

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

JAN 1 1983

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Buhl City Hall

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Jones Avenue at 4th Street N/A not for publication

city, town Buhl N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county St. Louis code 137

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Buhl

street & number P.O. Box 704

city, town Buhl N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds - St. Louis County Courthouse

street & number Fifth Avenue at First Street

city, town Duluth state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal N/A state N/A county N/A local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society - Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 ~~good~~ ~~I~~ ~~ML~~ deteriorated
 fair ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Completed in 1913 in accordance with designs by Minneapolis architects Purdy and Keith, the Buhl City Hall is a two story brick and stone structure executed in the Beaux Arts style. It is essentially rectangular in plan and set upon a high basement of buff-colored stone laid in regular courses. Articulation on the two main stories includes buff stone corner quoins and pedimented window hoods, and contrasting grey stone utilized in the two story Composite order pilasters and columns and in the frieze, cornice, parapet, and portico. The body of the building is executed in a red brick.

The prominent architectural feature of the City Hall is the imposing two story entrance portico with triple Composite columns supporting an entablature upon which is carved "Buhl Village Hall". The pedimented double door is approached via a monumental staircase. The window pediments and the detailed foundation and cornice continue around all sides of the building.

The interior is finished with white marble trim and tile floors throughout. Originally, an indirect lighting system was conceived to harmonize with interior detailing and materials. The principal interior space is comprised of a large foyer with a two story brownstone staircase, providing access to offices and chambers.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1913 **Builder/Architect** Keith Architectural Services (Walter J. Keith & William W. Purdy)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Builder: Bowe (Duluth)

The Buhl City Hall is significant as a well preserved early 20th century Beaux Arts style municipal building and as the center of Buhl government from 1913 to the present.

Prior to the mining operations which began on the Western Mesabi Range in the 1890s, logging was the principal commercial activity in this area of St. Louis County; the Cloquet Lumber Company and the Bob Maxwell Lumber Company cut over seven million feet of lumber. However, iron ore prospectors soon replaced lumberjacks, and in 1900 the Sharon Ore Company platted 40 acres of the once wooded region into the new town of Buhl, naming it in honor of Frank H. Buhl of Sharon Pennsylvania, a former company president. Lots were reported to sell rapidly, and the extension of the Great Northern Railroad from Swan River to Buhl gave further economic impetus to the town. Buhl incorporated in 1901.

The first ore was shipped from Buhl in the summer of 1901, and by 1904 the Sharon, Grant, and Frantz mines employed hundreds of men. For the City of Buhl, this dramatic increase in mining activities brought families representing ten nationalities to settle in the community. To administer what was then a "rough-and-tumble" mining town, city officials first convened in the Sharon Mining Company Offices, later moved to the rented offices of a local lumberman, and finally met in a former school building.

A financial panic in 1907 halted Buhl's growth until 1910 when renewed mining activities produced greater city revenues. As was the case in many cities on the iron range, mine tax dollars were used for city projects and services. Improvements were seen in city fire and police protection, in the educational system and in public utilities. During this time, the city retained the firm of Keith Architectural Services of Minneapolis to design a city hall building. Finished in May of 1913, at a cost of \$42,000, the city hall was dedicated at ceremonies attended by representatives from a dozen Iron Range cities.

Claimed by Buhl to be the best city hall constructed on the Mesabi Range, the building stands as a symbol of the city's efforts to establish a permanent seat of government in a area that only a decade before had been a forested wilderness. As a symbol of government, the building was to provide a focus of civic identity and sense of community for the various European groups who made up the population. The two story brick and stone structure is now the most dominant architectural element on the city's streetscape.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet - page 1

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Buhl, Minn.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A

1	5	5	1	6	7	5	0	5	2	6	0	0	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 23-26, Block 10, First Addition to Buhl, City of Buhl, Minnesota.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Roth, Research Historian and Charles Nelson, Historical Architect

organization Minnesota Historical Society date November 12, 1982

street & number Fort Snelling History Center telephone 612-726-1171

city or town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12/27/82

For NPS use only

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

**Entered in the
National Register**

Keeper of the National Register

date 2/10/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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date entered

Buhl City Hall, Buhl, MN; St. Louis County
Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Hecimovich, Steve. A Town is Born - A Historical and Pictorial Review of Buhl, Minnesota.
Place of Publication (?), 1974?
- Hibbing Daily Tribune. 22 November 1912, 14 February, 15 May 1913.
- Woodbridge, Dwight E. and John S. Pardee. History of Duluth and St. Louis County. Vol. II.
Chicago: C.F. Cooper & Company, 1910.
- Writers' Program, Minnesota. The Minnesota Arrowhead Country. Chicago: Albert Whitman
& Co., 1941.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Buhl City Hall in St. Louis County,
Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 83000944

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: St. Louis

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Buhl Village Hall

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

**Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer**

JUN 17 1988
Date

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Buhl Village Hall
St. Louis County
MINNESOTA

Working No. 24 June, 1988
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: _____
Action: ACCEPT 1/9/89
 RETURN _____
 REJECT _____
Federal Agency: _____

Approved
Entered in the National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

The National Register has accepted additional information submitted by the SHPO. This information clarifies name, address and geographic location information on the original documentation.

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____