

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bovey Village Hall  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 402 2nd St. N/A  not for publication  
city, town Bovey N/A  vicinity  
state Minnesota code MN county Itasca code 061 zip code 55709

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Federal Relief Construction in Minnesota 1933-1941

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Ian R. Stewart Date 7/3/91  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota Historical Society

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the National Register

Andrew Bryan 8/15/91

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/city hall/fire station/  
correctional facility  
EDUCATION/Library  
SOCIAL/meeting hall/clubhouse  
RECREATION AND CULTURE/auditorium

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/city hall  
EDUCATION/library  
SOCIAL/meetinghall/clubhouse  
RECREATION AND CULTURE/auditorium

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Baroque Revival  
Richardsonian Romanesque  
Renaissance Revival

foundation Concrete  
walls Brick  
roof Copper  
other Granite

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See Continuation Sheets

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The Bovey Village Hall is a large two story rectangular building located in a small community in northern Minnesota. Constructed on the southeast corner at the intersection of Second Street and Fourth Avenue, the building is surrounded by a variety of commercial and residential structures along the main thoroughfare in Bovey.

Built on a raised basement, the Village Hall is constructed with reinforced concrete faced with dark brown brick laid in a Flemish bond. The north facing principal facade features a symmetrical design which is organized into five bays which are defined by corner pilasters with ionic capitals executed in brick. A prominent central entrance pavilion includes a double stairway, entry doors flanked by octagonal granite columns, and an elaborate pediment with reverse curves and a spire surmounted by a copper ball ornament. Flanking bays along the first floor include window openings organized in groups of two or four, with each casement sash separated by rounded granite columns. Each second story bay includes one, large, 22 light window opening which features a curvilinear design. All window openings are framed with a decorative brick surround and a dentil course is placed directly below the eaves. The west facing first story facade is comprised of a fire hall to the south, four casement sash to the north, and a central entrance. Each of the corresponding second story bays contains single double hung sash identical to those found on the main facade. Included on the east facade are a stairway and entrance to the police department located on the first floor, and paired wooden doors with a hoisting beam on the second floor which allows access to the auditorium stage. The south facade includes a stairway to the lower level and a fire escape leading from the second floor auditorium. Window openings on the south facade are defined by regularly spaced sash on both the first and second stories. The building is capped by a hip roof which is covered with the original copper with standing seams. A small triangular dormer projects from the west slope and provides ventilation for a projection room. Original copper gutters and downspouts also remain in place.

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The building features an eclectic blend of three major architectural styles: the Baroque Revival Style represented by the curvilinear window design and the reverse curves in the pediment, the Richardsonian Romanesque as seen in the granite window mullions, and the Renaissance Revival Style depicted by the Ionic pilasters and dentils.

A bronze plaque anchored to the exterior of the building contains the following inscription which was approved by the PWA:

Bovey Village Hall  
Federal Emergency Administration  
of Public Works

Project No. 1199

A second plaque lists village officials at the time of construction and the names of the building's architect and contractor.

The interior of the 104'4" x 60'8" structure originally included a lower level with a dining hall seating 268 people, a kitchen with a serving pantry, a boiler room, rest room facilities, and the fire department. The first story contained an entrance hall, a council room, records office, a clubroom with a serving pantry and coat room, and a library. The police department, including two cells, were also located on the first floor. The second story contained a large auditorium seating 569 people, a raised stage, ticket and projection booths, a band club room, and a rest room.

Interior features include multi-colored tile or hardwood floors, plaster walls with a green, simulated stone, wainscot known as x-ite, and two-tone brown ceiling tile called nu-wood. All interior doors feature four or five raised panels, each with a circular medallion. The council room and club room are finished with paneling, pilaster columns, and a decorative cornice, all of knotty pine. Large doors fold back to join both rooms.

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The Bovey Village Hall was designed by St. Paul architect William M. Ingemann and was built in 1934-35 under the sponsorship of the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, commonly known as the Public Works Administration (PWA). Construction costs totaled \$71,000.00.

