

SG-1024

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Nobles County War Memorial Building

Other names/site number:

Name of related multiple property listing:

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

N/A

2. Location

Street & number: 407 12th Street

City or town: Worthington State: MN County: Nobles (105)

Not For Publication: NA

Vicinity: NA



3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

 4/20/17

Signature of certifying official/Title: Amy Spong, Deputy SHPO, MNHS Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: Date

Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the 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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/Library
RECREATION AND CULTURE/Museum

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/Library
RECREATION AND CULTURE/Museum

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: CONCRETE
Walls: BRICK
Roof: OTHER

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Nobles County War Memorial Building is a county-owned building located at 407 12th Street in Worthington, Minnesota. Construction on the building began in the spring of 1962. The grand opening was May 5, 1963. The building houses the Worthington branch of the county library as well as the county historical society and county arts center. It is a well-known building that serves as a center for civic and cultural activity for the county.

The building is a rectangular, one-story structure with a full basement, 114' x 74' in size. It has a low-pitched gable roof with a section resembling a sawtooth above the north or main entrance façade. The roof is built-up tar and gravel. It has a concrete foundation and concrete block walls with brick facing above ground. The original aluminum letters attached to the brick wall to the left of the front door identify the building as the Nobles County War Memorial Building, Worthington, Minnesota.

The Nobles County War Memorial Building was designed by Gerald Buetow of Buetow and Associates, Architects, St. Paul, Minnesota. Blueprints for the building are dated January 29, 1962. The building permit is dated April 6, 1962, the cornerstone was laid on September 26, 1962, and its grand opening was May 5, 1963. The building is an example of a mid-century modern public building in southwestern Minnesota.

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The building retains its original integrity of design and materials; a 1997-1998 remodeling done by Vetter Johnson Architects, Inc. of Minneapolis was carefully planned to have minimal impact on both the design and the materials. The remodeling did not change the exterior envelope and had minimal impact on the interior. There was little change to the main floor and all other work, including installation of a hydraulic elevator, modifying restrooms for handicapped accessibility, restructuring of the space on the lower level, and installing replacement windows, was designed to be compatible with the building's original architectural design. Restructuring changes on the lower floor were designed to be reversible.

Narrative Description

Elaboration

The Nobles County War Memorial Building is a rectangular, one-story structure with a full basement, 114' x 74' in size. It has a low-pitched gable roof with a section resembling a sawtooth above the north or main entrance. The roof is built-up tar and gravel. The building has a concrete foundation and concrete block walls with variegated light and dark tan/brown brick facing above ground. The building was designed by St. Paul, Minnesota, architect Gerald Buetow and was constructed during 1962 and early 1963. The grand opening was May 5, 1963.

The War Memorial Building is two blocks north and east of 10th Street (Minnesota Highway 206), the main downtown commercial street in the community. It is bounded on the east and west by 4th and 5th Avenues. On the west side, 5th Avenue is a main thoroughfare through town. On the east side across 4th Avenue, an unpaved parking lot is the site of the former Carnegie-built public library; it was torn down after the War Memorial Building was built. The First Evangelical Lutheran Church (1200 4th Avenue) is on the north side of 4th Avenue and 12th Street, and the site of the former Central School (a grade school) is directly across 12th Street. The War Memorial Building houses the Nobles County Library as well as the Nobles County Historical Society and the Nobles County Art Center. A small branch library in Adrian, Minnesota, also designed by Gerald Buetow, completes the county library system.

North/Front Façade

Beginning with the front of the building, the north and primary façade of the Nobles County War Memorial Building faces 12th Street. A roof section resembling a sawtooth protrudes over the entrance façade. Eight large windows extend across most of the length of this façade. Two of the front windows are to the left of the entrance doors and six are to the right. There are two small triangular clerestory windows in each gable. The main entry, accessed through glass double doors, is located under part of the sawtooth. A front walk leads down three steps to the 12th Street sidewalk. Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA] accessibility is provided by a concrete ramp extending from the sidewalk to the front door. The front walkway originally had a brick retaining wall along its length; that has been replaced by a painted metal hand railing. A simple column supporting a downspout extends from the base of the roof to the ground. This column is next to the entrance sidewalk. (Photo 1 of 10)

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East/Side Façade

The east or 4th Avenue side of the building has a single glass door next to two large windows. Steps and a sidewalk on the 4th Avenue side of the building lead from the building down to the street. (Photo 2 of 10)

South/Rear Façade

The south or rear façade of the building has two large windows and two metal service delivery entrance doors that open into the main floor library staff office/workroom and a back stairway. Two concrete steps form a landing/loading dock that extends around the corner as a sidewalk to the 5th Avenue door on the west side of the building. The back also has an air vent and a book drop. The roof overhang along the rear of the building is extended to provide protection for the loading dock. An off-street parking area on the 5th Avenue side is accessible from the alley behind (the south side) of the building. (Photo 3 of 10)

West/Side Façade

The west or 5th Avenue side of the building has a single glass door next to two large windows. There is a service door near the landing dock. There also is a smaller square window in the library director's office on this side of the building. An air vent is above this window. A sidewalk along this façade leads to the loading dock at the rear of the building. The large windows on the 5th Avenue side of the building frame a small patron seating area inside the building with tables and chairs and magazine racks against the wall. (Photo 4 of 10)

Building Interior – Upper Level

As already noted, the north or main entrance to the Nobles County War Memorial Building is on the 12th Street side. Inside the front door is an entry hall with original 12" x 12" vinyl floor tiles. The entry leads from north to south into the main floor library; a side hallway in the entry leads to the youth area on the east side of the building and a stairway leads to the lower level. Main floor public restrooms are located in this side hallway, one on either side of the hall. The hydraulic elevator, installed in 1997-1998, opens into the entry hall. The installation did not alter the building envelope; the elevator lift is an excavated area below the shaft. The elevator alcove is a small sitting area with three safety windows that look into the main library. The main stairway in the front entry hall and the elevator lead to the lower level offices and exhibition areas of the Nobles County Historical Society and the Nobles County Art Center. Sets of three overhead cylindrical lights, original to the building, along with recessed canister lights, illuminate the area. A bulletin board in the main entry holds announcements for the library, historical society, and art center.

