

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received MAY 14 1986
date entered JUN 13 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Carter Block

and/or common Carter Building

2. Location

street & number 501 - 511 1st Street North

N/A not for publication

city, town St. Cloud

N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota

code 22

county Stearns

code 145

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Dean Otterson, Executive Director, Housing and Redevelopment Authority

street & number 619 Mall Germain, Suite 212

city, town St. Cloud

N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota 56301

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Recorder's Office - Stearns County Courthouse

street & number 1st Street & 8th Avenue North

city, town St. Cloud

state Minnesota 56301

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980

federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society, Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55111

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Carter Building, erected in 1902 in St. Cloud, Minnesota, is a good example of the conservative, unadorned, midwestern commercial architecture of St. Cloud and Central Minnesota. It's site at 1st Street North and 5th Avenue North, selected for its proximity to the railroad, is located in what was once the very heart of the commercial and agricultural market district in St. Cloud.

The Carter Building, located at the SE corner of the site, is a three story common red brick building measuring 132' x 132', with loading dock on the north wall adjacent to the tracks.

Built in 1902, the structure sits on foundations of 'Cold Spring granite' from local quarries, set and joined by hand with a very consistent intent. All of this unique granite foundation work is exquisite in workmanship and condition. The original interior was divided from the basement to roof into three 44' x 132' modules. The basement had poured concrete floors with 12" x 12" oak posts supporting the loads. On the south middle section of the building was an Otis passenger elevator. At the north end is the three ton freight elevator. Entrance to each module could be reached at all floors via massive fire doors.

The west section from basement to third floor was never finished in contemplation of future businessmen's requirements. The central portion was similarly finished, except the north section of the second floor; at the time Mr. Carter's office. Towards the front of this was planned a 350 seat capacity dining room. At one time this had oak trim at doors and base. The ceilings are very high (14-15') and have some pressed metal still visible.

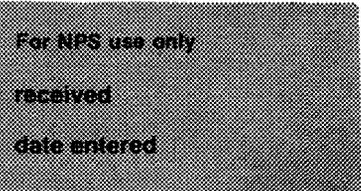
The third floor of the east section (the Elks lodge) had front rooms finished in quarter-sawed oak, while the lodge room was topped off with a fireplace that originally had a masonic tile facing. Miscellaneous reminders of oak trim and metal ceilings still remain, but are in sad disrepair.

The exterior of the structure originally expressed the three 44' x 132' modules with divided glass storefront interrupted at 1/3 points with discrete collonades. The glass storefront was later replaced with brick and glass block and most of the original windows throughout the rest of the building were boarded over. The center bay contains the stone plaque bearing the Carter name and the year - 1902.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Carter Block, St. Cloud, Stearns County, MN



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

Windows at the second floor are arched with stone sills. At the third floor, the windows are inset with brick "keystones" at the head. Above at the roof edge, the building is capped by a carbelled brick cornice.

The attached Sanborn maps indicate the location of the building.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1902 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The significance of the Carter Building is derived not from its ornate architectural qualities and detail, but from the social impact Wesley Carter had on the small agricultural community of St. Cloud, Minnesota.

"At an early age Wesley Carter started out alone from Maine for the West, making his way finally to Minneapolis, Minn."¹ He was a wagon maker in the 1850's in Minneapolis, coming to St. Cloud on foot in 1858. He was employed as a wagon repairer on the stage route between St. Cloud and Fort Abercrombie. In 1864, Carter's early entrepreneurial skills were revealed with the erecting of a two story frame building that served as a wagon factory on the first floor and a meeting place for the Masons on the second floor; a concept he was to use 38 years later in his entrepreneurial pursuits. The late 19th century and early 20th century introduced fast and furious railroad expansion. St. Cloud, for all practical purposes, was the end of the line for shipping of agricultural goods and the receiving of manufactured goods. The St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway Company connected St. Cloud with Lake Superior port of Duluth and completed a commercial link in Central Minnesota.

Wesley Carter was already in the milling business at this time. Operating one of the "finest flour and feed mills in the northwest", and in possession of "two blocks of fine side track", he proceeded to purchase "until he had the deeds in his inside pocket"² additional property along the tracks. According to an early article in the St. Cloud Daily Times, Mr. Carter was a "plain everyday sort of a fellow, possessed of the essential features that know no turning back in whatever he undertakes. Mr. Carter is a pioneer of Stearns County, and has been identified in the prosperity of this end of the county." "Appreciating the demand that was sure to follow in the wake of a prosperous growing city, for trackage facilities", Wesley Carter began the construction of the Carter Warehouse; the largest facility in St. Cloud at that time.

The Carter Block, later called the Carter Building, became a commercial success for Mr. Carter and a social gathering place for St. Cloud.

Being split vertically into three essentially separate buildings, connected by steel fire doors, the building could house differing size businesses with varying needs. Indeed, the records

9. Major Bibliographical References

St. Cloud Journal-Press
 St. Cloud Times
 Nichols Headlight - Railroad
 Journal, 1899

History of Stearns County, Mitchell
 Vol. I, 1915
 Family History of Wesley Carter, Patricia
 Dorff & Wesley Danneker, Stearns County
 Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .78 acres

Quadrangle name St. Cloud, MN

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A

1	5	4	0	9	5	2	0	5	0	4	5	8	4	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 That part of Lot 3, lying Southerly and Westerly of a line running twenty-five (25) feet distant and parallel with the Center Line of the St. Paul, Mpls & Manitoba RR tracks, running through Lot 3. Also, all of Lots 4, 5, 6, & 7, all in Block 4, in the Town (now City) of St. Cloud, Minnesota.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rod Eggleston/Richard Burns

organization Richard Burns Associates, P.C. date 8/7/85

street & number 1220 Main Avenue telephone (701) 235-7242

city or town Fargo state North Dakota 58103

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 5/8/86

For NPS use only

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

[Signature]
 Entered in the
 National Register

date 6/13/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Carter Block, St. Cloud, Stearns County, MN

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

show that this building was the center of the grocery trade for thirty-five years. Yet at the same time, this structure housed at various times, a granite company, beer company, transportation line, Elks lodge, cafe, banquet hall, convention center and candy factory. Included in these occupancies were civic group activities, such as a community roller rink, the location for the annual Elks Winter Carnival, and the 'Carter Halls' on the third floor.

Carter even boasted with pride that possibly the third floor "auditorium could be the location of the Minnesota State convention to nominate the next governor."³ No record indicates that this happened.

Anticipating increased demand for warehousing and having realized entrepreneurial success in an earlier multiple use business, Wesley Carter, County Alderman, City clerk and pride of St. Cloud, created a building that didn't boast of Art and Architecture, but became a community facility providing meeting space, commercial area, agricultural storage and a monument of enterprise. As the St. Cloud Daily Times said, "...He has been prominent in the growth of the City and to such are due the prosperity of St. Cloud."

1. The Family History of Wesley Carter; Patricia Dorff and Wesley Donneker, Stearns County Historical Society.
2. St. Cloud Journal-Press, Jan 15, 1903
3. St. Cloud Times, September 1903

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Carter Block, St. Cloud, Stearns County, Minnesota

Continuation sheet Resource Count Item number 8

For NPS use only
received
date entered

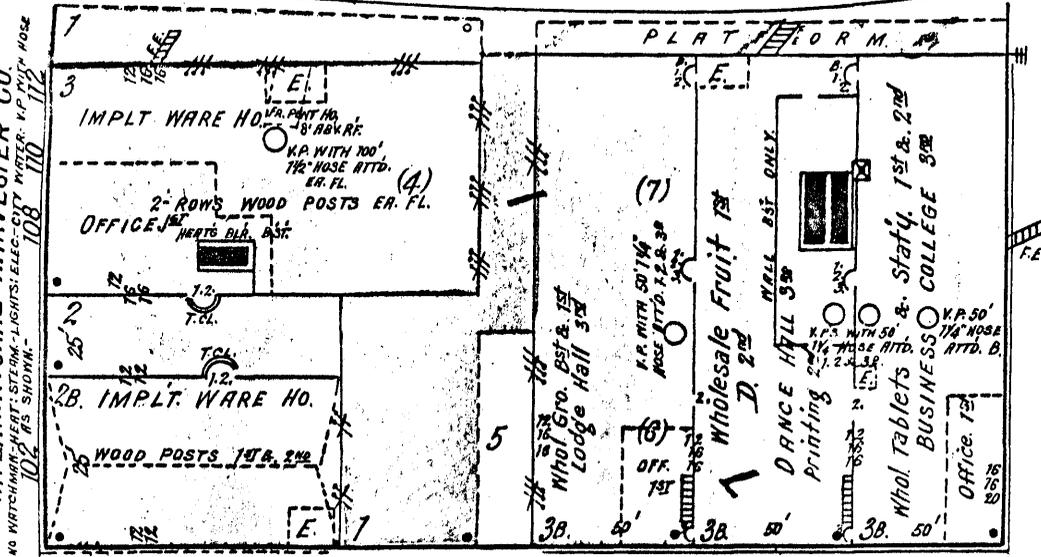
Page 3

The Carter Block Nomination contains
1 contributing building

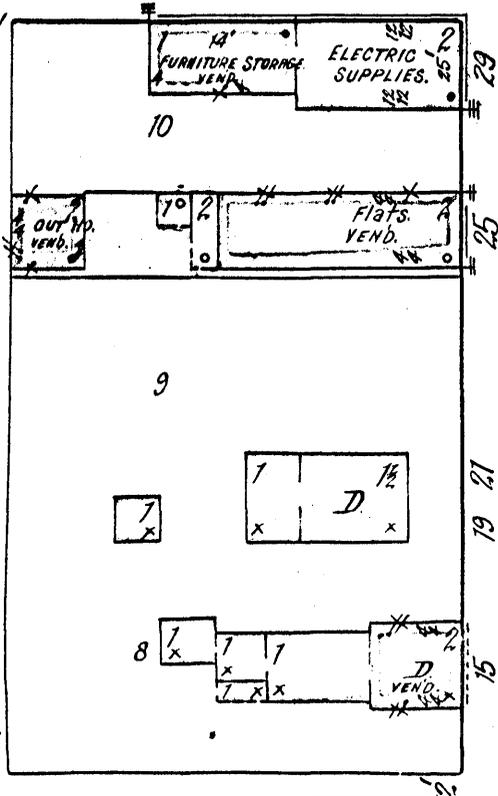
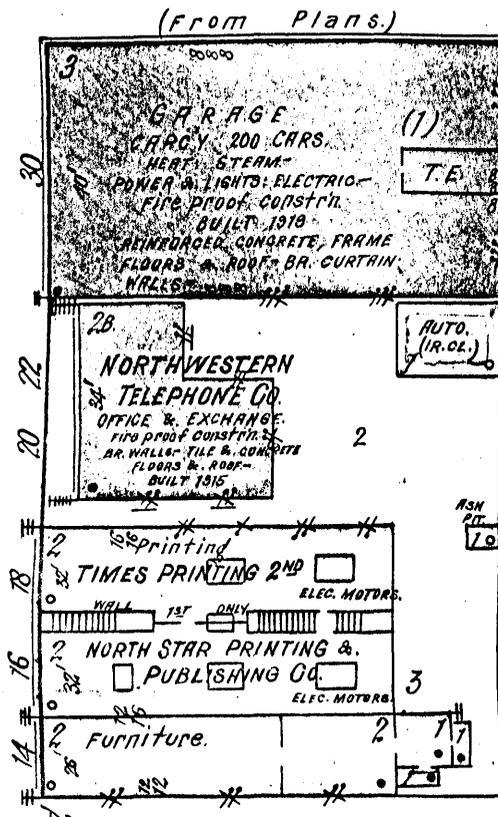
Carter Block, 501-511 1st St. No. 3
 St. Cloud, MN
 Stearns County

6TH

AV. N.
 INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER CO.



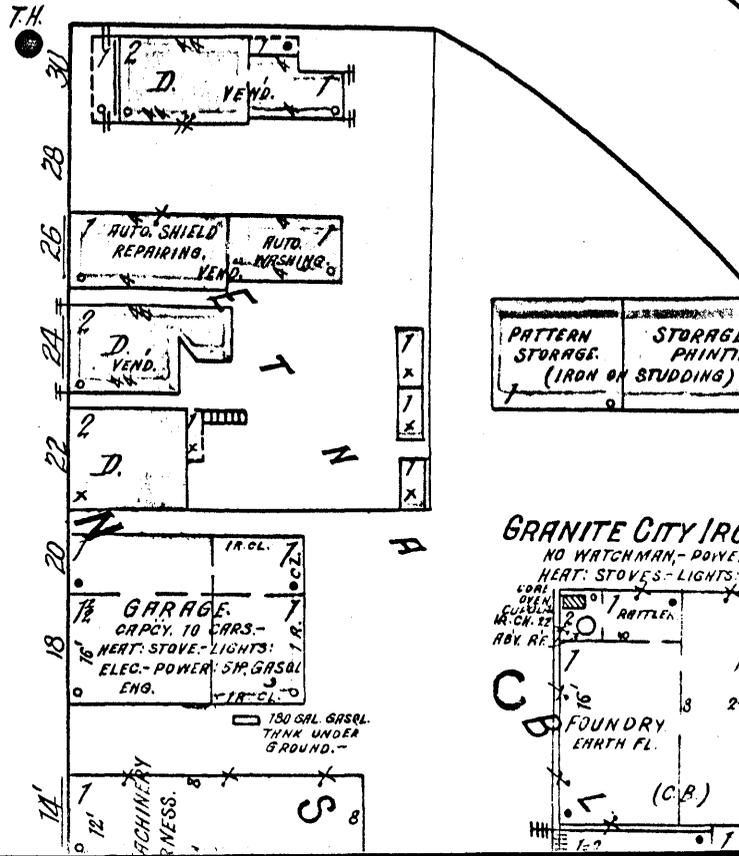
511 509 507 505 503 501
CARTER BUILDING
 NO WATCHMAN - HEAT - STEAM - LIGHTS - ELECTRIC -
 K.P.S. WITH HOSE AS SHOWN - CITY WATER -



0 5TH

AV. N.

ST. N.



PICNIC GROUNDS.

