

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Minnesota
COUNTY: Steele
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 18 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Administration Building -- West Hills

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Administration Building -- Minnesota State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
West Hills

CITY OR TOWN:
Owatonna

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First

STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **22** COUNTY: **Steele** CODE: **147**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Restoration in process to house city offices

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Owatonna

STREET AND NUMBER:
107 West Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Owatonna

STATE:
Minnesota CODE: **22**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Steele County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Owatonna

STATE:
Minnesota CODE: **22**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Statewide Historic Sites Survey

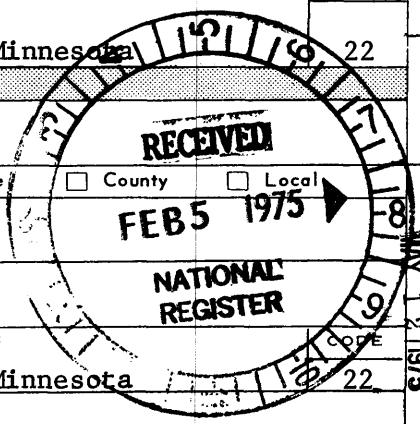
DATE OF SURVEY: **1973** Federal State County Local

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: **Steele**

ENTRY NUMBER: _____

DATE: **MAY 18 1975**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

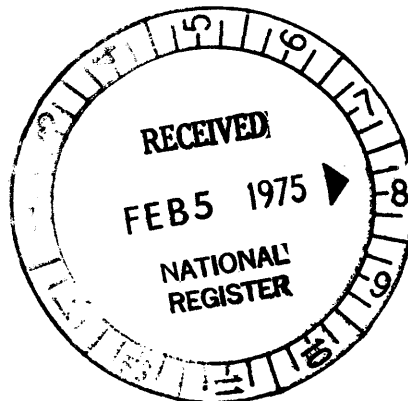
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<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 Administration Building is situated on a knoll in the geographic center of what was, from 1886-1970, the Owatonna State School for Dependent and Neglected Children. The complex contains the Old School House, the Infant Hospital, the Hospital, the Superintendent's House, three cottages, the Gym, two recently built School Houses, the Power Plant, and the Maintenance Shop. These buildings are architecturally undistinguished but do not interfere with the architectural integrity of the Administration Building.

The Administration Building consists of a three-story central building with connecting North and South wings, each two and one half stories high. It is constructed of brick masonry exterior walls with Kasota limestone embellishments in the form of engaged pilasters, finials, and free-standing columns forming loggias at the flanking wings. The Architecture is derivative of Norman Romanesque, as expressed by round arched elements on the East facade and an engaged circular tower with a flared, conic-shaped slate roof. A carved stone at the entrance steps carries the date 1887 in bold, raised numbers. The exterior walls and the slate roof are in good condition and are unchanged from the original construction.

An extensive one-story addition has been added at the rear at a later date to provide central kitchen and dining facilities for the residents of the State School. It is constructed of brick with a slate roof but is architecturally undistinguished.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) **1887-1970**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" 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"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Legislature of Minnesota passed an act which was approved by the governor on the 9th of March, 1885, establishing the State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children, and making provisions for the government of the same. The governor appointed five commissioners for the purpose of selecting a location for the school.

Owatonna was chosen as the site for the location of the school under the advice of Superintendent John N. Foster, of the State Public School of Michigan, and Secretary H. H. Hart, of the State Board of Charities and Corrections of Minnesota. Among the reasons which influenced the commissioners in deciding upon Owatonna as the home for this institution were, first, the fact of its location, very near the center of the oldest and most densely settled portion of the State; second, its easy accessibility by different lines of railroad from any portion of the State.

The institution was formally opened on the 2nd of December, 1886, when three children from Steele County were received. The children admissible to the State Public School were those within the borders of the State who were dependent on the public for support, over three and under fourteen years of age, and in suitable condition of mind and body to receive instruction. The children were placed under the care of the school through proceedings in the probate courts begun by county commissioners.