The entry hall has three plaques – two related specifically to the building's role as a War Memorial Building and an architect's plaque. A stone plaque by Vetter Stone Company, 36" x 24" in size, set into the wall along the entry hall next to the bulletin board, honors war veterans,

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and a large plaque on the stairway wall lists the names of people from Nobles County lost in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam War. This plaque originally was 60" x 25"; after the Vietnam War, an additional 17" was added to include the names of Nobles County residents lost in that war. Another plaque, 36" x 20", next to the stone plaque, lists those involved with construction of the building and identifies its completion date as 1963. A single wood door with two windows, one over the other, opens into the entry hall, providing access into the library. (Photos 5 and 6 of 10)

The library is a large rectangular room entered from the front entry hall with a back wall on the south (rear) side of the building. It has a pressed board and Formica circulation desk to the right of the main entry door, sited to allow patrons to see directly into the library when entering the space. This desk, installed in 1997-1998, replaced the original wood circulation desk in the same location. A small reference area is near the circulation desk. A short wall with safety windows to the left of the library entrance is part of the elevator shaft; prior to installation of the elevator, the elevator area was open to the east or 4th Avenue side of the building. Carpet, first installed in 1997-1998, now covers the original 12" x 12" vinyl floor tiles. The open main floor plan with its use of shelves to define functional areas is a Buetow and mid-century modern design feature; it gives library staff flexibility to define library use areas. (Photo 7 of 10)

Two large interior windows and an opening on the north side behind the circulation desk, original to the library design, take advantage of north light from the front exterior windows and allow natural light to enter the library. Bookshelves define the walls of this area behind the circulation desk, which hold electronic materials available to be checked out.

The large windows on the west or 5th Avenue side of the building frame a small patron sitting area with tables and chairs and magazine racks against the exterior wall. Several easy chairs, side tables, and four tables, each with four chairs, are available for patron use. A circular set of tables, each with a computer for public use, also are available for patron use.

Shelves holding books line the walls and fill the central area of the main library. A wood door with a sidelight leading to the head librarian's office is on the west side of the interior space; it helps frame the patron use area. A window provides natural light for the office. An office/workroom for library personnel located in the rear of the west or 5th Avenue side of the building is accessed by a wood door from the library as well as from the rear service entrance. Two windows in the south or rear wall provide natural light for the staff office/work room. The librarian's office also can be accessed from the office/workroom space.

The east or 4th Avenue side of the building is the youth area. Originally, there was a glass partition between the youth area and the main library; it was removed in 1997-1998 to make room for the elevator. The youth area has stacks with books, a small sitting area, a bench and some tables, and a small desk with a computer. A desk for the youth librarian is against the 12th Street wall and a wood door with windows one over the other near the desk leads to the entry hall and main floor public restrooms.

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Several sets of three cylindrical hanging lights and large fluorescent lights, supplemented by track lighting, are original to the building. Until the Worthington Municipal Power Plant shut down on November 1, 1980, the city supplied heat for the building; the basement steam boiler now heats the building. Air conditioning was installed when the building was built; ceiling fans provide additional air circulation. (Photo 8 of 10)

Building Interior - Lower Level

The front stairway and elevator lead to the basement or lower level. Originally, the lower area was a large open space with smaller exhibition galleries framed by large interior windows along the north (12th Street) side of the building. Initial remodeling of this space began in 1995. In 1997-1998, a center hallway was added to define the historical society exhibit area and provide access to the lower floor restrooms. A drop ceiling in the hallway, also added in 1997-1998, holds air circulation equipment. The first door past the main stairway on the north side of the hallway leads into a small storage area used by the Art Center, and a window and door midway along the hall mark the location of the library board room/conference room – originally an historical society exhibition area with large interior viewing windows.

Lower floor public restrooms are on the west end of the hallway off a short hall leading to and running along the south or rear of the building. The back stairway from the delivery entrance ends in this short hallway. The electrical panel and access to the mechanical/maintenance room behind the restrooms also are located in this short hallway. The wood door next to the back stairway opens into the mechanical/maintenance room. On the north side of the back hall, double wood doors lead to a lower floor library storage area. The area under the main stairway serves as overflow storage. The hallway floors retain the original 12" x 12" vinyl floor tiles.

The lower floor originally was designed to house the Nobles County Historical Society. In the fall of 1962, the Nobles County Art Center became the third original building occupant, and the second organization on the lower floor. It occupies its original space in the building. After the building opened, however, the Art Center moved several times. Its first move was upstairs to the current youth area. It then moved into the county government center several blocks from the War Memorial Building, and, finally, it moved back to its original location on the lower floor of the building. In the Art Center, movable walls define an exhibition area and a patron use area; an administrative area is on the north side of the space. A wood door in the patron use area opens into the historical society exhibition area. Carpet covers the original 12" x 12" floor tiles. (Photo 9 of 10)

The Nobles County Historical Society occupies two large rooms on the lower level. An exhibition area, defined by walls added during the 1997-1998 remodeling, extends from the bottom of the main stairway/elevator along the back side of the building to the hallway wall by the restrooms. A single wood door with two windows one over the other opens into the exhibit room; a wall on the left side of the door defines the elevator shaft and an access door to the elevator equipment room is on the back of the elevator shaft wall. A wood door leads from the back of the exhibit/storage room to the back hall, the historical society office/reference room, and the back entrance of the building. (Photo 10 of 10)

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The exhibit space is divided by shelves and temporary walls into a public exhibition area and a collections storage area. The floor retains the original 12" x 12" vinyl tiles.

The historical society office/reference room is in its original location on the northwest corner of the lower level. The office/reference room is divided by a concrete block half-wall in two areas – the director's office inside a single wood door and a reference area on the west side of the space. The floor also retains the original 12" x 12" vinyl tiles.

The reference area has shelves for holding reference works, a large table for patron use, and several desks and computers for reference access.

Cabinets in the director's area hold historical society administrative and reference files and a wood door in the office leads to the library board room/conference room (a former historical society exhibition area). The lower level rooms and hallway are lit with fluorescent lights. Track lighting in the exhibition area is original to the building.

Integrity

The Nobles County War Memorial Building was constructed in 1962-63 as a county-owned building to house the county library, county historical society, and county art center and it continues with this function today. The principle features of the property remain intact. It retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, association and setting.

Its historic location and general setting have not changed – it sits on the site where it was built. With the exception of the removal of the grade school and construction of one-story commercial buildings on the former grade school site across 12th Street, its setting has not changed. A parking lot across 4th Avenue where the original Carnegie Library stood dates from the time that building was demolished on March 15, 1966, and the First Lutheran Church on the 4th Avenue corner diagonal from the War Memorial Building was built in ca. 1902 and continues to be used as a Lutheran church.

The design, materials, and workmanship described on the original blueprints are evident throughout the building. The simplicity of form of the original mid-century modern design and materials has not changed. There are no external additions or deletions to the building – the external structure stands as built. Use of the building as a county library and county historical society is as originally planned; inclusion of the art center – the third original occupant – occurred during construction. The feeling and association of the building are as they were when it was built.

Integrity of workmanship is evident throughout the building. It was well-built at the time and has benefitted from careful maintenance through the years. Its original exterior and the replacement exterior windows installed in 1997-1998 retain integrity of design. The building is in excellent condition. The interior of the building also is very much as built, especially on the main floor. Even the original light fixtures remain intact and in use. Addition of outdoor access ramps, an

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elevator, modifications of restrooms for handicapped accessibility, changes in the reading room and library work space, and a new circulation desk, installed in the 1997-1998 remodeling done by Vetter Johnson Architects, Inc., serve the building without intruding on its open mid-century modern floor plan; they have minimal impact on its original design and no impact on its feeling on the main floor.

The lower floor also was remodeled in 1997-1998. Changes, in addition to the elevator installation and modification of the restrooms for handicapped accessibility, included adding the hallway and adding or remodeling walls to divide a formerly open area into a hallway and historical society exhibition/storage room. In addition, several historical society exhibit areas were remodeled into the library conference/meeting room. The walls changed what had been an open space into a more structured use of the space, but all changes were carefully designed to have minimal impact and all are reversible. The lower floor retains its original occupants and the feeling and association is based, in part, on their use of the space.

The building is in excellent condition and continues to function well, although space on both its floors is cramped. Overall, the Nobles County War Memorial Building retains all seven aspects of integrity.

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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.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance
1963

Significant Dates
1963

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Buetow, Gerald

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Summary

Completed in 1963, the Nobles County War Memorial Building is locally significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history. Its area of significance is Social History and its Period of Significance is 1963. Through its housing of the Nobles County Library, Worthington branch, it represents the culmination of the development of the county library system, which had its beginning in the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Statewide Library Project that operated in Nobles County from 1938 through 1942. It was built as a designated War Memorial Building according to Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 373.053. In its design, the building is an example of a mid-century modern public building in Worthington and Nobles County. It was designed for use by three county educational and cultural organizations and continues to be utilized by the organizations today—the county library, county historical society, and county arts center. The War Memorial Building retains its original integrity and continues to be used for its original purpose. It is a prominent local public building that everyone sees and that almost everyone uses at some point. The building is locally significant in the context of Worthington and Nobles County history.

The Nobles County War Memorial Building was designed and constructed as a county center to house the Nobles County Library and its Worthington branch, the Nobles County Historical Society, and the Nobles County Art Center. All three organizations continue to occupy the building today.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Worthington Public Library

The history of the library system in Worthington and Nobles County, Minnesota, began with development of a city public library in 1885, thirteen years after the community was founded and twelve years after it was made the county seat of Nobles County. In 1897, the village council and the school board officially established the Public Library of Worthington. Originally, the library, supported by a one-half mil village tax, was located in the local public school and was open to the public two afternoons a week.¹

In 1905, Worthington celebrated the opening of the Carnegie Public Library, built in part with funds given by the Carnegie Corporation to house the city library. Dedicated on March 4 that year, it stood at the corner of 12th Street and 4th Avenue and served the community until it was torn down on March 15, 1966, to make way for a parking lot. On January 1, 1955, the Worthington Public Library merged into the Nobles County Library system.²

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WPA Statewide Library Project/Nobles County Library

The possibility of a county library system began to take shape during the final years of the Great Depression. Between 1938 and 1942, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Statewide Library Project opened and operated a number of book stations around Nobles County. The Statewide Library Project was a temporary measure of the WPA sponsored by the Library Division of the Minnesota State Department of Education; its purpose was to offer library books to people with no libraries at hand, thereby showing “how county library service operates to provide books for every resident of the county.” In Nobles County, its work was supported by members of the Nobles County Library Association. Operating from a central county project headquarters in Adrian, its book collections were moved from station to station around the county.³

The stations rapidly took hold in Nobles County. Seven stations opened almost immediately, with two more following in short order. They were located in Adrian, Bigelow, Ellsworth, Kinbrae, Lismore, Reading, Round Lake, Rushmore, and Wilmont. Records showed they distributed thousands of books each year.⁴

Nobles County

Nobles County experienced most of its growth between 1880 when the city library was founded and 1940, when the Nobles County public library system began to take shape. The population stood at 4,435 shortly before the city library was established and reached 21,215 in 1940. It has stayed close to that figure since then, and was estimated at 21,170 in 2015. The growth helped spur the move to a county library system.⁵

When the county library movement began, according to the 1940 census, most of the county’s population lived in rural areas. Only about one-third of the county’s population, a little under 6,000 people, lived in Worthington, its largest city. After World War II, this proportion gradually shifted, with two-thirds of the county’s population, just under 13,000, now living in Worthington. With a stable population in terms of numbers and a continuing, though changing, rural/urban split, the population figures illustrate the ongoing need for a library system designed to serve the entire county.⁶

The WPA Statewide Library Project

In Minnesota, fourteen counties participated in the WPA Statewide Library Project. Several, including Waseca, Blue Earth, and Stearns, used the program almost immediately as a springboard to develop county library systems. Eventually Lyon, Martin, and Watonwan Counties developed county library systems as well.⁷

During the years of the WPA project, Nobles County attempted to develop a county library system. According to state law, establishment of a county system required a petition of at least 100 residents and submission of the question to the voters. In 1942, a group calling itself the Nobles County Library Association presented petitions signed by more than 100 county residents to the County Board of Commissioners, asking for a vote and a one-mil levy to finance a county library system. The County Board turned down the request because the United States was

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involved in World War II. The group agreed to delay further action until after the war, but vowed to continue to work toward establishment of a permanent county library system.⁸

The Statewide Library Project ended with the end of the WPA, but the stations scattered throughout the county, with support from the Nobles County Library Association, continued to operate throughout the war and into 1946. Reaffirming the vow to move toward a county library system, its supporters again requested a vote on a county library service. The issue was put on the ballot in November 1946 and passed by a narrow margin. With this, the process of developing the Nobles County public library system that began with the WPA Statewide Library Project began to take shape.⁹

The Nobles County Library

The new Nobles County Library system moved into rented space in the basement of the Worthington Carnegie Library building in June 1948 and administrators began to plan for the merger with the Worthington Public Library. On January 1, 1955, operations of the Worthington Public Library ceased and the system became the Nobles County Library with a Worthington branch and an Adrian branch. The county library operated from the Carnegie building as plans for construction of a new Nobles County Library began to take shape. Completing a process that began with the Works Progress Administration, in 1963, the Nobles County Library, Worthington branch, moved into the War Memorial Building as the largest of the three organizations in the building (the county library, county historical society, and county art center). The Adrian branch also moved into a new building in 1963.¹⁰

Nobles County War Memorial Building Construction History, 1959-1963

Discussions about a new building in Nobles County began before the merger of the city and county libraries. In 1952, the Nobles County Board of Commissioners, anticipating the need for funds and committed to paying cash for a new building rather than issuing bonds for it, began an annual half-mil levy for a "Building Fund (Historical)." By 1959, this fund held \$70,000.¹¹

