>cm</sup>  
4.28.75

**HISTORIAN**

Accept  
W.R. Luce  
4/29/75

*is this free standing?*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

ACCEPT  
H.W. and 4/28/75

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Accept  
Cole  
4/30/75

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

accept  
Hungo Jr  
5-1-75

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry 7-1-75 Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered MAY 6 1975

INT:2106-74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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APR 28 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAY 6 1975

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

The Justus Ramsey Stone House

AND/OR COMMON

The Justus Ramsey House

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Ramsey

STATE

Minnesota

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE OF PHOTO

1972

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. 0444 #24

View from the north showing the front (northwest) elevation

#1081

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

*The* Justus Ramsey Stone House

AND/OR COMMON

*The* Justus Ramsey House

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Ramsey

STATE

Minnesota

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE

USGS - St. Paul East Quadrangle, Minnesota, 7.5 Minute Series

SCALE

1:24000

DATE 1967 Photorevised 1972

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

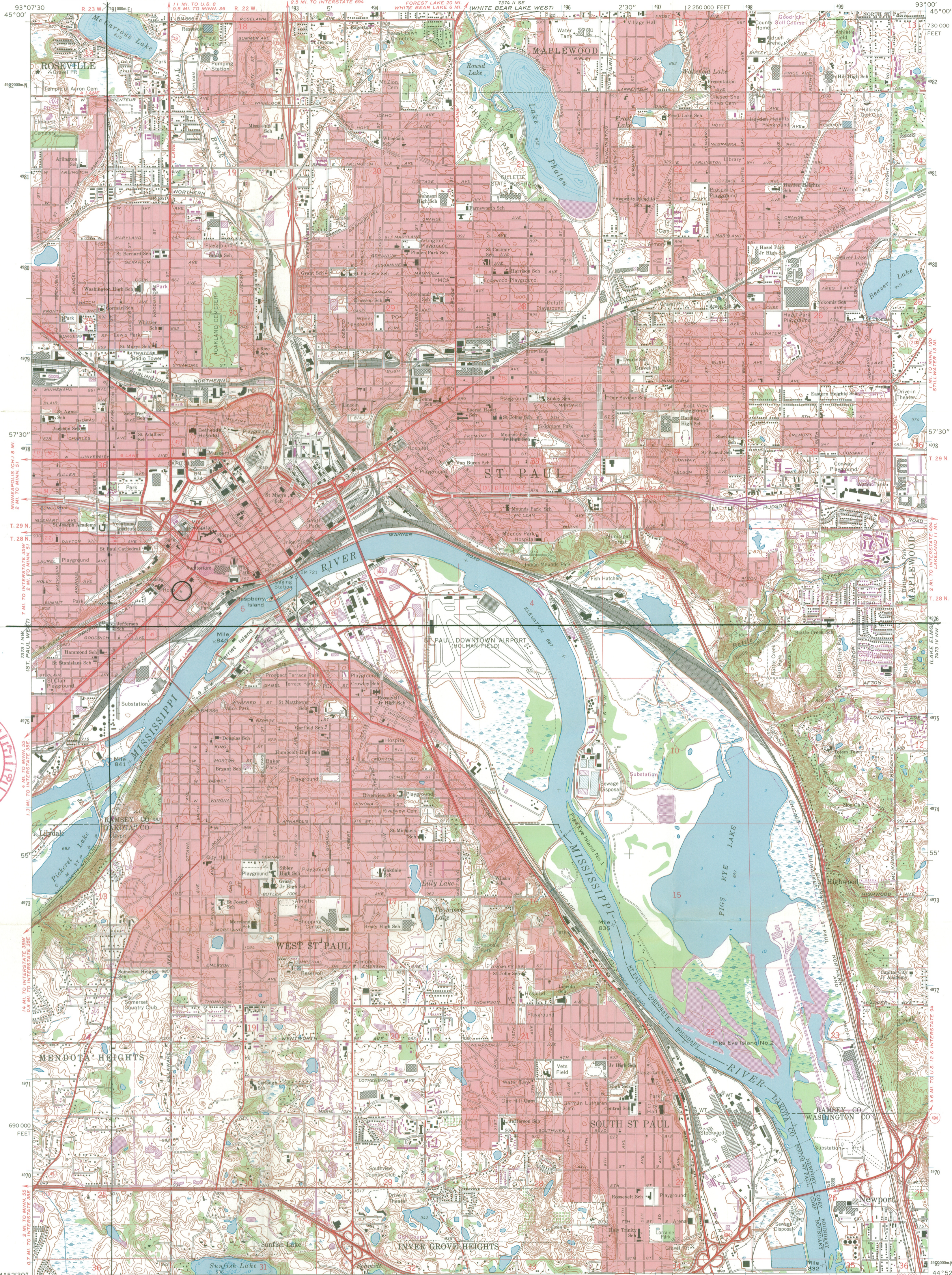
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

ST. PAUL EAST QUADRANGLE  
MINNESOTA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
NE/4 ST. PAUL 15' QUADRANGLE

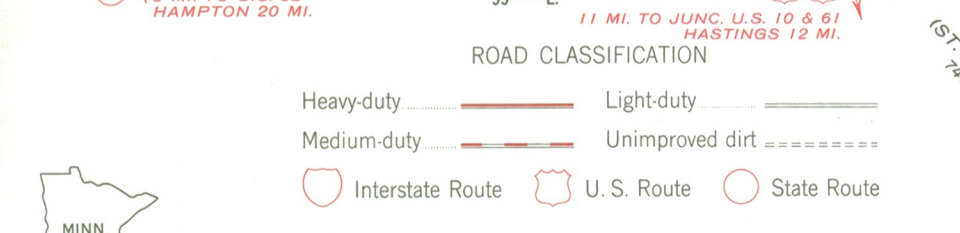
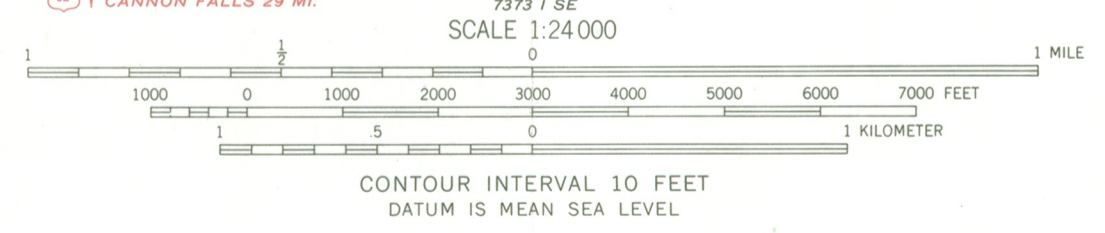


The Justus Ramsey Stone House  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
UTM Reference  
15 / 491770 / 4976390

*J. Ramsey*



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USCGS, 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  
Polyconic 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



ST. PAUL EAST, MINN.  
NE/4 ST. PAUL 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4452.5-W9300/7.5  
1967  
PHOTOREVISED 1972  
AMS 7373 I NE-SERIES V872

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE      **MINNESOTA**

Date Entered      **MAY 6 1975**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
<b>Ramsey, Justus, Stone House</b>	<b>St. Paul Ramsey County</b>

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/bsh

4/8/75

# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Ramsey, Justus, Stone House  
 2 OTHER NAMES:  
 3 date of entry: 5/6/75  
 4 county code: 123

5 LOCATION street & number: 252 West Seventh St.  
 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  
 if state who prepared form? SHPO

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?  YES. NAME:  NO  
 14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?  YES. NAME:  NO  
 15 ACREAGE: LESS THAN 1  
 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  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2  
 NOT INTACT-0  NOT INTACT-0  
 UNKNOWN-4  UNKNOWN-5  
 NOT APPLICABLE-7  NOT APPLICABLE-8  
 EXTERIOR  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3  
 NOT INTACT-0  
 UNKNOWN-6  
 NOT APPLICABLE-9  
 ENVIRONS  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  
 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  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: House  
 CURRENTLY: House/commercial use  
 24 dates of initial construction: 1857  
 major alterations:  
 historic events:  
 25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

26 architectural style(s): Greek Revival elements  
 27 architect:  
 28 master builder:  
 29 engineer:

30 landscape architect / garden designer:  
 31 interior decorator:  
 32 artist:  
 33 artisan:  
 34 builder / contractor:

35 NAMES give role & date  
 PERSONAL: (1) Alexander Ramsey - prominent MN Political leader and business partner and brother of (2) Justus Ramsey - original owner of house (3) Munger Brothers - later residents - grain speculators - associated with (4) Dan Emmett - author of song "Dixie".  
 EVENTS:  
 INSTITUTIONAL:

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP Ashlar limestone, 1 story, rectangular, gabled roof, interior chimney, glazed front center entrance recessed in paneled surround with flanking windows, plain frieze, stone window and door lintels; side windows added, c. 1900; major interior alterations, 20th C. Greek Revival elements. Built for Justus Ramsey, locally prominent businessman and brother of prominent MN political leader (2) Alexander Ramsey; later residence of the Munger Brothers, one of whom is believed to have commissioned Dan Emmett to write the song "Dixie" in the late 1850's.)