

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: REMOVAL

PROPERTY NAME: Wishek City Hall, Old

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NORTH DAKOTA, McIntosh

DATE RECEIVED: 5/29/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/14/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05001141

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7.14.15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

REMOVED
from
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA Remove

REVIEWER Edson Beal

DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 7-14-15

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



**STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
OF NORTH DAKOTA**

RECEIVED 2280

MAY 29 2015

**Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service**

05051141

Jack Dalrymple
Governor of North Dakota

Date: 26 May 2015

**North Dakota
State Historical Board**

To: J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

Calvin Grinnell
New Town - President

From: Lorna Meidinger/Claudia J. Berg
Architectural Historian/State Historic Preservation Officer, ND

A. Ruric Todd III
Jamestown - Vice President

Re: Request for Removal from the National Register of Historic Places

Margaret Puetz
Bismarck - Secretary

Name of Property: Old Wishek City Hall, 32MT87

Address: 21 Centennial Street

Albert I. Berger
Grand Forks

State: North Dakota

Gereld Gemtholz
Valley City

City/Township: Wishek

Diane K. Larson
Bismarck

County: McIntosh

Chester E. Nelson, Jr.
Bismarck

Reason for Removal: The property has ceased to meet the criteria for listing because the qualities which caused it to be originally listed have been lost or destroyed (36 CFR 60.15(a)).

Sara Otte Coleman
*Director
Tourism Division*

Date and Nature of Change: The building was demolished in 2011.

Kelly Schmidt
State Treasurer

Comments:

When listed in 2005, the property retained all seven types of integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association). Demolition of the barn resulted in a total loss of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State

Mark Zimmerman
*Director
Parks and Recreation
Department*

Grant Levi
*Director
Department of
Transportation*

Prepared by:

Lorna Meidinger, Architectural Historian
State Historical Society of North Dakota

Claudia J. Berg
Director

*Accredited by the
American Alliance
of Museums since 1986*



**STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
OF NORTH DAKOTA

RECEIVED 2280

MAY 29 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

Jack Dalrymple
Governor of North Dakota

26 May 2015

**North Dakota
State Historical Board**

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street NW (MS 2280)
Washington DC 20005

Calvin Grinnell
New Town - President

Dear Mr. Loether,

A. Ruric Todd III
Jamestown - Vice President

Enclosed please find four memos requesting removal of demolished buildings
from the National Register of Historic Places.

Margaret Puetz
Bismarck - Secretary

Though I am saddened by the loss of this historic North Dakota property, we will
continue to seek out new properties to represent our history in the National
Register.

Albert I. Berger
Grand Forks

Sincerely,

Gereld Gerntholz
Valley City

Diane K. Larson
Bismarck

Claudia J. Berg
State Historic Preservation Officer
(North Dakota)

Chester E. Nelson, Jr.
Bismarck

Sara Otte Coleman
*Director
Tourism Division*

Kelly Schmidt
State Treasurer

Alvin A. Jaeger
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*Director
Parks and Recreation
Department*

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*Director
Department of
Transportation*

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Director

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of Museums since 1986*

1141

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

AUG 24 2005

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Old Wishek City Hall
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 21 Centennial Street N/A not for publication
city or town Wishek vicinity
state North Dakota code ND county McIntosh code 051 zip code 58495

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official/Title *Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.* 8-23-05
Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr. Date
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain): _____
Signature of the Keeper *Edson H. Beall* Date of Action 10-4-05

Old Wishek City Hall
Name of Property

McIntosh County, North Dakota
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
3	0	objects
4	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: City Hall
Fire Station
SOCIAL: Meeting Hall
Civic
EDUCATION: Public Library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT: not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
REVIVALS: Mission Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Concrete
Stucco
roof Asphalt
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Old Wishek City Hall McIntosh County, ND

Description

The Old Wishek City Hall, a one-story, Mission Revival style building in the heart of downtown Wishek, is located in the original plat of the village of Wishek on land originally owned by the Missouri River Division of the Soo Line Railroad. Built in 1916-1917 by L.H. Jennings, the building was designed by F.W. Keith of Bismarck. The overall building measures 30 feet by 75 feet and is poured in-place reinforced concrete finished with stucco. The most notable feature of the exterior is the southeast corner bell tower, finished with rounded arches on all four sides and capped with a pyramidal roof.

Built on a concrete foundation over a full basement, the detailing of the building is subtle, consisting mainly of pilasters and banding in the same material as the walls. The flat geometry of the building takes its cues from Mission Revival architecture, a style based on vernacular adobe architecture from the southwestern United States. This style lends itself to the simplicity of poured in-place concrete design, which was a newer material being studied at this time by architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright and Irving Gill.

Originally only 21 feet by 75 feet, the west side of the building included a carriage door for access to the storage space for the 1906 Victor Chemical Fire Engine. The garage for the engine occupied approximately 1/4 of the floor space in the original building. The rest of the building provided space for community meetings and activities; a library and a city council chamber formed the two spaces. A forced-air furnace and phone lines were installed in the original construction. Crosswalks and sidewalks were laid in town in 1917, including the City Hall lot. In 1918, a concrete base was poured on the southeast corner of the property to support a sturdy metal flag pole. In 1921, a freestanding fire siren was purchased from Boyers Fire Appliance Company for \$460. It stands on the south side of the lot.

On February 27, 1934, a new 15 foot by 75 foot addition was approved by the city council. The federal Civil Works Administration provided funding for this addition and for remodeling of the main hall for a library. The addition was concrete block on a poured slab foundation with a foundation drain, added to the north side of the building. With doors on the east and west ends of the addition providing access to a storage and maintenance facility for fire equipment and vehicles, the interior of the original building was now all available for community use.

In 1937, the original basement foundation was reinforced. In 1946, a water tower, pumphouse, and sewer system were installed on the lot just west of the City Hall. Two restrooms in the basement replaced the single-stall privy.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Old Wishek City Hall McIntosh County, ND

Description (continued)

In 1977, with grant funding from the Local Works Program and the Economic Development Administration, the library space was enlarged by removing the wall between the existing library and the city council room (east wall of the original library). A south entrance was installed where that wall once stood. New stairs to the basement were added in this foyer. The east entrance was painted, but not altered. The windows and doors were replaced and windows on the north side were removed. Also at this time, the roof was repaired, insulation was added, and the building received an air conditioning system.

After heavy snowfall for several years, minimal roof repair was completed in 1998. At this time, a new city hall had been purchased. In 2000, when the city library merged with the high school library and moved to the latter's site, the city council elected to vacate the building and discontinue maintenance. A citizens' preservation committee was formed to care for and preserve the building.

