

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JAN 5 1977  
DATE ENTERED JUL 13 1977

**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

\*\* Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Freight House and Depot

AND/OR COMMON

Stillwater Depot

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

233-335 Water Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Stillwater

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

27

COUNTY

Washington

CODE

163

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: undergoing rehabilitation

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Peter Nelson Hall

STREET & NUMBER

888 Butler Square, 100 North 6th Street

CITY, TOWN

Minneapolis

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota 55802

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

14900 North 61st Street - Oak Park Heights

CITY, TOWN

Stillwater

STATE

Minnesota

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Minnesota Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society, Building 25, Fort Snelling

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Freight House and Depot is located on a one acre parcel of land overlooking the St. Croix River on the eastern fringe of Stillwater. (The St. Croix River has recently received National Scenic Riverway designation preserving the waterfront between the depot and the river.)

The freight house and depot, built in 1883, is a simple vernacular building. Exterior ornamentation consists of a series of arched doors and windows on both sides of the building. Constructed of limestone and brick the building measures 200 feet by 40 feet. The limestone foundation walls measure approximately two feet thick. The brick bearing walls are eighteen inches thick and thirty feet high. (The limestone was quarried in the nearby North Quarry.)

The interior of the building is divided into two sections. The floor planking is four inches wide and one inch thick clear maple from the islands and shoreline immediately north of Stillwater. The truss system is of heavy timber construction. The basement is heavy timber mill construction. The timbers are fir and are of clear grain.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1883 - present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Freight House and Depot is significant under the themes of Commerce, Communication, Engineering, and Transportation.

From the date of its construction in 1883 until recently the commerce of Stillwater centered on the railroads -- the freight house and depot served virtually every commercial interest in the city. Nearly all goods and materials arrived by or were shipped by rail. Products locally produced were sent by rail throughout the nation.

During the period from 1883 until the 1920s the freight house and depot housed a telegraph office and a railroad Express Agency office. These offices served the majority of Stillwater's communication needs for a number of years. The glass insulators and wooden pegs connecting the telegraph lines to the building and distributing them inside have been preserved as have the telegraph and ticket windows.

The mill construction and truss system of the building are significant as examples of wood structural engineering. The first map of Stillwater (1848) indicates that the present site of the building was once Lake St. Croix. Therefore, the building required elaborately engineered pilings to support the tremendous weight of the limestone foundation and brick walls.

One of the most interesting features of the building was its dual use -- passenger and freight. The building served as a freight house and passenger depot until 1955. It is the last 19th century freight house and depot standing in Stillwater.

The exterior of the building has been recently cleaned and the interior is currently undergoing rehabilitation/preservation for an adaptive use.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Eaton, Augustus B., History of the St. Croix Valley, Chicago: 1909.  
 Insurance Maps of Stillwater, Minnesota; Sandborn Map and Publishing Company.  
 Interview: Clarence Kirschenman, former ticket agent of the Stillwater Depot.  
 Milwaukee Road Inventories.  
 John Ruck Historic Photograph Collection.  
 Stillwater City Directories.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	5 1 5 4 2 0	4 9 8 8 8 8 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

860

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Lynne VanBrocklin Spaeth, State Historic Preservation Office / Peter Nelson Hall

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

19 October 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Building 25, Fort Snelling / 888 Butler Square

TELEPHONE

612-726-1171 / 339-1085

CITY OR TOWN

St. Paul / Minneapolis

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Russell W. Fridley*

TITLE

Russell W. Fridley  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12/22/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Wm J. Mumford*

DATE

7.13.77

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

*Charles A. ...*

DATE

8.1.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER