

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received SEP 26 1988
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Park Rapids Jail

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 205 West Second Street N/A not for publication

city, town Park Rapids N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 (MN) county Hubbard code 057

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Clifford Lof

street & number R #2

city, town Nevis N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 56467

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hubbard County Courthouse, County Recorder's Office

street & number Court Street

city, town Park Rapids state Minnesota 56470

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Hubbard County Historic Properties Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society

city, town Fort Snelling History Center, 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 date N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated in the downtown, commercial district of Park Rapids, the Old Village Jail is a one-and-one-half story, common-bond, buff brick building with a one-story, flat-roofed, white-painted, concrete-block addition adjoining its west elevation. On the east, the Jail abuts a considerably larger, two-story, brick commercial building, which has a small, one-story, concrete-block addition extending across the east half of the Jail's rear (north) facade.

The massing and design of the original section of the jail is eclectic. The structure displays a relatively high-pitched, hip roof with composition shingles and a brick chimney at the southwest corner. The principal (south) facade displays a wide, triple-rowlock, segmental-arch entrance, flanked on each side by a round-headed, double-rowlock, window opening with a projecting rowlock sill. Centered above the entrance is a brick-fronted gable with a projecting cap, blocky "ears," and a centered roundel. A corbelled cornice crosses below the eaves, rising upward on each side of the gable to form shallow, brick piers connected at the top by a corbel course. The piers frame a signage block. The original entrance and window openings have been inappropriately infilled and equipped with modern sash and an aluminum, single-leaf door. The exposed portion of the rear facade exhibits similar brickwork, although the gable has been covered with aluminum siding.

Although the one-story addition adjoining the building's west elevation appears to be a separate structure, its concrete-block work is toothed into the front and rear facades of the Jail, and the two units share a common interior passageway. Its original function is unknown, but it was apparently built by the village between 1905 and 1914.¹ Except for the south facade's sheet metal cornice with egg-and-dart detailing and swag motifs, the addition has no architectural styling. Its original integrity has been compromised by the replacement of the door and window by modern fixtures and by the addition of a false mansard to the front. Of dissimilar materials and discordant design, the concrete-block addition is a non-contributing feature to the original brick Jail.

Originally a free-standing structure, the Park Rapids Jail has suffered from the encroachment of its neighboring building to the east and from the construction of an unfortunate addition to the west. Alterations to the original door and window openings on the front facade and the use of aluminum siding on the rear gable also detract from the building's architectural integrity. Despite these modifications, the overall design and brickwork of the principal facade remain visually coherent and stylistically compelling. The property, therefore, consists of one contributing building and one non-contributing addition.

NOTES

1. The Village of Park Rapids retained ownership of the Jail and its addition until 1922. An early twentieth-century photograph of the Jail shows the addition in place. In this photograph, the Jail stands to the rear of a larger, two-story structure, which, according to its signage, functioned as the village fire hall and public library. Documentary sources indicate that this structure was also the Village Hall. Since the Village Council sold this building to private parties in 1914, the photograph is presumably of an earlier date (the photograph appears in an undated newspaper clipping in a scrapbook on Hubbard County history, entitled "Lest We Forget," in the Park Rapids Public Library). Since concrete block was rarely used for facades in Minnesota before 1905, it is doubtful that the addition is of older vintage.

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
<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 checked="" 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)

Specific dates 1901 **Builder/Architect** Fremont D. Orff, architect
Gustave Zellmer, contractor

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The only example of municipal, public architecture surviving with integrity from the early boom period of Park Rapids, the Park Rapids Jail is historically significant for its close association with the city's settlement, growth, and government. (Criterion A)

During the 1870s and 1880s, railroad construction pushed westward across Minnesota, opening vast tracts of land to agricultural settlement. When Hubbard County was organized in 1883, the nearest rail line passed about 50 miles to the south. Subsequently included in the Great Northern Railway system, it supplied most of the region's first settlers, who claimed farmsteads in the southernmost, prairie townships of the otherwise heavily wooded county. The earliest centers of settlement were the villages of Hubbard and Park Rapids, which vied for commercial supremacy during the 1880s. Although Hubbard boasted "an excellent waterpower" and a large grain elevator, Park Rapids was the county seat. In 1891, the Great Northern ended the contest by completing a branch to Park Rapids, bypassing Hubbard.¹