Interior

The main entrance was on the east side of the building. To the left of the foyer was an office. To the right, stairs led down to the basement. The interior walls were constructed of plaster over lath. Floors on the main floor were oak, as was most of the trim, and ceilings were 12 feet tall. A large council room occupied the majority of the space behind the foyer, with a meeting room behind it. The meeting room was used by the attorney, judge, and for other private meetings. The west quarter of the space was dedicated to the fire engine's garage. Two entrances on the south side led to the library and garage. When the addition was made in 1934, the library was remodeled and expanded. There was no direct access from the original building to the addition. The addition had two garage spaces at the east and west ends with a meeting room dividing them.

Original furnishings included an oak meeting table and chairs, with "audience" benches made by North Dakota State Penitentiary inmates in Bismarck. These filled the council room for many years and are now stored in the basement. The American Legion Post Fred Kelle No. 87 built and donated wood filing cabinets.

The basement served as the town's jail, originally, with iron-bar cells and metal bunks.

In 1977, the wall between the existing library and the city council room was removed. New doors and oak casement thermopane windows were installed. The ceilings were lowered and recessed fluorescent lighting was added. Carpeting was laid over the oak floors. The original shelves were repaired and painted and new shelving was installed. Walls were replastered and painted.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Old Wishek City Hall McIntosh County, ND

Description (continued)

In the new south entrance foyer, created where the wall once stood, stairs to the basement were added. These are wide and covered with traction strips of metal and rubber. The basement was renovated into meeting rooms and offices, housing the municipal judge, and the Wishek Police Department. The walls were plastered and painted, carpeting and recessed lighting were added, and oak framing and doors replaced the jail cells. The bathrooms were also renovated.

Integrity

The exterior of the Old Wishek City Hall remains intact, with the exception of replacement fenestration. The interior shows the changing needs of the community. Though altered in both 1934 and 1977, the building still maintains integrity related to its importance as a community building and an early example of poured in-place reinforced concrete construction in North Dakota.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery
- E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

State Historical Society of ND

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Engineering
- Exploration/Settlement
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

1916-1955

Significant Dates

1916
1934

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

John Henry Wishek, Sr.

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Keith, F.W., architect
Jennings, L.H., contractor

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Old Wishek City Hall
McIntosh County, ND

Statement of Significance

Old Wishek City Hall's history is closely related to the history and development of the town of Wishek, including its close association with John Henry Wishek, a criterion B significance. It is significant under criterion A for its important role in the growth and settlement of Wishek; it housed many civic activities as well as the fire department. The Old Wishek City Hall is literally a concrete symbol of the development of the community, significant under criterion C as an extremely early example of poured in-place reinforced concrete construction in a non-industrial use.

John Henry Wishek, Senior

The city is closely associated with John Henry Wishek, Sr., known as the founder of Wishek and the "Father of McIntosh County" for his contributions to the establishment of settlement in the area. Mr. Wishek secured and donated the lots on which the City Hall was constructed.

Mr. Wishek was born 17 April 1855 to German immigrants Charles Wiescheck and Barbara Salathe in Warren, Pennsylvania. Growing up in Sharon Center, Ohio, he attended country schools and a preparatory school at Lodi, Ohio. He worked as a stone mason to put himself through the University of Michigan Law School, graduating with a Bachelor of Law (L.L.B.) degree in 1878. In 1879, he moved to Prospect, Ohio, where he practiced law and served as Mayor for five years.

Mr. Wishek, who had by then simplified the spelling of his name, came to Dakota Territory at the age of 29. He helped organize McIntosh County and was instrumental in bringing the Soo Line railroad into McIntosh and Logan counties. He assisted in the original government survey of McIntosh County. With civil engineer George W. Lilly, Mr. Wishek surveyed and platted the land for Hoskins, the first town in McIntosh County. He founded the county seat, Ashley. Wishek and Lilly partnered to open the Land Office, located in a small frame building (in Wishek) to assist immigrants with filing government homesteads.

Mr. Wishek personally procured the right-of-way in McIntosh County, and rails were into the present site of the city of Wishek in 1898. The arrival of trains fueled the development of Wishek. The same year as the trains arrived, two grocery stores, a restaurant, a liquor store, the Livery Bar, a lumber yard, blacksmith shop, flathouse for grain, hotel, and drugstore all opened. On 24 October 1898, Mr. Wishek, his wife Nina, and Fred Heiss chartered the First State Bank of Wishek. A building was erected and the bank opened for business 2 December 1898. Mr. Wishek remained President of the bank until his death in 1932.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Old Wishek City Hall
McIntosh County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

On 4 November 1884, in the first McIntosh County election, Mr. Wishek was elected Clerk of Court (1884-1885) and County Auditor (1884-1891). He also served as the State's Attorney, but without pay, as he could not legally hold an additional office. From 1893-1895 he served in the ND State House of Representatives; he served the State Senate from 1895-1899. In his tenure in the state legislature, Mr. Wishek helped provide railroad right-of-way. He earned a reputation for being honest and frugal, crowning his years in state government with an unsuccessful bid as the Republican candidate for governor in 1912 (L.B. Hanna won, but Wishek's votes were respectably large in number).

Mr. Wishek's patronage was significant in most of the towns in McIntosh County. He donated the lots for nearly every church in most towns, including Wishek, as well as lots for Wishek's schoolhouse, city park, and the Old City Hall. The first child born in Wishek was named Wishek Pratt; he received a free lot as a welcome gift. Although Mr. Wishek maintained a home in Ashley, his constant personal interest in Wishek shows in the town's history. His wife, Nina Farley Wishek, in her history of the town, writes, "It is seldom to be noted in the annals of history that the life history of an individual so closely parallels the history and development of a city and county as is the case of John H. Wishek and McIntosh County." The caption under Mr. Wishek's photo in the 1998 Jubilee book reads "In loving memory to our town's gallant namesake. His courage, industry, and conviction have been and always will be an inspiration to all loyal Wishekites."

The City of Wishek

The City of Wishek, a community rich in German-Russian heritage, is located 341 rail miles west of Minneapolis, Minnesota and approximately 100 road miles southeast of Bismarck, North Dakota, in south central North Dakota. The village of Wishek was founded in 1898 in the south half of section 10 and the north half of section 15, Township 132, Range 71, in McIntosh County. Two state highways – numbers 3 and 13 – serve Wishek. It is situated in the heart of rich farming and ranching areas. This was an unorganized community without the benefit of municipal government or ordinances until 1907. This was typical of the German-Russian tendency to not have or trust government or civil services. On April 22, 1907, 39 male voters voted to incorporate into an organized village. On June 10, 1907, corporate limits were established and passed and Wishek citizens came under village law. (Note: Although Wishek did not officially become a city until 1945, the village of Wishek will be referred to as "city" for consistency.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Old Wishek City Hall McIntosh County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

In her essay *Along the Trails of Yesterday*, Nina Farley Wishek describes the German-Russian population of McIntosh County:

They built their houses and barns from the native sod of the prairie. They gathered buffalo chips and twisted hay for fuel. They were true lovers of the soil and they knew the meaning of work and sweat. They were honest and honorable and they were neighborly and helpful. They lived through the scourges of drought and heat, rust and blight, frost and hail, fires and blizzards, gophers and grasshoppers but they laughed at hardships and thrived on adversity and nothing could deter them from their home on the land that gave them freedom and equality.

In February 1909, a tragic fire in Wishek's business district destroyed three Main Street businesses and the post office. The losses encouraged the village residents to consider upgrading their water wagon and bucket brigade fire fighting system. In August, 1913, a 1906 Victor Chemical Engine was purchased. In December, the Wishek Volunteer Fire Department was formed.

After a June, 1915, public meeting to discuss the need for a town hall and firehouse, a vote was held in August. Residents unanimously approved the construction of a town hall that would provide storage for the fire engine and much needed space for civic meetings, community activities, a library, and a jail. The city leaders regarded this multi-purpose building as a cost-effective way to meet the village needs. Germans-from-Russia were not, in general, known for their civic pride or dedication to education. Yet here, in Wishek, they constructed a prominent city hall and library. The library increased in size over the years. The immigrant farmers seem to have taken advantage of their new life in the "New World" to increase the learning in their communities, but 2000 US Census Data indicates that the still strongly German-Russian population of McIntosh County has only a 59.3% high school matriculation rate, showing an ongoing distrust for or distaste of formal learning.

Many organizations used the City Hall for meeting and function space. A monthly calendar was created and posted; city council meetings always took precedence. Organizations that used the building included the Ladies' Civic League, the American Legion Fred Kelle Post #87, the Wishek Fire Department, the Tri-County Fair Association, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, the National Youth Association, the Wishek Wild Life Club, the Wishek Alumni Association, Association

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Old Wishek City Hall McIntosh County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

Commerce meetings, and church group meetings. The building served as a temporary US Post Office, a classroom (in 1960), a polling place for city elections, and even a location for wedding receptions. Beyond fire alerts, the bell tower was used to signal noon, 6 pm supper, 9 pm curfew, coming storms, and deaths. It also rang in the new year, along with rifles shot into the air by the young men of the community. When the fire siren was added in 1921, it was used for these purposes until residents complained that they preferred the traditional bell for all but fire alert purposes.

Beginning in 1925, the City Hall was used to prepare the sauerkraut and sausage for the annual "Sauerkraut Day." Wishek merchants host the free noon dinner the second Wednesday in October to thank the community. Sauerkraut Day draws people from miles around and is one of Wishek's claims to fame. Until 2002, the meal was prepared in the City Hall. The fire engine was removed and tables and chairs were brought in for food preparation. A large iron cauldron over a chipped wood fire was used for cooking. Local entertainers provided waltz and polka music. In a Bismarck Tribune article (2004) about this event, author Tom Stromme noted that Mr. Ferdinand Vossler, age 92, of Wishek, has attended every Sauerkraut Day since 1925! At the 2004 event, the crew cooked 580 pounds of sausage, 220 pounds of *specht* (boxed bacon), and 120 gallons of sauerkraut, feeding between 1500 and 2000 people.

The Ladies' Civic League, founded in 1920, held their meetings at the City Hall. They were instrumental in organizing the library, donating \$90 and assuming legal responsibility. The Ladies' Civic League hosted an open house after the 1977 renovations to honor the City Library and showcase their long-standing commitment to it. In 2000, the city library merged with the high school library and the city elected to vacate the property. The library operated for 80 years, expanded twice, and was supported by the various civic organizations in Wishek, demonstrating that it was an important civic institution in the town.

City Hall

The Old Wishek City Hall is notable under criterion C for being an early example of poured in-place reinforced concrete construction. According to 1916 city minutes, the board contacted F.W. Keith, architect, of Bismarck. They sought a building of prominence, but functional and permanent. With their previous experience with fires, they did not want a wood building. The minutes are brief, and Keith was not a prominent architect; no blueprints or construction drawings were found in research.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Old Wishek City Hall McIntosh County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

It is unknown whether the city requested the innovative concrete or whether Keith suggested it. However, on August 18, 1916, L.H. Jennings, contract of Fargo, ND, was awarded the contract to build the Wishek City Hall for \$3,500. In the fall of this year, another six buildings were destroyed by fire. The city hall construction was completed in 1917.

Although concrete has been in use for centuries, its material weakness is a lack of tensile strength. In the mid-19th century, several European engineers began experimenting with methods of adding tensile strength to the versatile building material. Steel, in mesh, bar, or cable form, is ideally compatible with concrete as they have a nearly identical thermal expansion coefficient and the concrete bonds tightly with the steel. In 1884, Ernest L. Ransome patented (U.S.) a twisted square reinforcing bar as the basis of his reinforced concrete system. François Hennebique's 1892 patents (France) gave rise to international experimentation and use of the material. In the early 1900s, Germany, France, and Great Britain all published design regulations for reinforced concrete (Elliot 165).

Experimentation in the United States began early. In 1873, mechanical engineer William E. Ward hired New York architect Robert Mook to help him design a concrete house. Although stylistically the house is a traditional, Second Empire Baroque "castle," the structure is entirely reinforced concrete. The exterior of this unique house was finished with a stucco-like mix of concrete and sand (Elliot 173). In 1902, the Edison Portland Cement Company began designing concrete houses to increase demand for their product (Elliot 178). In 1903, the first concrete skyscraper (16 stories) was designed by architects Elzner and Anderson with the Ransome system and was built in Cincinnati, Ohio. It was faced with marble, terra cotta, and brick.

Experiments continued in the early 20th century in both Europe and the United States. Industrial complexes, like the United Shoe Machinery Corporation in Beverly, Massachusetts, were especially suited to the use of concrete. The open spaces required by machinery offered an opportunity to express the strength and versatility of the material. As Sidney Freeman notes, "for much of the first half of the century, frank expression of concrete technologies appeared only in the most utilitarian buildings" (Jester 97).

Architects did begin experimenting with expression of concrete in the design of the building. Irving Gill, California architect, began constructing in concrete circa 1910, culminating in the La Jolla Women's Club circa 1915. Prairie-style architect Frank Lloyd Wright also experimented with concrete in his west coast houses of the same era. Both architects noted that the simple planes

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Old Wishek City Hall
McIntosh County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

of southwestern adobe architecture, adopted by the 17th century Spanish Christian missionaries as the Mission style, easily lent its forms to expression in concrete. In 1912, Ernest Ransome coauthored the book Reinforced Concrete Buildings (Ransome and Alexis Saurbrey, New York: McGraw-Hill, 1912).

It is in this era that the small North Dakota town of Wishek decided to build their poured in-place reinforced concrete City Hall. The cast in-place concrete mimics a traditional German building material, adobe, with the most modern construction material at the time. Adobe is a building compound made of natural, locally-available materials. Concrete uses a cementitious material (most often Portland cement) mixed with local sand, gravel, and rock. The Germans-from-Russia community were known to be very attached to traditions. Concrete, besides mimicking a traditional building material, offered several potential advantages to the City of Wishek. Since the new building was to be a multi-purpose building that would house the fire-fighting equipment for the city, a "fireproof" building was desirable. Concrete may have offered a cheaper alternative to traditional masonry building. One of the noted "benefits" of building an Irving Gill concrete house was the low cost. This was attributed to the fact that "concrete is the only material used and Mr. Gill's ideas of simplicity of line in architecture make the very most out of the material concrete" (Robinson). The Old Wishek City Hall's Mission Revival style detailing is more traditional than Gill's proto-modern designs, but is in keeping with the eclectic national styles of the time. Popular 1890-1920 or so, Mission Revival's simplicity lent itself to the use of concrete (McAlester 409).

An addition made of concrete block was added to the north side of the building in 1934 to provide space for a new fire engine. In 1977, the city received grant funds from the Local Works Program and the Economic Development Administration to enlarge and renovate the library and remodel the basement to house the Wishek Police Department. Although most of the interior was altered, the exterior and the structure that make this building notable under criterion C for its engineering were untouched.

Being simple of form and spare of detail, mostly fireproof, and relatively cheap to construct, the Old Wishek City Hall represents a unique blending of conservative, agricultural, ethnic practicality with popular style and innovative material engineering. This rare moment in North Dakota's architectural history leaves the City of Wishek with an incredible example of early reinforced concrete construction in a non-industrial building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Old Wishek City Hall McIntosh County, ND

Addendum 1

CHRONOLOGY

- 1891 Village of Wishek founded
- 1907 Village of Wishek incorporated
- 1909 Fire in Wishek. City purchases Victor Chemical Fire Engine
- 1913 First Volunteer Fire Department in Wishek
- 1915 Residents vote and approve building of town/city hall
- 1916 Construction begins on city hall
 - Second fire destroys six more buildings
- 1917 Construction of City Hall complete, including furnace and telephone
- 1918 Flag pole erected
- 1921 Freestanding fire siren constructed
- 1934 Addition constructed on the north of City Hall
 - Interior remodeling
- 1937 Basement reinforced
- 1946 Running water and sewer in Wishek
 - 2 bathrooms added to City Hall
- 1977 Renovation enlarges the library
 - City offices located in basement of City Hall
- 1998 Minimal roof repair
- 2000 Building is vacated by city

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 14 457010 5122679 3 Zone Easting Northing

2 Zone Easting Northing 4 Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Arlys Ackerman, Jonna Hochhalter, Charlotte Dempsey
organization Old Wishek City Hall Preservation Committee date April 2005
street & number PO Box 163 telephone 701-452-2890
city or town Wishek state ND zip code 58495

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Wishek
street & number 21 Centennial Street telephone 701-452-2567
city or town Wishek state ND zip code 58495

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Old Wishek City Hall
McIntosh County, ND

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9, 10 Page 12

**Old Wishek City Hall
McIntosh County, ND**

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The Wishek Star. 1903-1945.

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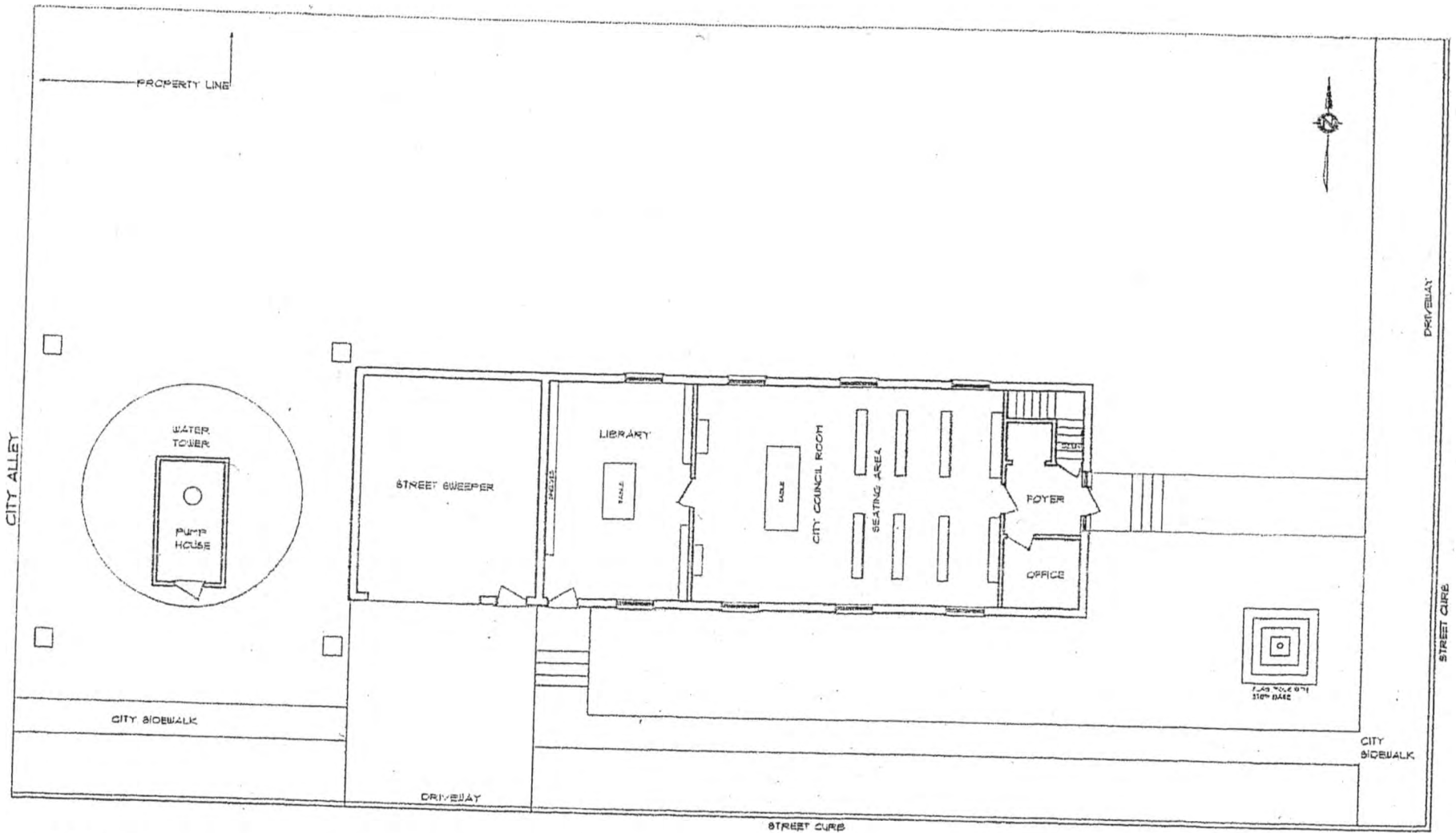
Verbal boundary description

