

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
Continuation Sheet

Murdock, Sabin S., House

Name of Property

Swift County MN

County and State

85001752

NR Reference Number

State Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ additional documentation ___ additional documentation: name change
___ move ___ removal ___ other

meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

Signature of Certifying Official/Title_____
Date of Action**Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ additional documentation ___ additional documentation: name change
___ move ___ removal ___ other

meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

Signature of Certifying Official/Title_____
Date of Action**National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ additional documentation accepted
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper_____
Date of Action

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Name of Property: Sabin S. Murdock House (NRIS 85001752)**Address:** 631 Clara Avenue**City/Township:** Murdock**County:** Swift**Reason for Removal:** The property has ceased to meet the criteria for listing because the qualities which caused it to be listed have been lost or destroyed (36 CFR 60.15 (a)).**Dates and Nature of Change:** Demolished, June 3, 2025**Comments:**

Built in 1878, the Sabin S. Murdock House was listed as a “historically and architecturally significant as the home of Sabin S. Murdock, the proprietor of Murdock, Minnesota, as represents the efforts of a single individual to conceive, found, and promote a rural Minnesota community.”¹ The property is listed under Criterion B and C in the areas of Exploration/Settlement and Architecture. “European” is also listed at a related area of significance in the National Park Service asset metadata.²

In 1876 Murdock purchased about 3,000 acres of land from the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad in Dublin Township, Swift County, apparently as a speculative venture. Convinced that the area could support another commercial and trade center along the St. Paul and Pacific line between DeGraff and Kerkhoven (about eight miles apart), Murdock and a partner, Joseph Schaaf of Carver, platted the town site of Murdock on their land in July of 1878. The townsite platted by Murdock and Schaaf consisted of twelve city blocks. Murdock's house, built in 1878, was the first building erected in the new town. Murdock's house was followed by a round elevator built by Murdock in 1878-79. Sabin S. Murdock was extremely influential in the early affairs of the community. In addition to initially owning most of the townsite, he owned and operated his own farm, the elevator, and a large stable.³

In January of 2025, the City of Murdock completed a mandatory Environmental Assessment Worksheet for the “complete demolition of the Sabin S. Murdock House.”⁴ The house was demolished in June of 2025.

When it was added to the National Register, the Sabin S. Murdock House retained the seven aspects of integrity (location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association). The property retains the integrity of *setting* despite the encroaching new development and the conversion of the parcel to a park. However, its *location, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association* were lost when the building was demolished.

¹ Granger “Murdock, Sabin S., House.”

² Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register Digital Assets.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Diedrick, “Sabin S. Murdock House Demolition – Murdock, MN.”

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References:

Granger, Sue. "Murdock, Sabin S., House," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1985.

Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul.

Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register Digital Assets. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/AssetDetail/7cd4e407-5e9e-4084-b74d-71aba29f9d63>.

Diedrick, Kim and Craig Kavanagh. "Sabin S. Murdock House Demolition – Murdock, MN." Environmental Assessment Worksheet, January 24, 2025. Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, St. Paul.

Legal Description:

The national register nomination form erroneously describes the listed boundary as

That part of Block 1 of Bresnahan's Addition to the Village of Murdock described as follows: beginning at a point on the NEly boundary line of said Block 1, 120 feet Southeast from the extreme Northerly corner of said Block 1 thence running in a SWly direction and in parallel with the NWly boundary line of said Block 1 a distance of 300 feet to the SWly boundary line of said Block 1, thence in a SEly direction and following the SWly boundary line of said Block 1 a distance of 200 feet to a point, thence in a NEly direction and in parallel with the SEly boundary line of Block 1, 300 feet to the NEly boundary line of Block 1 thence in a NWly direction and following the NEly boundary line of Block 1, 200 feet to the place of beginning. Also including that part of Lot 4 of Block 1 of Bresnahan's Addition to the Village of Murdock described as follows: beginning at the Northwest corner of Lot 2 of said Block 1 thence SEly along the Northern boundary of said Lot 2 a distance of 60 feet thence at right angles NEly a distance of 100 feet to a point on the NEly boundary line of said Lot 4 then at right angles NWly along the NEly boundary line of said Lot 4 a distance of 60 feet thence at right angles SWly a distance of 150 feet to the point of beginning.

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Figure 1: Sabin S. Murdock House parcel (red box) and the Murdock House (yellow circle). Swift County GIS, accessed October 14, 2025.

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Figure 2: NRHP photo of Sabin S. Murdock, 1985.

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Figure 3: Sabin S. Murdock former location, June 12, 2025.