

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

MAR 2 1982

HISTORIC NAME: Nerstrand City Hall COUNTY: Rice  
 CURRENT NAME: CITY/TWP.: Nerstrand  
 LEGAL DESC.: Part of lots 4 and 5, block 5, Original Town of Nerstrand described as follows: the west 15 ft. of the north 75 ft. of lot 4 and the east 20 ft. of the north 75 ft of lot 5. ADDRESS: Main Street  
 CLASSIFICATION: CONDITION: SIGNIFICANCE: THEME/S:  
 Building X Excellent \_\_\_\_\_ Local X Primary Politics/Government  
 Structure \_\_\_\_\_ Good X State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Object \_\_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_\_ National \_\_\_\_\_  
 District \_\_\_\_\_ Deteriorated \_\_\_\_\_

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ Restricted X PRESENT USE: Library  
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1908 ORIGINAL USE: City Hall  
 ORIGINAL OWNER: City of Nerstrand ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Thori, Alban, and Fisher, St. Paul; A.F. Keuhl

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: City of Nerstrand Nerstrand, Minnesota 55053	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Rice County Historical Society, P.O. Box 5, Faribault, MN 55021	UTM REFERENCE: Nerstrand Quad. 7.5 15 / 494585 / 4909600
FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg DATE: February 1981	

**DESCRIPTION:**  
 The Nerstrand City Hall is located on the south side of Main Street in the small community of Nerstrand in eastern Rice County. The building is located in the heart of Nerstrand's downtown and is the most architecturally distinctive building in the community.  
 The two story red brick building was designed by the St. Paul firm, Thori, Alban, and Fisher and constructed in 1908. The building features a symmetrical facade and is capped by a wood cornice with modillion blocks and a central bell tower. A double doorway framed by brick pilaster strips and a dentillated wood cornice occupies the central bay. A large horizontal stone bearing the words "CITY HALL" separates the doorway from the group of three rectilinear windows in the second story center bay. Large two part windows with stone sills and headers flank the doorway, and small oval windows flank the second story facade. The open bell tower shelters a bell and features a dentillated cornice and domed roof capped by a flagpole. Spherical finials flank the bell tower at the corners of the building.  
 The first floor originally housed city offices, fire equipment, and jail, and is now occupied by the public library. The present fire station facility (adjacent to 1908 City Hall and not included in the nomination) was constructed in the 1980s. A large community room occupies the second floor. Interior and exterior integrity are good.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**  
 The Nerstrand City Hall is significant for its association with Nerstrand's early period of growth and as the county's best example of the municipal buildings constructed during the first decades of the century. Nerstrand's roots date to the 1870s, but the town wasn't platted until 1885 when the Chicago Great Western Railway reached the area. The community was incorporated in 1897. The turn-of-the-century was a period of maturation for Rice County communities, a period characterized by various civic improvements, city halls, jails, water systems and the like. The first city hall building (1897) proved inadequate within a very few years. A lot was purchased for a new building in 1907 and the present structure was constructed in the following year. Nerstrand's City Hall, the most architecturally distinctive building in town, reflects this period of increased civic-mindedness and prosperity.

Bilbiography:  
History of Nerstrand Community, Nerstrand Women's Club, 1949.