The nominated property includes lots 13 and 14, block 5 of the Original Plat of Wishek, McIntosh County, North Dakota.

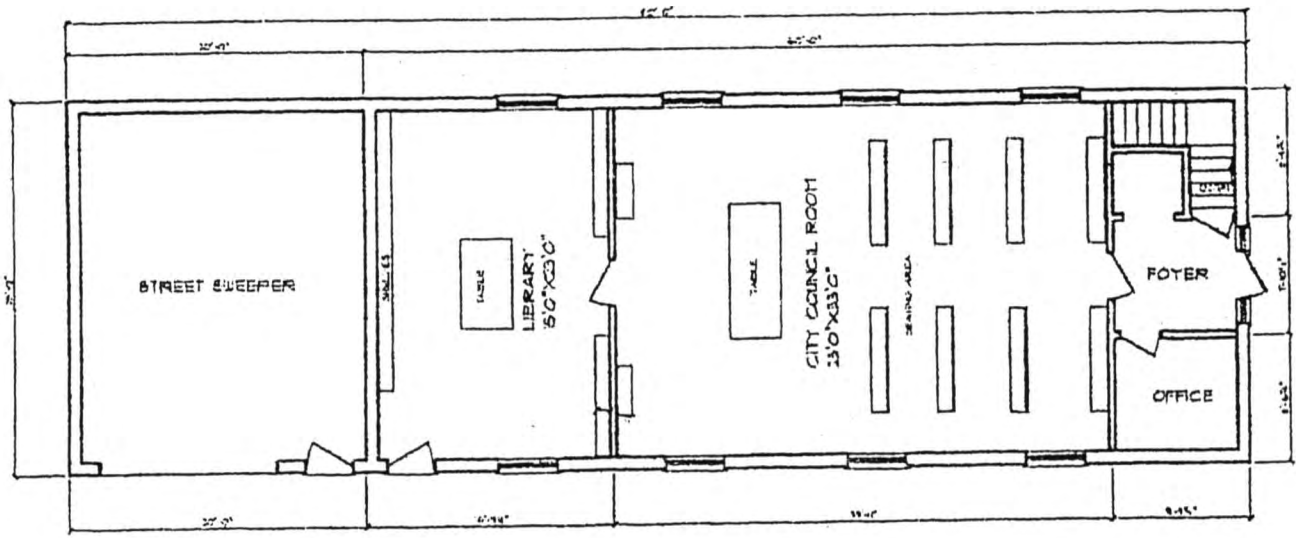
Verbal boundary justification

This is the entire parcel legally and historically associated with the significant building, the Old Wishek City Hall.

Old Wishek City Hall
McIntosh County, ND



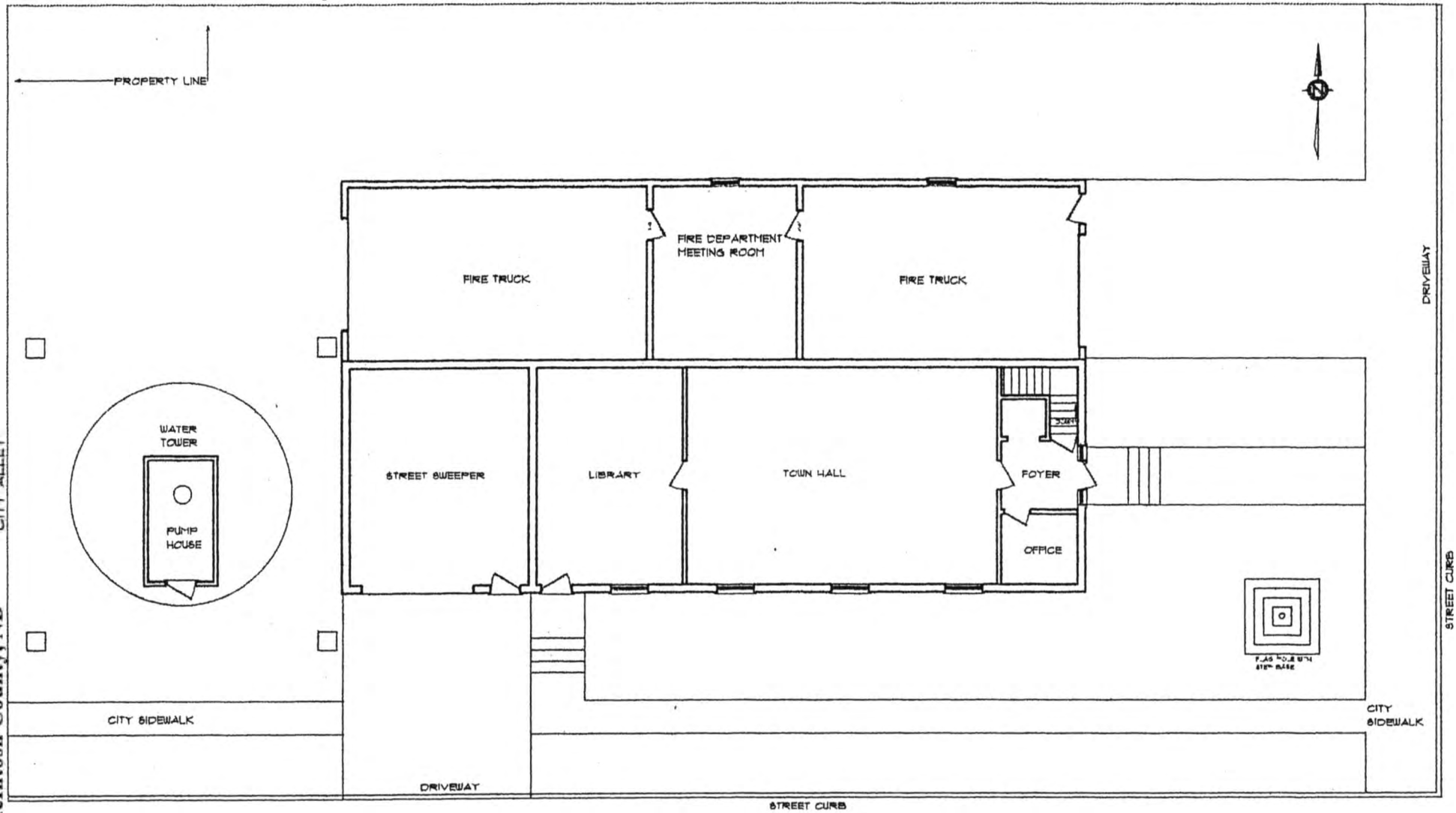
CITY HALL - CITY OF WISHEK, WISHEK, ND 58495
1917 ORIGINAL SCALE 1/8" = 1'0" PLOT PLAN



Old Wishek City Hall
McIntosh County, ND

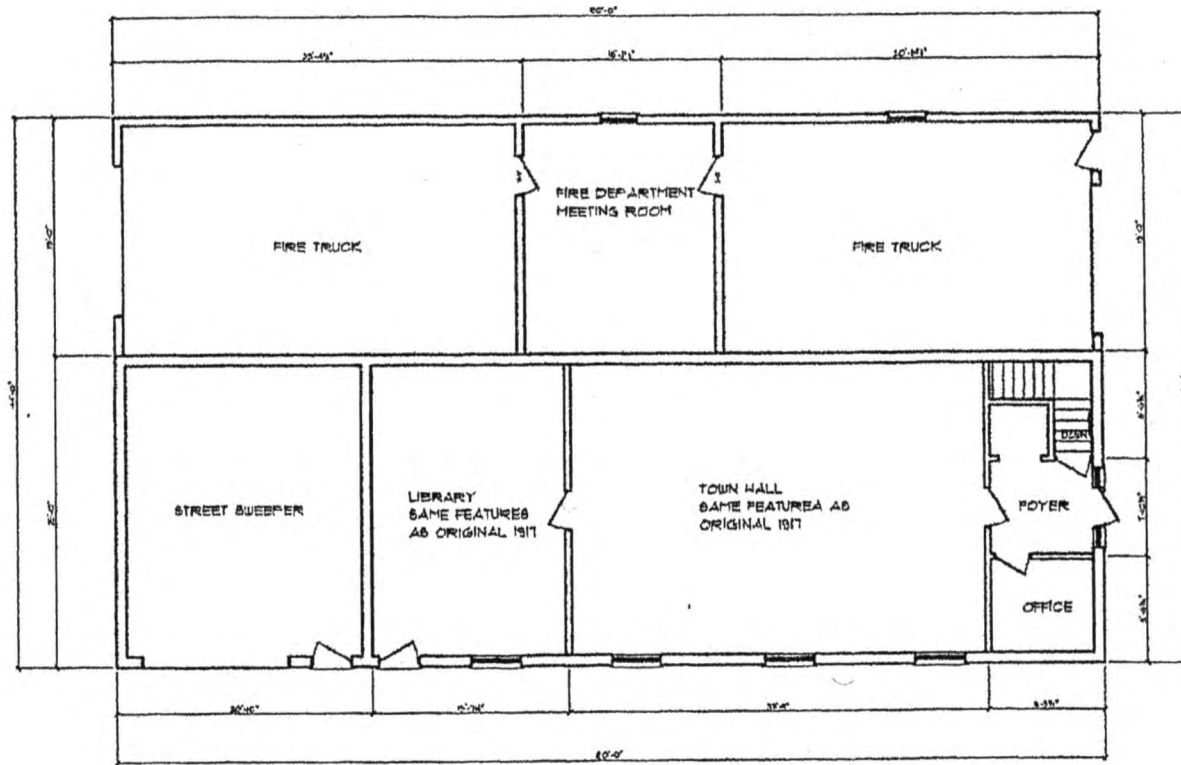
CITY HALL - CITY OF WISHEK, WISHEK, ND 58495
1917 ORIGINAL SCALE 3/16" = 1'0" FLOOR PLAN

