

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Cuyuna Village Hall

Other names/site number: Cuyuna City Hall, First State Bank

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 24945 Minnesota Avenue

City or town: Cuyuna State: MN County: Crow Wing

Not For Publication: N/A

Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register

☐ determined eligible for the National Register

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☐

Public – Local

☒

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☒

District

☐

Site

☐

Structure

☐

Object

☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/city hall

GOVERNMENT/fire station

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/city hall

GOVERNMENT/fire station

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: brick, stone, glass

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Cuyuna Village Hall, formerly the First State Bank building, is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Minnesota Avenue and Foley Street in the City of Cuyuna, a town in central Minnesota with a population of about 300 (Image 1). The one-story rectangular building measures 25 feet by 50 feet and was constructed in 1911 and later acquired by Cuyuna in 1954 to serve as its village hall. The building has continued to serve in that role since that time.

The principal south and east facing elevations of the 1911 building are faced with deep red pressed brick and trimmed with buff-colored limestone (Photo 1). The corner is canted to accommodate the entrance. The primary elevations are defined by classically inspired features including broad brick pilaster columns organizing the building into bays, massive stone lintels over the windows and entry, stone sills beneath the windows, horizontal bands of brick and stone, and a brick parapet capped with stone.

The village hall was later expanded with concrete block additions along its west side in 1978 and 1987.

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Narrative Description

The description of the Cuyuna Village Hall begins with the exterior of the 1911 building and continues with the 1978 and 1987 additions, followed by a description of the site. The interiors are then described followed by an assessment of the building's integrity.

South Elevation

The south elevation is characterized by one large opening, which originally contained a large window flanked by double-hung windows with transoms above (Photos 2-3). After Cuyuna acquired the building in 1954, the window on the south elevation was removed to create an entrance for the fire truck (Image 17). After a 1978 addition on the west side of the building was constructed for the fire department, this opening was infilled with wood panels with two small casement windows. This change was made in 1980.

The canted entry originally featured a wooden door with one large window that was flanked by sidelights, and with a transom above. The original door and sidelights remained in place until about 1980, although the transom had already been infilled with a wooden panel. A solid aluminum door along with sidelights with three windows to the right replaced the original configuration. Concrete ramps allowing for accessibility have also been added to the front of the building in recent years.

East Elevation

There are three openings on the east elevation that are somewhat smaller than the opening on the south elevation (Photos 4-5). Each opening originally contained a large window with a transom above. The three windows on the east elevation were also infilled with wood panels, each containing one small casement window. It is believed these windows were infilled in ca. 1960.

North Elevation

The north elevation is faced with common brick, which was clad with a cream-colored stucco at a later date (Photo 6). There are no doors or windows on this elevation.

West Elevation

The west elevation is partially concealed by the 1978 addition (Photo 7). Like the north elevation, it is faced with common brick, which was later clad with a cream-colored stucco. Unlike the south and east elevations, the parapet wall of the west elevation steps down in response to the slope of the original roof. Some stucco has fallen off the near the top of the parapet exposing some of the brick facing. There are no doors or windows on this elevation.

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Roof

The original roof of the 1911 building sloped to the north but was concealed behind the parapet wall. This sloping roof is visible in a 1913 photograph along with the stepped parapet wall on the west side of the building (Image 13). In 2009, the current dark-red metal roof was installed, although the original roof structure remains in place beneath the new roof. The gable roof features broad overhanging eaves with white soffits and forms a hip over the canted entry. The broad eaves rest on the top of the parapet walls along the south and east elevations. However, the parapet wall projects slightly higher above the canted entry. This section of the parapet is enclosed within the new roof and has not been altered. It may be viewed in a historic photograph (Image 11).

Additions to the Cuyuna Village Hall

In 1978, a 50 foot by 32-foot one-story concrete block addition was constructed on the west side of the building to provide additional space for the fire department and for community events (Photo 8). The addition is set back from the 1911 building and is built into the hillside to the north. The addition is covered with a low-pitch gable roof with dark brown asphalt shingles and has a lower profile than the 1911 building. Originally, there was a service door at the east side of the addition followed by two overhead garage doors (Image 17). The service door was later removed and a third overhead garage door was installed in 1980.

A second concrete block addition built in 1987 extended the building an additional 40 feet to the west, utilizing the same materials and continuing the roof line (Photo 8). The south elevation of the addition includes two overhead garage doors and a door at the west end that leads to the office for the police department. The west elevation of this addition includes a single two-light casement window. The gable end of the west elevation is clad with wide clapboard siding painted white (Photo 9).

The east side of the 1978 addition abuts the 1911 building while the north elevation of both additions is set into the hillside with only the upper portion of the concrete block walls visible (Photos 7 and 10).

The major character defining features of the exterior of the 1911 building include the vibrant red brick and buff-colored stone trim, ornate brick and stone banding and articulation, and the rhythmic placement of the large areas for windows. The later additions are characterized by their straightforward concrete block construction and large openings.

Site

The building is flanked by sidewalks on the south and east sides of the property as well as the concrete apron for the garage stalls. The rear of the property is covered in grass and there is a large spruce tree immediately to the north of the 1911 building. The only other feature on the site is a large timber pole installed at the rear of the property near the intersection of the 1911

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building and the 1978 addition. The pole is topped with an emergency warning siren (Photos 7 and 8).

Interior of the 1911 Building

The interior of the 1911 building is largely one open space, which is similar to the original configuration as the interior had been separated into public and private areas of the bank by teller's cages and partial partitions (Photo 11). The only full-partitioned areas include the original bank vault, which is still in place, and located along the west side of the building toward the rear, and a small room immediately to the north of the vault, which contains a stairway to the lower level. The tile floor, wainscot, and suspended ceiling and kitchen at the rear are later modifications by the village.

The major character defining features of the interior of the village hall include its configuration as one, large, multi-functional space as well as the prominent vault.

The vault still depicts the name "First State Bank" near the top of the door (Photo 12). Upon opening the massive door, an additional pair of green metal doors must be opened to enter the vault (Photo 13). The most distinguishing characteristic of the vault is an ornate floor set with green and white ceramic tiles that are square or hexagonal (Photo 14). Two bands of green square tiles create a border around the floor of the vault. Between the bands, square green tiles in a zigzag pattern are set within a background of square white tiles. The center of the floor is set with hexagonal white tiles. Groups of four hexagonal green tiles with a floral or rosette-like appearance are placed throughout the white tiles. Village records are currently stored in the vault.

A door off the kitchen, and behind the vault, opens to a small hallway leading to the stairway to the basement. A trapdoor in the ceiling provides access to the original rooftop, which is now enclosed by the 2009 metal roof.

The basement level is also essentially one large open space except for the masonry walls supporting the vault and a small rest room located in the southeast corner (Photo 15). The basement walls as well as the wall supporting the vault are built with rubble stone. A doorway provides access to the area under the vault. This space contains shelves that may be original the building. The structure of the floor of the vault on the main level is exposed and consists of steel beams with brick infill between the beams (Photo 16).

Originally, an exterior stairway provided access to the basement. A historic photograph of the building depicts a steel railing alongside the east side of the building that identifies the location of the stairway (Image 11). Its location is confirmed on the interior as it is evident that the former doorway to the basement has been infilled with concrete block. There was also a large window to the south of the doorway and a second large window in the south wall of the basement. The location of both windows is also evident in the historic photograph. The window openings have been infilled with concrete block. The exterior stairwell and window wells have also been infilled and now sidewalks abut the building in these locations.

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Interior of the 1978 and 1987 Additions

The concrete block additions at the west side of the 1911 building may be entered through a door near the vault. Several steps lead down into the 1978 addition as it is positioned at a lower grade than the original building. A later ramp has been installed over the steps to provide an accessible entrance. The 1978 addition is one, large, open space consisting of three garage stalls except for a restroom near the steps.

This space is used by the fire department. Although a new building for the fire department was built just one block to the south on Minnesota Avenue in 2002, the fire department still uses this space for storage. Two of the stalls now contain shelves for storage while the third stall can still accommodate a vehicle (Photo 17).

A concrete wall separates this space from the 1987 addition. A single interior door provides access between the two additions. This later addition was initially used by the fire department but beginning in 1999 it has been used by the police department. The addition consists of a large open space consisting of two garage stalls as well as workspace and space for storage (Photo 18). There is also an office for the police department at the west end of the 1987 addition. It is believed that the partition wall creating the office was installed in 2000. The office may be entered from an interior door while the public may enter the office from an exterior door at the west end of the addition. A service counter in the office is trimmed with variegated green marble panels that were salvaged from the First State Bank (Photo 19). The marble trim is shown in its original location in a historic photograph of the interior of the First State Bank (Image 12).

Assessment of Integrity

The assessment of integrity of the Cuyuna Village Hall is complicated by the changes and additions to the building. Thus, in addition to assessing the building's integrity in relation to the seven aspects of integrity as outlined in National Register Bulletins 15 and 16A, a National Register White Paper titled, "Assessing the Significance of Additions and Accretions," has also been consulted. The paper is intended to supplement information found in National Register Bulletins and other publications.¹

The Cuyuna Village Hall clearly retains integrity of **location**. It also retains integrity of **feeling** and **association** because the historic function for which the building is being nominated is still ongoing. The building also retains integrity of **setting**, although the physical character of Cuyuna has changed considerably since its boom days. However, by 1954 when the village purchased the First State Bank building, many of the buildings from Cuyuna's boom days had already been removed.

¹ Linda McClelland, "Assessing Additions and Accretions: A National Register White Paper," National Park Service, April 20, 2008.

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The discussion of the integrity of **design, workmanship, and materials** is complicated by the number of changes and additions to the building. However, all changes were made in support of the historic function, including the infill of the large window openings in the 1911 building.

In terms of the 1978 and 1987 additions, the National Park Service White Paper poses the question, "Can the addition be considered part of the evolution/development of the property."² The answer is in the affirmative because the additions support the historic function of the building and were completed to expand and improve city services as the city responded to the evolving needs of its citizens. While neither addition is 50 years old, the 1978 addition is a mere four short of the 50-year guideline. The 1987 addition is 37 years old and thus 13 years short of the guideline. Nonetheless, the later addition simply extended the 1978 addition and employed the same materials, design, and massing of the earlier addition. The National Park Service White Paper also discusses the 50-year guideline as it relates to additions and states:

Past practice, however, indicates most periods of significance are "cut-off" at the fifty-year mark, whether or not a reasonable argument could be made to extend the period to a more rational and historically relevant point in the history of the property.³

Thus, it is reasonable to extend the Period of Significance to 1987, the point in time in which the building reached its current form. It is also notable that the 1978 addition was extended from the west elevation of the 1911 building, which is a secondary elevation and was a blank wall without doors or windows or other character defining features.

While the above-mentioned changes and additions might lack certain aesthetics, they reflect the financial realities of a small town. Moreover, the property is being nominated under Criterion A.

The 2009 metal roof, however, represents a loss of integrity to the building in terms of **design, workmanship, and materials**. Nonetheless, this change is reversible as the original sloping roof structure is still intact under the metal roof.

According to National Register guidelines for evaluating the integrity of a property, "Ultimately, the question of integrity is answered by whether or not the property retains the identity for which it is significant." And indeed, the village hall retains its historic identity as the focal point of governmental and community activities.

² McClelland, 3.

³ McClelland, 2.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1954-1987

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Cuyuna Village Hall is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under National Register Criterion A in the area of Politics and Government. Since 1954, the Cuyuna Village Hall has remained the most important governmental building in Cuyuna and has served as the focal point for municipal services as well as an important venue for community events and activities.

The building reflects the unique importance of a village hall where a small-town local government may provide an unusually wide array of amenities and services while maintaining a particularly close relationship with its citizens. Particularly telling are the additions to the building, which demonstrate the ingenuity of Cuyuna's citizens. Volunteer labor from public officials and residents was needed in order to complete the additions, an unexpected and revealing example of the strong community spirit that came together to provide necessary municipal improvements. This community engagement endured through the years as citizens have continued to volunteer their time and effort for the public good.

Throughout the years, the Cuyuna Village Hall has maintained a strong and vital presence in the community.

The Period of Significance begins in 1954 when the village purchased the building and ends in 1987, the date of the construction for the second addition to the building, which resulted in the building's current form.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Cuyuna Village Hall building is associated with several historic themes including the discovery of the Cuyuna Iron Range and the establishment of the first town on the range, its commercial role as the First State Bank, and ultimately its function as Cuyuna's Village Hall.⁴

⁴ For the purposes of this nomination, the nominated property is generally referred to as the Cuyuna Village Hall since "village" was the correct classification when Cuyuna purchased the building. However, the Uniform Code of Municipal Government (Chapter 123 – S.F. No. 349) was enacted in Minnesota in 1973 because of the "imprecision of the terms village, borough and city" and because it was desired that "all such municipalities be governed by a uniform code of statutes." As a result, any municipality referred to as a village as of January 1, 1974, was automatically referred to as a city. However, the law recognized that the term "village" would likely continue in common use and stated that former villages could continue to refer to themselves as a village in any internal affairs or public communications but must be referred to as a city in any regulatory or legal proceedings.

