

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Minnesota	
COUNTY: Pine	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 7 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Hinckley Depot

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Northern Pacific Depot

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Old Highway #61 and First Street Southeast

CITY OR TOWN:
Hinckley

STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **23** COUNTY: **Pine** CODE: **115**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Burlington Northern Railroad -- leased to Pine County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
17 Washington Avenue North

CITY OR TOWN: **Minneapolis** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **23**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Registrar of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Pine County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: **Pine City** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **23**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

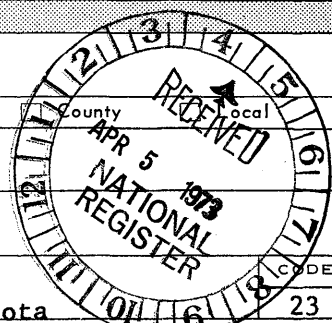
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **continuous** Federal State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Minnesota Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Paul** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **23**



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Minnesota
COUNTY:	Pine
ENTRY NUMBER	MAY 7 1973
DATE	

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

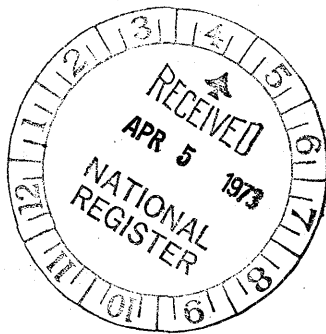
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original depot building in Hinckley was destroyed in a large-scale forest fire which ravaged most of Pine County in 1894. The present depot was constructed according to the original plans and reached completion in 1895. It is considered a near duplicate of the original 1871 building.

The present depot consists of a large two story structure, somewhat unique for contemporary depots in this area, flanked by equal one story wings. Constructed in a simple rectangular box shape, the central portion housed the main depot offices and hotel. The side wings, which are not as wide as the central portion were used for dining, baggage, and offices. The building is of frame construction with a hipped roof over the central section and simple pitched roofs with jerkin gables on the flanking sections.

In the reconstruction, the second story of the central section was converted to serve as an apartment for the stationmaster. Recent modifications include the installation of restrooms on the main floor in the men's and women's waiting rooms. The exterior, however, retains its original characteristics and has not been subject to modification.

The interior is presently undergoing renovation and adaptation to serve as an interpretive center/museum to tell the story of the Hinckley Fire of 1894. The former dining area will be converted into a community meeting space.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

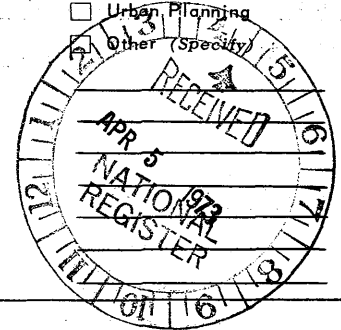
- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1895

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The original depot at Hinckley was constructed in 1871. It was quite elaborate for its day and unusual in configuration for the area in which it was constructed. It was nearly a block long and sported a twenty bed hotel in addition to a dining room, waiting rooms, baggage room and railroad offices. In general the depot was a kind of social center, a focal point for the community. On September 1, 1894, this depot burned along with the town of Hinckley. More than 418 people lost their lives in that fire.

It was from the original Hinckley Depot that Thomas G. Dunn, the telegrapher on duty, sent out the last words from Hinckley as the fire destroyed the town. Many of Hinckley's residents waited in vain at the depot for the arrival of the Southbound Limited to carry them to safety. The Limited never reached Hinckley because the railroad bridge had burned out and was forced to shift into reverse because of the raging fire which blocked its path. It carried with it many people, but only reached nearby Skunk Lake. The Limited's passengers sought refuge in the lake and survived. Dunn, however, waited at his telegraph key in his office for news of the Limited which never came. Dunn remained at his key until the fire reached the depot and died attempting to find safety in a nearby pit.

Within a year of the fire, the depot was replaced with a duplicate, based on the original plans. It is this depot which remains today as a symbol of the Great Hinckley Fire.

The Great Hinckley Fire caused great destruction not only to property and lives but to the forests which had provided the prime economic asset for Minnesota's lumber industry. Realizing this loss to economy and to the environment, the area of the fire was to be the site for the first major conservation program in Minnesota. This program provided for large-scale reforestation of the area and increased attention to forestry and conservation.

The depot is in process of being preserved and adapted as an interpretive center/museum of the Great Hinckley Fire. The buildings and exhibits housed therein will serve to educate the public in the history of the area, the lumbering industry, the devastation caused by the fire, the rebuilding of the community, and the conservation movement.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brown, Elton, History of Great Minnesota Forest Fires, Brown Brothers, St. Paul, 1894.
 Holbrook, Stuart, Burning of an Empire, McMillan and Company, New York, 1943.
One Hundred Years in Pine County, Pine County Historical Society, Askov, 1949.
 Wilkinson, William, Minnesota Forest Fires, Norman A. Wilkinson, Minneapolis, 1895.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

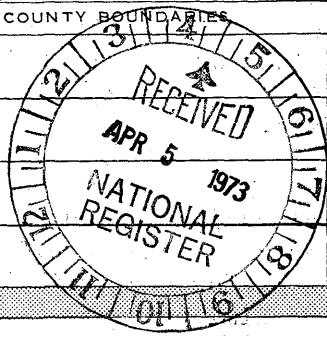
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		46° 00' 58"	92° 56' 34"	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

UTM
 15/504400
 5095550
 (D)

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **about one acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Charles W. Nelson, Supervisor Historic Sites Survey & Planning**

ORGANIZATION: **Minnesota Historical Society** DATE: **March 29, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Building 25, Fort Snelling**

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Paul** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **23**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Russell W. Fridley
 Title: Director, Minnesota Historical Society
 Date: March 30, 1973

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

Robert Van Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/7/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6/26/73

Site
Hinckley Depot

Entered
5/7/73
Pine County

Change Ownership:

New
Hinckley Depot Restoration Committee

Old
Burlington Northern Leased to Pine County Historical Society

