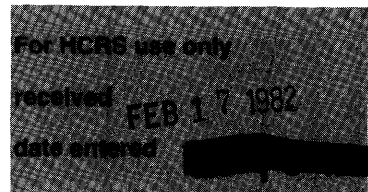


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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



MAR 19 1982

**1. Name**

historic St. Paul Womens' City Club

and/or common Minnesota Museum of Art

**2. Location**

street & number 305 St. Peter Street N/A not for publication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**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Minnesota Museum of Art

street & number 305 St. Peter Street

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

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ramsey County Courthouse

street & number 15 Kellogg Blvd.

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission Survey

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date June 27, 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records St. Paul Department of Planning & Economic Development/HPC

city, town 25 West Fourth Street, St. Paul state Minnesota

# 7. Description

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

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

The Minnesota Museum of Art building was designed in 1931 by St. Paul architect Magnus Jemne to serve as headquarters for the fashionable Womens' City Club. The building occupies a five-sided site at the corner of St. Peter Street and Kellogg Boulevard, providing it with a prominent vista of the Mississippi River. Executed in the Art Deco (or Moderne) style, the three story structure incorporates a combination of cubic and polygonal forms to give the facade a membrane-like streamlining.

The building is constructed on a steel and concrete frame. It has a base and entrance portal of dark polished granite and walls of buff Mankato stone. The stone is rectangular in shape and laid in a random pattern; it has been dressed to a smooth finish. The walls, however, are non-loadbearing and simply act to provide a "curtain" enclosure for the interior space. Prominent Moderne design features include bands of metal casement windows, flat roof, stepped corner tower and terrace, and vertical striations to emphasize the chimney mass.

The interior of the building is graced by a meticulously executed terrazzo floor with geometric and stylized patterning designed by the architect's wife, artist Elsa Jemne. A polished stone fireplace is a focal point of the entrance lobby. Throughout the building are geometric rectilinear metal and glass light fixtures designed by Minneapolis artist Frank Post. The elevator cages boast brass and chrome doors and fittings. Also included in the plan of the building is a large auditorium with ceiling of metal leaf.

The former Womens' City Club was purchased by the Minnesota Museum of Art in 1971 and was sympathetically and meticulously adapted for use as museum and gallery space. Throughout the adaptive use program care was taken to retain the Art Deco feeling by retaining a majority of original design features. The most notable alteration to the structure has been the installation of a fixed glass window in the first story level of the corner tower to provide natural lighting for the museum director's office.

## 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 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 1931

Builder/Architect

Magnus Jemne

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Executed in 1931 according to designs by St. Paul architect Magnus Jemne, the former Womens' City Club, now the Minnesota Museum of Art, is significant as one of St. Paul's earliest and finest examples of the Art Deco (Moderne) style. Once headquarters for a prominent social club, the design of the building incorporates fine materials and highly developed craftsmanship throughout. The building, which cost approximately \$265,000, including interior furnishings, is an excellent example of the adaptation of streamlined Art Deco motifs to a relatively small, downtown structure erected on an atypical five-sided lot. The architect's method of allowing the building to wrap around the corner of the parcel while providing a prominent vista of the Mississippi River is most successful and tends to accentuate the design of the building.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission Report: 6/27/78

(supporting bibliography listed in Report)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name St. Paul East Quad

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A 

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

Lot 10, Block 19 of Rice and Irvine's Addition, St. Paul. Northwest corner of St. Peter Street and Kellogg Blvd.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Terry Pfoutz, Planner/Charles W. Nelson, Historical Architect

organization St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission/Minnesota Historical Society date 2 May 1980

street & number 25 W. 4th St./240 Summit Avenue telephone (612) 292-6229/(612) 296-9073

city or town St. Paul/St. Paul 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  
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 2/2/82

For HCRS use only

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

Alma Byers  
 Keeper of the National Register date 3/19/82

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration