

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received JUL 20 1982  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Gibbon City Hall

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 1st, Ave. and  
~~First Avenue & 12th Street~~ N/A not for publication

city, town Gibbon N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~ N/A

state Minnesota code 22 county Sibley code 143

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name City of Gibbon

street & number N/A

city, town Gibbon N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sibley County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Gaylord state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1973  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

# 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 Gibbon Village Hall is a two story brick structure set upon a high basement of Morton granite. Constructed in 1895 at a cost of \$7,500, the building occupies a prominent/corner location in downtown Gibbon.

The Village Hall is executed in a variant on the Romanesque Revival style which incorporated Medieval design features. The massive corner tower with battered and buttressed lower section serves as the principal entrance to the building. This entrance is in the form of a large semi-circular arch at the first story level, reached via a steep staircase. The roofline or cornice of the tower forms a truncated base for an open belfry with an octagonal spire. A carved name/date stone is situated directly above the second floor window in the tower facade. The roofline on the main body of the Village Hall is crennelated as in a medieval fortification.

The Village Hall formerly housed the functions of the local government, fire hall, jail, and an auditorium/social hall. The firehall and jail occupied the basement story and were accessible through a semi-circular arched entry and canopy at the rear (side) of the building. The first floor was devoted to the auditorium with a stage at the end. The second floor contained a collection of rooms which were used as meeting rooms and offices.

The Gibbon Village Hall is presently vacant. The fire station has been re-located to a one-story brick garage immediately adjacent, and the governmental functions are now located in a former bank building two blocks away. The building has been relatively well maintained, and has recently been fitted with new wooden window sash and a new roof. Plans for future use are uncertain.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1895 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Gibbon City Hall is significant as a well preserved example of an unusual Medieval variation of Romanesque Revival architecture and as the governmental and community center which served the city of Gibbon from 1895 to the mid 1970s.

Newspaper headlines which appeared in the Gibbon Gazette on 29 November 1895 announced the dedication ceremonies and tallied the number of representatives from neighboring communities who attended the dedication festivities. This attention was indicative of the public and social position city halls occupied in the small communities of rural Minnesota in the late 19th century. The Gibbon City Hall, said to be situated on the highest point of land in the city, is the dominant architectural element on the town's main street, and forcefully conveys the prominent role it played in the political, social and cultural affairs of Gibbon.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

"November 30 Open House at City Hall," The Gibbon Gazette, November 27, 1980, p. 1.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Gibbon Quad. MINN.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

**UMT References**

A 

1	5	3	7	8	7	6	0	4	9	3	2	1	5	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**

Lots 1 and 2, Block 6, Original Townsite of Gibbon, Minnesota.

**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 Charles Nelson, Historical Architect and Susan Roth, Research Historian

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date 27 April 1982

street & number Fort Snelling History Center

telephone 612-726-1171

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Russell W. Fridley*

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/9/82

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

*Albin Byen*

date 8/19/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn  
11/9/89

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Note: These changes apply to  
Gibbon City Hall in Sibley County,  
Minnesota.**

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** 82003036

**STATE:** MINNESOTA

**COUNTY:** Sibley

**RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):** Gibbon Village Hall

**CITY:**

**VICINITY OF:**

**ADDRESS:**

**CERTIFICATION DATE:**

**REMOVED DATE:**

**COMMENTS:**

*Nina M. Archabal*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Nina M. Archabal**  
**State Historic Preservation Officer**

**JUN 17 1988**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**