Both the interior and exterior of the Village Hall remain in excellent condition. The building retains its original use although the fire department has been relocated to another building and jail facilities are no longer provided. Additional changes include the replacement of all windows with compatible sash and the infill of the large garage door for the fire department with casement sash.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_  
Social History \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1934-1941 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1934 \_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

William M. Ingemann \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Works Administration \_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See Continuation Sheets

See continuation sheet

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 Bovey Village HallSTATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bovey Village Hall is historically significant under National Register criterion A for its association with the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, commonly known as the Public Works Administration, a work relief program established in conjunction with the unprecedented federal response to the social, economic, and political impact of the Great Depression. Often confused with the WPA, the PWA was considered the major federal construction agency of the period, which by 1939 allotted funds through grants and loans to over 34,500 projects and helped to bring nearly 7 billion dollars in new construction costs into the economy. The Bovey Village Hall was one of the first projects in the state of Minnesota for which PWA assistance was applied. The project was described in the Improvement Bulletin, a regional construction periodical, as early as July 1933. The Bovey Village Hall is also historically significant as an intact and well preserved example of a modern municipal facility, a common building type constructed by the federal work programs. The building provided unusually complete and well developed governmental services to this small community.

The Bovey Village Hall is architecturally significant under National Register criterion C as the city's most prominent building noted for its well-crafted design which is derived from the Richardsonian Romanesque and the Baroque and Renaissance Revival Styles. The building is distinguished from typical Depression Era municipal buildings which generally feature Moderne or native split stone construction. The Village Hall was one of several Minnesota buildings featured in a 1939 publication of the Public Works Administration entitled Public Buildings: Architecture Under the Public Works Administration 1933-1939. The PWA commented that the building had "a distinct Scandinavian flavor and might almost be standing in some Swedish village."

The following entry from the minutes of the Village Council of Bovey dated July 5, 1933 describes the initial proposal for the construction of the Village Hall: "A Petition was received, signed by 30 residents and taxpayers of Bovey, requesting the

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Council to immediately take whatever action that they deem necessary for to secure funds from the Federal Public Works Program funds, for the erection of a Village Hall." An additional entry on July 11, 1933 indicated that the Council would "enter into a contract with W.M. Ingemann for to make plans and specifications with estimate of cost of a Village Hall, free of charge if money is not secured for to build the said Hall."

Plans for the construction of a village hall and auditorium costing \$50,000 were first announced in the Improvement Bulletin on July 28, 1933. By early August the plans for the building had been approved and an application was submitted for federal aid. On October 13, 1933, the following call for bids was published in the Improvement Bulletin:

"Village Hall - Bids Close Nov. 4,  
Bovey, Minn.

Call for Bids--Sealed proposals will be received by the Village Council of Bovey, Minnesota, up to 3 p. m., November 4th, 1933, for the construction of a new Village Hall in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by William M. Ingemann, Architect, 622 Globe Building, St. Paul, Minnesota. Separate bids will be received on the following divisions of the work: (a) General Construction; (b) Heating; (c) Plumbing; (d) Electric Wiring; (e) Ventilating.

The Work is to be done in conformity with the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933, and the rules and regulations of the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, and subject to the approval of the State Engineer....."

A grant in the amount of \$16,000 was allotted by the Public Works Administration which represented one-third of the construction costs, while the balance would be financed by a bond issue which had been approved by the voters in September 1933. On January 11, 1934 the Village Council formally accepted the grant from the PWA with the following resolution, "Whereas, the United States of American has, under certain conditions, allowed the Village of Bovey, Minnesota, a grant of not to exceed \$16,000.00 the terms and conditions of which are set forth in a Grant Agreement Docket Number 1199....be it Resolved that the Village Council.....enter



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into the agreement.....and hereby approve the said agreement with the United States of America...."

The following contractors were later selected for the project:

General Contractor - A. H. Myhre, Hibbing, \$48,925;  
Heating - J. McClure Kelly, Minneapolis, \$3,255;  
Plumbing - F. S. Lamson, Minneapolis, \$2,264;  
Wiring - Marino Electric Co. -Duluth, \$847.

The following firms were chosen to provide construction materials:

Face Brick - Wunder-Klein-Donohue Co., Minneapolis;  
Common Brick and Cement - Duluth Builders Supply Co., Duluth;  
Structural Steel - Lakeside Bridge & Steel Co., Milwaukee;  
Copper Roofing - A. W. Kuettel Co., Duluth.