The construction of the railroad ushered in a boom period in Park Rapids, which more than tripled its population to 1,313 residents by 1900. As the village prospered, it embarked on several public improvements to serve its expanding population. After purchasing a lot on the southeast corner of West Second and Main Streets in the downtown business district, the Village Council in 1893 erected a brick building, fronting Main Street, for use as a combined village hall and firehouse. The next year, the Council built a municipal waterworks, followed by a new high school. In 1899, the Council encouraged the County Commissioners to construct a new courthouse in Park Rapids by agreeing to build a new village jail that would be shared by the county. In July 1900, the Council secured plans and specifications for the jail from the Minneapolis architect Fremont D. Orff.²

Fronting West Second Street at the rear of the village hall lot, the new brick jail was completed by January 1901, for a total expense of \$1,442, which slightly exceeded the cost of the village hall. City resident Charles Zellmer served as contractor. In 1904, Hubbard County constructed its own jail next to the recently completed courthouse, and the village jail became a strictly municipal facility. Expanded by a one-story addition to the west, it apparently remained in use until 1922, when the village sold it to Albert T. Jacobs and Ira E. Lindquist, who eight years earlier had purchased the village hall.³ Jacobs and Lindquist converted both buildings to commercial purposes. At an unknown date, the rear of the old village hall was expanded to meet the east facade of the former jail so that the buildings formed an extended streetscape. The jail building has remained a commercial property to the present day.

At an undetermined date, the old village hall was remodeled with a concrete-block front, which thoroughly destroyed the building's architectural integrity. Although also remodeled, the Park Rapids Jail retains its original stylistic identity. Recognized as a community landmark, it is the only municipal building surviving with integrity from the early boom period of Park Rapids, when the city established itself as the center of government and commerce in Hubbard County.

(See continuation sheet.)

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Park Rapids Jail, Park Rapids, Hubbard County, Minnesota

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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Significance con't.

NOTES

1. The statewide "historic contexts" associated with the Old Village Jail are "Agricultural Development and Railroad Construction, 1870-1920s" and "Northern Minnesota Lumbering, 1870s-1930s"; see Minnesota History in Sites and Structures. Historic Context Outlines: The Post-Contact Period Contexts (St. Paul: Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society, 1985), pp. 10-15. See also Barbara Hightower and Jeffrey A. Hess, "Hubbard County Historic Properties Survey 1986," unpublished report prepared for Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society, 1986. Early settlement patterns of Hubbard County are discussed in Land Economic Survey of Hubbard County, Minnesota (St. Paul: University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station and Minnesota Department of Conservation, Bulletin 317, March 1935), pp. 19-35. On the rivalry between Hubbard and Park Rapids, see Mrs. Gerald Undlin, "History of the Hubbard United Methodist Church," unpublished, c. 1980, on file at Park Rapids Public Library.
2. The boom of the 1890s, and the nature of municipal improvements, is discussed in Francis L. Kaufenburg, "Park Rapids: A History to 1920," unpublished MS thesis for Bemidji State University, 1982, pp. 85-93. The jail's architect and contractor are identified in Village of Park Rapids Finance Book (1890-1901), entries for July 30, August 31, September 22, October 20, 1900, unpublished, Park Rapids City Hall.
3. On the cost and date of completion of the jail, see Kaufenberg, p. 93; Village Finance Book, entries for December 22, 1900, January 19, 1901. The completion of the new county jail is noted in Hubbard County Clipper, November 24, 1904, 1:3. On the village's sale of the village hall and jail, see Book of Deeds 16, p. 597, Village of Park Rapids to Ira Lindquist and A. T. Jacobs, September 12, 1914; Book of Deeds 51, p. 220, Village of Park Rapids to Jacobs and Lindquist, November 23, 1922 in Hubbard County Recorder's Office, Hubbard County Courthouse.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Kaufenburg, Francis L.: "Park Rapids: A History to 1920." Unpublished MA thesis, Bemidji State University, 1968.
Village of Park Rapids Finance Book, 1890-1901. Unpublished, Park Rapids City Hall.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre
Quadrangle name Park Rapids Quadrangle Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	1 5	3 4 3 1 1 5 1 0	5 1 1 9 1 8 2 1 5 1 0	B						
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing			
C				D						
E				F						
G				H						

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property occupies the south twenty two feet of the west 55 feet of Lot Twelve in Block Three of the Original Townsite of Park Rapids. The boundary includes that part of the city lot that has historically been associated with the property.

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 Jeffrey A.. Hess
organization Jeffrey A. Hess, Historical Consultant date February 3, 1987
street & number 305 Grain Exchange Building telephone (612) 338-1987
city or town Minneapolis state Minnesota 55415

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 Nina M. Archabal
title State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/16/88

For NPS use only

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

[Signature] Entered in the National Register date 10/27/88
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date