Preliminary Planning Steps

Contact with Buetow and Associates, Architects, of St. Paul, Minnesota, the firm eventually chosen to design the War Memorial Building, began in October 1959 when Hannis S. Smith, the Minnesota State Director of Libraries, wrote to Wayne R. Bassett, Nobles County Library Director, about the Cambridge, Minnesota, library that the firm was designing. The letter apparently was sent in response to a request from Bassett and suggested that if Nobles County were interested in building a new library, it could be helpful to review the Cambridge design. Two days later, Mrs. D.C. Shore, Nobles County Library Board President, wrote to Max and Gerald Buetow, Architects (as the firm was then called) requesting information. On October 29, 1959, Gerald Buetow replied to the letter with a brief summary of the general process the firm followed when working with communities on a new library and an offer to meet with the library board to discuss the process and options in more detail.¹²

A meeting was scheduled for early the following year. In a memo dated February 1, 1960, Gerald Buetow described the meeting that day with Shore, Bassett, and the Library Board in Worthington. During the meeting, Buetow outlined plans to develop a new library and

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historical society building to be located, at that time, on the county courthouse block. According to the memo, it was agreed Buetow would begin to develop sketches with construction planned for 1961.¹³

By March 18, 1960, Buetow reported he had some studies ready for review. He discussed them with state library director Smith on that date, then with Bassett on March 24, and with Smith and Bassett on March 25. In a memo about the meeting between Smith and Buetow, several design points were reviewed. Among them were the following: the building should have large open spaces "desirable for flexibility of arrangement," the circulation desk should be to the side of the door so a patron entering the library would first see the library and not the librarian, the building should be sited to take advantage of the north light, rooms should be multi-purpose, and the library should be designed so that several people could handle its operations. Although the site on which the library would be built would change before construction began, these features of simplicity, openness, and flexibility in interior space and use characterized the final design of the building and are still evident today.¹⁴

Buetow and Bassett reviewed building size and costs during their meeting. Noting the budget for the building (in March 1960) was \$200,000, Buetow recommended a building of 125' x 75' or 125' x 70' "to come in range" of this figure. Bassett requested the building have a service or delivery entrance in the back off the workroom area and said that, overall provision of adequate work space was more important than an "attractive expensive building." A cost of \$12/square foot, or about \$225,000, was discussed without comment and the "basic layout, room arrangement, and size" were found acceptable by both Bassett and Smith.¹⁵

In addition to discussions about library needs, during the March 24 meeting, Buetow and Bassett discussed the historical society, noting the "museum in the basement is a very important feature, as far as the County is concerned." They agreed the basement would consist of a large open space with a small office and workroom, public restrooms, and space for the county to store its records. Bassett suggested Buetow contact Arch Grahn at the Minnesota Historical Society with technical questions as they came up.¹⁶

On April 4-5, 1960, Gerald Buetow met with the Nobles County Library Board, the Nobles County Historical Society Board, and the Nobles County Commissioners in a series of meetings to discuss the Nobles County Library. In a memo documenting the meeting, Buetow noted he met with the library board and the historical society board on April 4th and that members of both boards found the proposed plans "very satisfactory." During the April 5th meeting with the County Commissioners, the project was proposed at a cost of \$240,000-\$250,000 for construction and architect's fees. The cost of library equipment would be extra with shelving and equipment from the old library made available to the historical society. The meeting ended with the Commissioners agreeing to "study methods of financing and advise the Library if they wished to proceed with the building of this project."¹⁷

War Memorial Building Designation

As discussions about a proposed new county public library building progressed, conversations about how to pay for the building also took place. The county had a growing building fund

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supported by the mil levy imposed on all county residents (with exceptions for Worthington and Adrian to avoid taxing residents supporting a city library) which had been in place since 1952. But a ruling from the Minnesota Attorney General, Opinion 285b, dated June 17, 1959, which dealt with allowed uses of county funds to build county library buildings, raised a question about use of the Nobles County funds. Based on this ruling, Nobles County Commissioners sought options allowing the county to use county funds to build a county-owned public library building. In August, 1960, County Attorney Raymond O. Mork advised the Commissioners about the state's war memorial building statute (Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 373.053) and a possible war memorial building designation for the proposed county library/county historical society building. This statute authorized Minnesota counties to build county-owned war memorial buildings on county-owned land containing a county library and county historical society.¹⁸

Specifically, the War Memorial Building statute, Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 373.053, stated a county could build a memorial building to the men and women who served in the armed forces of the United States during a time of war. It specified the need for a vote by county residents on the building and stated the cost of the building should not exceed \$250,000. It further said the building and its grounds should be under the control and supervision of the county board of commissioners and the building could contain the county library, exhibits of the county historical society, and other civic facilities as allowed by the county board.¹⁹

The statute fit the county's plans for construction of a building to house the Nobles County Library, Worthington branch. On September 9, 1960, the Commissioners passed a resolution authorizing erection of a county war memorial building according to Section 373.053 of Minnesota Statutes 1945 to honor the men and women who had served in the Armed Forces of the United States during times of war and specifying the building would contain the Nobles County Library and the exhibits of the Nobles County Historical Society. At the same meeting, the Commissioners scheduled the necessary advisory vote on the building for the November 1960 general election. Later that month, County Attorney Mork confirmed the wording on the ballot for the proposed war memorial building with Minnesota Attorney General Walter Mondale. With this, Nobles County Commissioners moved ahead with the decision to build a War Memorial Building to house the county public library and the county historical society.²⁰

County Commissioners now faced another series of decisions. Chief among them were final choice of an architect to design the building, approval of a design that would meet the county's needs while meeting the War Memorial Building statute cost cap of \$250,000, and continuing the levy for the building fund. On November 17, 1960, the Commissioners appointed a steering committee to help guide initial planning and construction of the building. Otto Lindemann, Lee Anderson, and George Anderson represented the County Commissioners while County Library Director Wayne Bassett and County Library Board member Maurice Pfeil represented the County Library Board. The committee met regularly from this time forward, guiding the process through its planning stages.²¹

Support for a County Library Building in Nobles County

Readers of the Worthington *Daily Globe*, in the weeks leading up to the November 1960 general election, saw a number of articles and editorials describing the need for a new building for the

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Worthington branch of the Nobles County Library. The first article described the formation of the five-member steering committee and its role. It also included information about thirty officials and organizations from across the county, including the library board, historical society, county board, church groups, PTAs representing many county schools, the League of Women Voters, the Business and Professional Women's Club, the VFW, the American Legion, the VFW Auxiliary, the Farmers Union and Farm Bureau, and the Worthington Education Association, that supported construction of the building. As the paper reported in several additional articles, as the time for the vote neared, twenty-nine additional church, professional, civic, educational, and social organizations from all parts of the county stated their support and urged its passage. Editorials in the newspaper supported construction of the building too. Columnist and editorial writer Raymond A. Crippen wrote a multi-part series on the need for the building to house the library and historical society and how it would be financed.²²

Around the county, discussions about building a war memorial to house the library and historical society also were held. The Adrian Chamber of Commerce hosted one of the meetings in late October. Discussions about the cost of the building and how it would be paid for were reported in the next edition of the local paper. This was followed by a paid ad "Vote YES for...New Library Memorial Building, Historical Society for Nobles County."²³

The general election was held on November 8 and the proposal carried by 293 votes, 4,941 to 4,648. In an article on the vote, the newspaper noted that site determination and beginning of construction were expected to take place in the winter and spring of 1961. An editorial in the Worthington paper gave everyone a pat on the back.²⁴

Site Selection

When discussions about a new library/historical society building began, the site most commonly identified for it was in the downtown business district in Worthington on the parking lot of the county courthouse and jail block, at the 9th Street and 4th Avenue corner of that block. Many city organizations and commissions, including the city planning commission and the Parking Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, however, opposed the courthouse/jail site. Reasons most often given were loss of needed off-street parking for the county government building, concerns the new building would cause additional downtown parking congestion, and safety and access concerns – especially for children – because of its downtown location. In addition to the courthouse parking lot, sites under consideration included the old Presbyterian Church/parsonage lot on 12th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues, county property on Diagonal Road, and city-owned property near the junior high school, high school, and junior college. Talks and visits to other libraries to look at and discuss pros and cons of site options continued through the summer and fall of 1961. Based on what Library Board members learned, they unanimously recommended the former Presbyterian Church/parsonage site. As support of this site grew, in September 1961, the Worthington City Council voted to contribute \$15,000 toward purchase of a site other than the courthouse block, with preference given to the former Presbyterian Church/parsonage location. Several days later, County Commissioners appropriated \$10,000 toward purchase of a site outside existing county property.²⁵

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On October 16, 1961, County Commissioners scheduled an open meeting to discuss the building site. Straw votes at the meeting unanimously rejected the courthouse site and favored the former Westminster Presbyterian Church/parsonage site on 12th Street bordered by 4th and 5th Avenues. At a meeting between the County Commissioners and the Presbyterian Church Board of Trustees on October 18, a purchase price of \$33,000 for the site was agreed on, with removal of the old church and parsonage the church's responsibility. On January 12, 1962, the Nobles County Historical Society topped off the purchase fund with a contribution of \$8,000. On April 3, 1962, County Commissioners approved an initial payment of \$20,000 for the site with the remaining \$13,000 to be paid when the terms of the contract were met (the site was cleared). The site decision settled, construction of the building moved forward.²⁶

Funding the New County Library Building

Nobles County began levying for a new public building in 1952, a decade before plans were drawn to build it, with a half-mil levy. County Commissioners decided not to issue bonds, preferring to delay construction until they had the funds to pay for the building. Commissioners increased the half-mil levy to two mils for budget year 1961, 4 mils in 1962 for the County War Memorial Building (as the fund was then called), and 3 mils for the building fund in 1963. The 2-mil levy was expected to add \$38,000 to the \$70,000 already in the account with increasing amounts in the following years covering almost all of the anticipated cost. County Commissioners voted on October 3, 1961, to transfer \$80,000 from the County Building Fund to the County War Memorial Building Fund and then passed the War Memorial Resolution authorizing the levies to make up the remaining \$170,000.²⁷

The Choice of an Architect

The choice of an architect was another critical decision. In April 1961, county officials paid Buetow and Associates \$500 for preliminary War Memorial Building sketches and, during the summer of 1961, interviewed architects for the project. On October 9, 1961, County Commissioners voted unanimously to hire Buetow and Associates, Architects to design the War Memorial Building.²⁸

Gerald Buetow was the lead architect of the firm Max and Gerald Buetow, Architects, as it was known when he first began to work on the proposed library building. The firm was founded by Max Buetow in 1930 with specialties in church, school, and hospital design. Max Buetow was a younger brother of architect Carl Buetow, also a well-known Twin Cities architect. In 1942, Max Buetow's son, Gerald Buetow, a 1940 graduate in architecture of the University of Minnesota, joined the firm. Gerald Buetow became a partner in 1945 and remained with the firm for the rest of his career. The firm was re-named Buetow and Associates, Architects, after the death of Max Buetow in 1957; early correspondence with Nobles County Library personnel reflected use of both names but the 1962 plans are labelled Buetow and Associates, Architects. Gerald Buetow passed away in 1978. The firm ceased business at the end of 2012 and several former members formed Buetow 2 Architects, Inc.²⁹

Construction of the War Memorial Building

After the vote awarding the War Memorial Building commission to the Buetow firm, Gerald Buetow began to finalize the building design. During a December 19, 1961, meeting, Buetow

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was told the drawings were satisfactory and he was instructed to proceed with the final design work and construction documents. On January 24, 1962, in a meeting between Buetow and County Commissioners, with Bassett and Mrs. Hardy Rickbeil representing the library and museum, the Commissioners unanimously approved the War Memorial Building plans. The design called for a building 114' x 74' in size. Construction costs would be \$15/square foot on the main floor and \$11/square foot on the lower floor, averaging \$13/square foot overall. The building would have 8,436 square feet per floor, for a total of 16,872 square feet. A model on display in the courthouse rotunda featured gable roofs on the avenue sides with the main door on the 12th Street side under "four shallow dormers." The proposed color scheme featured the earth tones common in the 1960s. The projected cost of the building including sidewalks, seeding of the lawn, and developing a gravel parking area was \$225,000. With architect's fees of \$15,000 and a contingency fund of \$10,000, the projected cost of the building was \$250,000. Blueprints for the building are dated January 29, 1962.³⁰

Bids for the Nobles County War Memorial Building were opened on March 6, 1962, and came in on or below budget. On April 3, 1962, Hudson Brothers was named general contractor, Springfield Heating and Plumbing was chosen as mechanical contractor, and Worthington Electric was named electrical contractor. The building permit was issued on April 6, 1962, and construction began on May 1, 1962. The cornerstone was laid on September 26, 1962.³¹

Work progressed on schedule and on December 6, 1962, the general contractor reported to Gerald Buetow that the building was enclosed and heated. Several months earlier, in late October 1962, the Nobles County Art Center had been named the building's third occupant organization and assigned to the lower floor with the historical society; the decision did not substantially affect lower floor design, but reduced the space available to the historical society.³²

The organizations moved into the War Memorial Building in April and May 1963. The library move took four days, from April 10 to April 13, 1963. The War Memorial Building opened for business on April 15, 1963; a dedication and open house were held on May 5, 1963.³³

The Nobles County War Memorial Building

The Nobles County War Memorial Building houses the Worthington branch of the Nobles County Library, the Nobles County Historical Society, and the Nobles County Art Center. The organizations are well known and help make the building a center of civic and cultural activity.

The Nobles County Library, Worthington Branch

Completing a process that began with the New Deal Works Progress Administration (WPA) and subsequent formation of the Nobles County Library in 1955, the Nobles County Library, Worthington branch, moved into the War Memorial Building in 1963 as the largest of the three organizations in it. Today, more than fifty years later, the Nobles County Library and its Worthington branch continue to operate from the building. The mission of the Nobles County Library is to "encourage the love of reading and the joy of learning by providing educational, recreational, and instructional services in a safe, friendly, multicultural, community-centered atmosphere, while reaching out to residents of Nobles County and the surrounding region."

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The Nobles County Library is part of the Plum Creek Library System, a federated regional public library system with an office in downtown Worthington that serves nine counties in southwestern Minnesota.³⁴

The Nobles County Historical Society

The beginnings of the Nobles County Historical Society date to 1932/1933 when a group of Worthington residents organized an Old Settlers' Picnic at Chautauqua Park, the city's oldest park. Theodore Blegen, superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, spoke at the picnic, after which the group began to take steps to organize. The Society was incorporated on July 10, 1944, and historical society leaders began talking about the need for a building in 1946. The Society had storage and a display case in the old county courthouse before moving to its current location in the lower level of the War Memorial Building in 1963.³⁵

The Nobles County Historical Society continues to be located in the lower floor of the War Memorial Building where, as its mission states, it "promotes, develops and interprets the history of Nobles County and its people." In fulfilling its mission, the Society collects documents, manuscripts, photographs and three-dimensional objects. It also operates a Pioneer Village near Diagonal Road in Worthington that contains relocated buildings, including churches, a bank, general store, and a schoolhouse, typically found in small Midwestern communities at the beginning of the 20th century.

The Nobles County Art Center

The Nobles County Art Center was organized in the fall of 1960 and incorporated in 1961. Its purpose is to "nourish the arts, and to bring the arts and cultures of other communities, nations and civilizations to Nobles County and the surrounding area." It moved into the War Memorial Building in 1963 as one of the original occupants. The center moved out of the building for several years but, since the early 1990s, has occupied its original location on the lower floor. The art center offers monthly art exhibits, *Great Books* discussions, student and juried art exhibits, and concerts. In addition to its exhibition/meeting area, it has a small storage room on the lower level that houses its permanent collection.³⁶

The Nobles County Library, Adrian Branch

In 1943, the Adrian library, the main station in Nobles County during operation of the WPA Statewide Library Project, moved its operations into an annex to a barber shop in the community. It continued in this location until it moved into a county-owned building in the 1950s. In 1962, during construction of the War Memorial Building, Gerald Buetow designed and oversaw construction of the Adrian branch library. Located at 214 Maine Avenue, it was built at a cost of \$13,562, including \$8,500 allocated toward its construction by the Nobles County Board of Commissioners. It celebrated its grand opening on April 28, 1963, a week before the grand opening of the War Memorial Building in Worthington. The building is basically unchanged, remains in its original location, and the Nobles County Library, Adrian branch, continues to operate in it. It currently is undergoing a renovation to repair and remodel the building.³⁷

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The Nobles County War Memorial Building Status

Minnesota has many war memorials and war memorial buildings. Well-known among them was the University of Minnesota's Memorial Stadium, the university's football stadium from 1924-1981, which was built as a World War I memorial. The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) maintains a master list of current known war memorial buildings and sites in the state. Titled "Veteran memorials, monuments and statues," the list is organized by city and contains a short description of each listing, including the State Capitol Complex in the Court of Honor in St. Paul. While the list illustrates the commitment of many Minnesota communities to honor their veterans, it does not include any buildings that were built to the 1945 Minnesota War Memorial Building statute. The Nobles County War Memorial Building is not on the list.³⁸

In an effort to identify War Memorial Buildings that may have been built to the Minnesota statute, in addition to reviewing the buildings and sites on the MDVA list, the consultant conducted several independent searches for statute-built war memorial buildings in Minnesota. A search for hospitals built in Minnesota as war memorial buildings according to the statute found nothing. A search for county public libraries housing both the public library and county historical society and built according to specifications in the statute also found nothing, as did research into Minnesota's county historical societies located in county-owned libraries—none met the statute-defined War Memorial Building status. As far as is known, the War Memorial Building in Worthington is the only building in the state that was built to, and meets the specifications of, Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 373.053.³⁹

The Nobles County War Memorial Building

The Nobles County War Memorial Building is the only known public building in Minnesota to have been purposefully built to meet the designation of a War Memorial Building according to Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 373.053. Its construction in 1962-3 represents the final step in the founding of the Nobles County Library system, bringing to a conclusion a process that began with the county's participation in the New Deal WPA Statewide Library Project.

The Nobles County War Memorial Building was built as a county-owned building on county-owned land to house the county library and county historical and art organizations. It continues to be county-owned and to serve that function today. It was designed by Gerald Buetow, a Minnesota architect, and retains its original design and integrity. Design features listed in memos dating from planning and construction of the building are still evident throughout the building. Its exterior envelope is as built. Mid-century modern design elements evident in the Nobles County War Memorial Building include uniform wall surfaces, large metal windows set flush with the walls, a low-pitched roof, boxed eaves, and an open, flexible floor plan.

In 1997-1998, Vetter Johnson Architects of Minneapolis designed and oversaw a remodeling project on the building. Completed at a cost of \$350,000, the remodeling included window replacements compatible with the building's original architectural design, and, to meet Americans with Disability Act (ADA) guidelines, constructing exterior access ramps, installing an elevator, and modifying restrooms for handicapped accessibility needs. The elevator hydraulic system was put in below the shaft for minimal impact on the building. The shaft wall intrudes into the library on the main floor and the historical society exhibition area on the lower floor, but

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the plan was sensitive to the design and feeling of both floors and the resulting changes have had minimal overall impact. The primary floorplan changes were on the lower floor: removal of glass window-walls in exhibit and meeting rooms, change in the use of some of the area from exhibit space to dedicated meeting room use, and installation of a corridor and walls that reconfigured historical society exhibit space. The result was a 33% loss of historical society space, but the floorplan changes are reversible.⁴⁰

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Nobles County War Memorial Building

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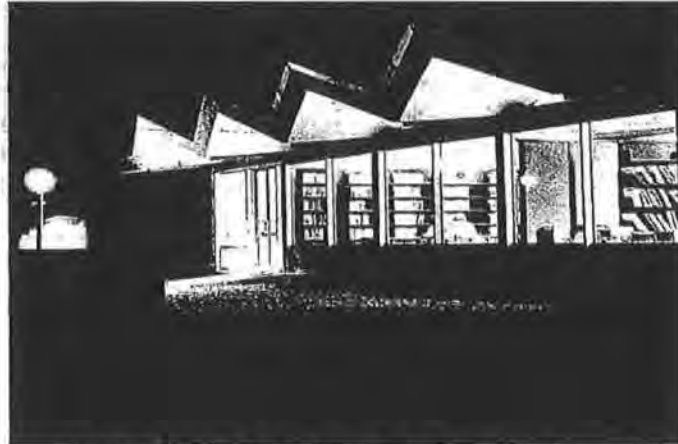
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New County Library Opens Wednesday 'in All Its Glory'



Library Interior, War Memorial Building, Worthington *Daily Globe*, April 16, 1963, p. 1.

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Name of Property

Nobles County, MN
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Nobles County War Memorial Building
Name of Property

Nobles County, MN
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Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data: N/A

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Nobles County War Memorial Building

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Nobles County War Memorial Building
Name of Property

Nobles County, MN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 0290584 | Northing: 4833135 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots 1 and 2 and SE 50 feet of lots 11 and 12, block 16, Plat of Worthington, MN

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary defines the original parcel on which the Nobles County War Memorial Building was built.

Nobles County War Memorial Building
Name of Property

Nobles County, MN
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Barbara Windschill Sommer
organization: BWS Associates
street & number: 583 Maple Park Drive
city or town: Mendota Heights state: MN zip code: 55118
e-mail: barbsom@aol.com
telephone: 651-797-3645
date: 16 August 2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Nobles County War Memorial Building
Name of Property

Nobles County, MN
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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Nobles County War Memorial Building

City or Vicinity: Worthington, Minnesota

County: Nobles State: Minnesota

Photographer: Barbara Windschill Sommer

Date Photographed: 3 December 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

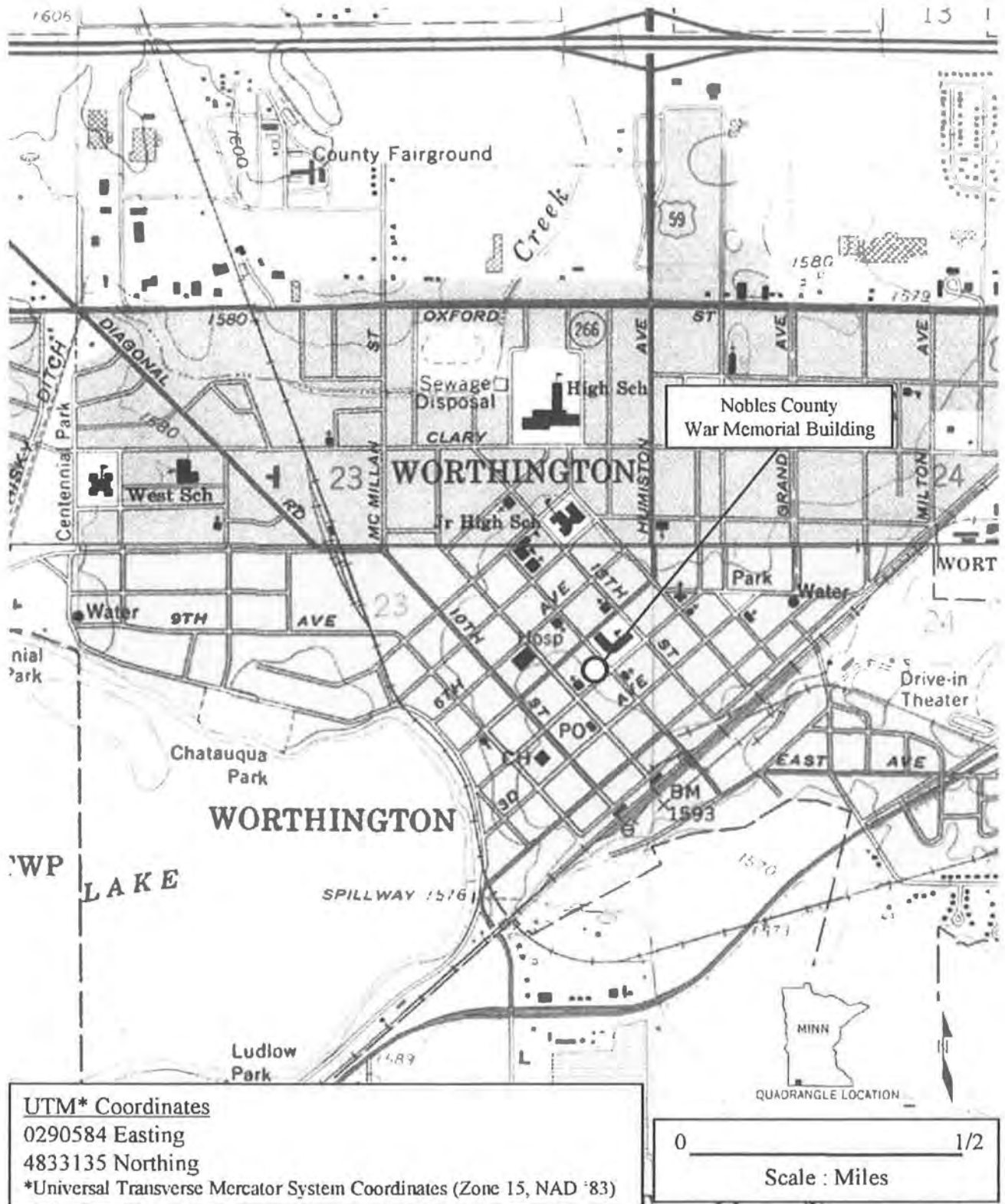
- 1 of 10 North/main façade, looking south
- 2 of 10 East side of building, looking west
- 3 of 10 South/rear of building, looking east
- 4 of 10 West side of building, looking east
- 5 of 10 Stone War Memorial Building plaque, in entry hall
- 6 of 10 War Memorial Building plaque, in entry hall
- 7 of 10 Library circulation desk, looking north
- 8 of 10 Library reading room, looking west
- 9 of 10 Nobles County Art Center, lower level
- 10 of 10 Nobles County Historical Society exhibition space, lower level

Nobles County War Memorial Building
Name of Property

Nobles County, MN
County and State

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.460 et seq.).

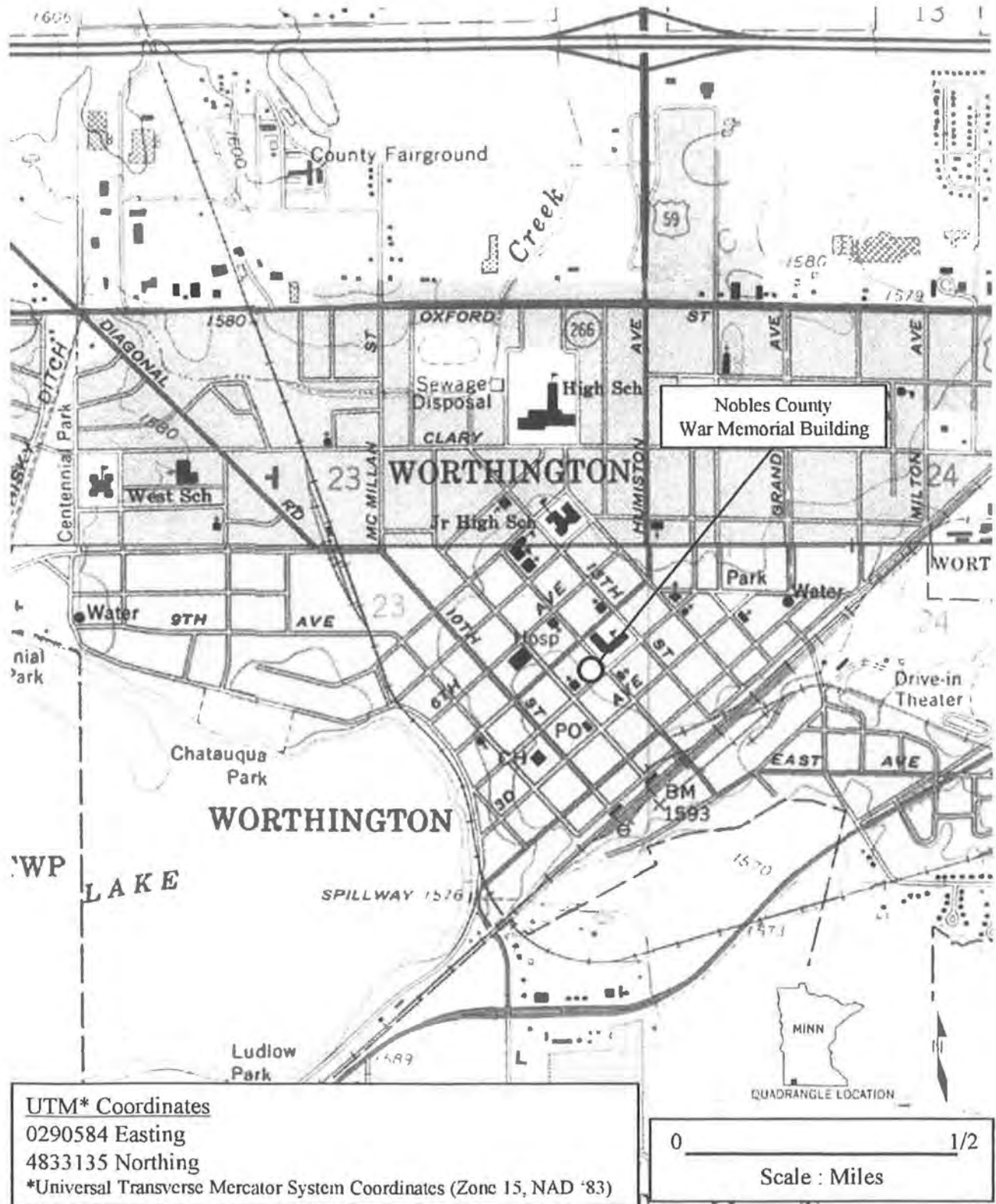
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Location of the Nobles County War Memorial Building. 1:24,000 USGS topographic maps. Worthington South, Minn. 1960 (1976) and Worthington North, Minn. 1960 (1982) quadrangles.



Location of the Nobles County War Memorial Building. 1:24,000 USGS topographic maps, Worthington South, Minn. 1960 (1976), Worthington North, Minn. 1960 (1982), Bigelow, Minn. 1960 (1976), and Reading, Minn. 1960 (1976) quadrangles.



Location of the Nobles County War Memorial Building. 1:24,000 USGS topographic maps. Worthington South, Minn. 1960 (1976) and Worthington North, Minn. 1960 (1982) quadrangles.



NOBLE COUNTY
MEMORIAL BUILDING
PERMANENT MUSEUM









NOBLES COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING

COMMISSIONERS

GEORGE ANDERSON
HARRY POST
LEE R. ANDERSON
DEN J. DIEGMANN
OTTO H. LINDEMANN

HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Roger Reed Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2278 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

Nobles County Library & Information Center

Worthington Main Library

407th 12th Street
Worthington, MN 56187
Office: 507-295-5340
Fax: 507-372-2982
Web: nclibrary.org

February 8, 2017

Minnesota State Review Board
345 Kellogg Blvd. West,
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Dear Members of the Minnesota State Review Board,

I am pleased to write a letter in support of the Nobles County Historical Society's efforts to have the War Memorial Building listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Nobles County Library and the Nobles County Historical Society have been mutually supportive occupants of the War Memorial Building since its completion in May of 1963. Development and enhancement of services has always been a shared goal of the Library and the Historical Society. Listing the War Memorial Building on the National Register of Historic Places will advance our shared goals of educating and developing the Worthington community. Furthermore, it will preserve a significant building in Worthington's history, architecture, and culture.

Once again, the Nobles County Library fully supports the work of the Nobles County Historical Society to have the War Memorial Building listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The building retains much of its architectural integrity and it continues to be an exploration of its time period in American history.

Sincerely,



Clint Wolthuizen
Nobles County Library Director

Minnesota Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Office
345 Kellogg Blvd West, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102
651-259-3451



TO: Stephanie Toothman, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Denis P. Gardner

DATE: April 17, 2017

NAME OF PROPERTY: Nobles County War Memorial Building

COUNTY AND STATE: Nobles County, Minnesota

SUBJECT: National Register:
 Nomination
 Multiple Property Documentation Form
 Request for determination of eligibility
 Request for removal (Reference No.)
 Nomination resubmission
 Boundary increase/decrease (Reference No.)
 Additional documentation (Reference No.)

DOCUMENTATION:

- Original National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
 - Multiple Property Documentation Form
 - Continuation Sheets
 - Removal Documentation
 - Photographs
 - CD w/ image files
 - Digital Maps
 - Sketch map(s)
 - Correspondence
 - Owner Objection
- The enclosed owner objections
Do Do not constitute a majority of property owners

STAFF COMMENTS: