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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Hokah Municipal Building

Other names/site number: Hokah City Hall, Hokah Village Hall

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

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 57 Main Street

City or town: Hokah State: Minnesota County: Houston

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national          statewide        X   local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

  X   A          B        X   C          D

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <u>Barbara Mitchell Howard</u><br><b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b> Barbara Mitchell Howard, Deputy SHPO, MHS | <u>August 27, 2014</u><br><b>Date</b> |
| _____<br><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>  |                                       |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. |   |
| _____<br><b>Signature of commenting official:</b>                                       | _____<br><b>Date</b>  |
| _____<br><b>Title :</b>   | _____<br><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b> |

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

*For Edson H. Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper

10.20.14

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing      | Noncontributing   |            |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| <u>1</u>          | <u>          </u> | buildings  |
| <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | sites      |
| <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | structures |
| <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | objects    |
| <u>1</u>          | <u>          </u> | Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/city hall and fire station  
RECREATION AND CULTURE/hall, sports facility

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/library  
RECREATION AND CULTURE/hall, sports facility

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Art Deco

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: CONCRETE

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Hokah Municipal Building is a two-story, rectangular, flat roofed, reinforced concrete building at the southeast corner of Main Street (State Highway 44) and First Street (County Highway 18). The village of Hokah partnered with the Works Progress Administration in 1938 to build this multi-use structure to house a community hall/gymnasium on the upper level (at street level) and city offices, a dining hall, and the fire department on the lower level. The front (northwest) façade, which faces Main Street, has a centrally-placed entrance which opens into a shallow lobby which leads into the community hall/gymnasium. Above the lobby there is a small balcony overlooking the floor of this hall. The lower level is accessed on the southwest facade facing First Street which slopes downward sharply as it proceeds southeast towards Thompson Creek. As was typical of many New Deal projects, its balanced front façade of poured concrete invokes the Zigzag Modern version of Art Deco with its square columns and its use of deep fluting as the main exterior ornamentation. Although some doors and windows have been replaced and the lower level entries reconfigured, the building is essentially unchanged and retains its historical integrity. The community hall/gymnasium has been used continuously for sports, cultural and social events for seventy-five years. The lower level now houses the city library, food shelf, and a single bay police garage.

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First Street slopes downward sharply towards Thompson Creek and the area which was once Lake Como and this allows access to the lower level of the building on the southwest façade.<sup>3</sup> On the lower level there are five evenly-spaced windows, one near the front and the rest evenly spaced over the front half of this façade (Photo #2). The first two are the original three-over-three wood windows and the remaining three are one-over-one metal replacements. These windows are protected by a concrete window well above which there is a steel tube handrail. Southeast of these windows is the original pedestrian entrance which has a flat concrete awning projecting out about two feet to provide some protection from the weather. As explained below, this doorway was converted to a window opening in the 1990s and filled with a one-over-one metal window. Southeast of this new window were originally two garage doors which allowed access to the fire department's garage. The first of these has been converted into the pedestrian entrance and is filled with two one-over-one metal windows and a metal door similar to the entrance doors on the main façade. The second garage door, which is close to the rear façade of the building, provides access to a garage currently used by the police department.

The upper level of the southwest façade has five evenly spaced one-over-one metal windows which allow natural light to enter the gymnasium. Above these windows are rectangular panels which have the same deep fluting that appears on the front façade. A six-foot section at the northwest end of the wall is recessed and meets the similarly recessed corner section of the front façade. This section has the same fluting as on the front façade except for a flat panel of about four feet at the top. This section also has two small windows which allow light to enter the restrooms on the upper and lower levels.

The northeast façade has five evenly spaced windows in the same configuration as on the southwest façade. However, there are no fluted panels and no windows or doors on this façade (Photo #3). The southeast (rear) façade is an unbroken flat plane of smooth concrete except for three evenly spaced one-over-one windows on the lower level which allow light to enter the garage and a single door on the upper level at the far southeast corner which serves as the gymnasium's emergency exit. This door is accessed by a concrete stairway with a steel tube handrail (Photo #4).

**Interior**

The double entrance doors on Main Street open into a shallow lobby with a painted concrete floor and plastered walls and ceiling. There is a concrete staircase on the northwest side of the lobby which has one set of dogleg stairs up to the balcony and another down to the lower level. The women's restroom in the northwest corner is accessed from the halfspace landing of the stairs to the lower level (Photo #8). There was originally a ticket office and coat room on the southeast side of the lobby. The wrought iron grill of the ticket window is in place, but the area of the ticket office and coat room has been converted into a restroom accessible only from the gymnasium.

<sup>3</sup> As explained in Section 8, the Thompson Creek dam created Lake Como which became a tourist destination after 1900. By the early 1940s, however, it had filled with sediment and disappeared.

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Opposite the Main Street entrance are double doors which allow passage from the lobby into the community hall/gymnasium. The original wood doors are in place and they retain their bronze hardware (Photo #5). A plaque mounted on the wall above the double doors has the following inscription: "To honor the memory of BENJAMIN ENDER whose foresight and devotion to public duty made this building a reality 1895-1945."<sup>4</sup>

The hardwood gymnasium floor measures 48 feet by 67 feet. The original retractable basketball backboards and hoops are still in use. Along the sidelines is a shallow rise, about 4 inches high and 30 inches deep, intended to hold one row of chairs for spectators (Figure #6). The walls are plastered and rise about 20 feet to the ceiling. Exposed concrete beams stretch the full width of the building. The area between the beams is filled by suspended acoustical tile with recessed light panels. The five large windows on both the southwest and northeast façades allow natural light into the hall. Above the entranceway and behind the basketball backboard is the balcony which has a low wall with a steel tube handrail (Photo #6).

The lower level can be reached either by the entrance door on First Street or by the stairway in the lobby. At the foot of the stairway there is a vestibule which allows access to the men's restroom behind the stairway on the southwest wall. The lower level has a longer footprint than the upper level because it extends under the sidewalk in front of the building. A shower/locker room and the coal storage room, now both used for storage, were originally in this space, as was part of the furnace room which takes up the entire northeast corner. The vestibule opens to a hallway which provides access to the kitchen along the northeast wall and the original city council room on the southwest wall. The council room has two windows and a vault with a steel safe door. The kitchen, which has no windows, is outfitted with counters, cabinets, and appliances. There are plastered walls and ceilings throughout and painted concrete floors.

At the southeast end of the hallway there are double wood doors providing access to a large room, 48 feet by 28 feet, which was originally the dining hall and is now the library (Photo #9). As elsewhere, the floors are painted concrete and the walls are plastered. However, there is suspended acoustical tile and recessed light panels in the library. There is a serving window in the northwest wall which at one time allowed food to be passed into the dining room from the kitchen. This room has its three original window openings, all in the southwest façade, and in addition, a fourth window on the southwest which replaced the original lower level entrance door. The library now extends farther to the southeast because the adjacent garage bay door has been converted into the new pedestrian entrance. The second garage bay near the rear façade is in place and used by the police department.

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<sup>4</sup> The significance of this plaque will be explained in Section 8 below.

