**NAME**

**HISTORIC**

Ramsey County Poor Farm Barn

**AND/OR COMMON**

Ramsey County Poor Farm Barn

**LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER**

2020 White Bear Avenue

**CITY. TOWN**

St. Paul

**STATE**

Minnesota

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

4th

**COUNTY CODE**

Ramsey 123

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- X,BUILDING(S)
- _STRUCTURE
- _SITE
- _OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**PRESENT USE**

- _AGRICULTURE
- _MUSEUM
- _COMMERCIAL
- _PARK
- X,EDUCATIONAL
- _PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- _ENTERTAINMENT
- _RELIGIOUS
- _GOVERNMENT
- _SCIENTIFIC
- _INDUSTRIAL
- _TRANSPORTATION
- _MILITARY
- _OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

**NAME**

Ramsey County

**STREET & NUMBER**

15 West Kellogg Boulevard

**CITY. TOWN**

St. Paul

**STATE**

Minnesota

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**COURTHOUSE,**

Ramsey County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds

**STREET & NUMBER**

15 West Kellogg Boulevard

**CITY. TOWN**

St. Paul

**STATE**

Minnesota

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

**TITLE**

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

**DATE**

1976

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**

Minnesota Historical Society, Building 25, Fort Snelling

**CITY. TOWN**

St. Paul

**STATE**

Minnesota
The Ramsey County Poor Farm Barn, owned by Ramsey County, stands on the original site where it was constructed in 1918. The barn was used from that time until 1950 to house livestock for the County Poor Farm. Presently, a portion of the barn is utilized for offices, classes for the Ramsey County Extension Service, and as an exhibit area for the County Fair and 4-H projects.

The two story brick structure is one hundred ninety by forty feet, incorporating an extensive gambrel roof and has two accompanying large silos as well as an attached milkhouse. The interior of the hayloft offers the public an unobstructed view of the interior of the roof and its elaborate construction. The main floor houses the cattle stalls, still intact, which are used as exhibit space.

This massive brick building supports a gambrel roof and two huge brick feed silos. Two smaller brick silos and an attached milkhouse also accompany the building. The barn was used to house milk cows for the farm's dairy business. At one time the building housed seventy-five head of cattle plus horses and hogs.

The exterior of the barn has remained unchanged while the interior is altered only in the construction of office and classroom space in a small portion of the building. The grounds surrounding the building support the county nursing home and the county fairgrounds. This offers a rural setting in the midst of an urban area.
The Ramsey County Poor Farm Barn is one of the last remaining barns of its size in the St. Paul and Minneapolis area. This imposing structure reflects an era in which municipal government attempted to deal with its welfare responsibilities by the operation of a paying farm.

The Poor Farm moved from its increasingly urban setting to the present, then rural location, in 1885, when it began to operate the farm with those people on the welfare roles. As the farm complex grew, a smaller barn was removed and the present barn built in its place in 1918.

As St. Paul's growth continued to push outward, the farm gradually began to be phased out of operation and the cattle sold. By 1950 the Poor Farm ceased to operate and the county moved on to other means of social welfare.

The building is a landmark in the area it serves and is visited by thousands of people during the various activities around the barn. The building is interesting itself in its architecture and size, but is equally as interesting as it represents an era of emerging social conscious and group welfare.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

More Than A Roof, Ethel McClure, Minnesota Historical Society, pp. 11, 13, 15, 17, 21, 36, 93, 104, 188, 266n, 274n.

Ramsey County Nursing Home files;
Ramsey County Historical Society files.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY  approx. 1 acre
UTM REFERENCES


ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Virginia B. Kunz, Executive Director/Robert Drake, Site Manager

ORGANIZATION
Ramsey County Historical Society

DATE
October, 1976

STREET & NUMBER
2097 West Larpenteur

TELEPHONE
612-646-8629

CITY OR TOWN
St. Paul

STATE
Minnesota

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL __ STATE X 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

TITLE Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 11/29/76

FDR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 9-22-77

DATE 4-22-77

DATE 4-22-77