

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park 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 Roosevelt Hall

and/or common Roosevelt Hall

2. Location

street & number Hawkins Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town Barrett N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Grant code 051

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| district | public | X occupied | agriculture |
| X building(s) | X private | unoccupied | museum |
| structure | both | work in progress | commercial |
| site | Public Acquisition | | educational |
| object | N/A in process | X yes: restricted | X entertainment |
| | being considered | yes: unrestricted | government |
| | | no | industrial |
| | | | military |
| | | | X other: theater & arts |

4. Owner of Property

name Grant County Prairie Wind Players

street & number ----- N/A

city, town Barrett N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 56311

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Grant County Courthouse

street & number 2nd Street and Central Avenue

city, town Elbow Lake state Minnesota 56531

6. Representation in Existing SurveysMinnesota Statewide Historic
title Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1983-84

federal X state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55111

7. Description

| Condition | Check one | | Check one | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|-----|
| <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 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | <input type="checkbox"/> date | N/A |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Roosevelt Hall, completed in 1934, is located on the south side of Hawkins Avenue in Barrett, Minnesota, a western Minnesota community of about 380 people. The building is situated adjacent to a Soo Line trackbed in a mixed commercial and residential area one block east of Barrett's main street.

Roosevelt Hall was constructed by local carpenters and other workers hired under the auspices of the federal Civil Works Administration. The architect of the building is not known. The symmetrical, woodframe building, which was constructed as a community auditorium and high school gymnasium, measures 42' wide by 110' long and is faced with western red cedar clapboard siding. The hall has a gabled roof covered with wood shingles. The main facade of the building features a curvilinear gable parapet wall with architrave molding and the name and date of the building appearing in raised block letters near the top. The main facade has a rounded arched entrance with a multipaned double leaf door, flanked by small sidelights, and a semi-circular transom, all arranged beneath a rounded arched overhang with simple brackets. Flanking the entrance are two pairs of rectangular double hung windows separated by clapboard-covered pilasters with simple wooden capitals and bases. Above the entrance is a band of six square fixed windows which light the balcony area of the auditorium. The building has nine bay sidewalls with rectangular 1/1 sash with architrave moldings.

Roosevelt Hall is in good condition and has been altered only slightly. The original front steps were replaced by a wooden stoop, but plans are underway to rebuild steps based on the original design. A new metal and wooden entrance has been added to the east facade, and a small unobtrusive clapboard-covered enclosed entrance area has been added to the west facade. Most of the fenestration is original. In 1978 a gable roofed metal covered insulation manufacturing plant was added to the rear of the building, sharing one wall with Roosevelt Hall but containing a separate entrance to the building and has

The interior of the hall was originally designed to contain a wooden gymnasium floor, a 19' by 30 stage with built-in footlights, and a 41' by 44' balcony. The original stage was removed in the 1950's. During the last four years the building has been in use as a community theater and has been cleaned and repaired and a new stage, restrooms, light booth, and costume closet have been added to the interior. The hall was recently sandblasted and repainted, and other restoration projects are being planned.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion | | | | |
| 1400–1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science | | | | |
| 1500–1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture | | | | |
| 1600–1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ | | | | |
| 1700–1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian | | | | |
| 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater | | | | |
| X 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 1933–34

Builder/Architect Civil Works Administration, builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Roosevelt Hall, completed in 1934 and located on Hawkins Avenue in Barrett, Minnesota, is historically and architecturally significant as one of Minnesota's few standing examples of a building constructed under the auspices of the short-lived Civil Works Administration (C.W.A.), a Depression-era federal works program which was a predecessor of the more well known Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.). The building is a good example of the type of architecturally sophisticated, low cost public buildings whose construction in small rural Minnesota communities like Barrett was made possible by programs like the C.W.A. The building has additional local importance as a building which has served as a visual focal point and social, educational, and cultural center for the community since the 1930's.