Old Wishek City Hall
McIntosh County, ND

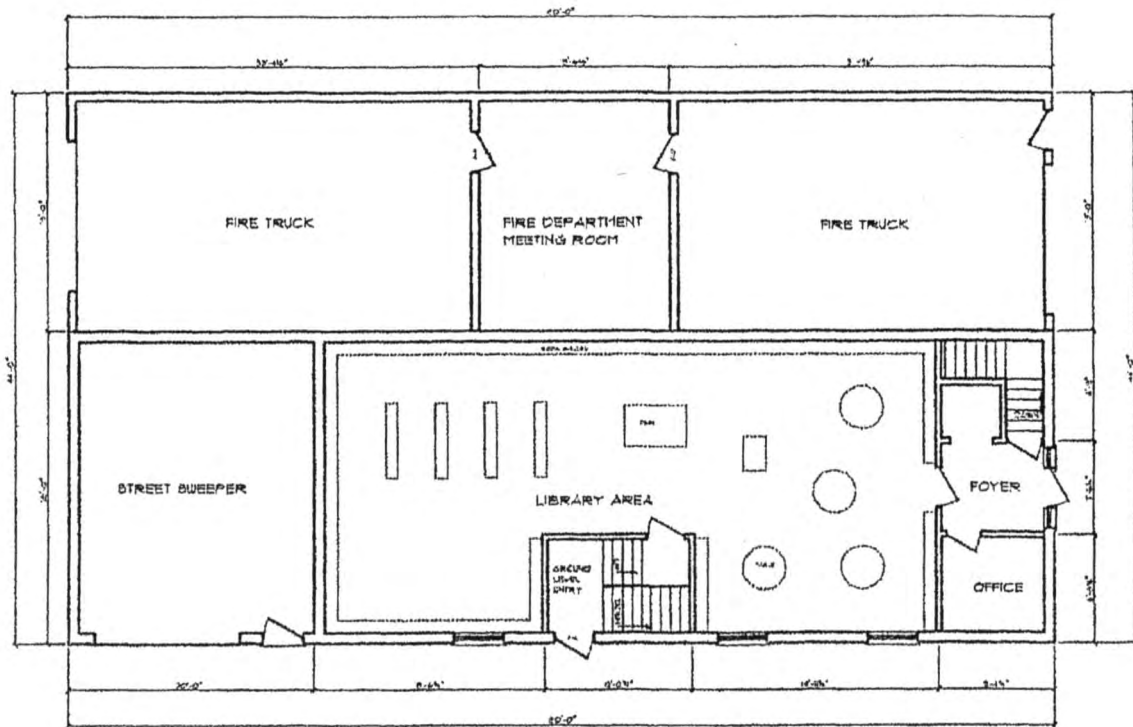


CITY HALL - CITY OF WISHEK, WISHEK, ND 58495
2ND ADDITION 1934 SCALE 1/8" = 1'0" PLOT PLAN

Old Wishek City Hall
McIntosh County, ND



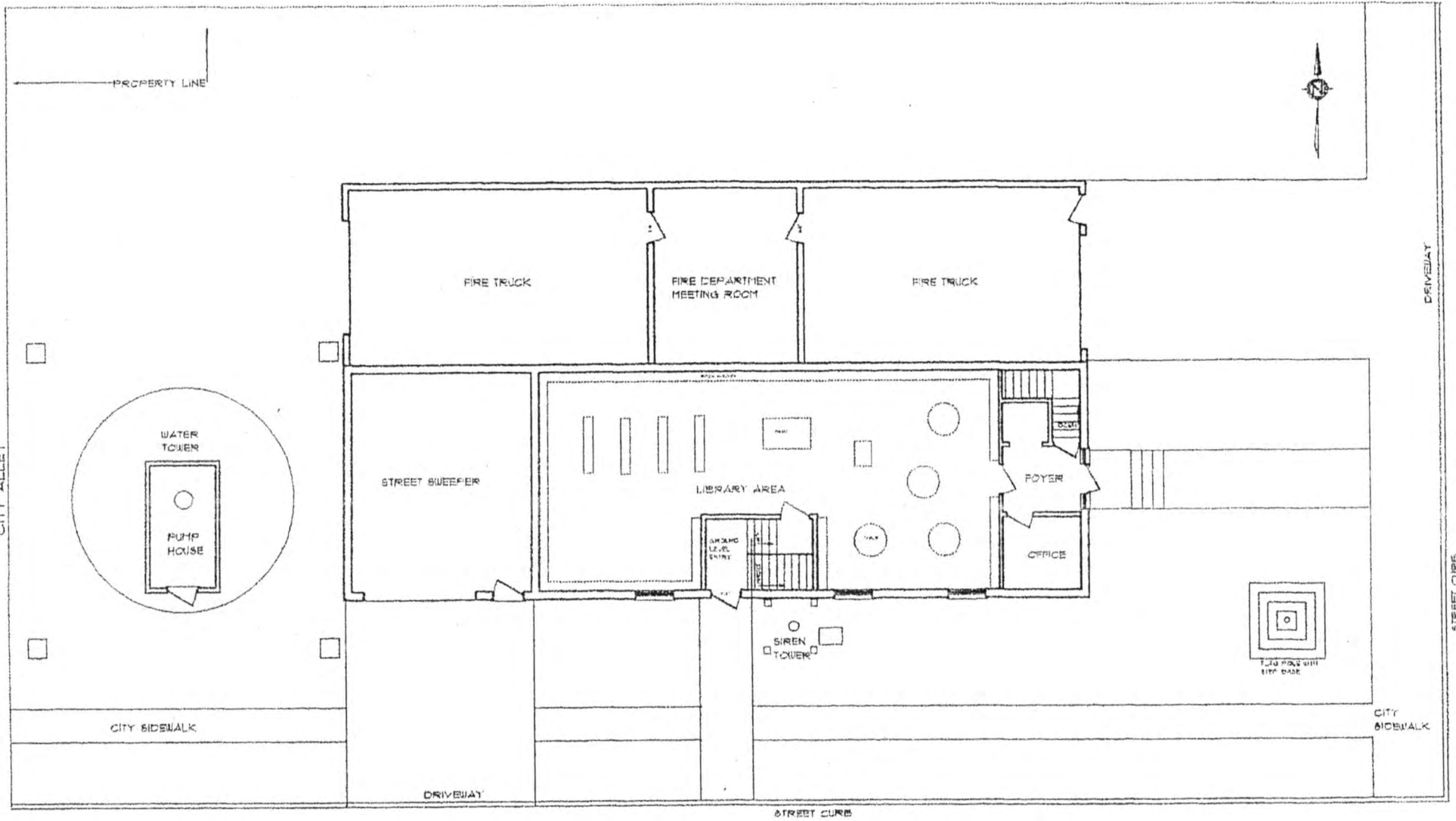
CITY HALL - CITY OF WISHEK, WISHEK, ND 58495
2ND ADDITION 1934 SCALE 3/16" = 1'0" FLOOR PLAN



Old Wishek City Hall
 McIntosh County, ND

CITY HALL - CITY OF WISHEK, WISHEK, ND 58495
 REMODEL 1977 SCALE 3/16"=1'0" FLOOR PLAN

Old Wishek City Hall
McIntosh County, ND



CITY HALL - CITY OF WISHEK, WISHEK, ND 58495
REMODEL 1977 SCALE 1/8"=1'0" PLOT PLAN



OLD WISHEK CITY HALL
MC INTOSH, NORTH DAKOTA
ARLYS ACKERMAN

6 JULY 04

NEG. W/ PHOTOG.

VIEW OF 1917 ORIG. STRUCTURE
CAMERA F. NW

#1



OLD WISHEK CITY HALL

MC INTOSH, NORTH DAKOTA

ARLYS ACKERMAN

6 JULY 2004

NEG. W/ PHOTOGRAPH.

EAST (MAIN) ENTRANCE

CAMERA F. W

#2



OLD WISHEK CITY HALL
MCINTOSH, N. DAKOTA
ARLYS ACKERMAN

6 JULY 04

NEG. W/ PHOTOS.

EAST SIDE

1918 FLAGPOLE BASE

1946 H₂O TOWER

CAMERA FACING W

3



OLD WISHEK CITY HALL
MC INTOSH, N. DAKOTA
ARLYS ACKERMAN

6 JULY 2004
NEG W/ PHOTOG.

1934 CONCRETE BLOCK ADDITION TO
N OF ORIG. STRUCTURE (CAM. SE)

#4



OLD WISHEK CITY HALL
MCINTOSH, N. DAKOTA

ARLYS ACKERMAN

6 JULY 04

NEG. W/ PHOTOG.

1934 ADDITION - CAMERA E SW

5



OLD WISHEK CITY HALL
MC INTOSH N, DAKOTA
ARLYS AULERMAN

6 JULY 04
NEG. W/ PHOTOS.

BASEMENT SUPPORT S/S
CAMERA F. S.

#6



OLD WISHEK CITY HALL
MC INTOSH, N. DAKOTA

ARLYS ACKERMAN

6 JULY 04

NEG. W/ PHOTOG.

INT. OF E. ENTRANCE, CAMERA

F. E

#7



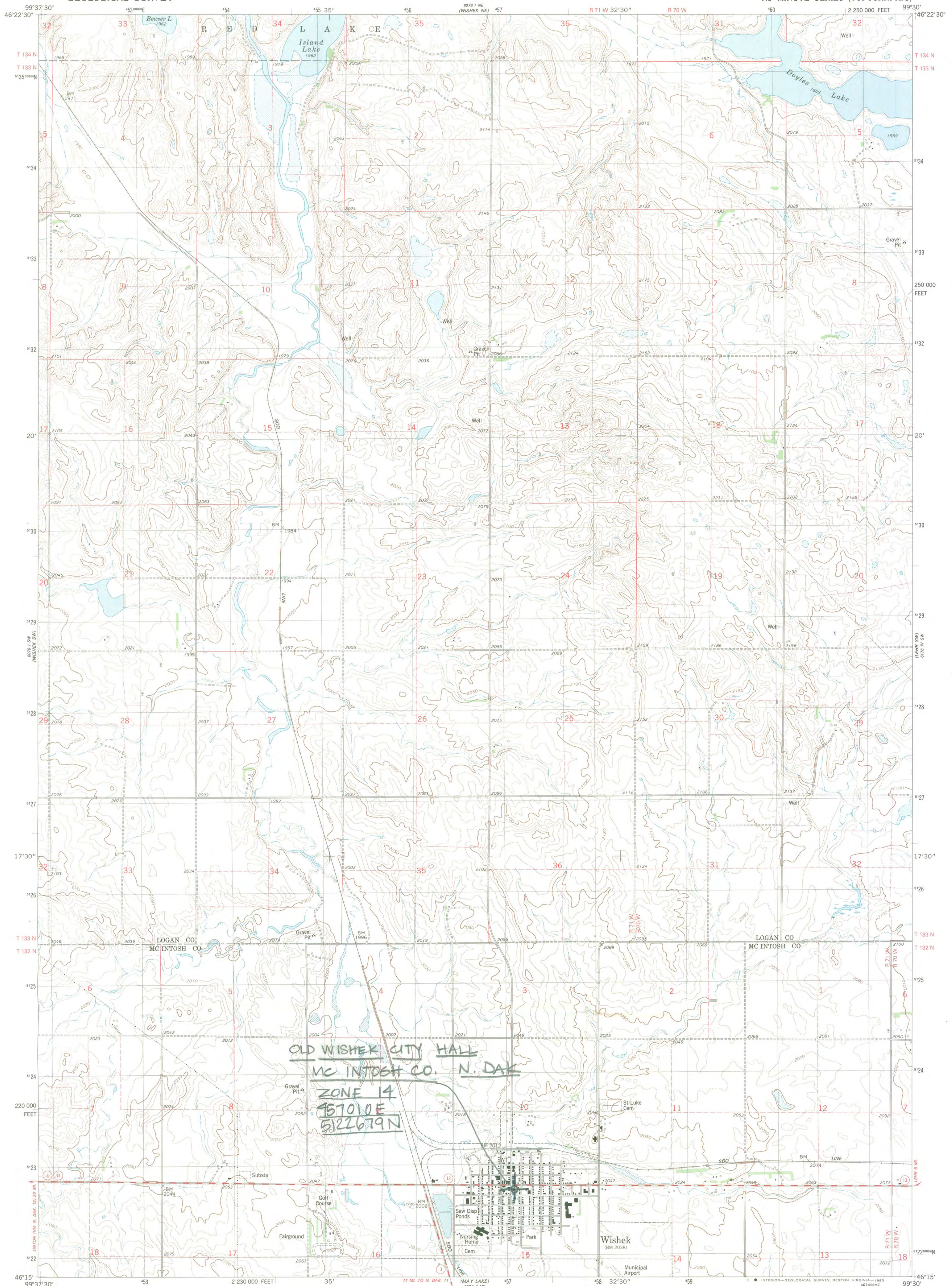
OLD WISHEK CITY HALL
MC INTOSH, N. DAKOTA
ARLYS ACKERMAN

6 JULY 04

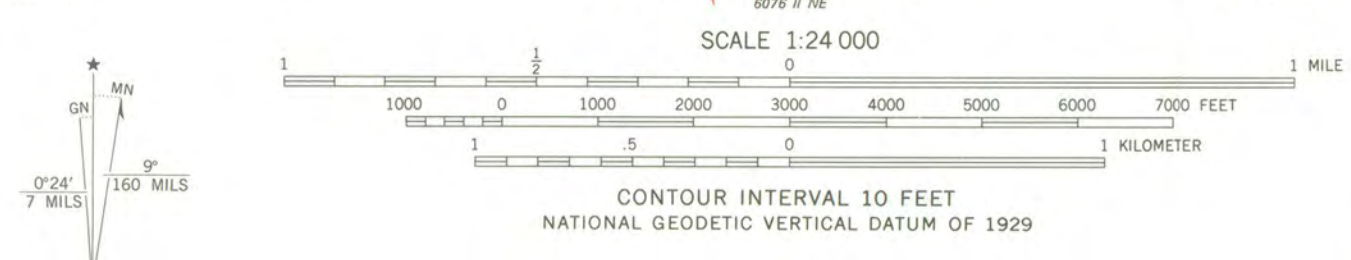
NEG. W/ PHOTOG.

LIBRARY SHELVING, 1977

#8



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1976. Field checked 1978. Map edited 1982
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: North Dakota coordinate system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic; 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 14 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters north and 32 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route



BISMARCK, ND 58505
(701) 224-4109

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND BY THE STATE WATER COMMISSION, BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58501
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



WISHEK, N. DAK.
N4615-W9930/7.5
1982

DMA 6076 I SE-SERIES V871

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Wishek City Hall, Old

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NORTH DAKOTA, McIntosh

DATE RECEIVED: 8/24/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/13/05
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/28/05 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/07/05
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05001141

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 10.4.05 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



**STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
OF NORTH DAKOTA**

AUG 24 2005

To: Jan Matthews, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
From: Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr./ Mary Kate Ryan
Date: 23 August 2005
Subject: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 23rd day of August 2005 for
the nomination of the Old Wishek City Hall, Wishek, McIntosh County, North Dakota
to the National Register of Historic Places.

- 1 National Register of Historic Places nomination form on archival paper
- Multiple Property Nomination form on archival paper
- 8 Photographs, black and white
- 1 Original USGS map(s)
- 6 Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
- Pieces of correspondence
- Other: _____

COMMENTS:

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objections ___ do ___ do not constitute a majority of property owners.
- Other: _____