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The Cuyuna Iron Range

The Cuyuna Iron Range was the last of Minnesota's three iron ranges to develop, following the establishment of the Vermillion and Mesabi Ranges (Image 2). The ranges are elongated iron-mining districts, rather than mountain ranges, characterized by Precambrian sedimentary formations that contained high percentages of iron. The development of the Cuyuna Range was delayed because its iron ore deposits were buried within glacial sediment. There were no obvious outcrops of iron ore at the surface like those found on the Vermillion and Mesabi Ranges that led to their earlier discoveries.⁵

Native Americans had lived on or near the lands that were to become the Cuyuna Iron Range for thousands of years. In the mid-to-late 1600s, three Native American populations were vying for these lands: the Arapaho, Dakota, and Ojibwe. But by the late 1700s, the Ojibwe resided in the area. Through a series of treaties completed between the United States and the Ojibwe from 1826-1867, the Ojibwe were promised hunting and fishing rights in exchange for granting permission for European-Americans to build settlements in the region. However, by 1868, most of the Ojibwe agreed or were forced to resettle on the reservation at White Lake or on reservations around Mille Lacs and Sandy Lakes.⁶

Waves of homesteaders began to arrive in the region, purchasing lands from railroads or lumber companies. The economy revolved around logging and small-scale farming until iron mining changed the landscape of the area.⁷ The European-American settlement on the lands that would become the Cuyuna Range centered on the Northern Pacific Depot in Withington, which was built in 1871. That same year, a 19-year-old land examiner working for the Northern Pacific named Cuyler Adams first visited the area. He continued working for the Northern Pacific as it expanded westward into North Dakota in the 1870s but would return to Withington (renamed Deerwood in 1882) approximately 10 years later and became a driving force in the development of the region as an iron mining district.⁸

The first person credited with prospecting for iron ore near what would become the Cuyuna Range was Henry Pajari, who in 1882 noticed magnetic deflections on his compass similar to those he had seen while working for iron mining companies in Michigan and Wisconsin. He attempted to dig several test pits but was frustrated by seeping water and unmarketable deposits.⁹

In the same year that Pajari tried and failed to demonstrate the presence of iron ore in Crow Wing County, Cuyler Adams returned to central Minnesota, now considerably wealthier and a more experienced land examiner. He noticed similar magnetic anomalies to those that Pajari experienced while surveying property with his trusted St. Bernard, Una. Over the next 25 years,

⁵ Frederick E. Sutherland, "The Cuyuna Iron Range: A Legacy of a 20th Century Industrial Community," PhD diss. (Michigan Technological University, 2016), 61.

⁶ Sutherland, 46-48, 50, 52.

⁷ Sutherland, 56.

⁸ Sutherland, 56-57.

⁹ Sutherland, 60.

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from 1882 to 1907, Adams organized investors, formed rail and mining companies, conducted systematic drill core tests for ore, and made real-estate deals in order to develop a new iron range.¹⁰

In 1903, Adams founded the Orelands Mining Company and persuaded eight Duluth investors to contribute one thousand dollars each to begin systematic drilling explorations for iron ore. Despite laying the groundwork for a mining district, few additional investors were willing to purchase stock in the Orelands Mining Company because of doubts that marketable iron ore existed in Crow Wing County. But then two fortunate events occurred. Prominent geologist H. B. Ayers entered the region and Adams persuaded him to promote geological exploration and to bolster the legitimacy of the Orelands Mining Company. The second event occurred in April 1904 when the Oliver Mining Company, a branch of the United States Steel Company, began exploring south of the existing Mesabi Iron Range in Aitkin and Crow Wing Counties. Their drill crews had little success, but perceptions began to change about the potential for iron ore. Suddenly, Oreland's stock was selling quickly.¹¹

