Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

RECEIVED MAR 2 DATE ENTERED

AUG 1 6 1977

1977

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS **TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**

NAME

HISTORIC

X K Central School

AND/OR COMMON

Central School

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 4th.Street and North H	okegama	-NOT FOR PUBLICAT	ION
CITY, TOWN	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	CONGRESSIONAL	DISTRICT
Grand Rapids	VICINITY OF	8th	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Minnesota	27	Itasca	061

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESI	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	X_PUBLIC		AGRICULTURE	XMUSEUM
XBUILDING(S)	PRIVATE		COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION		ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	<u>X other:</u>

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME				
	City of Grand Ra	ipids		
STREET & NUMB				
	Grand Rapids Cit	y Hall .		
CITY, TOWN	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		STATE	
	Grand Rapids	VICINITY OF	Minnesota	
LOCATI	ON OF LEGAL DE	SCRIPTION		
1				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DE	EDS.ETC -			
	Registry 01	Deeds Itasca Count	y Courthouse	
STREET & NUMB	ÊR			
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
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	Grand Rapids		Minnesota	
6 REPRES	ENTATION IN EX	KISTING SURVEYS		
TITLE				
•	e Wide Historic Sit	es Survey		
DATE	e wide mideorite bit	es barvey		
1973	3, 1976	FEDERAL	XSTATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR			,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	
SURVEY RECORD	^S Minn. Historical	Society, Bldg. 25, F	t. Snelling	
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
	St. Paul	Ţ	Minnesota	

7 DESCRIPTION

C	ONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK C	DNE
EXCELLENT _XGOOD FAIR	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	X_UNALTERED (tower ALTERED removed pr to 1931)	X_ORIGINAL	SITE DATE

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 belltower with pyramidal roof. This tower was removed prior to 1931; the slateshingle 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.

PERIOD **AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW** ___PREHISTORIC ___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC __COMMUNITY PLANNING _LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ___RELIGION __1400-1499 ___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC __CONSERVATION _LAW ___SCIENCE ___AGRICULTURE _ECONOMICS ___1500-1599 __LITERATURE ___SCULPTURE __1600-1699 X_ARCHITECTURE X EDUCATION __MILITARY __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN ___1700-1799 ___ART ___ENGINEERING __MUSIC THEATER X1800-1899 __COMMERCE __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT ___PHILOSOPHY ___TRANSPORTATION __1900-__COMMUNICATIONS _INDUSTRY __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT __OTHER (SPECIFY) __INVENTION BUILDER/ARCHITECT Architect: F.W. Hollister SPECIFIC DATES 1895 Builder: Schwartz & Spindler

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

8 SIGNIFICANCE

The construction of Central School in 1895 provided the people of the Grand Rapids area elementary and secondary educational facilities which served the community for 77 years. Until the development of modern college entrance examinations, the quality of the educational curriculum at Central School ensured its standing as a member of the North Central Association of Secondary School (which allowed a student to enter any university or college in the North Central States without examination.)

This was one of the first high schools in the northern territory of Minnesota outside of Duluth. It also contained the first library in the Grand Rapids area.

Built in the center of town, this Richardsonian structure is one of the few basically unaltered 19th century buildings in Grand Rapids. Its architectural attributes and location makes it a community landmark.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Helmer, Stanley, <u>Report of Committee IAA Concerning Central School</u>. Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

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

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LIST ALL STATES AND COU	NTIES FOR PROPERT	IES OVERLAP	PING STATE OR COUN	TY BOUNDARIES
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	· · · · · ·	CODE
	CODE	CODATA		0001
Charles W. Nelson, Archite ORGANIZATION <u>Minnesota Historical Soci</u> STREET & NUMBER Building 25. Fort Snellin	ety		DATE 10-26 TELEPHO	-76
CITY OR TOWN	Б		STATE	20-11/1
St. Paul			Minne	sota
12 STATE HISTORIC PRI		OFFICI		
THE EVALUATE	D SIGNIFICANCE OF	THIS PROPER	TY WITHIN THE STATE	IS:
NATIONAL	STAT	E	LOCAL	X
As the designated State Historic Preserv	ation Officer for the N	ational Historic	Proconcision Act of 19	66 (Public Law 99 665) 1
hereby nominate this property for inclu-				
criteria and procedures set forth by the				
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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER	SIGNATURE Sur	sell	W. trid	Key
TITLE Russell W. Fridley			DATE	
State Historic Pres	ervation Office	er	0	<u>x - / - / /</u>
FOR NPS USE ONLY			NUL 87010	
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DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ADDITION	A MO WE TO BUCOS		KEEPER OF I	HE MATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST Martin	Dunt	>	DATE	8.15.75
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