The Administration Building was erected in 1887, one year after the school officially opened. It was designed by the Minneapolis architect, W. B. Dunnell. Dunnell was also responsible for the design of the Minnesota State Training School Administration Building which is on the National Register of Historic Places. The laying of the corner stone of this building was an auspicious event in Steele County's history. It was performed with ancient and imposing ceremonies, typical for the commemoration of such a building in the 1880s. After the stone was laid, corn, wine, and oil were put on it. A casket in the corner stone contained a Bible, the names of the State, county and city officers, a list of the officers of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota and of the Star of the East Lodge of Owatonna, and copies of the constitution and by-laws of both, the charter of Owatonna, copies of various newspapers, and a copy of the first biennial report of the board of control and superintendent, and a copy of Governor Hubbard's message to the Legislature of 1886-87.

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Steele and Waseca Counties, Minnesota, Union Publishing Co., (Chicago:1887).
Minnesota, State Public School, Owatonna, Second Biennial Period Report. . . For the Biennial Period Ending July 31, 1888.
Minnesota State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children, Biennial Reports, 1887-1900.
Minnesota State Public School, Biennial Report, 1910-1938.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

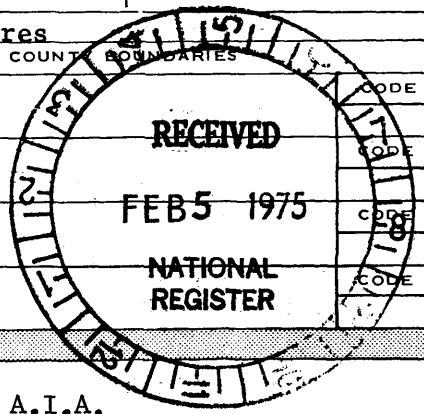
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		44° 5' 22"	93° 4' 18"	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

15/480930
4881650

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 10 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Lynne VanBrocklin, Survey Specialist/Brooks Cavin, A.I.A.

ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Historical Society/Brooks Cavin, Architect DATE: 10 December 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: Building 25, Fort Snelling/416 Hamm Building

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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
Russell W. Fridley, Director

Title Minnesota Historical Society

Date 1/12/75

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

Ernest A. Connolly
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/12/75

ATTEST: Ronald M. Greenberg
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 3/9/75

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

(Continuation Sheet)

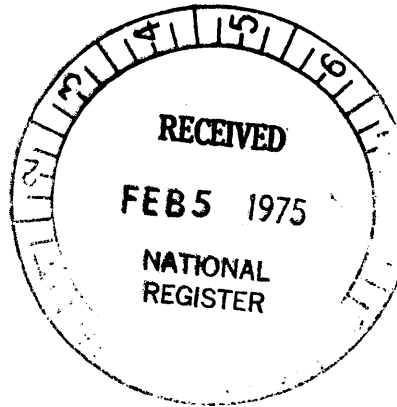
STATE Minnesota	
COUNTY Steele	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER MAY 12 1975	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

During its 83 year history as the Administration Building for the Owatonna State School this building housed the offices of the Superintendent, matron and teachers, a public parlor, dining rooms for officers and employees, kitchens, pantries, children's dining room, auditorium and chapel. It was the main building until the school was officially closed in 1970.

The Administration Building and various buildings of the Owatonna State School complex are owned by the City of Owatonna. A committee of Owatonna citizens, known as the West Hills Commission, recognizes both the historical and architectural significance of this building and is currently in the process of restoring the building. The long range aim of this commission is to move all city offices to this building once it is restored.



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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Minnesota	
COUNTY Steele	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 12 1975

(Number all entries)

8. Significance -- Administration Building - West Hills

For over 83 years the West Hills Administration Building served as a social institution of the highest merit and represents efforts made by the State of Minnesota to provide education and a homelife for orphans. Architecturally, the administration building is significant as an example of the massive Norman Romanesque style of architecture. The architect, Warren B. Dunnell, conceived of the administration building and dining hall as a complex of architectural grandeur, typical of public buildings in 19th century midwest America. The height and large proportions of the building and the massive stone convey this strong impression. The location and construction of the administration building were important events in Owatonna's history. It was built of largely local materials by local craftsmen. The administration building stands as a testimony to Owatonna's unique heritage of skillful craftsmen and creative artisans.

