

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED DEC 6 1976  
DATE ENTERED SEP 22 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

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Ramsey County Poor Farm Barn

AND/OR COMMON

Ramsey County Poor Farm Barn

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

2020 White Bear Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

27

COUNTY

Ramsey

CODE

123

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Ramsey County

STREET & NUMBER

15 West Kellogg Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ramsey County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

15 West Kellogg Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Statewide 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                       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                                 RUINS  
 FAIR                                  UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED exterior     ORIGINAL SITE  
 ALTERED 1st floor     MOVED    DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## CHECK ONE

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

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.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1918

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Buechner and Orth

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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.

rolls  
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.

# 9 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.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1 acre  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	4 9 8 1 0 0	4 9 8 2 7 6 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

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

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

ORGANIZATION

Ramsey County Historical Society

DATE

October, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

2097 West Larpentour

TELEPHONE

612-646-8629

CITY OR TOWN

St. Paul

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 11/29/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Charles A. ...*

DATE 7-22-77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *William Cole*

DATE 9-22-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER