

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

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

For HCRS use only
received JUN 17 1980
date entered JUL 17 1980

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

1. Name

historic Old Fire Hall

and/or common Old Fire Hall

2. Location

street & number MN 169 not for publication

city, town Tower vicinity of _____ congressional district 8th District

state Minnesota code 22 county St. Louis code 137

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name City of Tower

street & number City Hall

city, town Tower vicinity of _____ state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Louis County Court House

street & number _____

city, town Duluth state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

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

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The fire hall is a single story structure built of red brick, bricks which were made on the Vermilion Range. The front openings are all rounded arches, with a large gate, two smaller doors and three window bays. The large door has a counterpart in the rear to facilitate through movement. Beneath the driveway there is a large cistern used for storing water in the event of the failure of the city water supply during an emergency. The rest of the structure is composed of offices and meeting rooms which are used infrequently.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1895

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Fire Hall represents the great danger that fire posed to the early iron mining communities with their crowded city lots, woodframe buildings, and lack of suitable water systems to support heavily pressurized equipment. The investment in the fire hall and the volunteer nature of the firefighters' serviceworked together to make the community aware of the fire hazard and to avoid it. The frequent destruction of various Range towns such as Virginia and Chisholm reinforced such attitudes and community spirit. The fire hall is the oldest community firehall on the Iron Range.

Although originally built to be only a fire hall, the building has, since construction, been used for various other municipal purposes, including meeting rooms, record storage, and polling place.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Marvin Lappa, A Report to the Department of Natural Resources on the Historical Aspects of the Vermilion, Cuyuna, and Mesabi Iron Ranges of Northeast Minnesota (Eveleth: 1977).

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 **UTM NOT VERIFIED**
Quadrangle name Tower, Minn., -St. Louis Co. Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The fire hall is located on Lot 2, Block 21, Original Plat, Tower, Minnesota.

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles Skrief, Director, State Historic Preservation Office

organization Minnesota Historical Society date September 10, 1979

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

city or town St. Paul state Minnesota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Russell W. Fridley
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 6/10/80

For HCERS use only

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

W. Ray Luce date 7/17/80
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Kristin O'Connell date 7/14/80
 Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn
11/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Note: These changes apply to
Old Fire Hall in St. Louis County,
Minnesota.

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80004355

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: St. Louis

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Tower Fire Hall

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: Main St.

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal
Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988
Date