

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 2 1977
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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 ** Central School

AND/OR COMMON
Central School

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
4th Street and North Pokegama

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
Grand Rapids

VICINITY OF

8th

STATE
Minnesota

CODE
27

COUNTY
Itasca

CODE
061

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 | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY |
| | | | <input checked="" 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: |

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
City of Grand Rapids

STREET & NUMBER
Grand Rapids City Hall

CITY, TOWN
Grand Rapids

VICINITY OF

STATE
Minnesota

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Registry of Deeds -- Itasca County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Grand Rapids

STATE
Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
State Wide Historic Sites Survey

DATE
1973, 1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Minn. Historical Society, Bldg. 25, Ft. Snelling

CITY, TOWN
St. Paul

STATE
Minnesota

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED (tower | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED removed prior | DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | to 1931) | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present Old Central School building is situated on a 300-foot square block in the central business district of Grand Rapids, Minnesota. This block was donated to the city for the purpose of constructing an educational facility in 1888; a two storey frame building existed on the site until 1895 when construction began on the present structure.

The Central School building is approximately seventy-five feet square and is two storeys in height with basement and attic. It is constructed primarily of buff-colored brick on a fieldstone foundation. A reddish sandstone is used for trim in quoins, window sills, strapwork and column capitals. Pressed metal is used for gable decorations, chimney caps, decorative finials and name plate. The architectural design is essentially Richardsonian Romanesque as is evidenced by the semicircular arches over window and door openings and the general massiveness of scale.

The south elevation of the building was originally capped with an arcaded bell-tower with pyramidal roof. This tower was removed prior to 1931; the slate-shingle covered base of the tower exists and now serves as the anchor plate for an airplane shaped weathervane purchased by the elementary students in 1931. With this exception, the exterior of the building has retained its 1895 design integrity.

The interior structural system of the building is totally constructed of wood; finishing materials are oak. The dominant feature of the interior plan is a central (circular) stairhall in which a double staircase with mid-level landings connects the first and second floors.

The basement has two rooms approximately twenty-eight feet square besides toilet facilities, furnace room, ventilating equipment and storage rooms.

The first floor has four classrooms which measure twenty-nine feet square with three closets for each room. The central office measures nineteen feet square and a room designated for library purposes measures sixteen feet by nineteen feet. The central hallway is circular with an eighteen foot radius.

The second floor has four classrooms with closets in the same arrangement as that on the first floor. In addition there are two nineteen foot square and two twelve by sixteen foot auxiliary rooms. The central hallway is thirty-six feet in diameter with stairwells measuring twelve feet broad. Floors throughout are of maple.

The attic space is presently unusable and accessible only through a scuttle.

Old Central School is presently in sound structural condition with both interior and exterior retaining a significant degree of historical integrity. The building is no longer used for school purposes, although it now houses a senior citizens' activity center and the Itasca County Historical Society.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Helmer, Stanley, Report of Committee IAA Concerning Central School. Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

Itasca County Historical Society, Old Central School. Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1 acre
 UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------------------|---------------------------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | [1, 5] | [4 5, 9 9, 6, 0] | [5, 2 3, 1 3, 6, 0] | B | [] | [] | [] |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | [] | [] | [] | D | [] | [] | [] |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charles W. Nelson, Architectural Historian and Susan Zeik, Research Associate

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Minnesota Historical Society

10-26-76

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Building 25, Fort Snelling

612-726-1171

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

St. Paul

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

TITLE

Russell W. Fridley

DATE

State Historic Preservation Officer

2-7-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Wm. H. ...
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: *Charles ...*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *8/14/77*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE *8-15-77*