

**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

For HCNS use only

received

JUL -2 1986

date entered

## 1. Name

historic Perham City Hall and Fire Station

and/or common Perham Area Chamber of Commerce

## 2. Location

street & number 153 East Main

N/A not for publication

city, town Perham

N/A vicinity of

congressional district N/A

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 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	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A 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

name City of Perham

street & number 138 West Main

city, town Perham

N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota

## 5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 100 Block, West Junius

city, town Fergus Falls

state Minnesota

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Minnesota Statewide Survey of  
title Historic Sites

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date September, 1982

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society - Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul

state Minnesota

# 7. Description

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

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

The Perham Village Hall and Fire Station is located on the northwest corner of East Main and Second Street in downtown Perham.

The two storey building is constructed of brick--red pressed on the two primary facades, common on the remainder. Rectangular in plan, the building measures 46 x 90 and features a corner bay with an open tower and pyramidal cap which extends above the hipped roof line. Fenestration is rectangular, originally featuring double-hung sash with separate transom, now infilled entirely with glass block. On the ground floor, glass block has also been used as infill around a secondary entrance on the south facade. The primary entrance, located in the corner bay, appears original and intact. Above the entry, a wooden balustrade has been removed as has the balustrade in the segmental arch tower openings. Other alterations include ground floor windows and fire service doors, whose openings have been enlarged, and the original double doors replaced by modern overhead types.

The interior of the building still retains some of its original features. The area once used as council chambers on the main floor still has its pressed metal ceiling, although it is currently obscured by one of dropped acoustical tile. Behind the chambers the fire station remains primarily intact with the exception of the doors and the removal of the wall which originally separated the area from the jail. Above, on the second floor, the hall still has its elaborate pressed metal ceiling and maple hardwood floors as well as an oak stairway and balustrade leading to the balcony.

The building is in good condition and stands on its original site.

# 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)

<b>Specific dates</b>	1906	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Fremont D. Orff, Architect Alex Nelson, Contractor
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**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

In 1905, at the urging of Perham's Commercial Club, the village council took up the issue of a new hall. The old hall was badly in need of repairs and, it was felt, not economically feasible to repair. A special election was held to issue bonds for the construction of a new building. The architect selected to design the new village hall was Fremont D. Orff, a well known Minneapolis architect who had designed the Big Stone County Courthouse in Ortonville, MN in 1902. Alex Nelson, the contractor, was a local citizen responsible for the construction of many other community buildings. The site selected was that of the original town hall. The substantial two storey brick building was built for multi-purpose use, vital in meeting the needs of a small community. The ground floor accommodated the council chambers, fire station and jail. Above was a large hall which served the community's social needs. The hall also created a visual asset to the village with its prominent pyramidal capped tower. In his History of Otter Tail County, Minnesota, J. W. Mason said of the building, "the city hall was erected at a cost of ten thousand dollars and for a village of this size it is one of the best in the state." On July 3, 1906, the village council held their first meeting in the newly completed hall. The village hall continued to serve in its original capacity until 1962 when city offices were moved to new quarters. The fire station remained in the building until 1977. Still functioning as a multi-use building, the hall currently houses the city's natural gas department, the Chamber of Commerce tourist bureau and the police department offices and garage. The Perham Village Hall is significant as a representative example of civic architecture which responds to the needs, as well as the pride, of its community.

<sup>1</sup>Mason, History of Otter Tail County, Minnesota (Indianapolis, IN: B. V. Bower & Company, Inc., 1916).

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet - page 1

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Perham

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	5	3	0	3	0	6	0	5	1	6	3	0	2	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

South 90' Lot 1, Block 5, Original Plat

### 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 Camille Kudzia, Preservation Consultant

organization N/A

date August, 1984

street & number 2110 - 24th Avenue South

telephone (612) 338-6123

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley  
Russell W. Fridley

date

6/24/86

title State Historic Preservation Officer

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

7-31-86

J. Alton Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

The Perham City Hall and Fire Station, Perham, Ottertail County,  
Minnesota

Continuation sheet

Resource Count

Item number 8

Page 1

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received

date entered

The Perham City Hall and Fire Station Nomination  
contains 1 contributing building.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Perham City Hall and Fire Station, Perham, Minnesota

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

"Bids Accepted," Perham Bulletin. February 8, 1906.

"Bonds," Perham Bulletin. August 17, 1905.

"Construction, Town Hall, Perham, Minn." Perham Bulletin. January 4, 1906.

"Council Meets in New Hall," Perham Bulletin. July 12, 1906.

"Harmonious," Perham Bulletin. November 23, 1905.

Mason, J. W. History of Otter Tail County, Minnesota, "Perham." Indianapolis, IN:  
B. V. Bower & Company, Inc., 1916.

"Personal and Social" Column, Contractor Nelson has torn down old town hall.  
Perham Bulletin. February 22, 1906.

"Sold--Old Village Hall Sold by the Council to Alex Nelson," Perham Bulletin.  
February 15, 1906.

Telephone Interview with Mr. Frank Sakli, October 26, 1984.