

PH# 366544

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 2 1977
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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

Building
The Grain Exchange (originally Chamber of Commerce)

AND/OR COMMON

The Grain Exchange

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Fourth Avenue South at Fourth Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Minneapolis

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

27

COUNTY

Hennepin

CODE

053

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER: offices

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Minneapolis Grain Exchange

STREET & NUMBER

150 Grain Exchange Building

CITY, TOWN

Minneapolis

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hennepin County Government Center - Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Fifth Street South at Third Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Minneapolis

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society - Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Grain Exchange building is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue South in the central business district of Minneapolis. It is a cubiform structure ten storeys in height. The interior structural system is a steel frame, whereas the exterior is of buff-colored brick and terra-cotta. A mingling of Neo-Classic and organic/geometric elements in the design of the terra cotta ornament is reminiscent of the designs by Louis Sullivan for the Wainwright Building in Saint Louis of 1890-91.

Each facade of the building is divided into a central colonnaded window area enframed by unadorned brick corner piers. The sense of mass of these piers has been diminished by their perforation by a single vertical band of windows. There is a marked division between the lower (ground) two storeys and the upper eight storeys; this is created by a thick, terra cotta faced sill under the third storey windows. The third through tenth storey windows are incorporated within a vertical band divided at each floor level by a terra cotta panel. Pilaster capitals are of the Ionic variety, also executed in terra cotta.

The lower two storeys are also incorporated within a colonnade of half-hexagon brick Ionic pilasters with terra cotta capitals. As in the upper levels, the areas between floor levels are filled by terra cotta panels. Whereas the panels on the upper levels are foliate (organic) in configuration, those on the lower level are of stylized geometric patterns. The primary entrance to the Grain Exchange is located at the center of the Fourth Avenue facade; it is one storey in height and projects slightly from the face of the building and is shielded within its own entablature.

The lower level corner of the building is embellished with two terra cotta cartouches upon which are found the street names in bas-relief. Above the tenth floor level at the corner is an intricate composition of organic spirals and foliate forms executed in terra cotta which wraps around the corner to link the two street-facades.

The Grain Exchange, as constructed, was crowned with a prominent projecting slab-type cornice. After years of weathering and winter ice-build-ups deterioration to the extent of posing a safety hazard was evident. The cornice was removed and replaced with a copper flashing and coping; this alteration has resulted in a diminishing of the light-and-shadow-relation intent of the original design.

With the exception of a lobby and several shops on the ground floor and a large board room (seventy-five feet by one hundred-thirty feet) the entire interior of the Grain Exchange building is devoted to office space. Little of the organic-type of ornamentation used on the exterior of the building is found in the interior with the exception in the lobby and staircase.

In 1909 a twelve storey "annex" structure measuring sixty-six feet by fifty-four feet was constructed immediately to the east of the Grain Exchange building. The design of the annex, although some terra cotta ornamentation is employed is more baroque in appearance. The annex, therefore, takes on the appearance of an individual building rather than a part of the original Grain Exchange design.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 1900-1902

~~BUILDER~~/ARCHITECT Kees and Colburn

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed between the years of 1900 and 1902 according to the designs of Minneapolis architects Kees and Colburn, the Grain Exchange is a significant architectural statement of the influence of the works of Louis Sullivan on large-scale commercial/office buildings at the turn of the century. In addition to being recognized as one of the first buildings in Minneapolis to make use of the steel frame for its interior structural system, the Grain Exchange is also considered to be one of the most dignified turn of the century office buildings in terms of design, proportion, and terra cotta ornamentation.

Historically, the Grain Exchange was organized in Minneapolis in 1881 to deal with the increasing development and progress of the Minnesota grain market. In 1884, the first Grain Exchange building was constructed immediately to the north of the site of the present building. Increasing demands which resulted in the status of Minnesota as the "largest primary wheat market in the world" by 1900 necessitated the construction of a larger facility. That facility is the present Grain Exchange building at Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue South. It was constructed at a cost of \$600,000.

The Grain Exchange building has been recognized as an architecturally significant building by the Minneapolis Planning Commission in 1969 and is listed on the "candidate" list for preservation by the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission.

MINNEAPOLIS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
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