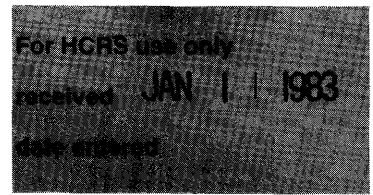


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**  
**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



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

**1. Name**

historic Mickey's Diner

and/or common Mickey's Diner

**2. Location**

street & number 36 W. Ninth Street N/A not for publication

city, town St. Paul N/A vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Minnesota code 22 county Ramsey code 123

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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**

American National Bank & Trust Company as Co-Trustee, attn: Robert Jenkins/  
name Eric J. Mattson as Co-Trustee

street & number 5th and Minnesota St./  
2102 Timmy

city, town St. Paul/ St. Paul N/A vicinity of state Minnesota/Minnesota

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ramsey County Courthouse

street & number 15 W. Kellogg Boulevard

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55102

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Historic Sites Survey of  
title St. Paul and Ramsey County has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 12/80 - 11/82  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records 75 W. 5th Street

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55102

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Mickey's Diner, a prefabricated Streamlined Moderne style one story diner, is located at the southwest corner of the busy commercial intersection of W. Ninth and St. Peter Streets. It is located near the Assumption Church (1871-74) and School (1864), and the Landmark Center (1892-98), all of which are listed with the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission and National Register of Historic Places, and the Hamm Building (1915-20) which has been determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The building is a one story rectangular structure with a symmetrical facade and a central entrance. Its design was inspired by that of a railroad dining car, and incorporates the requisite features of the streamlined phase of American architecture which was popular from 1930 to 1945. The exterior of the diner features yellow and red porcelain steel panels, plate glass windows in a horizontal band and divided by fluted chrome strips, typical Deco lettering, and a roof topped by a projecting upright sign illuminated with neon and a ribbon of light bulb edging.

Although not part of the original prefabricated design, a glass vestibule was constructed at the time the building was installed probably to make the building more comfortable in the harsh Minnesota winters. Within the vestibule is a door with an oval window and vertical banding. The interior of the building has stainless steel grills and fixtures with a sunburst motif, booths and stools to accommodate thirty-six customers, and wall surfaces sheathed in mahogany paneling and smoked glass mirrors.

Mickey's Diner has been preserved well with no major alterations. When St. Paul's new Town Square development was in the planning stages brief consideration was given to moving Mickey's into Town Square, suggesting the fond regard St. Paul has for the building. Happily this was not done, although the future of Mickey's Diner is uncertain at this time due to the proposed widening of W. Ninth Street.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1937–1939      **Builder/Architect** Jerry O'Mahoney Company

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Though not yet fifty years old, Mickey's Diner (1937–39) is of exceptional cultural, architectural, and historical importance as a beloved, longstanding and unique social institution which is a landmark in Downtown St. Paul, as an unaltered classic railroad car-inspired American blue collar diner which is an excellent example of streamlined Art Deco architecture and as one of the few diners of its type remaining throughout the Midwest.

Mickey's Diner was prefabricated in Elizabeth, New Jersey in 1937 by the Jerry O'Mahoney Company. It was shipped to St. Paul by rail and installed on its present site in 1939. It has remained in continuous operation as Mickey's Diner since then, and is a popular local establishment. At a time when most such businesses have been replaced by fastfood chains and franchises such as McDonalds and Burger King, Mickey's is a rare survivor of the 1930's and 1940's era when manufactured diners were commonplace in the American landscape. The Society of Commercial Archaeology has recommended that Mickey's Diner be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Mickey's is the only known dining car of its type to survive in Minnesota.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"From Diners to Churches: State Architecture Excels." St. Paul Pioneer Press, July 9, 1978.  
 Gutman, Richard and Elliot Kaufman. American Diner. New York: Harper and Row, 1979.  
 St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission Site Nomination Form on Mickey's Diner.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name St. Paul East

Quadrangle scale 7.5

### UMT References

A 

1	5	4	9	2	2	8	0	4	9	7	6	9	0	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

Excluding NWly 26 feet for street, Lot 1, Block 10, Bazil and Guerin's Addition.

### 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 Patricia Murphy, Survey Director; Marie Mingo, Student Intern

organization Ramsey County Historical Society

date August, 1981

street & number 75 W. 5th Street

telephone (612)292-0090/222-0701

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55102

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Russell W. Fridley*

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12/27/82

For HCRS use only  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*John McClelland*  
 Keeper of the National Register

date 2-24-83

Attest:  
 Chief of Registration

date