

## **FINE OLD HOMES AND BUILDINGS REFLECTING LOCAL HISTORY IN ST. CROIX FALLS**

**“THOMAS HENRY THOMPSON HOUSE,” 205 S. Adams Street**

**The “Thomas Henry Thompson House,” which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984, is recognized as possessing both architectural and historical significance. The two story brick residence, itself a noteworthy example of Italianate architecture, best reflects the contributions of Thomas Henry Thompson (1835-1911), a prominent citizen and successful businessman, whose mercantile establishment, in particular, was vital to the growth of the St. Croix Falls area.**

**The home, constructed in 1882, represents the more symmetrical version of the Italianate style. Characteristically, eaves line brackets, decorative window treatments, and a bay window enliven the structure’s regular form. The house was further distinguished as being the first brick residential structure erected in the city. The rich, reddish-colored bricks were made locally by August Dombrock who had learned the brick making trade in his native Germany.**

**Thomas Henry Thompson, a native of Ireland, came to the St. Croix Falls area in 1856 and with his brother James entered the lumber business. The brothers worked in the woods and invested in a sawmill at nearby Balsam Lake. In 1861, Thomas married Elisa Clendenning (1839-1886) of St. Croix Falls, and they settled in Balsam Lake, where they lived until about 1866. They had four children.. In September of 1866 Thomas and James bought the J.C. Christie store in St. Croix Falls and established a mercantile business. The partnership ended two years later when James opened his own general store, and in 1879 a flour mill. Thomas remained at the original location and provided the supplies – groceries, clothing, hardware and tin ware – for the residents of St. Croix Falls and for farmers and loggers in the surrounding**

**Thompson, possibly because of this banking experience but more likely because of his reputation as an honest and generous man, was named vice president of the Bank of St. Croix Falls in 1891 and president in 1900. He**

remained with the financial institution until his death in 1911; the management of the store had been turned over to his son George in 1895.

Thompson also had an interest in the local telephone company and was an early automobile enthusiast. He never held elective office, but was described as taking an active part in everything that tended toward the betterment of the village and the progress of the county.

Thompson married Clara Peck Rogers (1850-1933) in 1899.

*St. Croix Falls Historic Preservation Commission*