

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

For NPS use only

received **AUG 5 1985**
date entered **SEP 5 1985**

**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 Grey Eagle Village Hall

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Spruce Street and Woodman Street N/A not for publication

city, town Grey Eagle N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Todd code 153

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" 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
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Village of Grey Eagle

street & number N/A

city, town Grey Eagle N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 55336

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Todd County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

street & number 215 1st Avenue South

city, town Long Prairie state Minnesota 56347

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

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

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Grey Eagle Village Hall is a two story fieldstone building originally housing village offices, the fire department and a large auditorium. The building is sited facing south on a corner lot one block south of the main commercial street of Grey Eagle. Rectangular in plan and in form, the building measures approximately forty by ninety feet. The lower floor, actually a raised basement, contains a meeting room, kitchen, bowling alley, and boiler and coal rooms. The upper floor has a large auditorium which is surrounded by a balcony. At the north end of the building there is an elevated stage and dressing rooms. Below the stage is the fire hall, with doors that open onto the street.

The styling and detailing of the village hall are clearly Moderne, although the use of randomly laid uncut fieldstone for the exterior gives the building a rustic character. Cast concrete is used for all trimwork. Quoins to reinforce the stonework are placed at the corners and on the projecting front entry. A belt course runs along the front of the building at the auditorium floor level, separating the upper floor from the slightly projecting lower floor. The centrally placed entry is capped with a large cast concrete block into which "Grey Eagle Village Hall" has been inscribed. The greeting "Welcome" is inscribed in a header above the doorway.

A large cast concrete eagle provides visual emphasis to the front entry. This sculpture, with its extended wings, stands about four feet tall.

The east and west facades of the building are nearly identical. Six piers rise from the lower floor and form buttresses for the upper portions of the wall. Glassblock windows are placed in the five openings between the piers. Two additional windows light the stage. A cast concrete header above the fire hall doors is inscribed with the words "Fire Department." The north facade of the building is undistinguished, having only a single door at its northeast corner.

A small one story pumphouse is located at the northeast corner of the site. The materials and detailing of this structure are similar to the larger village hall.

Alterations to the building have been few and are reversible. The ceiling of the auditorium has been dropped even with the balconys by suspended acoustical tile panels. A concrete block addition containing two stalls has been added to the north side of the fire hall. A segment of exposed ductwork has been placed along the west facade from the furnace room in the basement to the auditorium. A tank for natural gas storage has been placed in a chain link fenced enclosure above ground at the southwest corner of the site.

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/
<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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1934 **Builder/Architect** Fred Pfeifer, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Grey Eagle Village Hall is an excellent example of the type of public works project undertaken by the Federal Civil Works Administration, a federally administered relief program designed to provide useful work relief during the winter of 1933-34, while two companion programs, the state and locally administered Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the federal Public Works Administration, were having difficulties in getting projects under way. The village hall is a large building, containing an auditorium, meeting rooms, village offices and a fire hall. Significantly, about 90 percent of its cost was paid by the federal government. Constructed of fieldstone found locally, the building reflects the dual intentions of simplicity of design and the maximum use of labor intensive, inexpensive materials as established in public works program standards.

The Civil Works Administration, unlike the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the later Works Progress Administration, was operated as a federal relief program. It was established in November, 1933 to supplement the FERA and the newly created PWA, which were thought to be incapable of handling an expected increase of unemployed workers during the winter of 1933-34. The CWA operated closely with the FERA, and often used the same personnel. It differed, however, in its use of federal funds, which were allocated for specific projects at the federal level. Both the FERA and the later WPA had funds first allocated to a state organization, which was given the responsibility for assigning funds to individual projects.

A very small share of the total project cost was paid by the state or local government under the CWA. The size and program of the village hall tends to reflect this; the building is extremely large for a community which then numbered less than 500 people.

As a public work relief project the program was apparently successful. The economy of Todd County is heavily dependent upon agriculture. During the period of low commodity and dairy prices of the early 1930s, many Todd County farmers were impoverished, and applied for work relief programs.

Construction of the village hall was begun in March, 1934. Although that same month the CWA program was discontinued, the village hall was continued under the terms of the CWA originally in place. Three shifts of men, each working two days per week, were employed. The project was dedicated that September 27, at a ceremony at which Minnesota State Supreme Court Justice John Devaney delivered an address.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Burteum, Minn.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 15 364210 5075770
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 3, Block 14, Original Townsite of Grey Eagle

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 Thomas L. Jenkinson and Norene Roberts

organization Historical Research, Inc.

date March 1, 1985

street & number 5535 Richmond Curve

telephone (612) 929-2921

city or town Minneapolis

state Minnesota 55410

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X 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 7/12/85

For NPS use only

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

Melrose Byer
for Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 9/5/85

Attest:

date

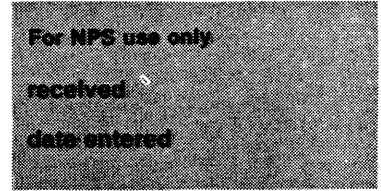
Chief of Registration

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Grey Eagle Village Hall, Grey Eagle, Todd County, MN

Continuation sheet Significance, cont'd. Item number 8 Page 1



The village hall was designed by the CWA staff architect Fred Pfeiffer. Most of the labor used in its construction was either unskilled or semi-skilled, so construction methods and materials had to be kept as simple as possible. The building's primary material is locally-found fieldstone, which was not only inexpensive, but also was very labor intensive to gather from neighboring farm fields and transport to the site. Cast concrete trim panels were likely fabricated on the site.

The cast concrete eagle above the entry has special significance in the building's design. Not only was the eagle the namesake for the community, but it was also the symbol of the federal works programs.

The village hall building is presently being used in the assembly of life preservers by an area manufacturing firm. Use of the auditorium was discontinued following the construction of a high school gymnasium ca. 1960. The village recently constructed a new fire department building, which has room for the village offices.

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Continuation sheet Bibliography Item number 9

Page 2

"All CWA Work in County to End." Long Prairie Leader, March 8, 1934, p.1.

"Chief Justice Devaney to Speak at Grey Eagle." Long Prairie Leader,
September 27, 1934, p.1.

"Construction Begins on Community Hall." LongPrairie Leader, March 15,
1934, pp. 1,5.

"Grey Eagle Hall to be Dedicated." Long Prairie Leader, September 20, 1934,
p. 1.

United States Federal Works Agency. Final Report on the W.P.A. Program.
Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1946.