

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

For NPS use only

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

received APR 10 1984

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Fergus Falls City Hall

and/or common Fergus Falls City Hall

2. Location

street & number 112 West Washington Ave. N/A not for publication

city, town Fergus Falls N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Otter Tail code 111

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 type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | N/A in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name City of Fergus Falls

street & number 112 West Washington Ave.

city, town Fergus Falls N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Otter Tail County Courthouse - Registrar of Deeds

street & number Court St. at Junius Ave.

city, town Fergus Falls state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minn. Historical Society - Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

7. Description

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | date <u>N/A</u> |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Georgian Revival-style Fergus Falls City Hall occupies a steeply sloping site on the south bank of the Otter Tail River. The site allows a building design that utilizes a full basement level, open at the west side and rear of the building to house the city fire hall and garage. The front facade remains relatively low and appealing. The Independence Hall-inspired city hall has a central portion that is just over two stories high with gable ends at the sides. Centered in this is a projecting, gable-roofed pavillion. Six raised brick pilasters, in pairs at the ends, separate windows - rectangular on the second level and arched elsewhere in the pavillion as well as in the rest of the building. The front entrance is arched and set between two arched windows. A modillioned cornice and raised brick belt-coursing are used throughout the building. Two enclosed end chimneys mark the ridgeline of the central section.

The east and west wings of the hall are similar but not identical. The east wing is a single story. At the east end is a single door, enclosed in a heavy stone surround consisting of a transom, full-return gabled pediment, and pilasters. The remaining fenestration consists of multi-paned, arched windows.

The west wing is three stories high, accomplished by additional levels below the first floor that take advantage of the sloping site. Arched windows are smaller than those used in the east wing. Raised brick arches on the west facade now house only a single door. They once were entries to the fire hall, now removed. The rear facade has arched and rectangular windows and a single, garage-type door leading to the city garage.

Projecting above the roof-line of the central bay is a clock-tower. It consists of a balustraded square section surmounted by an octagonal, open belfry with pointed arched openings, a dome roof, and weather vane.

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/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates 1928 **Builder/Architect** William M. Ingemann

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Fergus Falls City Hall is significant for its function in the community as the center for many of the essential community services and for its architectural design, a variation on Philadelphia's Independence Hall. A former city hall burned in 1927. The need for a new city hall was acute, and the city council soon made plans for a new and substantial seat of city government. Half a city block - a site that sloped steeply to the Otter Tail River - was donated for the hall by Vernon A. Wright. The new hall was designed to house city offices, the fire department, and the city garage. Six Minneapolis-St. Paul architects submitted plans in a competition for the hall. William N. Ingemann of St. Paul won the competition with a design based on Independence Hall. With only minor alterations, his plans were used. The basic form of the building, a central block flanked by lower, symmetrical wings does show the influence of Independence Hall; the clock tower is a near duplicate of the more famous structure. School children raised money for the clock. The city hall is well preserved and retains its exterior integrity with only minor alteration of the fire hall entrance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Fergus Falls Daily Journal, Centennial Issue, June 30, 1958.
Thompson, Jane. (ed.). Fergus Falls: 100 Year Celebration, 1972.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Fergus Falls, Minn.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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| Zone | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Amended Plat, Reserved Block 78, City of Fergus Falls.

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 Thomas Harvey, Contract Historian

organization N/A

date November 21, 1983

street & number 1916 Drew Ave. S.

telephone (612) 920-6917

city or town Minneapolis

state Minnesota

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 Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4/6/84

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 5/10/84

for Melvyn Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration