

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Minnesota
COUNTY: Hennepin
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE DEC 4 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Minneapolis City Hall/Hennepin County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Minneapolis City Hall/Hennepin County Courthouse

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
between Third and Fourth Avenues South and Fourth and Fifth Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Minneapolis

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Fifth

STATE:
Minnesota

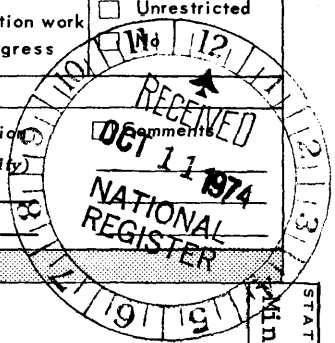
CODE:
22

COUNTY:
Hennepin

CODE:
053

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input 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)



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Minneapolis in conjunction with Hennepin County

STREET AND NUMBER:
between Third and Fourth Avenues South and Fourth and Fifth Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Minneapolis

STATE:
Minnesota

CODE:
22

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Registrar of Deeds, Hennepin County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
between Third and Fourth Avenues South and Fourth and Fifth Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Minneapolis

STATE:
Minnesota

CODE:
22

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **July 1974** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Minnesota Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN:
Saint Paul

STATE:
Minnesota

CODE:
22

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Minnesota**

COUNTY: **Hennepin**

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ENTRY NUMBER: **DEC 4 1974**

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(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 City Hall/County Courthouse was constructed during the years between 1889 and 1905 according to designs by the Minneapolis architectural firm of Long and Kees and at a cost of over \$3,000,000. Design sources indicate strong influences of Henry Hobson Richardson's Allegheny County Courthouse at Pittsburgh (1883-87). Long and Kees' interpretation of the Richardsonian Romanesque style as used in Pittsburgh was "westernized" to create a more complex composition which was less unified in the relationship among its parts and more structurally open on the basement (or street level) storey.

The structure occupies the entire block bounded by Third and Fourth Avenues South and Fourth and Fifth Streets. It is 300 feet square, surrounds an open court 130 feet square, is five storeys in height and is surmounted by a tower which rises 400 feet above the pavement (measuring to the tip of the flagstaff). This tower is fifty feet square and like the rest of the building is constructed of red/pink Ortonville granite. At the apex of the tower roof is an observatory which is 335 feet above the street and from which the majority of late nineteenth and early twentieth century photographs of Minneapolis were taken. Until the construction of the Foshay Tower a few blocks to the South of the courthouse, this tower offered the highest and best view of the city.

About one hundred feet below the observatory is the clock. It has four dials which are twenty three feet four inches in diameter and were acclaimed by Hudson's Dictionary of Minneapolis in 1916 to have been the largest in the world when built.

A second tower, though a great deal less in height marks the centrally located arched entry to the Fifth Street face of the building. The high clock tower marks the similarly central location of the Fourth Street arched entry. The central entry is flanked at corners by steep-roofed pavilions, each with wall dormers and corner turrets. Typical of the Richardsonian design is the rustication of exterior masonry and series of arches extending more than one storey in height. Formerly, the roof was of heavily textured slate, however, this has been replaced several decades ago by sheet copper.

The interior of the building is finished in a simple, but handsome style. Quarter-sawn oak is used throughout the offices and courtrooms, and in the halls there is marble wainscoting and tiled and mosaic floors. The structure is totally fireproof; in the construction of the interior only steel and iron, brick, and hollow tile are used.

The most impressive interior space is the light court five storeys in height and entered from Fourth Street. The southern wall and ceiling display a profusion of elaborately designed stained glass. The court is surrounded on three sides by arcaded storeys linked by filigree iron stairs. In the center of the court is the famous statue of MISSISSIPPI-Father of Waters by sculptor, Larkin G. Mead of Florence, Italy which was presented to the city in 1904.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. 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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1853, four years after the first session of court was held in Saint Anthony, the territorial legislature passed an act directing that two terms of court be held each year in Hennepin County. There was at this time no courthouse, and the commissioners secured the use of a parlor and two bedrooms in the house of Anson Northrup on First Street near Fourth Avenue South. Until the erection of the first courthouse, subsequent terms were held in a frame building on Bridge Square.

The building of the first courthouse caused great commotion in the village owing to rival claims of the upper and lower town. The latter won and the courthouse was built at Eighth Avenue South and Fourth Street. The first term of the district court held in the new courthouse was in 1857. This district court had jurisdiction over thirteen counties besides Hennepin.

With the admission of Minnesota to statehood in 1858 came many changes in the courts. The judicial office was made elective and supreme judges ceased to serve on the district bench. Provision was made for the establishment of other courts at the discretion of the legislature such as courts of common pleas and municipal courts. Outside counties were gradually removed from the district.

The courthouse of 1857 was therefore outgrown at a very early date. Numerous additions gave temporary relief, but added to the unsightliness of the structure. Thus, in 1887 formal steps were taken towards the erection of a suitable building. The legislature of that year intrusted a commission with the duty of purchasing a site and erecting a building to be used jointly by the city and county as a courthouse and city hall. After some negotiation, the block bounded by Fourth and Fifth Streets and Third and Fourth Avenues South was secured and the work of construction was commenced in 1889. By 1895, the county side of the building was opened for use.

The plans for the new courthouse were awarded after a sharp competition to Messrs. Long and Kees, Minneapolis architects credited with the design of many notable local buildings; among them the Syndicate Block, the Library Building, the Masonic Temple, and the Lumber Exchange. Although Romanesque in exterior appearance, the interior system was said to be "elastic" in that the office arrangement could be changed at any time as all floors are supported independent of partitions.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

H15
15
479100

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hudson, Horace B., A Half Century of Minneapolis, Hudson Pub. Co., Minneapolis, 1908

Atwater, Isaac, History of the City of Minneapolis, Munsell & Co., Pub., New York, 1893.

Torbert, Donald R., A Century of Minnesota Architecture, Minneapolis Society Fine Arts, 1958

Torbert, Donald R., Significant Architecture in the History of Minneapolis, Minneapolis, 1969

(see continuation sheet)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

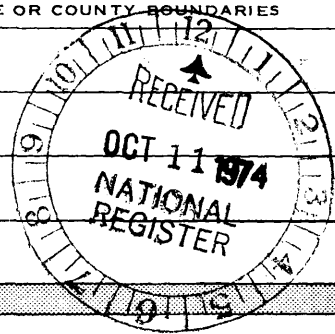
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44 ° 58 ' 38 "	93 ° 15 ' 54 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

see continuation sheet for correction

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Approx. 2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: **Minnesota Historical Society** DATE: **26 August 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Building 25, Fort Snelling Branch

CITY OR TOWN: **Saint Paul** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **22**

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
Russell W. Fridley, Director

Title Minnesota Historical Society

Date October 7, 1974

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

Arthur Warkentin
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/4/74

ATTEST:

George F. Emery
Keeper of the National Register

Date Dec 3, 1974

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Minnesota	
COUNTY Hennepin	
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	DEC 4 1974

(Number all entries)

#7 Description

Although various offices and chambers have been modernized, the primary interior space - the light court - has been sensitively preserved and retains its design integrity. No alterations, with the exception of installation of the sheet copper roof, have been made to the exterior. The city and county are both sympathetic and encourage preservation and use of the building.

#8 Significance

The Minneapolis Tribune stated on 28 July 1889 that the "new Courthouse will be the first one of its kind in the United States constructed on this plan".

Judge Isaac Atwater, in his History of Minneapolis, (written during the construction phases of the Courthouse) stated: "Should the building be completed in accordance with the plans adopted, and partially executed, there is no question but it will surpass any building of the kind and purpose designed, at present existing in the United States. Indeed, there are not more than two or three state houses exceeding it in solidity, imposing architecture and expense." More than eighty years later, the courthouse continues to be one of the most impressive nineteenth century public buildings in the state and in the midwest. It continues to serve as both a city hall and county building although expanded spatial needs have required that a new building be constructed on the block to the south. Plans are to preserve the older structure to accommodate governmental and business functions. In 1889 the Minneapolis Tribune suggested that "Minneapolis gives promise of having a hall of justice which will be pushed to completion without any of these prevailing irregularities delay, jobbery and bad faith, and without carrying down to future generations the taint of boodle and the crumbling evidences of bad architecture and worse construction." The building has survived to declare excellent craftsmanship of design and construction and flexibility in the continuation of its original planned function.

#9 Bibliographical References

Hudson, Horace B., Hudson's Dictionary of Minneapolis, Hudson Pub. Co., 1916



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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Minnesota	
COUNTY Hennepin	
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(Number all entries)

10. Geographical Data - correction

Latitude: 44° 58' 38" Longitude: 93° 15' 54"

