

STATE: Minnesota	
COUNTY: Ramsey	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-03-22-0001	3/24/69

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
old Federal Courts Building, St. Paul, Minnesota

AND/OR HISTORIC:
U.S. Post Office, Court House, and Customs House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 W. 5th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Paul

STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22 COUNTY: Ramsey CODE: 163

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	partially occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No. 1st floor

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Federal Govt., Administered by Region VI G.S.A.

STREET AND NUMBER:
1500 East Bannister Road

CITY OR TOWN: Kansas City STATE: Missouri CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Ramsey County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
15 West Kellogg Blvd.

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul, STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic St. Paul Buildings

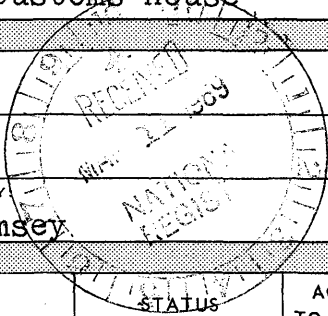
DATE OF SURVEY: 1963 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Historic Sites Committee, St. Paul City Planning Board

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

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69

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Outstanding external features are the abundant use of corner turrets, gables, and towers. There are two clock towers on the structure. The fifth street or south tower extends 150 feet above ground level and was constructed under the original 1894 plan. The sixth street or north tower is a more massive structure with a base 46 feet square and is 296 feet high, one foot higher than the ball that tops the Minnesota State Capitol. This tower was incorporated in the 1899 addition to the building.

Tile roofing →

Building materials are brownish-gray granite, iron, concrete and slate roofing. The only exterior change to the building in the last 67 years has been to change the roofing. The turrets have been reroofed with copper roofing and the rest of the roof, with exception of the two towers, has been reroofed with asphalt shingles.

The interior of this five story building contains many irreplaceable features such as the magnificent courtrooms and chambers on the third and fourth floors panelled in cherry and decorated with carved white Georgian marble. The second, third and fourth floors of the courts section of the building open on to an interior central court. This open court has been roofed over at the fifth floor level and, therefore, is not exposed to the elements. The fifth floor, mainly a record storage area, has beamed or vaulted ceilings while the remaining floors have beamed or domed ceilings. Original floor surfacing exist throughout excepting certain rooms and hallways on the fourth and fifth floors and the post office area on the first floor.

The structure appears to be structurally sound; however, some repair is needed due to the fact that the building has stood 90% vacant for the past year. The downcomers, incased in the exterior walls, are in urgent need of replacement for they are causing extensive water damage. In addition to this the building is in need of tuckpointing and interior wall and ceiling work on parts of the fourth and fifth floors.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century

15th Century 17th Century 19th Century opened 1902

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Construction begun 1894, formally 7/

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi- <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	osophy <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human- <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	itarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The old Federal Courts Building, as it is commonly known, has become a monumentally significant landmark in downtown St. Paul. The building was designed by James X Knox Taylor, once a partner of Minnesota's famous Cass Gilbert, architect of the Minnesota State Capitol building. It was erected in the seven year period, 1894 to 1901, and is an excellent example of federal building architecture at the turn of the century. The building's eclectic composition of transitional Romanesque and French Renaissance styles is typical of several federal buildings of that era in this region. This building, however, is the last federal building of its kind located in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area.

Among the many notable persons who spoke at the dedication of the building in 1902 were Alexander Ramsey, the state's first territorial governor, Auguste L. Larpenteur, the city's first postmaster, and Andrew R. McGill, former state governor and postmaster at the time.

In past years this building has housed the district offices of Senators Eugene McCarthy, Edward Thye, Dr. Henrich Shipstead and Frank B. Kellogg.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Koeper, H.F., Historic St. Paul Buildings. (St. Paul City Planning Board, 1964) pp. 21.

15/492370/4976880
 UTM Ref. wa
 1-31-76

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44° 56' 43"	93° 5' 47"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
John R. Ferguson

ORGANIZATION: **Minnesota Historical Society** DATE: **2/26/69**

STREET AND NUMBER:
690 Cedar Street

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Paul** STATE: **Minnesota 55101** CODE: **22**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Russell W. Fridley</u> Russell W. Fridley Minnesota Historical Society Title: <u>Director</u> State Liaison Officer for Minnesota Date: <u>February 26, 1969</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Ernest Allen Connally</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>March 24, 1969</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>William J. Murtagh</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>April 7, 1969</u></p>
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St. Paul E. Quadrangle
 U. S. G. S.
 Scale: 1" - 2000'

Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Minnesota	
COUNTY Ramsey	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-03-22-0001	DATE 3/24/69

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: old Federal Courts Building, St. Paul			
AND/OR HISTORIC: U.S. Post Office, Court House and Customs House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 109 W. 5th Street			
CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul			
STATE: Minnesota	CODE 22	COUNTY: Ramsey	CODE 163
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quadrangle			
SCALE: 1" = 2000'			
DATE: 1951			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