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### **Changes and Integrity**

Other than windows and doors, there have been few changes to the exterior of the Hokah Municipal Building. Originally there were double doors with porthole windows at the Main Street entrance and a single door with a porthole window at the First Street entrance (Figure #4, 5, 6). As has been noted, there are metal replacement doors in the Main Street entrance, and the original First Street entrance has been converted to a window.<sup>5</sup> The rear door to the gymnasium is original. A majority of the original wood three-over-three windows have been replaced with metal, but six lower level windows (the three on the rear façade, the two windows in the former city council room, and one in the women's restroom) are original.

In 1944, two display boards with an honor roll of veterans were added to the front façade, one on either side of the central entrance bay (Figure #6). In 1952, the U.S. Air Force's Ground Observation Corp built an 8-foot square civil defense shelter on the roof. From this wooden structure, civilian volunteers were supposed to scan the skies for Soviet bombers 24-hours per day. The program was discontinued in 1959.<sup>6</sup> The honor rolls and the civil defense structure were removed sometime in the 1960s. A community bulletin board is now mounted to the right of the entrance bay. In 1994, the plastic letters which spell out "Hokah City Hall" were added to the front façade.

The Hokah Public Library moved into the former dining hall on the lower level in 1989. This room retains its painted concrete floor but now has a suspended acoustical tile ceiling with recessed light panels. After the fire department moved out in 1991, the library was faced with the problem that the original pedestrian entrance on the lower level was not handicapped accessible. As a result, the original entrance was converted into a window, as noted above, and the adjacent garage door opening converted into a new accessible doorway with two windows. The second garage nearest the rear façade is still in place and used by the police department. It has a replacement garage door.

There have been few changes on the interior of the upper level. The lobby is unchanged except that the ticket office and coat room were converted into a handicapped accessible bathroom reached from the gymnasium floor. The gymnasium itself is unchanged except that the original hanging light fixtures are gone and the asbestos tile covered by suspended acoustical ceiling and recessed light panels and some ductwork. In 1990 the balcony was closed off with a sheet rock wall to form an office for the police department. When the police moved from that office in 1995, the sheetrock was removed and the balcony restored to its original finishes.

Except for the closing of the original pedestrian entrance and the creation of a new handicapped accessible entry, the lower level is essentially unchanged. The Hokah Public Library continues to occupy the original dining room. The city council now meets elsewhere and the council room

<sup>5</sup> The original First Street door with porthole window has been retained in storage.

<sup>6</sup> Kenneth Schaffel, *The Emerging Shield: the Air Force and the Evolution of Continental Air Defense, 1945-1960* (Washington: Office of Air Force History, 1990), 120,156-159, 222-223.

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is used by the local food shelf. The kitchen retains its original furnishings although it is often used by the space-strapped library staff.

The Hokah Municipal Building retains a very high level of integrity because it exhibits the essential physical features that convey its historic identity, including design, materials, and workmanship. The poured concrete facades are unchanged. There are some replacement windows, but the window openings have not been changed. The three distinctive porthole doors have also been replaced, but one has been retained in storage. The community hall/gymnasium is essentially unchanged and continues to be used as it was in 1938. There is now some ductwork and a suspended acoustical tile ceiling, but this was done in such a way as to leave exposed the original concrete cross beams. The configuration and finishes of the lower level are unchanged although the rooms are now being used by the city's library and food shelf. One of the garage doors has been reconfigured as a pedestrian entrance in order to provide an accessible entrance. Overall, the building's Art Deco features are still powerfully present and clearly associate the property with New Deal program which built it.



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### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT  
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION  
ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1938-1964

**Significant Dates**

1938

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Knutsen & Brunet, Architects (Rochester, MN)  
Works Progress Administration

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Hokah Municipal Building is locally significant under **Criterion A** in the area of Politics/Government and Entertainment/Recreation as a distinctive example of a local partnership with the Works Progress Administration to provide a modern multi-use public building to meet a small town's need for a city office, fire station, community hall, and gymnasium. The WPA-supported construction of the building not only delivered short term unemployment relief during the Depression, but also provided the community with a civic center which has served as the focus of its social life from 1938 to the present. The Hokah Municipal Building is also locally significant under **Criterion C** in the area of Architecture because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of Art Deco style as applied to a multi-use municipal building during the New Deal. Like many WPA projects, the Art Deco features forcefully proclaim the building's association with the period. The period of significance begins in 1938 with the construction of the Hokah Municipal Building and continues to 1964, as the passage of fifty years is the minimum threshold for considering the eligibility of a property for the National Register. This property is related to the statewide historic contexts of "Federal Relief Construction in Minnesota, 1933-1941.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **Hokah and the Root River Valley**

Edward Thompson, the first settler of European ancestry in the area just west of the Mississippi and just north of the Iowa border, built a sawmill in 1852 on what is now called Thompson Creek near its confluence with the Root River. In 1855, he and his brother platted the village of Hokah and a few years later the area was organized as Hokah Township, the name derived from the Dakota word for the Root River.<sup>7</sup> The town grew rapidly after the Southern Minnesota Railroad, which built a line along the Root River from La Crosse to Houston in 1866, decided to locate its car shops and a foundry at Hokah.<sup>8</sup> In 1871 the village of Hokah was incorporated, and the decade that followed was probably Hokah's most prosperous. The railroad alone employed about 500, and there were four flour mills, a cooperage, a brewery, and many retail establishments.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup> According to local tradition, the area of the town had been the camp of a Dakota or Winnebago band led by a leader who also bore the name Hokah. Warren Upham, *Minnesota Place Names: A Geographical Encyclopedia*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2001), 244.

<sup>8</sup> Richard Prosser, *Rails to the North Star* (Minneapolis: Dillon Press, 1966), 3, 14.

<sup>9</sup> This summary of Hokah's history is based on the information assembled in Barb Bissen, ed., *Greetings from Hokah, Minnesota* (Hokah, Minn.: 1976).

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In 1880 the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company bought the Southern Minnesota and moved the car shops and foundry to another town.<sup>10</sup> The loss of the railroad as a major employer led to the departure of about half of Hokah's population. However, the village survived as a small agricultural trading center for the eastern part of Houston County. A history of Houston County published just after World War I noted that Hokah had two banks, a grain elevator, a sawmill, a hotel, a creamery, a telephone exchange, a waterworks, and two newspapers.<sup>11</sup>

For a while, Hokah was also a tourist destination. Thompson's original dam was enlarged and the creek that bore his name became Lake Como. By 1900, Hokah was attracting visitors who came for the fishing, boating and swimming at the lake. The tourist trade ended abruptly in 1909 when a flood washed away the dam and emptied the lake. In 1922, a new dam was built and Lake Como resurrected. This dam held, but poor soil conservation practices common throughout the nation filled the lake with sediment. By the early 1930s, Lake Como became a marsh and by the early 1940s the lake had disappeared.<sup>12</sup>

**The Depression, the WPA and a new opportunity**

Following World War I commodity prices dropped and agricultural areas like Hokah experienced a recession throughout the 1920s.<sup>13</sup> When the nation-wide Great Depression began in 1929 farm income fell even more, land values declined, and many family farms were foreclosed. Farmers from around the state responded by forming the National Farmers Holiday Association in 1932 to press for a mortgage moratorium and farm price supports.<sup>14</sup> General economic collapse also led to bank failures in many communities; one out of three Minnesota banks failed in the first two years of the Depression.<sup>15</sup> Overall, southern Minnesota farmers weathered the Depression better than their counterparts in areas like the Red River Valley, for example, because they had less debt and were more diversified. Nevertheless, the 1930s were lean years for Houston County farmers and farm towns.<sup>16</sup>

In March 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt took office and quickly began the New Deal, a series of federal interventions intended to blunt the impact of the Depression and revitalize the economy. In the first "hundred days," a series of initiatives were passed, including the Federal Emergency

<sup>10</sup> Prosser, 14, 21, 124.

<sup>11</sup> Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, *History of Houston County, Minnesota* (Winona: H.C. Cooper, Jr, & Co, 1919), 775-776.

<sup>12</sup> Bissen, 26-33.

<sup>13</sup> David L. Nass, "The Rural Experience," in Clifford Clark, ed. *Minnesota in a Century of Change* (St. Paul: MHS Press, 1989), 136; Jerome Tweton, "The Business of Agriculture," in Clark, 262.

<sup>14</sup> Nass, 144.

<sup>15</sup> D. Jerome Tweton, *Depression: Minnesota in the Thirties* (Fargo: North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, 1981), 41.

<sup>16</sup> Tweton, *Depression*, 13.

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Relief Act to support the states, the National Industrial Recovery Act to stabilize prices, and the Agricultural Adjustment Act to bolster farms and farm prices.

The New Deal also created a number of job-creation programs geared to the development of public works projects in cooperation with the states and local communities. The first of these was the Public Works Administration, a new agency created by executive order during the "hundred days" in 1933.<sup>17</sup> The PWA did not directly employ workers, but gave grants and loans to federal agencies and states and their subdivisions to fund major projects built by private contractors. In the 1930s, it funded 34,500 public works projects, including city halls, schools, sewage treatment plants, dams, bridges, and the like.<sup>18</sup> In Minnesota, the PWA funded 666 federal and non-federal projects, including such major works at the Minneapolis Armory and Dam 5-A on the Mississippi near Winona.<sup>19</sup>

In 1935, President Roosevelt created the Works Progress Administration, an agency designed to provide massive unemployment relief by directly hiring the unemployed to build public works or work in service projects in such fields as adult education, recreation, and public art. The construction projects were similar to those of the PWA except that the WPA acted as general contractor of building projects and put a high priority on employing as many unemployed workers as possible. Like the PWA, the WPA required that a local governmental unit share the cost of the project. By the time it ended in 1943, the WPA had helped build 1,324 new public buildings in Minnesota, as well as many bridges, roads, culverts, sidewalks, swimming pools, stadiums, sewage and water treatment plants, three new airports, among many other things.<sup>20</sup>

Like the PWA, the WPA did not dictate architectural style; the local sponsoring agency was responsible for supplying the architectural drawing and specifications. The WPA reviewed the plans for structural soundness and feasibility of construction, and would sometimes ask the sponsors to eliminate complex structural or ornamental approaches so that projects could be completed by the available unemployed workers. As a result, WPA projects often were designed either in Art Deco style because the construction methods were straightforward and ornamentation minimal or in traditional styles familiar to local builders.<sup>21</sup>

The WPA provided Hokah with an opportunity. In 1913, the town hall had burned down and since that time village offices and the fire department had been housed in rented facilities. The

<sup>17</sup> Rolf T. Anderson, "Federal Relief Construction in Minnesota, 1933-1941," *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form*, 1991, E1.

<sup>18</sup> C. W. Short, and R. Stanley-Brown, *Public Buildings: A Survey of Architecture of Projects Constructed by Federal and Other Governmental Bodies between the Years 1933 and 1939 with the Assistance of the Public Works Administration* (Washington, D.C.: Public Works Administration, 1939).

<sup>19</sup> Anderson, E10.

<sup>20</sup> Linus Glotzbach, *WPA Accomplishments: Minnesota 1935-1939* (St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Works Progress Administration, 1939). The Hokah Municipal Building is pictured about 16 pages into the first section on buildings (there is no pagination).

<sup>21</sup> Anderson, E59.

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village had incurred debt for waterworks and other projects, and was not in a position to build a town hall, much less a municipal auditorium, without outside aid. Sometime in 1937 the village applied to the WPA for funds to build a municipal building. The evidence indicates that Benjamin Ender, a member of the five person village council, played the leading role in securing funding and overseeing the construction of the building.<sup>22</sup> Federal law required that a town or village file a proposal with the Minnesota office of the WPA including plans and sketches, estimates of how much unemployed labor might be engaged, and a justification of the project. The proposal had to provide estimates of the costs of materials and equipment, which were usually paid by the local government, and labor, which was covered by the WPA. After approval by the state WPA administrator, the proposal was forwarded to Washington for final approval.

In January 1938, the village council hired the Rochester architectural firm of Knutsen and Brunet and agreed to pay them 1% of the estimated cost of the building for preliminary sketches.<sup>23</sup> The architects' sketch of the proposed building was featured on the front page of the February 10, 1939 issue of the *Hokah Chief*. The sketch shows a building much like the one eventually constructed except that it is clad in brick. Possibly the exterior treatment was changed to poured concrete after the review by WPA state officials. Meanwhile, Ben Ender brought a motion before the council to put a \$18,000 bond referendum before the voters to finance the village's share of the building. Perhaps the change from brick to concrete led to a reduction of the village's share of the costs, because the amount had been reduced to \$14,000 when the bond election was held on March 29. The voters approved the request by a vote of 207 to 83.<sup>24</sup>

In April, Minnesota WPA director John Gislason sent a message to Ben Ender informing him that Washington had approved the village's project. The village then sold the bonds and the way was cleared for work to begin.<sup>25</sup> With WPA approval, the architects hired William Schultz, an experienced contractor from Winona, as project supervisor. Construction began in May and in June the state WPA headquarters announced that the \$33,000 project, 40% of which was to be financed by the village, would employ about 35 men from "local relief roles." Completion of the work would depend on their continued availability, since they would have to take private employment if offered.<sup>26</sup> In November, the newspaper reported that the outer shell was complete and that the building would be done in two months. The paper noted that with the scaffolding and rubbish removed, the "appearance of the place presents a very agreeable picture."<sup>27</sup> As the workers finished the interior, the village council asked for a last minute

<sup>22</sup> Benjamin Ender (1895-1945) owned the Ford dealership in Hokah and was elected to the village council in 1937. He was also president of the volunteer fire department. "Ben Ender Funeral Packs Village Auditorium," *Hokah Chief*, October 25, 1945, 1.

<sup>23</sup> Contract between Knutsen and Brunet and the village of Hokah, January 11, 1938. Hokah City Library Archives.

<sup>24</sup> "Hokah Votes Bonds for Municipal Hall," *Hokah Chief*, March 31, 1938, 1.

