

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 23 1977
DATE ENTERED DEC 6 1977

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

* *

Germania Bank Building

AND/OR COMMON

Saint Paul Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

6 West Fifth Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

22

COUNTY

Ramsey

CODE

123

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: offices

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The Williams Group/William D. O'Brien, Director

STREET & NUMBER

503 Saint Paul Building/6 West Fifth Street

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ramsey County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

15 West Kellogg Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society, Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	street level facades	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Saint Paul Building (formerly the Germania Bank Building) is situated on the southwest corner of the intersection of Wabasha and Fifth Streets in the central business district of St. Paul. Constructed in 1889 by Lauer Bros. according to designs of St. Paul architect J. Walter Stevens, the building originally housed shops on the first floor, the Germania Bank on the second floor, and offices throughout the remaining six of the eight total floors. On the exterior, the building is Richardsonian in nature, with the two primary facades constructed of a rusticated red sandstone (the non-street facades are of unadorned yellow brick).

The Saint Paul Building is constructed upon cellar walls and footings which vary from 2'4" to 3'6" at the thickest and extend to a depth of eighteen feet to bedrock. Dimensions of walls at successive elevations attest to the bearing-wall nature of the building's structural system: first storey: 28", second and third stories: 24", fourth and fifth stories: 20", sixth and seventh stories: 16", and eighth storey: 12".

The first two stories of the principal facades are incorporated within a colonnade of polygonal columns with foliate capitals; the colonnade is flanked at the corners of the building by massive rusticated stone piers. The separation between the second and third stories is accentuated by a massive rusticated architrave. The third through sixth stories are included in the second division; central bays of two-window groupings terminate in semi-circular arches with ornamental terra-cotta tympani. The central bays are also defined by fluted pilasters resembling groupings of three columns. As in the lower division, the corner bays are defined by rusticated piers, although the individual stones are not of the cyclopean nature as in the first division. A further notable design element of the second division is found in the areas directly above the voussoirs and immediately below the stone belt course which appears to form the base of the third division; this element is the polychromatic checker-board pattern which is a characteristic Richardsonian feature.

The third division comprises the uppermost two stories. In this division all windows are in the form of narrow vertical bands capped by semi-circular arches with rusticated voussoirs and separated by thin pilasters with foliate capitals. The sole exception to this occurs in the central bay of the Wabasha Street facade where two stories are incorporated within a recessed colonnaded and balustraded loggia. The loggia is crowned by a semi-circular arch which appears to spring from pilasters of the four-column group design.

The entire building is capped by a bracketted metal cornice which projects two to three feet from the facade surfaces. Immediately above the cornice is a low stone parapet coped with terra-cotta.

The exterior of the building remains true to the original design with the exception of the modification of the first floor storefronts to provide larger display areas and signage.

(see continuation sheet)

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The interior, again with the exception of the first floor stores, is relatively true to the original design. The banking floor has been allocated to office space as have all floors above. The office arrangement runs longitudinally through the building with doors opening onto a central corridor. Access is provided by both elevator and staircase; the staircase retains original slate treads and iron newels and grillwork. Woodwork is of oak, birch, and pine. Floors are generally of pine laid over terra-cotta vaults with the exception of ceramic tiles in heavily trafficked areas.

In general, considering scale of the building and function, the Saint Paul Building has survived in an excellent state of preservation. Further preservation work is planned in the near future by the new owner, William D. O'Brien.

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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

(Harvey Ellis - designer)

SPECIFIC DATES 1889

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J. Walter Stevens, Architect
Lauer Bros., Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1889 at a cost of approximately \$150,000.00, the Saint Paul Building (formerly the Germania Bank Building) is the sole surviving multi-storey brownstone "skyscraper" in the city of St. Paul. It was originally designed as a multi-use building for shops, offices, and the Germania Bank, although the banking enterprise was short-lived and for economic reasons was discontinued shortly after the construction of the building.

The Saint Paul Building remains an excellent and well-preserved example of the work of St. Paul architect J. Walter Stevens and designer Harvey Ellis as well as the skilled craftsmanship in stone of Lauer Brothers Construction Company (another excellent example of stone craftsmanship by this company is noted in the Lauer Flats, 226 Western Avenue, St. Paul, listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 5, 1975).

Efforts on the part of the present (new) owner, William D. O'Brien assure the continued preservation of the Saint Paul Building.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Saint Paul and Minneapolis Pioneer Press, 20 May 1888, p.23.
- Saint Paul and Minneapolis Pioneer Press, 29 April 1888, p.15.
- Koepper, H.F., Historic Saint Paul Buildings, 1964.
- Andrews, C.C., History of Saint Paul, Minnesota, 1890.
- The Northwest Magazine, November 1894, pp. 21-22.
- "Detailed Statement of Specifications for the Erection of Buildings", 1888, Saint Paul Department of Inspections.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	4, 9, 2, 5, 6, 0	4, 9, 7, 6, 6, 8, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1 & 2 of Block 21, Saint Paul Proper

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

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

1 April 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Building 25, Fort Snelling

TELEPHONE

612-726-1171

CITY OR TOWN

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Russell W. Fridley

TITLE

Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

5/13/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

Charles W. Nelson
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

12/6/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12-2-77