

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUL 18 1985

date entered SEP 11 1985

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

1. Name

historic Cloquet City Hall

and/or common Spafford Building

2. Location

street & number Avenue B & Arch Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Cloquet

N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota

code 22

county Carlton

code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Potlatch Corporation

street & number Avenue C. & Arch Street

city, town Cloquet

N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carlton County Courthouse

street & number 3rd Street & Walnut Avenue

city, town Carlton

state Minnesota

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 State Historic Preservation Office, Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55111

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The former Cloquet City Hall is located on the west end of the business district of Cloquet, the largest city in Carlton County. The building, which occupies the end of a city block on a lot 120' by 190', faces Wentworth Park. The rear facade faces a small parking lot. The structure is surrounded by residential and commercial buildings. The city hall was built in 1920 at the cost of \$51,948.00 by the contracting firm of Siems, Helmers, Schaffner, and Colburn.

Combining elements of the Georgian and Renaissance revival styles, the building is constructed of brick trimmed with white Bedford stone. The structure is two stories in height and 45' wide by 75' long. Original windows remain intact and have a stone keystone in flat brick arches. Thin sills are made of stone. Consoles support a segmental pediment decorated with dentils over the front entrance. Consoles also support a full entablature over the side entrance. Four stone Doric pilasters separate bays on the slightly recessed front facade. Stone Doric pilasters are also found on either side of the slightly projecting side entrance, supporting a pediment. A full entablature and cornice encircles the building. Stone quoins are found on all corners and facades except the rear wall. The roof is flat. A stone eagle was once located at the roofline above the cornice in the center of the front facade. A stone platform embellished with a shield and garland remains at the roofline. The exterior of the building is unaltered.

Originally the city hall housed the City Clerk, Water Department, Mayor's office, Judge of Municipal Court, Police Department, the womens' and mens' jails, and the City Council.

Also on the property is a three car brick garage. A rectangular one story building with a hipped roof, the garage is located in the rear of the property on the south side of the blacktop parking lot.

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 1920 **Builder** ~~AXONERK~~ Siems, Helmers, Schaffner & Colburn

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cloquet City Hall, built in 1920, is architecturally and historically significant as a prominent public building that represents a significant structure in city government. It played a key role in the rebuilding of the city of Cloquet after the Northeastern Fire of 1918 devastated a majority of Carlton County and the southern half of St. Louis County.

The Cloquet City Hall was built to replace the city hall that burned in the fire of 1918. The fire destroyed the city of Cloquet except for a few homes and saloons, one school, and three lumber mills. Numerous factors contributed to the intensity and range of the fire. The area was experiencing an extreme drought, the driest in forty-eight years. Due to the dry weather, high winds (in excess of 60 mph), and the carelessness of campers and trains sparks were ignited. Slow burning peat fires, sometimes burning for days and not uncommon in the area, merged together to form a wide front. Lack of a large enough force of men trained in fire prevention contributed to the quick and devastating results of the inferno. Cloquet was completely destroyed, as were numerous other towns in Carlton and St. Louis Counties. Due to the quick thinking of Percy Vibert, forest warden, and Laurence Fauley, train depot agent, the townspeople were carried south to Carlton, Minnesota, by railroad. Only four fire-related deaths were recorded in the community of Cloquet.

After the destruction of the city, municipal affairs were in a chaotic state. City authorities immediately started to erect temporary buildings to house the fire department and the city clerk. By mid November 1918, a month after the fire had occurred, these departments were functioning. A roof was placed over the jail building which was only partially destroyed and city records were found intact in the Clerk's vault. As citizens returned and began erecting temporary quarters the city began plans for permanent building operations. Consequently an ordinance establishing a fire zone in the city and an ordinance designating the character of construction of buildings were passed. The majority of commercial and public buildings were constructed of brick and stone. Plans were prepared and bids advertised to erect a city hall that would "be a credit to and advertisement of the new Cloquet."¹

¹ Cloquet Pine Knot, 12 October 1919.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cloquet Pine Knot October 12, 1919.
Information provided by the Carlton County Historical Society,

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Cloquet Quad.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A

1	5	5	4	0	9	1	0	1	0	5	1	7	4	3	2	1	0
Zone			Easting				Northing										

B

Zone			Easting				Northing										

C

Zone			Easting				Northing										

D

Zone			Easting				Northing										

E

Zone			Easting				Northing										

F

Zone			Easting				Northing										

G

Zone			Easting				Northing										

H

Zone			Easting				Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification

All of lots 1,2,3, and part of lot 4, Block 15, Original Plat of Cloquet
[see also: Continuation Sheet]

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 Liz Holm - Field Assistant

organization State Historic Preservation Office
Minnesota Historical Society

date December 1984

street & number Fort Snelling History Center telephone (612) 726-1171

city or town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6/26/85

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 9-11-85

for Melissa Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

Cloquet City Hall, Cloquet, Carlton County, Minnesota

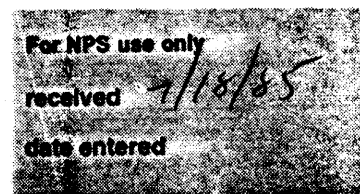
Continuation sheet

Item number

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Land for the building site was donated to the city by R.W. Weyerhaeuser of the Northern Lumber Co. The site was located on the west end of the business district. Although the site was not centrally located, the amount of money to be saved by the taxpayers out-weighed any rejection of this generous offer. On July 4, 1919 a special election was held. The voters elected to issue \$50,000.00 in bonds for the erection of the new building. The contract was awarded October 6, 1919 to Siems, Helmers, Schaffner, and Colburn for the sum of \$41,954.00. Plumbing and heating agreements were given to the Stack Brothers Co. for \$9,219.00. The electrical work was done by A.G. Thompson at a cost of \$777.00. Total cost came to \$57,948.00. The architect is unknown.

The Cloquet City Hall was used until the later 1950s when the city began searching for a structure to house both the fire department and the police department under one roof. Savings on fuel and costs and a single dispatching set-up for the police and fire departments were major reasons for the move. In 1959 the city hall moved into the old YMCA building, located a few blocks east on Cloquet Avenue. Conwed Corp., one of the two wood product industries in Cloquet, purchased the building to house its offices and changed the name of the building to the Spafford building (for Al Spafford a prominent employee in the company). In May 1984 Potlatch, Inc., the other wood related Cloquet company, purchased the building for office space. Currently the structure stands empty.

The Cloquet City Hall, combining Georgian and Renaissance revival styles, remains one of few unaltered brick and stone structures from the initial rebuilding of the city of Cloquet after the devastating 1918 fire. Local government played a major role in the rebuilding of Cloquet and dictated construction type of future Cloquet buildings. The City Hall, virtually unaltered, represents the permanency Cloquet sought in rebuilding.

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Cloquet City Hall, Cloquet, Carlton County, Minnesota
Continuation sheet

Item number 10

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Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 1, 2 and 3 and all of Lot 4, Except that part of Lots numbered 4 and 5, Block 15, of the Original Village, now City of Cloquet more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point in the south line of said Lot 4, 34-6/12 feet west of the southeast corner thereof; thence north 101-16/100 feet to point for a place of beginning; running thence west on a line parallel with and 101-16/100 feet distance from the south line of said Lots 4 and 5, 35-6/12 feet to a point in Lot 5; thence north on a line parallel with and 8 feet distant from the east line of said Lot 5 to the north line of said Lot 5; thence easterly along the northerly lines of Lots 5 and 4 to a point in the northerly line of said Lot 4 which is 57-6/12 feet distant from and directly east of the west line of said Lot 4; thence in a southwesterly direction on a straight line to the place of beginning. Also except that portion of said Lot 4 described as That part of Lots 4 and 5, Block 15, of the original Village, now City of Cloquet, Minnesota bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a point in the southerly line of said lot 4; 15 feet westerly from the southeast corner of said Lot 4, running thence northerly on a line parallel with the eastern line of said Lot 4, 81.16 feet, thence at a right angle westerly 22 feet, thence northerly on a line parallel with the easterly line of said Lot 4, 20 feet, thence westerly on a line parallel with the southerly line of said Lots 4 and 5; 31 feet, thence southerly on a line parallel with and 8 feet distant from the easterly line of said Lot 5 to a point in the southerly line of said Lot 5, thence easterly to the point of beginning. All in Block 15, of the Original Village, now City of Cloquet, Minnesota, according to the plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the County Recorder in and for Carlton County, Minnesota.