<sup>25</sup> "It's in the Bag," *Hokah Chief*, April 14, 1938, 1.

<sup>26</sup> "Information from the WPA Headquarters," *Hokah Chief*, June 2, 1938, 3.

<sup>27</sup> "New Village Hall Looms Big," *Hokah Chief*, November 24, 1938, 3.

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change. On January 27, they passed a resolution calling for a rise 4 inches high and 30 inches deep around the exterior walls of the auditorium for stationary seating.<sup>28</sup>

### **The new municipal building**

The council met in the new village hall apparently for the first time on January 30, 1939 to prepare for the dedication ceremony. On February 2, 1939, the *Hokah Chief* announced that the dedication of what it called "Hokah's magnificent new municipal building" would be held on February 20. It gave its readers a detailed report on the building's layout. It described the fire hall, council chamber, dining hall, kitchen, dressing rooms, and toilets of the lower level and the community hall/gymnasium, lobby, box office and balcony of the upper level. "No pains have been spared," it claimed, "to make this one of the best dance floors in the world."<sup>29</sup> On February 9, the newspaper printed the village council's formal "Invitation" to the dedication on the first page (Figure #3). The council was clearly enraptured of the new building:

"It is with a feeling of distinct pride that we point to this magnificent structure and it is our aim to make this event so conspicuous in the annals of the village that all who are fortunate enough to be here on this occasion will look back on it and upon it as one of the most, if not the very most important incident in connection with the life of the village."<sup>30</sup>

Following the February 20 event, the *Hokah Chief* provided a detailed account of what transpired.<sup>31</sup> The dedication ceremony included a free program of speakers followed by a dance which had an admission charge. After the Star Spangled Banner was played by the Joe Mader Orchestra of La Crosse (which also provided music for the dance), the school children sang a song to the tune of "Tenting Tonight," which included the lyric:

Meeting tonight, meeting tonight, to dedicate the new town hall  
We struggled hard to get this hall, to have a place to play  
Some badminton and basketball or any game you say.  
There is a dining room and kitchen for you,  
And council room as well, with showers and rest rooms and dance floor, too.  
We think it's pretty swell.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>28</sup> This rise is still in place but stationary seating was never installed. Hokah City Library Archives holds invoices for 300 steel folding chairs bought March 1939. These chairs are visible in an early photograph (Figure #7). Some of these chairs, as well as tables and coat racks from the 1930s, are still in use.

<sup>29</sup> "New City Hall to be Dedicated This Month: Hokah's Magnificent New Municipal Building to be officially opened Monday February 20," *Hokah Chief*, February 2, 1939, 1.

<sup>30</sup> "This is your invitation to the dedicatory exercises at Hokah's new municipal building, Monday, February 20," *Hokah Chief*, February 9, 1939, 1.

<sup>31</sup> "New Hall Dedicated," *Hokah Chief*, February 23, 1939, 1, 2.

<sup>32</sup> "Program: Dedication of Hokah's New Municipal Building Monday, February 20, 1939." The program included the lyrics of both songs sung at the event. At the bottom of the program are the words "Compliments of the *Hokah Chief*," Hokah City Library Archives.

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Herbert Wheaton, editor/publisher of the *Hokah Chief* and the newly elected mayor, gave an opening address, reprinted in his newspaper, directed to the questions of whether the new building was needed and whether the village could afford it.<sup>33</sup> In the early stages of construction, he had voiced the common criticism that the WPA was a “make work program” in the pages of his newspaper. He wrote that he had heard one of the best jokes about the WPA right in Hokah when an official told the foreman that he better disperse the crowd of onlookers lounging around the construction site because otherwise “you won’t be able to tell who is working.”<sup>34</sup> However, as the building neared completion he praised it exuberantly, calling it “a most economically planned structure which includes no wasted space and is devoid of all unnecessary adornment, yet is beautiful in its sincere simplicity of design.”<sup>35</sup> At the dedication, he told the crowd that “the people of this village have had no place to meet, no spot they could call their own” since the old town hall had burned down in 1913. Pointing out that Caledonia, Spring Grove and Houston (neighboring Houston County towns) had gone into debt to build city halls, he noted that Hokah now had little debt save for the modest bond issue of \$14,000 which had leveraged a \$33,000 building.<sup>36</sup>

Following Wheaton’s speech, the crowd was addressed by the mayor of Austin, Minnesota, by John Gislason, the administrator of the local WPA district, and finally by Linus Glotzbach, the state administrator of the WPA. Glotzbach used his speech to defend the WPA and deplore the stories about loafing on WPA jobs, “denouncing them as untrue and deceiving in their nature and a slur on good people.” He argued that a WPA workman “is as much entitled to be proud of his earnings as any other workman.” The *Hokah Chief* noted that Glotzbach was a “great hit with the assemblage,” and that his address “cleared up considerable misunderstanding in local circles.”<sup>37</sup> Glotzbach then formally presented the building and the bronze WPA plaque which still adorns it today to Mayor Wheaton, who expressed his thanks. The ceremony ended with a community singing of “A Hot Time in Old Hoky Tonight,” a song specially written to provide a segue to the dance (“We will turn the town completely upside down”).<sup>38</sup>

**A distinctive application of a style**

The building that the village received was an example of Art Deco style as applied to a New Deal project, specifically to a multi-use municipal building created by the WPA for a small town. Art Deco is an expansive term which refers most generally to a decorative style which emerged from Europe in the late 1920s. It quickly became popular among American graphic artists,

<sup>33</sup> The *Hokah Chief* was founded in 1855. Wheaton bought it in 1898 and published it until 1952. He also served a term in the Minnesota State Legislature. He died in 1954 at the age of 83. “Editor Wheaton Dies Sunday,” *La Crescent Times-Hokah Chief*, July 29, 1954, 1.

<sup>34</sup> “A WPA Story,” *Hokah Chief*, May 26, 1938, 3. The WPA was continually the subject of criticism. Charles H. Trout, “Welfare in the New Deal Era,” *Current History*, (July 1973): 11-14, 39.

<sup>35</sup> *Hokah Chief*, February 2, 1939, 1.

<sup>36</sup> *Hokah Chief*, February 23, 1939, 1.

<sup>37</sup> *Hokah Chief*, February 23, 1939, 2.

<sup>38</sup> “Program,” Hokah Library Archives.



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interior designers, and architects. With respect to architecture, most historians distinguish several phases, the first of which, often called “Zigzag Moderne,” emphasized geometric, angular forms. This style was put to impressive use in New York City in buildings like the Rockefeller Center (NHL 1987) and in Minnesota with the St. Paul City Hall/Ramsey County Courthouse (NRHP 1983). In the mid-1930s, a second phase emerged, usually called “Streamline Moderne,” which emphasized curvilinear forms. The two phases of Art Deco architecture peaked during the Depression years and became associated with the public buildings of the PWA and WPA.<sup>39</sup> Art Deco was well adapted to public architecture because many of its signature characteristics, like symmetrical facades, columns, and fluting, incorporated in an abstract way features of the Classical.<sup>40</sup> Dozens of public buildings, including many county courthouses and city halls, were built in this style. The Winona City Hall (NRHP 1999), a PWA project completed in 1939, provides a good example of Art Deco architecture in southeastern Minnesota.

