



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Humphrey City Hall

other names/site number NeHBS #PT05-022

2. Location

street & number 407 South 4th not for publication IN/A

city or town Humphrey vicinity IN/A

state Nebraska code NE county Platte code 141 zip code 68642

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.)

Lawrence Sommer
Signature of certifying official

5/13/96
Date

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
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 certifying official/Title

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): _____

Edson H. Beall
Entered in the
National Register

6-21-96

[Signature]
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		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

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instruction)

DOMESTIC/Multiple Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Renaissance Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Brick
roof Metal
other

Narrative Description

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

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 patters of our history.
 B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
[X] 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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1902

Significant Dates

1902

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary Location for Additional Data:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	626020	4616350	3.			
2.				4.			

[] 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 Ralph Adams, Owner, and Carol Ahlgren, Architectural Historian, Nebraska State Historical Society
organization _____ date March 1996
street & number 503 Main Street telephone (402) 923-0325
city or town Humphrey state NE zip code 68642

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/title LeeAnn & Ralph Adams
street & number 503 Main Street telephone (402) 923-0325
city or town Humphrey state NE zip code 68642

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Humphrey City Hall

Name of Property

Platte County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 7 Page 1

Description

The Humphrey City Hall is a two-story brick Renaissance Revival style combination city-fire hall that was constructed in 1902. Located in Humphrey, a small east central Nebraska town, the building was designed to house the fire department, city offices, and meeting space. The hall was used for various municipal services from the time of its construction in 1902 until 1987. In 1992, the building was purchased by the current owners for use as apartments. The nomination consists of one contributing building, the hall.

=====

The Humphrey City Hall is located in Humphrey (1990 population: 741), a small town in east central Nebraska. The two-story Renaissance Revival style building fronts a brick paved street one half block south of the main business area. The main facade of the building features a centrally located Gothic arch entrance with large wooden fire engine doors on each side. The second floor, which housed the city offices and meeting space, features paired round arch windows, brick corbelling, and a parapeted roof. The year "1902" and the words "City Hall" appear in a date stone located between the two brick pilasters and above a double-hung single pane sash window with a glass transom. A frame mansard which protrudes above the parapeted roof line was the base for a bell tower (non-extant).

The rectangular building, which measures approximately 36 by 64 feet, is accessed through the Gothic arch door opening in the first-floor central bay. The recessed entrance features a Gothic arch transom above the single door. On the east (main) facade, parapet brick walls with insets of bricks in a basket weave pattern are topped with stone copings. Less elaborate brick corbelling and parapeted roof lines are found on the north and south facades of the building.

The main facade of the first floor is dominated by the two fire engine doors which measure 10 by 8 feet and are separated by the centrally located Gothic arch main entrance. The interior originally housed the town's fire fighting equipment which consisted of horse drawn wagons; tie ups for the horses are still evident on the interior walls. A bathroom was originally located beneath the main staircase. The city jail, which consisted of an iron cage (non-extant), was also located on the first floor. A fire-proof vault, used to store the city records, is located in the extreme northwest corner of the first floor.

The second level is accessed by a six-foot wide wooden staircase with a fir skirt board. The stairs lead to a landing which has a pair of centrally located 5' 6" by 8' doors. The double doors led to the firemen's meeting hall. The landing also features two 8' by 2' 10" doors symmetrically located at 60 degree angles from the main doors. These doors led to the mayor and council chambers on the south side and the former city library to the north. All of the doors are originally stile and rail with two vertical upper and two lower panels and one horizontal panel at lockrail height. The trim is mitered at the corners with plinth blocks at the base.

Throughout the second floor original fir floors, baseboards, corner blocks and trim have been retained. The meeting room originally featured a plastered, decorative ceiling with names of the three fire companies; these were covered in later years by the addition of pressed tin. The ceilings in the large meeting hall were curved toward the center of the building. Fenestration throughout the building consists of segmentally arched window openings with rounded edge windows in a one-over-one arrangement and a transom above. The windows are crowned with brick arched window hoods with concrete lugsills.

The city hall was originally designed to provide city offices, fire department, jail and library under one roof. The large second floor meeting space also served as an auditorium and provided space for classes, meetings, and graduation ceremonies. In later years the fire department moved into a new building, but the hall continued to house the city offices and library until 1987 when the building was deemed no longer adequate for its original

United State Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Humphrey City Hall

Name of Property

Platte County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 7, 8 Page 2

Description (continued)

purpose. In 1992 the hall was purchased by the current owners who have been converting the building into three apartments.

All of the original fenestration has been retained as well as the main staircase, floors and trim. The garage doors and stalls have been retained for garage space for tenants. The first floor also contains laundry facilities and work shop area for the owner. The second floor retains its original stairway, landing, fenestration and woodwork including floors, trim and doors. Original configurations have been mostly retained, although partial walls have been added to accommodate new uses such as kitchen areas, bedrooms, and bathrooms. With retention of the original fenestration, woodwork, staircase, and particularly the former fire engine areas on the main facade, the building conveys a strong sense of its original use and continued importance to the city of Humphrey.

Statement of Significance

The Humphrey City Hall is significant on the local level under Criterion C as an excellent example of a small town combination city-fire hall. Constructed in 1902, the two-story brick Renaissance Revival style building housed the fire department, jail, city offices, and provided space for other municipal services until 1987. The period of significance is 1902, the year the building was constructed.

=====

The Humphrey City Hall is an excellent example of a small town multiple-function government building. Constructed in 1902, the Renaissance Revival style building was designed to house the community's fire department and engines on the first floor. The second level, which housed city offices and a large meeting room, was accessed by a centrally located doorway, flanked by two fire engine doors.

When the building was constructed in 1902, the town of Humphrey was barely two decades old. A small east-central Nebraska town on the Omaha, Niobrara and Black Hills railroad, Humphrey was not platted until 1880. The town, however, grew rapidly and by the turn of the century had a population of 869 (Phillips, 1915). In January 1902, the need for a multiple-function government building was raised by the local newspaper which noted that the town, "is now paying in rent what the interest on a good building would amount to." The article also noted that the fire equipment was currently, "stored in the worst fire trap in town," (*The Humphrey Democrat*, 1-3-1902).

Within a few months a bond issued passed for construction of a new city hall. In the summer of 1902 the newspaper reported that construction of the building "had begun in earnest," and by November, it was finished (*Democrat*, 6-27-1902; 11-14-1902). Although there is no indication that a formal dedication occurred the firemen held a "grand opening" and dance on November 26th (*Democrat*, 11-28-1902).

Combination city-fire halls gave local municipalities an economical and practical way to provide community services. To date, the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey (NEHBS) has recorded 25 combination city-fire halls in towns with populations ranging from a little over a hundred to several thousand. As a subtype of multiple-use municipal buildings, city-fire halls are distinguished by the presence of first floor fire bay doors on the main and/or secondary facades.

All of the combination city-fire halls recorded to date were built between c.1890 and c.1935 and are predominantly located in the eastern one-third of the state. Architecturally, the buildings range from "high style" to simple brick structures. Several of the halls feature elements characteristic to various Revival architectural styles with round arch windows and contrasting rusticated stone or concrete lintels, sills, and belt courses. In addition to the present nomination, examples of Renaissance Revival style combination halls with similar brick construction, central entrances and round arch windows are found in the Dodge County towns of North Bend (DD09-008), Snyder (DD11-001), and Scribner (DD10-069).

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Humphrey City Hall

Name of Property

Platte County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8, 9, 10 Page 3

Statement of Significance (continued)

Other combination halls have more simplified details suggestive of Neo-Classical or other Revival styles such as the Linwood Hall in Butler County (BU08-006), the Stanton City-Fire Hall (ST02-053), and halls in the Howard County towns of St. Paul (HW11-028), and Boelus (HW01-005). Two Butler County halls in Abie (BU01-003) and Bruno (BU04-002) are more stylistically simple. Constructed of rusticated concrete, both buildings feature simple contrasting belt courses between first and second floors. Even the more modest halls are lent a stately and dignified appearance by the presence of details such patterned and/or contrasting brick, parapeted roofs, stone or concrete belt courses, and brick corbelling.

The majority of the combination halls from the c.1890-c.1920 period are characterized by one or more fire engine doors located on the first floor of the main facade. The doors are symmetrically or asymmetrically located in relation to a main entrance, or comprise the entire first floor main facade. Three exceptions are found in the Renaissance Revival style city-fire halls in Seward (SW09-162), Ord (VY04-061), and Hooper (DD06-067) which have fire engine doors on a secondary facade. Original wooden doors are extant on a few of the halls, but most have been replaced with non-historic material such as fiberglass.

To date, five of Nebraska's combination city-fire halls are listed on the National Register. Three of these, located in Hooper, Tecumseh, and Seward, are contributing buildings in historic districts. The Hooper city hall/fire station (DD06-067) constructed in 1914, has recently been altered with the addition of stucco panels to the original windows. The Tecumseh City Hall/ Police Department, c.1890 (JO07-002), is one of the most stylized of these halls and is prominently located on the courthouse square. Although the building retains its elaborate wooden tower on the main facade roof line the first floor fire engine doors have been completely filled in with brick.

Individually listed halls in Cedar Rapids (BO04-023) and Schuyler (CX06-002), are two story brick structures. The Schuyler City Hall-Fire Station is an atypical example however, with its elaborate castellated roof line and corner tower. The Cedar Rapids hall is a more modest structure with simplified Renaissance Revival details. The outline of the main facade's fire engine door has been retained but the space has been in-filled with windows. The Humphrey City-Fire Hall is an excellent example of a turn-of-the-century Renaissance Revival style city-fire hall which retains a high degree of integrity and continues to convey a strong sense of its historic importance to the community.

Bibliography

The Humphrey Democrat, January 1902 - January 1903.

Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey (NEHBS), files. Nebraska State Historical Society 1500 R Street, Lincoln, NE.

Phillips, G.W. Ed., *The Past and Present of Platte County Nebraska*. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1915.

Whiffen, Marcus. *American Architecture Since 1780*. Cambridge, MA: The M.I.T. Press, 1969.

Verbal Boundary Description

The Humphrey City Hall is located on the North 36 feet of Lot 8, Block 5, Ottis Second Addition to the city of Humphrey, Platte County, Nebraska.

Boundary Justification

The nomination includes that tract of land which has been historically associated with the city hall.