Construction of the Village Hall began on June 4, 1934. The excavation was said to have been completed by a team of horses. By December the walls were nearly finished and by January 1935 bids were called for library furniture, kitchen equipment, venetian blinds, shades, lighting fixtures, stage equipment, and interior wall decorations. Detailed correspondence on the construction of the Village Hall documents how the entire construction process was carefully monitored and supervised by the Public Works Administration. In addition, all contractors and subcontractors were required to sign a certificate of compliance (U.S. Government Form No. PWA 61) in which it was agreed to comply with the approved code of fair competition of the National Industrial Recovery Act. Building materials were also required to be domestic in origin and a minimum wage scale was also mandated for all Minnesota non-federal PWA projects (Minn. PWA Form No. 7).

When the dedication ceremony was held in July 1935, the Improvement Bulletin reported that the building was said to be the first work relief project to be completed on the west end of the Mesaba Range. The new Village Hall replaced a small one story concrete block building, located on an alley, which included only enough space for a fire truck and a single room to the rear for the village council. The new building provided complete municipal

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facilities and space for a variety of community services which had been unavailable until this time.

Architect William M. Ingemann was born in St. Paul in 1897 and studied at the University of Minnesota and the American Academy in Rome. In 1915 he was employed as an apprentice in the Minneapolis offices of Frederick Mann. From 1921-22 he was worked as a Junior Draftsman for Cass Gilbert in New York and he also served as an architect from 1922-26 in the offices of Electus D. Litchfield.

After Ingemann returned to St. Paul to begin his own practice, one of the first buildings which he designed was the Sawyer Hotel in Stillwater, now known as the Lowell Inn. During his prolific career, which spanned from 1925-61, Ingemann designed public schools, college buildings, hospitals, churches, community centers, other types of public buildings, and private residences. He published several articles relating to college dormitories and also designed dormitories at the University of Minnesota, Concordia, Hamline, Augsburg, and Gustavus Adolphus Colleges.

Ingemann's Depression Era projects, which were typically associated with federal work programs, included the following:

- Alden Municipal Building - 1938
- Benson Hospital - 1941
- Blomkest School - 1936
- Ely Community Building - 1936-37
- Minnesota Department of Health Building - 1937-38
- School Building, District 128, Morrison County, - 1936
- Pioneer Hall, University of Minnesota - 1936
- Rice Memorial Hospital, Willmar, - 1935-36
- Staples Band Shell - 1936
- Staples Municipal Hospital - 1935-36
- Starbuck Community Hall - 1935-36
- Tower Municipal Building - 1939
- Willmar Auditorium - 1935-37

Ingemann designed a number of period revival buildings, such as the Georgian Revival Style city hall in Fergus Falls in 1928, and Pioneer Hall, a Colonial Revival Style dormitory at the University of Minnesota in 1936. Yet, because the majority of his Depression

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Era buildings were designed in the Moderne Style, the Bovey Village Hall remains an unusual example of his work from the 1930s.

The Bovey Village Halls meets the requirements for listing Government Buildings on the National Register of Historic Places as set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled "Federal Relief Construction in Minnesota, 1933-1941." The Village Hall was constructed in 1934-35 with assistance from the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works. The building is historically significant as Bovey's first modern municipal building which enhanced the quality of life in this small community. The Bovey Village Hall is architecturally significant as building whose prominence and classically inspired design represent a local landmark in the community.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Bovey, Minnesota. Minutes of the Proceedings of the Village Council of Bovey. Meeting of July 5, 1933-February 23, 1934. Improvement Bulletin. July 1933-July 1935. Northwest Architectural Archives. Working Drawings and Specifications for the Bovey Village Hall. University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre

**UTM References**

A 

1	5
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4	6	8	5	8	0
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5	2	3	7	8	5	0
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Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property occupies city lots 1-4 of block 6.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the entire city lots that have historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Rolf T. Anderson

organization N/A date October 9, 1990

street & number 212 West 36th Street telephone 612-824-7807

city or town Minneapolis state Minnesota zip code 55408