

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**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 NELSON SCHOOL

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1018 South First Street ___ not for publication

city, town Stillwater ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Minnesota code 22 county Washington code 163

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name City of Stillwater

street & number 216 North 4th Street

city, town Stillwater ___ vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Stillwater state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society, 240 Summit Avenue - Hill House

city, town Saint Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Nelson School, located at the corner of First and East Hancock Streets, is a square, two story red brick structure resting on a high-cut limestone foundation. With the exception of the front facade and corner pilasters, the ten-bay sides are undecorated. The front facade is divided into three bays. The central bay, which is slightly recessed and defined by pilasters, is dominated by a second story oriel. The oriel is decorated with pilasters, dentils, and a semicircular arch. It is supported by two brackets. The main entrance to the school is located beneath the oriel and is recessed. A dormer with full pediment is located above the oriel. The bays to either side of the oriel contain blind windows bearing name and date inscriptions and semicircular pediments. The rear facade of the school is a blank wall with the exception of a simple oriel. The school has elements of the Neo-Classic & Georgian styles.

The building is in good condition.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 1897 **Builder/Architect** Orff & Gilbert

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed in 1897 according to the plans of Orff & Gilbert, the Nelson School is significant both for its architecture and for its position as the oldest extant public school building in Stillwater. The building's square shape, which is divided into four classrooms on each floor, follows the economical and efficient design common in both village and rural schools of the period. The windowless front and rear facades, for example, intentionally permit the use of three walls in each classroom for blackboards. The architectural detail is attributable both to styles then in vogue and to a continuing trend in public buildings of the period toward classical antecedents. As the oldest extant public school building in Stillwater, the school is significant as a reflection of the important role which education has played in the life of the community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Files at Rivertown Restorations, Stillwater

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Stillwater, Minn.-Wis.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A

1	5	5	1	5	4	6	0	4	9	8	7	9	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Churchill, Nelson and Slaughter Addition; Block 15; Lots 12, 13, 14, and East 12 feet of Lots 15 & 16

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 Charles Skrief

organization Minnesota Historical Society date April, 1979

street & number 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House telephone 612-296-9070

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Russell W. Fridley*

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/4/79

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Carol Skuff date 10-25-79

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Kristina T. O'Connell* date 10/25/79

Chief of Registration