The Hokah Municipal Building embodies the distinctive characteristics of Art Deco style as applied to a multi-use municipal building built by the WPA. It has a rigidly symmetrical front façade of poured concrete which highlights the vertical with its four large square columns and deep fluting running almost the entire height of the building on the corner sections. The manner in which the front façade is broken by a series of setbacks is also consistent with the Zigzag style of Art Deco.<sup>41</sup>

**A community center evolves**

For the next five decades, the municipal building served as the exclusive seat of all Hokah city services as well as the central venue for most cultural, sports, and social events. Just a few advertisements in the *Hokah Chief* in the 1940s convey a sense of how it was used. The dance at the dedication ceremony was just the beginning of the intense use of the hall for a variety of similar events, often for fundraising purposes. For example, a “Baseball Benefit Dance” was held

<sup>39</sup> This analysis of Art Deco architecture and its relation to the New Deal relies on Charles Nelson, “Tech Talk: Minnesota Architecture, Part V--Styles of the Modern Era: Prairie School, Bungalow, Art Deco, International & Revivals,” *Minnesota History Interpreter* (January 2000): 5-6. Eva Weber presents a very similar categorization in her *Art Deco in America* (New York: Exeter Books, 1985), 46-79. She distinguishes Zigzag Moderne, Streamline Modern and Classical Moderne (by which she means the style associated with the New Deal). Marcus Whiffin refers to two separate styles--Art Deco style (referring to Zigzag Moderne) and Streamline Moderne. *American Architecture since 1780*, Rev. ed. (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1992), 235-246. John Blumenson also refers to two separate styles: Art Deco and Art Moderne (referring to Streamline Moderne). *Identifying American Architecture*, Rev. ed. (Nashville: American Association of State and Local History, 1981), 76-79.

<sup>40</sup> Nelson, 6. Some historians have referred to the New Deal style as “Starved Classicism” or “Stripped Classicism.” Lois Craig, *The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in United States Government Buildings* (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1978), 283. Craig credits Paul Philippe Cret with setting the standard for “starved classicism” with such buildings as the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington. *Ibid*, 284-295.

<sup>41</sup> Although they have been replaced, the large porthole windows on the three entrance doors (two on Main Street and one on First Street) ran counter to the straight-edged geometry of the building. Blumenson, however, notes that circular windows are sometimes found in Art Deco architecture (by which he means Zigzag Moderne), *Ibid*, 77. The porthole window might also be thought of as the integration of a Streamline Moderne feature into this design.

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in the “new auditorium” on April 5, 1940 to help fund the local baseball team. The same edition of the newspaper carried an advertisement for movies every Sunday night which noted that the auditorium was in “easy walking distance to the taverns.”<sup>42</sup> On January 30, 1945, the American Legion held a “March of Dimes” dance featuring the Hokah Orchestra and said quite bluntly in their advertisement that “everyone was expected to attend.”<sup>43</sup> The American Legion also hosted its annual “Poultry Fest” featuring “good eats and what not” on December 3, 1945.<sup>44</sup>

The gymnasium was also used for sports, especially basketball. For example, St. Peter’s Catholic High School, a few blocks away on Main Street, played all its home basketball games there for many years. But the gymnasium also became an important venue for amateur boxing. In July 1939, the city council purchased the necessary equipment to set up a boxing ring.<sup>45</sup> The equipment was clearly put to use. In March 1940, the *Hokah Chief* carried an advertisement announcing an amateur boxing event featuring eight matches at different weights. The notice promised 24 rounds of boxing, and “every round full of punches.”<sup>46</sup>

The hall was also regularly used for wedding celebrations, anniversaries, birthdays, and even funerals. In fact, funeral rites for two men who played major roles in the creation of the municipal building were held there. In 1945, Benjamin Ender, the village council member who acted as the liaison with the WPA and the contractors, died at the age of 49. According to the *Hokah Chief*, the auditorium was filled to capacity and some people stood outside in the street. Herb Wheaton, still the newspaper’s editor, wrote that he “considered it a very touching mark of respect to Ben Ender that Bill Schultz and John Gislason drove from St. Paul to attend the funeral.”<sup>47</sup> Shortly thereafter, the city council, which included Herb Wheaton, adopted a resolution to place the bronze plaque honoring Benjamin Ender which can be seen in the lobby today.<sup>48</sup> Nine years later, Herb Wheaton, who was mayor of Hokah in those years, died at age 83 and was buried with Masonic rites after a ceremony at the same hall.<sup>49</sup>

Eventually Hokah’s city services outgrew the available space in the WPA-built municipal building. In 1986, the Hokah Public Library was organized and in 1987 it became part of SELCO, the regional network of public libraries in southeastern Minnesota. It moved from the elementary school building into the former dining hall in the lower level of the municipal building in 1989. When the fire department moved into a new fire house in 1991, the lower level entries were reconfigured, as explained above, to provide a handicapped accessible entrance to the library. In 1995, the city council began meeting in the community room of the new fire station. The city food shelf now uses the council’s former room. The police chief began officing

<sup>42</sup> *Hokah Chief*, April 4, 1940.

<sup>43</sup> *Hokah Chief*, January 25, 1945.

<sup>44</sup> *Hokah Chief*, November 29, 1945.

<sup>45</sup> A motion to that effect, July 18, 1939, in the Village Minute Book. Hokah City Library Archives.

<sup>46</sup> *Hokah Chief*, March 21, 1940.

<sup>47</sup> “Ben Ender Funeral Packs Village Auditorium,” *Hokah Chief*, October 25, 1945, 1. Schultz was the general contractor of the auditorium and Gislason the WPA district director who oversaw the project. See above.

<sup>48</sup> “Resolutions of Respect adopted by Village Council in memory of Ben Ender,” *Hokah Chief*, November 15, 1945.

<sup>49</sup> “Editor Wheaton Dies Sunday,” *La Crescent Times-Hokah Chief*, July 29, 1954, 1.

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in the building in 1977, at different times in the balcony or in the council room. Since 2007, the city administrator, city clerk, and police chief have shared an office at 102 Main Street. The police department, however, still uses the rear garage bay in the Municipal Building. Although the functions of the lower level have changed, the community hall/gymnasium continues to be used as an all-purpose venue for sports, dances, craft fairs, weddings, anniversaries, and fundraisers of all kinds, including, for example, the annual Chili Cook-Off to aid the library budget.

In 1938, the federal government offered Hokah the opportunity to leverage a small bond sale into a badly needed multi-purpose municipal hall. The building served as the city council chambers, fire station, community hall, and sports center. Besides being the center of local government, the community hall/gymnasium was the focus of social life in the area. Remarkably, the building continues to house city services and provide the primary venue of social life in the community. For these reasons, the Hokah Municipal Building is locally significant under **Criterion A** in the area of Politics/Government and Entertainment/Recreation as a distinctive example of a local partnership with the Works Progress Administration to provide a modern multi-use public building. As was true of many similar projects built by the WPA, the building's Art Deco styling gave it an appearance which distinguished it from every other building in Hokah and permanently marked it as a New Deal creation. It is locally significant under **Criterion C** in the area of Architecture because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of Art Deco style as applied to a multi-use municipal building during the New Deal.

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### **Unpublished**

Anderson, Rolf T. "Federal Relief Construction in Minnesota, 1933-1941." *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form*, August 30, 1993, as amended with additional material, January 20, 1994.

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### **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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

### **Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository: Hokah City Library

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** HU-HKC-004

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** Less than one acre

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

1. Zone: 15 Easting: 633155 Northing: 4846260

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The north 50 feet by 100 feet of Lot 15, Block E of the original plat of the Village of Hokah

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the city lot historically associated with the property.

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Greg Gaut  
organization: Historic Preservation Consultant  
street & number: 673 E. Wabasha  
city or town: Winona state: MN zip code: 55987  
e-mail GregGaut@gmail.com  
telephone: 507-452-0536  
date: June 5, 2014

## Additional Documentation

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

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### Photo Log

Name of Property: Hokah Municipal Building  
City or Vicinity: Hokah  
County: Houston State: Minnesota  
Photographer: Greg Gaut  
Date Photographed: December 2013, January 2014, and February 2014

### Description of Photographs and Number

Photo #1: (MN\_Houston County\_Hokah Municipal Bldg.\_0001)  
Northwest (front) façade, camera facing southeast.

Photo #2: (MN\_Houston County\_Hokah Municipal Bldg.\_0002)  
Southwest façade, showing access to lower level spaces, camera facing northeast.

Photo #3: (MN\_Houston County\_Hokah Municipal Bldg.\_0003)  
Northeast façade, camera facing south.

Photo #4: (MN\_Houston County\_Hokah Municipal Bldg.\_0004)  
Southeast (rear) façade, camera facing northwest

Photo #5: (MN\_Houston County\_Hokah Municipal Bldg.\_0005)  
Doors to the community hall/gymnasium, with Ben Ender plaque, camera in lobby facing east.

Photo #6: (MN\_Houston County\_Hokah Municipal Bldg.\_0006)  
Community hall/gymnasium, camera facing northwest.

Photo #7: (MN\_Houston County\_Hokah Municipal Bldg.\_0007)  
Community hall/gymnasium, camera in balcony facing southeast

Photo #8: (MN\_Houston County\_Hokah Municipal Bldg.\_0008)  
Concrete stairway to lower level with restroom at landing, camera in lobby facing southwest.

Photo #9: (MN\_Houston County\_Hokah Municipal Bldg\_0009)  
Lower level, hallway leading into library, camera facing southeast.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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**Historic Photos**

Figure #1: Post card view of Hokah and Lake Como from Mount Tom in 1909, shortly before the Thompson Creek dam, which created Lake Como, gave way (MHS Collections).

Figure #2: Aerial view of Hokah in 1936. In 1922 the Thompson Creek dam was rebuilt, but by the mid-1930s the lake had filled with sediment. The bridge crossing the creek is First Street, which climbs the hill into the Main Street business district. In 1938, the Hokah Municipal Building would be built at the intersection of First Street and Main Street (MHS Collections).

Figure #3: Invitation to the dedication of the Hokah Municipal Building, *Hokah Chief*, February 9, 1939, 1.

Figure #4: Hokah Municipal Building photographed by the WPA in about 1940 (from the WPA negative collection held by MHS).

Figure #5: Postcard of "Village Hall—Hokah, Minn." This postcard was likely produced shortly after the completion of the building in 1939 (Hokah Community Library collections).

Figure #6: Post card of "City Auditorium-Hokah, Minn." This postcard appears to date after 1944 when the honor roll of veterans was mounted on the front façade but before 1952 when the civil defense shelter was placed on the roof (Hokah Community Library collections).

Figure #7: Community Hall/gymnasium with stage and piano, Hokah Municipal Building, circa 1940. Note the rise along the sides of the floor with folding chairs (MHS Collections).



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

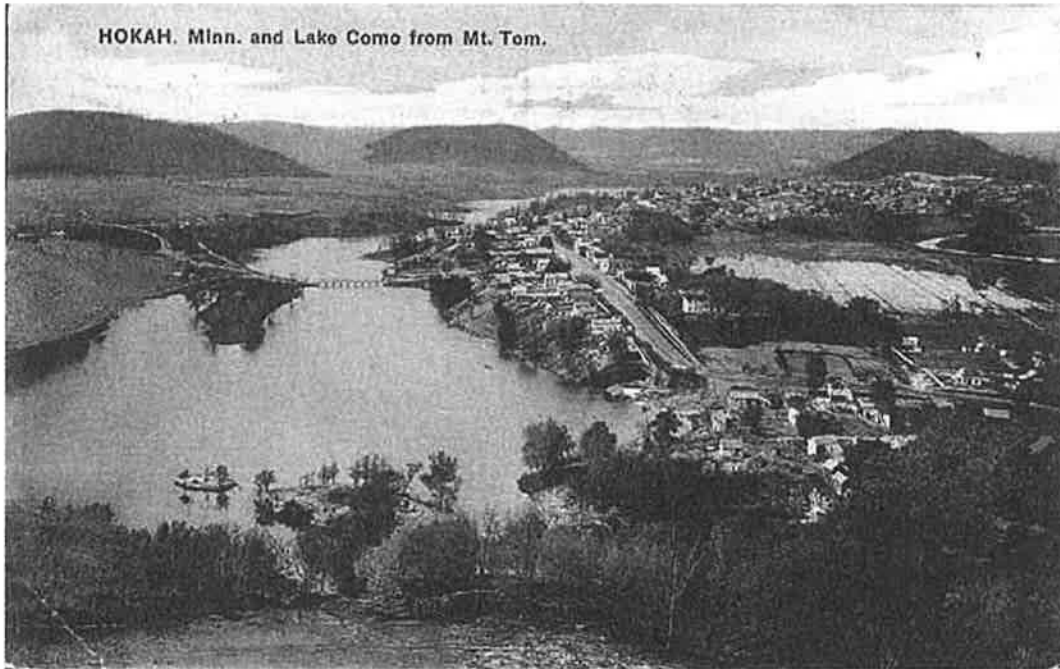
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**Figure #1**



**Figure #2**

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National Park Service

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Section number          Additional Information          Page          3         

**THIS IS YOUR  
INVITATION**  
to the dedicatory exer-  
cises at Hokah's  
New Municipal Building  
**Monday, February 20**  
Beginning at 8 p. m. Sharp

TO THE PUBLIC, GREETING:

The time of completion of our new and beautiful municipal building having arrived; Monday evening, February 20, has been decided upon for the official dedication. On that occasion the building will be turned over to the village authorities by the WPA authorities and officially opened to the use of the people of Hokah. That it will be a most outstanding event in the history of this vil-lage is a fact about which there could be no argument. It is therefore be-fitting that the occasion be observed in the most appropriate manner of which we, as citizens of the village, are capable.

It is with a feeling of distinct pride that we point to this magnificent structure, and it is our aim to make this event so conspicuous in the annals of the village that all who are fortunate enough to be here on this occasion will look back at it and upon it as one of the most, if not the very most important incidents in connection with the life of the village.

A program has been arranged which we feel is in keeping with the event and fully in harmony with the sanctity of the day. All preparations have been made for a comfortable reception of guests. A loud speaking system has been installed, enabling the program to be heard in all parts of the building as well as only in the auditorium, and plenty of chairs have been provided for the occasion to afford every guest a place to park. Music and song will join with the speaking part of the program to afford the widest range of entertainment, and it is expected that the time will pass all too soon. Admission will be free, and it is hoped that every guest on that night will be happy. In order for nobody to be misinformed or to be mistaken in any way, however, it might be well for us to state at this point that, following the program, a dance will be given and this part of the program will be charged for. But the dance will have no connection with the program. All those who do not care to remain for the activities will miss no part of the dedication.

With the above information, the members of the village council, in behalf of the citizens of the village of Hokah, extend a general invitation to the public, and hope to sign themselves as

Your Humble Servants,

R. J. HORIHAN,  
Clerk of Village

A. H. HEBERLEIN,  
BENJAMIN ENDER,  
C. E. BERNSDORF,  
H. E. WHEATON,

Members of Council.

(This official invitation was passed by the council at its regular meeting Monday evening, February 6, 1939, and made part of the permanent records.—R. J. Horihan, Clerk.)

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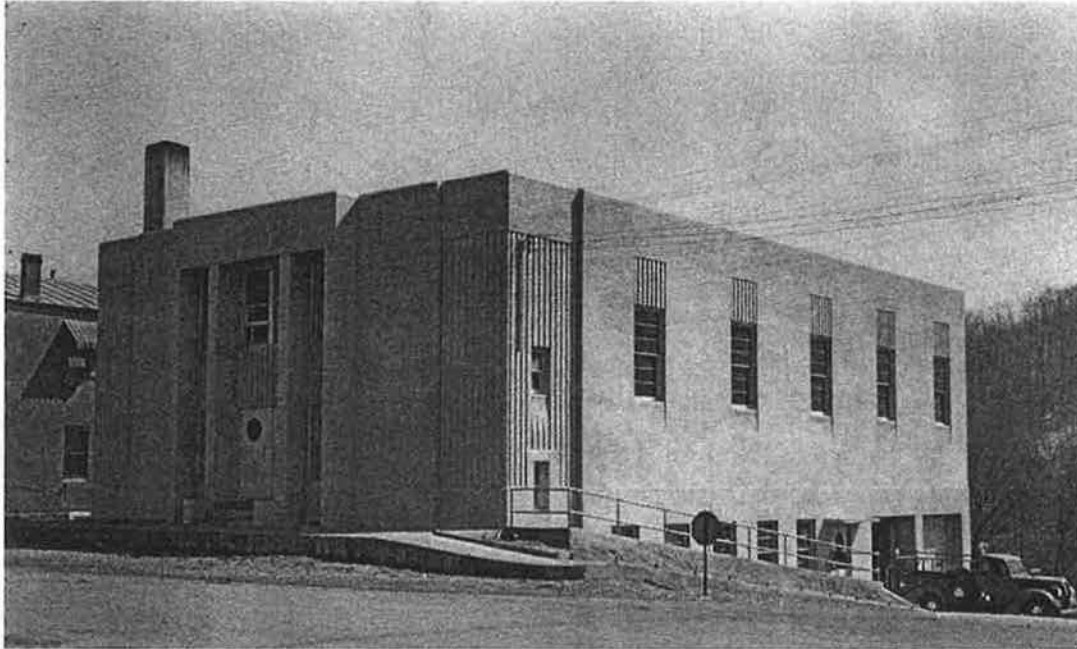


Figure #4



Figure #5

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Figure #6



Figure #7

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Hokah Municipal Building

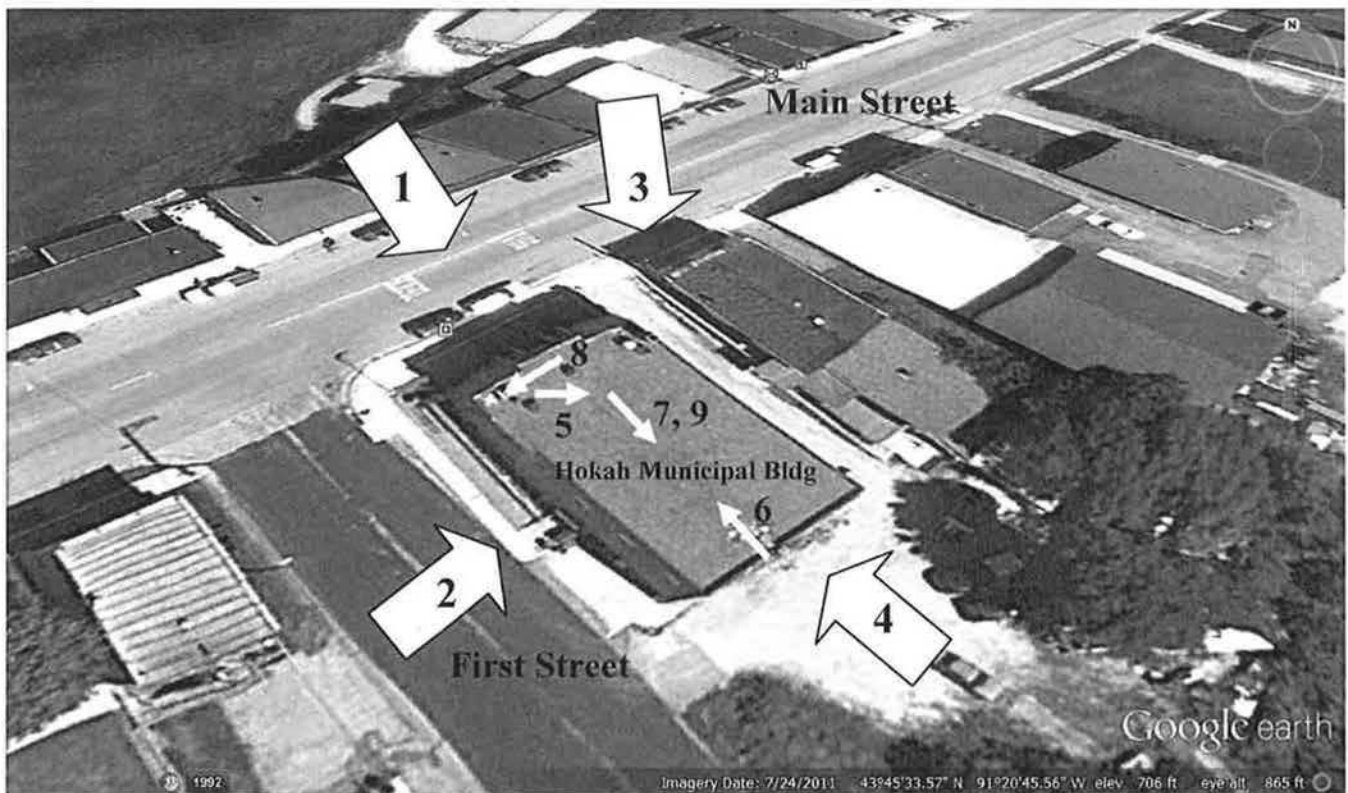
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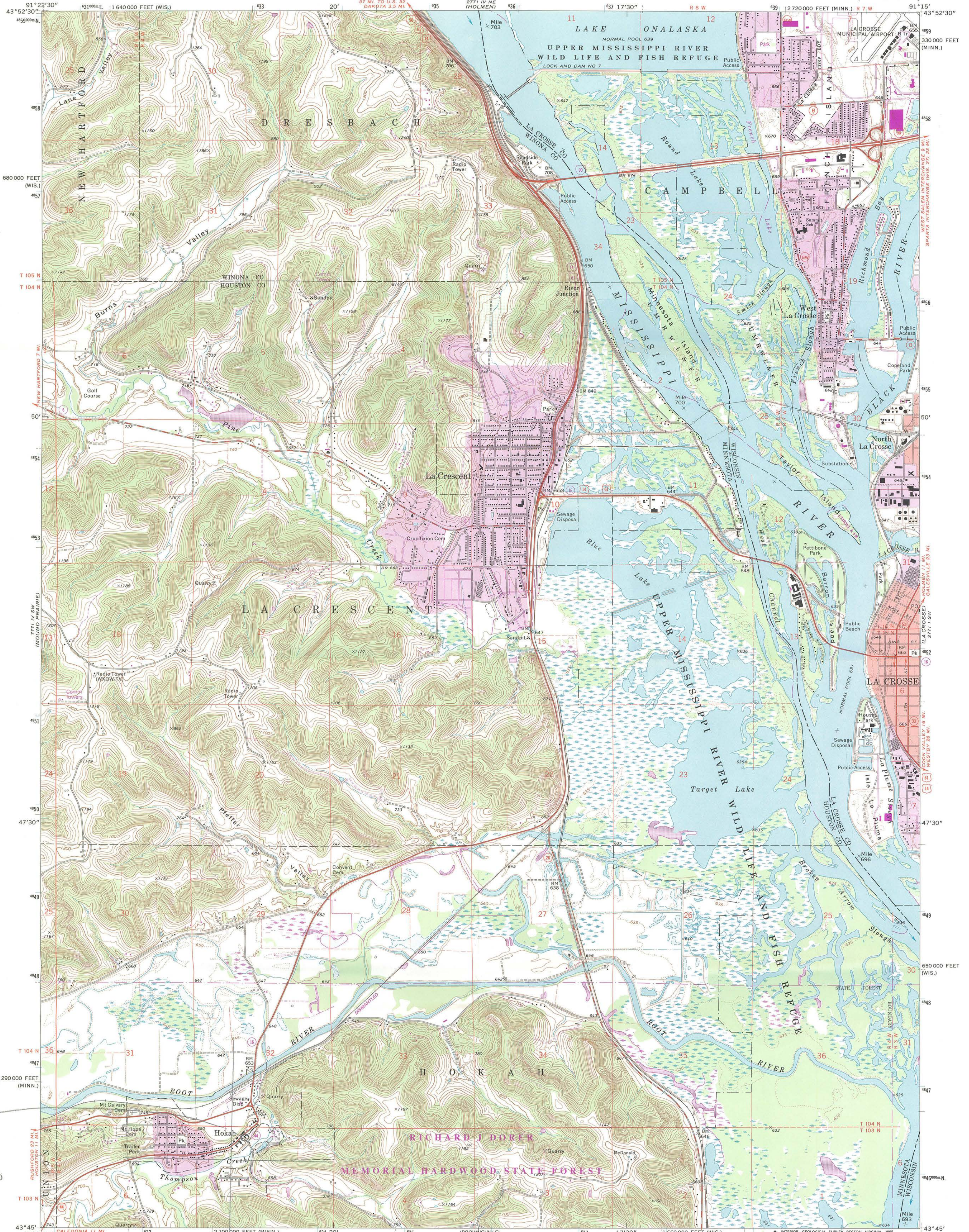
Houston County, Minnesota

County and State

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Google Earth photo of Hokah Municipal Building at 57 Main Street, showing camera direction for the nine photographs



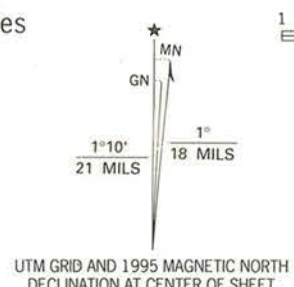


Hokah Municipal Building  
Hokah Houston County  
15 633155 4846260

Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Wisconsin area mapped in cooperation with State of Wisconsin agencies  
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from imagery dated 1973  
Field checked 1973

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27)  
Projection: Minnesota coordinate system, south zone  
(Lambert conformal conic)  
10 000-foot ticks: Minnesota coordinate system, south zone and  
Wisconsin coordinate system, south zone  
Blue 1 000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator ticks, zone 15  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed  
corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83  
for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic  
Survey NADCON software

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map



SCALE 1:24 000  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with  
State of Minnesota agencies from imagery dated 1991  
and other sources. Map edited 1995  
Information shown in purple may not meet USGS content  
standards and may conflict with previously mapped contours

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, hard surface  
Secondary highway, hard surface  
Unimproved road  
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface  
Interstate Route  
U. S. Route  
State Route

LA CRESCENT, MN-WI  
43091-G3-TF-024

1991

DMA 771 IV SE-SERIES V872

HOKAH

CITY

HALL

57





Public Mailbox

Police Station

NO PARKING ANYTIME

POLICE PARKING ONLY

NO PARKING ANYTIME







MEMORIAL  
TO THE  
SACRED  
DUTY  
OF  
CIVILITY  
1880











UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Hokah Municipal Building  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Federal Relief Construction in Minnesota MPS AD  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MINNESOTA, Houston

DATE RECEIVED: 9/05/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/29/14  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/14/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/22/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000868

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 10.20.14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Minnesota Historical Society  
State Historic Preservation Office  
345 Kellogg Blvd West, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102  
651/259-3451



**TO:** Carol Shull, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places

**FROM:** Denis P. Gardner

**DATE:** 8/27/2014

**NAME OF PROPERTY:** Hokah Municipal Building

**COUNTY AND STATE:** Houston County, Minnesota

**SUBJECT:** National Register:  
 Nomination  
 Multiple Property Documentation Form  
 Request for determination of eligibility  
 Request for removal (Reference No.     )  
 Nomination resubmission  
 Boundary increase/decrease (Reference No.     )  
 Additional documentation (Reference No.     )

**DOCUMENTATION:**

Original National Register of Historic Places Registration Form  
 Multiple Property Documentation Form  
 Continuation Sheets  
 Removal Documentation  
 Photographs  
 CD w/ image files  
 Original USGS Map  
 Sketch map(s)  
 Correspondence  
 Owner Objection  
The enclosed owner objections  
Do  Do not  constitute a majority of property owners

**STAFF COMMENTS:**