

P140366455

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 10 1976
DATE ENTERED JUN 3 1976

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
nlw
The T.B. Sheldon Memorial Auditorium
AND/OR COMMON
Auditorium Theatre

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
443 West Third Street
CITY, TOWN
Red Wing
STATE
Minnesota
VICINITY OF
First
COUNTY
Goodhue
CODE
27
CODE
049

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" 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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
City of Red Wing
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
Red Wing
STATE
Minnesota
VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Goodhue County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
Red Wing
STATE
Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Minnesota Inventory of Historic Sites
DATE
1975
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Fort Snelling, Building 25; Minnesota Historical Society
CITY, TOWN
St. Paul
STATE
Minnesota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The T.B. Sheldon Memorial Auditorium was dedicated in 1904 as a gift to the City. It was constructed at 443 West Third Street, Red Wing, Minnesota, of gray brick. The architect for the building was Lowell Lamoreaux from Minneapolis who designed it in the Renaissance style.

The large rectangular building also included an additional area off the back for dressing rooms. On each side of the building was a portico for carriage traffic to come directly to the doors. The front entrance, a triple doorway flush with the gray brick wall, was covered by a shallow balcony of the same design and windows above which let light into the mezzanine. The grounds on either side of the building allowed for garden area. The small grounds are kept up today, one side being used as a small rest or park area in the center of downtown Red Wing. The inside was embellished with gold and ivory. Marble walls glittered with the sparkle of two many-tiered chandeliers and with the light from the ceiling beams heavily studded with electric lights. Playgoers were surrounded by plaster busts of Shakespeare, Goethe, Beethoven, and Wagner in ornate niches as well as a large oil of Sheldon.

The stage itself was framed in a heavy gold procenium arch and hung with a drop curtain. The curtain presented a painting of a classic view of ancient Rome executed by Peter Claussen of Minneapolis, one of the best-known mural painters of the time. The theater provided seating capacity of 864; 363 in the parquet section; 241 in the first balcony; 108 in the rear balcony; 120 in the second balcony; and 32 in eight boxes. The seating capacity is 900 at present. The stage was well equipped to handle any company that might be using the theater. Included was the fly gallery containing many useful pieces and an orchestra pit. The theater stands essentially as it did after it was built. The auditorium was twice gutted by fire and each time reconstruction took place. The auditorium interior was, in the 1930s, gutted and rebuilt of fireproof materials at considerable expense. A foyer has been added to the outside of the building to provide an entrance before the lobby. This was added in the 1930s. The balconies were reworked to provide better and safer structure; the boxes were removed when the organ was installed in 1926. The theater has been recently cleaned, to restore the original beauty of the building. Also in recent years a new stage floor was added, a new front curtain hung, the fly gallery has been electrified, and new light controls for the stage have been purchased - all with the express purpose in mind of making the building more usable for stage productions. New carpeting and upholstery for the chairs also has been added in the last few years. Putting the building into good condition, exterior and interior has caused quite an expenditure recently. The organ is at present being restored and refurbished.

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 type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" 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 1904 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Lowell Lamoreaux - architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When, in gala ceremonies, Mayor A.P. Pierce accepted the T.B. Sheldon Memorial Auditorium in 1904 as a gift to the city, he assured Red Wing a unique place in history. Whereas government owned and operated theaters were common on the continent of Europe at the turn of the century, none existed in this country. Thus, the T.B. Sheldon Memorial Auditorium, made possible through a gift of \$83,000 was the first municipal playhouse in the United States.

The City of Red Wing and its residents have maintained a pride in the building since then it has stood as a symbol of the city's cultural aspirations. It has, since 1904, been a center for entertainment in the City of Red Wing.

The fine national reputation the theater enjoyed in the first years of operation as a cultural showplace and as an incomparably equipped stage, made possible the booking of the finest entertainments.

When interest in the theater was beginning to wane, fire gutted the interior. The board, despite opinions to the contrary, decided that the building was of utmost importance to the city and that it should be fully rebuilt with the most modern materials and latest equipment.

The advent of the movies promised use of the house and it was felt that the theater could be operated on a sound financial basis. Interest in the movies was so good that in 1926 a pipe organ was installed to provide music for the silent movies. Since 1929, and the advent of the talkies, movies have for the most part been the main attraction at the theater. The theater, however, continues to be used for legitimate theater and musical attractions. Local theater groups annually produce several productions. Local musical groups hold concerts; artists and theater groups from out of town are brought in to perform on the stage, and continue to marvel at the quality of the theater for performance.

The auditorium board has recently shown its interest in the theater as a showplace and performance center of historical value by spending some \$60,000 in a recent project to update the theater and keep the building in good condition. The organ used only occasionally in recent years is being completely refurbished and remodeled. The theater is located in downtown Red Wing near parking lots and is a first choice for productions in the city. The gardens are used by shoppers for rest and relaxation.

(see continuation sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The T.B. Sheldon Memorial Auditorium Souvenir Program, 1918

The T.B. Sheldon Memorial Auditorium, 1904-1971, Red Wing Arts Association, 1971

Art in Red Wing, by Laurence E. Schmechbier, University of Minnesota Press, 1946

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5
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5	3	6	9	5	0
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4	9	3	4	4	5	0
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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Curtis Gruhl

ORGANIZATION

T.B. Sheldon Auditorium Board

DATE

1 November 1975

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Red Wing

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

DATE

3-5-76

State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

[Signature]

DATE

6/3/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE

6-2-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

RBR for WTM 6-2-76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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JUN 3 1976

The T.B. Sheldon

CONTINUATION SHEET

Memorial Auditorium

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

There is at the present time renewed interest in the increased use of the Auditorium theater as a center for culture in Red Wing. The building, erected for the use and cultural advancement of future generations of the City of Red Wing by T.B. Sheldon, continues, over 70 years later, to be a center for culture and entertainment for the city. It is the one cultural attraction which has continued to be valuable because of the people who have worked for the arts in Red Wing. The people of Red Wing continue to be proud of their excellent facility for the arts and continue to support both the building and the events. It is one of the landmarks which makes Red Wing residents proud of their history and city. It is strongly felt that it has significant historical interest and background to warrant additional attention and preservation for the future.