The Civil Works Administration was established in the spring of 1933, only a few months after Franklin D. Roosevelt had been elected President on a platform which promised direct federal relief to the millions of Americans left jobless and poverty stricken by the Depression. The C.W.A. was one of the first of a myriad of federal programs which comprised Roosevelt's New Deal, and was authorized by Congress in May of 1933 when it appropriated funds for the creation of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. The C.W.A. was formed at the same time as the Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.), the Public Works Administration (P.W.A.) and other programs which constituted Roosevelt's first round of Depression-relief programs. The C.W.A. differed from previous (i.e. pre-Roosevelt) public works programs in that it was administered directly by the federal government, rather than by monies channelled through state and local agencies. At its height in January of 1934, the C.W.A. was employing 4,230,000 persons nationwide who were previously receiving direct relief or who were among the county's general unemployed who were not receiving relief. The C.W.A. built or improved 500,000 miles of roads, and built thousands of schools, playgrounds, airports, and other buildings nationwide. Although the program helped millions of Americans through the winter of 1933–34, it was dismantled in February–April of 1934 after critics claimed that it was too expensive and simply a dead-end relief program. After the C.W.A.'s abolishment, no large scale public employment program of this type existed until a year later when Roosevelt's Emergency Relief Appropriation Act was passed by Congress in March of 1935 and the Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.), one of the most well known of the New Deal programs, was created.

In the late fall of 1933, about six months after the Civil Works Administration had been formed, the Barrett Village Council and Barrett Mayor Fred Yackel received federal approval of their plan to construct a combined public auditorium and high school gymnasium under the auspices of the C.W.A. Under an arrangement typical of C.W.A. policy, the City of Barrett provided a building lot and construction materials (which totalled about \$5,000) and the C.W.A. provided funds to hire local unemployed workers to construct the building. Construction began during the winter of 1933–34, and in January of 1934 the Barrett Village Council voted to name the building Roosevelt Hall after the creator of the C.W.A. The hall was dedicated in May of 1934 at a ceremony at which Mayor Yackel declared that it would be used for "creamery and livestock association meetings, school basketball games, class plays, and other community entertainments that would be of benefit to all."*

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

*As quoted in Kathy Ray, "Roosevelt Hall, Barrett, Minnesota, 1934–1984", a commemorative brochure printed by the Grant County Prairie Wind Players, 1984.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Farrell, Edith. "Hundreds Attend Production of 'Annie'". Morris Tribune, July 5, 1984.
Leuchtenburg, William E. Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal. New York: Harper and Row, 1963.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Elbow Lake Quad., Minnesota-Grant Co.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

| | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| A | 1 5 | 2 7 6 | 0 0 0 | 5 0 8 8 | 0 0 0 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | |
| C | | | | | |
| E | | | | | |
| G | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|--|--|
| B | | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | |
| D | | | | | |
| F | | | | | |
| H | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot C of Former Front Street Subdivision of City of Barrett.

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 Susan Granger/Field Assistant

State Historic Preservation Office

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date August 1984

street & number Fort Snelling History Center

telephone (612) 726-1171

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55111

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 *7/1/85*

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

8/23/85

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**

Continuation sheet Roosevelt Hall

Item number 8,9

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Item #8 (Significance) continued:

For most of its history, Roosevelt Hall has been Barrett's primary community center, housing hundreds of civic meetings, political functions, and community social events, and serving as the Barrett Public School's gymnasium and auditorium from 1934-1953. In 1957 the stage was removed from the interior and the building was used as a bowling alley for fourteen years. Later it was used as a youth center (1973-74) and, after the City of Barrett sold the building in 1977, as an insulation manufacturing plant (1977-79). In 1981, after standing vacant for two years, the building became the adopted home of the Grant County Prairie Wind Players, a regional non-profit theater company formed that year by the mayor of Barrett and other local residents. During the next two years the Prairie Wind Players rented the building for five theater productions and thoroughly cleaned and repaired the hall and rebuilt the stage with donated funds. Finally in 1983 the group was able to purchase the building. Roosevelt Hall is now the home of one of west central Minnesota's few regional theater companies, and is under restoration by the Prairie Wind Players for use as a community theater and arts and cultural facility.

Item #9 (Bibliographical References) continued:

Ray, Kathy. "Roosevelt Hall, Barrett, Minnesota, 1934-1984." Commemorative brochure printed by the Grant County Prairie Wind Players, 1984.
Ray, Kathy. Oral interviews, Summer 1984.