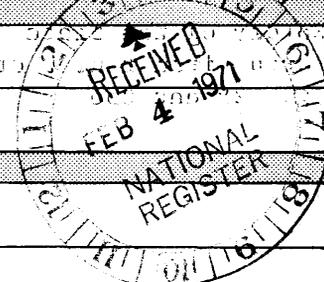


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Minnesota	
COUNTY: Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.8-27.0006	8/26/71



1. NAME

COMMON NAME: Washington County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
West Pine Street at South Third Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Stillwater

STATE: Minnesota CODE: 27 COUNTY: Washington CODE: 163

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Washington County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington County Office Building, 300 East Eugene Street

CITY OR TOWN: Stillwater STATE: Minnesota CODE: 27

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Washington County Office Building

STREET AND NUMBER:
300 East Eugene Street

CITY OR TOWN: Stillwater STATE: Minnesota CODE: 27

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Minnesota State Register of Historic Sites

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Minnesota Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
690 Cedar Street

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul STATE: Minnesota CODE: 27

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Minnesota
COUNTY: Washington
ENTRY NUMBER: 71.8-27.0006
DATE: 8/26/71
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The courthouse is centered in parklike grounds occupying the entire block surrounded by West Pine, West Walnut, South Third and South Fourth Streets. Bordering the block are low walls of grey limestone topped by an ornate Victorian iron fence. From the main entrance between Third and Fourth Streets on Pine Street the grounds rise several tiers to the front portico. Located at the crest of Zion's Hill the building faces north overlooking the city's business district and a bend in the St. Croix River. Near the northeast corner of the block is a statue of an infantryman, a flagpole, and a monument containing the names of Washington County's service men. Nearby is a plaque erected in 1968 by the Minnesota Historical Society giving a brief history of the building. An on-grade parking area is located at the southwest corner of the site.

The building is a two-story classic revival structure with strong Italianate influence especially evident in the round head windows and interior millwork. It is constructed of local St. Croix Valley sandstone faced with red brick. The plan of the principal mass of the building is in the form of a Latin cross the head of which is the two-tier entrance portico. The portico elevation has at both levels three round-head brick arches between quoined brick piers. A similar arch occurs at the lower and upper floors of the entrance elements' east and west sides. Brick quoining at the building corners, horizontal projected brick string coursing expressing separation of the main and second floors, a band of projected brick outlining door and window openings, and a water table of local grey limestone at the first floor provide additional decoration to the exterior walls.

The gable roofs rise from an elaborate Corinthian entablature. Characteristic of entablatures of this order, the dentils are secondary in scale and importance to the great modillions. At the intersection of the gable roofs is a small ribbed dome set on a drum with 12 high, narrow, round-headed windows separated by 12 fluted Corinthian columns. The flagpole that once topped the dome has been removed.

Attached directly to the rear of the main structure are a two-level jail on the south and the two-story sheriff's residence, now used as the sheriff's offices, on the southeast. These elements are both of the same construction, design and materials as the main body of the building, having been part of the original project. Both have hipped rather than gable roofs. A hipped roof, one story structure, also of the same material and matching design was added later on the east side of the courthouse to house vaults for the Treasurer's and Register of Deeds' office. It now serves as the county Law Library.

Among the building's most noteworthy features are the handsome English ceramic tiles varying in color, size and pattern in each of the principal rooms. Two curved flights of stairs rise at the back of the main building from either side of the central hall to a landing from which a single flight returns directly above that hall to a similar second floor hall. A narrower stairway circles up from the second floor to an attic storage room and the dome. The stairways have the heavy walnut balusters and handrails characteristic of Italianate millwork. Opening from the upper hall are the offices of the Clerk of Court, the jury room, and the large courtroom. Except for the recent addition of asphalt tile flooring over the ceramic tile, an acoustic tile ceiling, and a modern jury box, the room is essentially unchanged. Original furnishings, including the captains chairs for spectators; tables for the court reporters, the lawyers and their clients; and the judge's bench are still used. Tall windows with interior square heads open onto the upper floor of the north portico.

The basement is reached by two curved stairways below the main stairways. It has low vaulted ceilings and granite slab floors that in some areas have been replaced by concrete.

RECEIVED
FEB 4
NAT

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1849

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

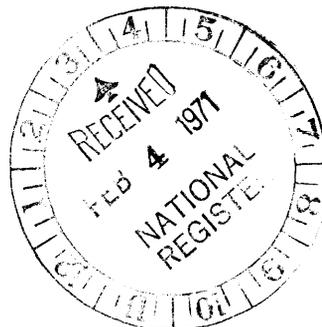
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Washington County Courthouse is significant both as the oldest courthouse still in use in Minnesota, and as one of the State's few remaining examples of mid-nineteenth century monumental public architecture. By 1866, Washington County had long since outgrown the three room, one story frame structure on Stillwater's Fourth and Chestnut Streets. The building had been erected in 1849 and was the first courthouse in Territorial Minnesota. ✓

On November 6, 1866, county residents voted funds for the construction of a new building. A Stillwater lumberman, Socrates Nelson, and Mrs. Elizabeth M. Churchill sold Block 39 of the original city of Stillwater of the county for \$5. Augustus F. Knight, St. Paul's first resident architect and designer of the LeDuc mansion in Hastings, was selected as the architect. Ground was broken in the spring of 1867, and the building was completed in the spring of 1870. It is said that the reason for the long delay in the completing of the building was the great difficulty in positioning the intricate patterns of the imported ceramic floor tiles.

Erected at the peak of the St. Croix Valley's prosperity as a major lumber producing and milling center, this building reflects the civic pride of a flourishing young Victorian city. Few of the courthouses built later within the state have so successfully expressed the dignity expected of a governmental building; had the benefit of such a dramatic site; nor equalled the quality of its excellent design.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Minnesota's Major Historic Sites - A Guide, June Drenning Holmquist and Jean Brookins. Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, 1963. p. 52.

Fifty Years in the Northwest, W.H.C. Folsom, Pioneer Press Co., St. Paul, 1888. p. 355-56 and 408.

History of Washington County and the St. Croix Valley, ed. George E. Warner and Charles M. Foote, North Star Publishing Co., Minneapolis, 1881. p. 329 and 530.

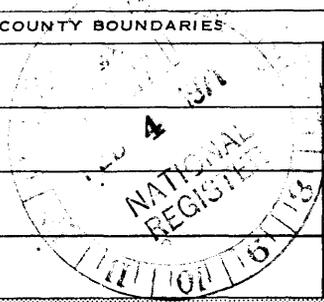
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		45° 03' 02"	92° 04' 48" 18"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Brooks Cavin, AIA

ORGANIZATION: **Minnesota Society of Architects** DATE: **12/10/70**

STREET AND NUMBER:
117 Main Street SE

CITY OR TOWN: **Minneapolis** STATE: **Minnesota 55414** CODE: **27**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Russell W. Fridley*

Title: Director, Minnesota Historical Society

Date: _____

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

Ernest A. Connelly
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

AUG 26 1971

Date: _____

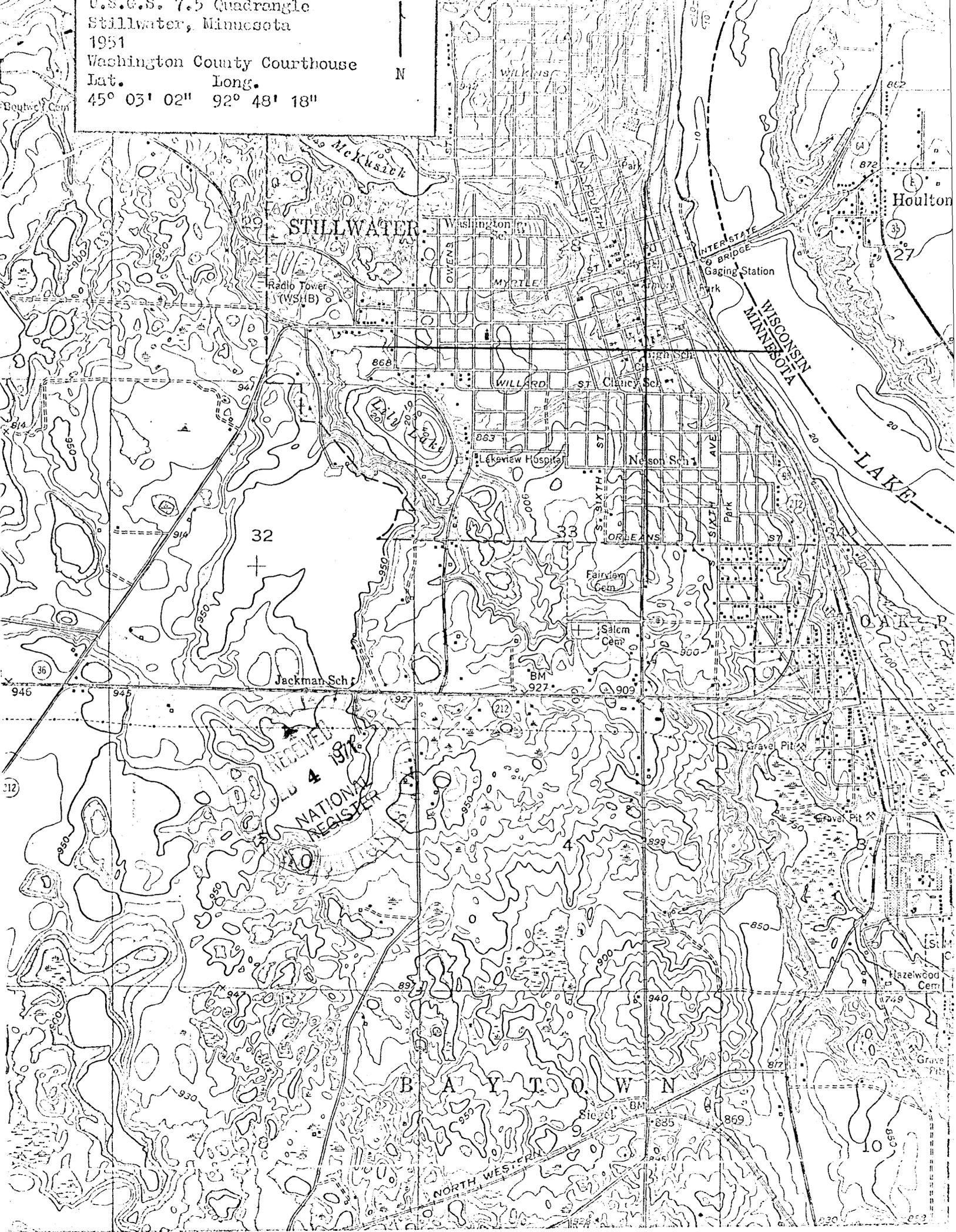
ATTEST:
William Muntz
Keeper of The National Register

Date: **APR 8 1971**

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Quadrangle
Stillwater, Minnesota
1951
Washington County Courthouse
Lat. Long.
45° 03' 02" 92° 48' 18"

N

Boynton Cem



Houlton

WISCONSIN
MINNESOTA

LAKE

Jackman Sch

RECEIVED
MAY 4 1978
NATIONAL
REGISTER

BAY TOWN

NORTH WESTERN

Hazelwood Cem

Grave Pit

Grave Pit

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

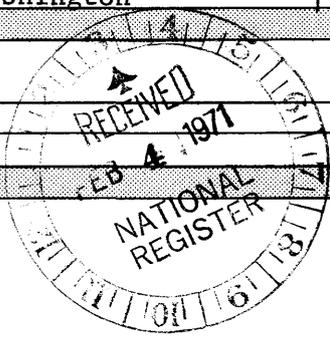
STATE Minnesota	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.827.0006	DATE 8/26/71

1. NAME
COMMON: Washington County Courthouse
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
West Pine Street at South Third Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Stillwater
STATE: Minnesota CODE: 27 COUNTY: Washington CODE: 163

3. MAP REFERENCE
SOURCE:
U.S.G.S. 7.5 Quadrangle, Stillwater, Minnesota
SCALE: 1:24000
DATE: 1951

4. REQUIREMENTS
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS