

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **APR 16 1984**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Albert Lea City Hall

and/or common NA

2. Location

street & number 212 North Broadway Avenue NA not for publication

city, town Albert Lea NA vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Freeborn code 024

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>NA</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Unoccupied

4. Owner of Property

name The City of Albert Lea

street & number 221 East Clark Street

city, town Albert Lea NA vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Freeborn County Courthouse

street & number 411 South Broadway Avenue

city, town Albert Lea state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NA has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date NA NA federal NA state NA county NA local

depository for survey records NA

city, town NA state NA

7. Description

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved

date

NA

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The city hall building was completed in 1903 at a cost of approximately \$20,000.00.

The city hall building was designed by local architect E.F. Warren, romanesque revival in style, and rectangular in plan. The building is 44 feet wide and about 123 long and is two stories high on North Broadway Ave. and slopes down to the rear of the building to expose a full three stories. The site is located on North Broadway with an excellent view of Fountain Lake.

The basement originally was the city stable in the western half of the building and accessible by a stable door on the north wall. The northeast half of the basement was the city engineer, chief of police and police headquarters. The southeast portion of the basement was the detention rooms and jail cells. There is an entrance to these areas in the rear of the building on the east wall. The main stairway to the first floor is midway on the south wall. The first floor originally contained the fire apparatus hall and chief's office on the western half of the building with horse stalls. The eastern half of the first floor was the city council chambers, committee room, city clerks office and committee room. The eastern half of the first floor is accessible from a separate door and corridor along the south side of the building. The main stairway to the second floor is along this corridor. The second floor originally contained the firemens hall and firemens dormitory on the western half of the floor and the court room, jury room, and hay storage on the eastern half of the floor.

A 1929 interior remodeling by local architect LeRoy Gaarder included moving city council chambers to the second floor and providing space on the first floor in this area for the city manager's and accessor's office and a large work space. The eastern half of the second floor then became the city council chambers, kitchen and engineering department. The basic floor plan has remained the same even with the different building uses.

The original arch and stately bell tower were removed in 1956. Prominent architectural features of the original building which exist today are the stone arches with granite columns. The stone arches and glazed enamel brick above the second floor windows are in excellent condition. The exterior facade of the buiding is executed in a pressed brick.

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 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	1903	Builder/Architect	E.F. Warren - Architect Charles & Joseph Baker - Builder
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Albert Lea City Hall is significant as an early 20th century municipal building and seat of city government from 1903 to 1968. The city hall and engine house were previously located at 111 West Main Street from 1879 to 1903. We found from the Sanborn Insurance maps that the original city hall was still intact in 1905 but vacant. The 1918 Sanborn Insurance map shows the building removed from the site. The Albert Lea City Hall was at one time the only building associated with the city government of Albert Lea. The building was completed in 1903 during a significant growth era and when the city of Albert Lea was growing in stature as an important city in southern Minnesota. The building represents the community's effort to provide adequate facilities to the city. The location of the city hall was purchased by the city on February 28, 1902 from George Edwards. A building fund was started in July of 1902 and a resolution was passed on January 9, 1903 that the building would be constructed to house the fire station, engine house, city offices and city prison. The original construction cost of the building was approximately \$20,000.00. The building was constructed by Charles Baker and Joseph Baker of Albert Lea (co-partners) and was completed in September, 1903.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Albert Lea Public Library - file on historic Albert Lea
City of Albert Lea city council meeting minutes - volumes CMA-CMF, years 1879 - 1904
History of Freeborn County - Curtis Wedge - 1911

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Albert Lea

Quadrangle scale 15

UTM References

A

1	5	4	7	0	2	5	0	4	8	3	2	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 Commencing at a point 14 feet North of the North-west corner of Lot 8, Block 9, Original Town of Albert Lea, Minnesota, thence 64 feet along Broadway Avenue; thence East 123.5 feet; thence South 64 feet along an alley; thence West 213.5 feet to the point of beginning.

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

state NA code NA county NA code NA

state NA code NA county NA code NA

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gary Ostberg

organization Kilstofte Associates, Inc. Architects date January 3, 1984

street & number 250 Central Ave. North telephone 612/473-0277

city or town Wayzata 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
Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4/10/84

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 5/17/84

J. Melvyn Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration