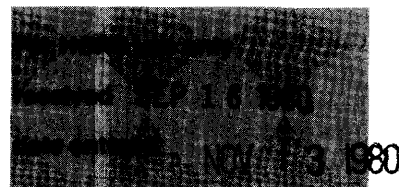


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Excelsior Public School

and/or common Minnetonka School Administration Building

2. Location

street & number 261 School Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town Excelsior ___ vicinity of congressional district 2 Fifth

state Minnesota code 22 county Hennepin code 053

3. Classification

Category ___ district <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) ___ structure ___ site ___ object	Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public ___ private ___ both Public Acquisition ___ in process ___ being considered	Status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied ___ unoccupied ___ work in progress Accessible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted ___ yes: unrestricted ___ no	Present Use ___ agriculture ___ commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational ___ entertainment ___ government ___ industrial ___ military	___ museum ___ park ___ private residence ___ religious ___ scientific ___ transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: offices
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4. Owner of Property

name Minnetonka School District #276

street & number 261 School Avenue

city, town Excelsior ___ vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds -- Hennepin County Government Center

street & number Third Avenue South at Fifth Street

city, town Minneapolis state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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 old Excelsior Public School Building is situated on a quarter-block site approximately two blocks east of the central business district of Excelsior. The site occupies a prominent knoll that slopes to the east and south of the building. The northern one-third of the site is a parking lot used by the building's occupants.

The building is a two story eclectic brick structure placed on a high limestone basement and has an expansive hipped-roof attic. It is rectangular in plan and contains approximately 15,000 square feet divided equally among the basement, first, and second levels. All facades are symmetrical in arrangement.

The principal (west) facade is most articulated in terms of architectural design. A three story tower with open belfry figures prominently into the symmetrical composition. The main entrance, a semi-circular arched portal with double doors and transom, is located at the base of the tower. Windows are embellished with stone sills and lintels; second floor windows are accented by blank arches above the lintels. Additional window treatments include Palladian dormers and a bulls-eye in the tower. The roof of the belfry is octagonal with an ogee curve.

The structure no longer serves as a classroom facility. The original eight classrooms were subdivided into offices in 1964. Also accomplished at that time were lowering of ceilings and reduction of window size by blocking out upper sash with panels. The exterior of the structure has been sandblasted.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1899-1901

Builder/Architect L.F. Sampson, building supervisor

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Erected in 1899-1901, nearly a half-century after the first school was organized in Excelsior, the old Excelsior Public School building is a significant reminder of the expansion, development, and quest for permanence by the citizens of the community. Having evolved from simple log and frame buildings to this masonry structure of refined architectural design, the building served as the center of community life in the town. Its prominent location overlooking the central business district and the lake areas served to strengthen its symbolic importance. Today, as the seat of the Minnetonka School District 276 administrative offices, the building remains a functional local landmark. Its architectural detailing, with an eclectic combination of elements from the Romanesque, Georgian, and Renaissance styles, illustrates the qualities of dignity and restraint sought after in post-Victorian public buildings.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Records of Minnetonka School District 276 and Excelsior Heritage Preservation Commission.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 1

Quadrangle name Excelsior, MN.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A

1	5	4	5	5	4	2	0	4	9	7	1	9	4	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

Plat 57530, Parcel 4500, lot 3, Excelsior

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 Bob Naas, Chairman/Charles W. Nelson, Historical Architect

Excelsior Heritage Preservation Commission/

organization Minnesota Historical Society date 9 May 1980

street & number Excelsior City Hall/240 Summit Avenue- Hill House telephone ? /612-296-9073

city or town Excelsior/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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9/12/80

For HCRS use only

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

W. Ray Luce
Keeper of the National Register

date 11/13/80

Attest:

Gunda Hint McCallum

date 11.12.80

Chief of Registration