The sudden surge in investment allowed Adams and his partners to purchase their own drilling equipment and begin more concentrated testing. During the summer of 1904, the Orelands crew had success in identifying deposits of high-grade ore on land that would become part of the Kennedy Mine. Over the next two years the company focused on acquiring land, further drill testing, and enticing investors into leasing mineral rights.¹²

In about 1905, Charles Leith, a visiting geologist from the Mesabi Range, met with Cuyler Adams and asked him what he thought the new iron range should be called. According to local legend, Adams' wife, Virginia, suggested a combination of the first syllable of Cuyler's name, Cuy, which he was often called by friends and family, along with the name of his faithful dog Una, who had accompanied him on so many of his prospecting expeditions, resulting in the name Cuyuna. From that time on, Cuyuna became the official name of the iron range.¹³

By June 1907, Adams and his business partners persuaded S. A. Kennedy, president of the Rogers-Brown Ore Company of Buffalo, New York, to lease and develop the property, which was to become known as the Kennedy Mine, the first active mine on the Cuyuna Range. By the end of December 1907, the new mine had a 60-foot shaft, an engine house, a blacksmith shop, and other buildings. In 1910, a railroad was constructed to the mine in order to transport the ore directly from the mine. The first ore was shipped in April 1911 (Images 3 and 4).¹⁴

The next 15 years after the opening of the Kennedy Mine brought booming growth to the area as additional mines opened and new communities were established nearby. The new mining towns included Cuyuna, Crosby, Ironton, Manganese, Riverton, Trommald, and Wolford.

¹⁰ Sutherland, 61.

¹¹ Sutherland, 65-66.

¹² Sutherland, 66-67.

¹³ Sutherland, 66-67.

¹⁴ Sutherland, 68, 76.

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Demand for iron ore from the Cuyuna Range surged during World War I as the manganese-rich ore, which could harden steel, was used for wartime production. At the time, there were over 30 mines on the Cuyuna Range. The earliest mines were underground, while in time open-pit mines were also developed.

Sadly, the Cuyuna Range was the location of the worst mining disaster in Minnesota history. On February 5, 1924, a new tunnel at the Milford Mine was blasted too close to nearby Foley Lake, water rushed in, killing 41 miners.

Demand for iron ore increased again during World War II for military production. The Cuyuna Range reached peak production in 1953 with 3,714,634 tons of ore produced. In 1967, the Armor #2 mine closed. It was the last operating underground mine in Minnesota at the time. In 1982, the last iron ore shipment left the Cuyuna Iron Range.

By 1993, most of the former mine lands had been consolidated into the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area as non-mining activities were introduced in order to bring economic vitality to the region.¹⁵

The Early Years of the Village of Cuyuna

The Village of Cuyuna developed on land immediately to the south of the Kennedy Mine (Image 5). It was the first permanent settlement spurred by the mining boom on the Cuyuna Iron Range. The settlement was called Cuyuna, appropriately named after the iron range. In 1908, eight blocks were platted. This first plat was referred to as the Original Town.

In June 1910, a delegation from Cuyuna presented a petition to Crow Wing County requesting permission to incorporate. The county granted permission to the petitioners, Charles Peterson, William Ham, and Frank Buchanan, who enthusiastically stated it would not be long before the town possessed electric lights, a waterworks, and improved streets. They were also authorized to hold a vote to obtain approval from the residents. It was noted that the town would consist of 3.5 square miles.¹⁶

The vote was held on July 2, 1910 and it was said the results were overwhelmingly in favor of incorporation.¹⁷ Officers for the newly incorporated Village of Cuyuna were subsequently elected and included Ed Gustad, Council President; Gust Sylow, Charles Richards, and Charles Peterson, Trustees; George McDonald, Clerk; R. W. Wedgewood, Treasurer; William Ham and Gust Anderson, Justices of the Peace; and Frank Buchanan and Mr. James, Constables.¹⁸

In December 1910, architectural plans and a cost estimate for a village hall were prepared and accepted by the village council. Located on Foley Street, work began immediately and the

¹⁵ "Cuyuna Iron Range," MNopedia, accessed July 15, 2021, <https://www.mnopedia.org/place/cuyuna-iron-range>.

¹⁶ "Cuyuna Towns Will Organize: Crosby and Cuyuna Petitions Granted by Crow Wing County Board," *The Duluth Herald*, June 11, 1910, 25-26.

¹⁷ "Crosby Elections," *The Duluth Herald*, July 18, 1910, 9.

¹⁸ "Gustad President of Cuyuna Council," *The Aitkin Age*, July 26, 1910, 1.

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building was completed in February 1911. The fire department was located at the back of the building. Even before the building was completed, the village purchased fire-fighting equipment including a hand-drawn fire wagon with a 60-gallon chemical tank. The village also purchased a four-wheel hook and ladder wagon. One of the vintage wagons still exists and had been stored in the current village hall (Image 6). The village also purchased a 24-inch, 300-pound bell that was installed in the belfry. It was used for fire calls, curfews, and other emergencies.¹⁹

Construction of the town's buildings had begun once the Original Town was platted in 1908. In 1912, T. R. Foley platted an addition that expanded the street grid to the west.²⁰ Known as Foley's First Addition, this was followed by Foley's Second Addition which further expanded the town. A 1913 colored-coded plat map depicts both the Original Town and the subsequent additions (Images 7 and 8). The map also identifies all the commercial, civic, and public buildings in Cuyuna. Residences were not depicted. The following includes the buildings identified by generic name on the map: Hospital, Village Hall, General Store (2), Post Office, Drug Store, Meat Market, Bank, Livery (2), Lumber Company (2), Church (2), Hotel (3), School, Saloon, Confectionary, Clothing Store, Pool Hall, Restaurant (2), Hardware Store, Store (4).

Once the village was incorporated, major infrastructure improvements were undertaken. In February 1911, the village voted to issue bonds to finance a waterworks that was to be supplied from an artesian well.²¹ In May 1912, the village issued "municipal improvement bonds" in the amount of \$25,000.²² In June 1913, the village issued bonds to construct a bridge over the narrows at Rabbit Lake, just north of town. Crow Wing County also provided financial support for the project. At the same time the village issued "sewer bonds" in the amount of \$10,000.²³

The town continued to grow. In 1910, a new two-story school building constructed one block west of Minnesota Avenue replaced a smaller school built in 1908. By 1912, the *Cuyuna Range Miner* began publishing the first newspaper on the Cuyuna Iron Range in a building on Foley Street. The newspaper reported that the population of Cuyuna had increased to 1,200 by the end of 1912. Historic photographs depict a variety of commercial and residential buildings (Images 9 and 10).

Development companies purchased land in Cuyuna and offered it for sale to businesses and individuals. One example was the Locker-Donahue Company of Duluth, which placed advertisements in the *Duluth Herald* and promoted the attributes of Cuyuna.

Now is the time to buy business and resident lots in a thriving town of 1,200 which is getting bigger every day. . . . Cuyuna is a lively city with paved sidewalks, electric lights and its own spring water supply delivered through mains

¹⁹ "Old Cuyuna Landmark Is Being Torn Down," *Crosby-Ironton Courier*, March 30, 1955, n.p.

²⁰ "Local News of the Week," *The Aitkin Independent Age*, August 3, 1912, 5.

²¹ "Local News," *The Aitkin Age*, February 21, 1911, 9.

²² "Local News," *The Aitkin Age*, May 7, 1912, 5.

²³ "Cuyuna Votes Bridge Bonds," *The Duluth Herald*, June 27, 1913, 19.

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in all parts of town. It also has its own sewer system. Cuyuna has handsome residence streets with cozy homes for the mine workers. . . ²⁴

The advertisement included photographs of the Kennedy Mine, the First State Bank, the hospital, and a street with residences. In a subsequent article, the Locker-Donahue Company advertised business lot for \$300-\$600 and residential lots for \$200-\$400.²⁵

Many of the residents were immigrants who had come from Scandinavia or southeastern Europe in the early part of the century to work in the underground mines of the Mesabi Range or in the mines of the upper peninsula of Michigan. A camaraderie developed among the miners that transcended their differences in language and also extended to their families.²⁶

To attract married men with families, who were thought more likely to be long-term employees, the Rogers-Brown Ore Company built a number of two-story houses in Cuyuna, each with a fair-sized yard, city water, and quite often enough space to raise a cow, a few pigs, a flock of chickens, and a small garden. Before long, electrical service was added. Besides providing good housing at reasonable rents (from \$12 to \$25 a month) for its employees, the Rogers-Brown Ore Company provided free entertainment every week including lyceum programs and silent films at the Cuyuna Theater for everyone in the area.²⁷

But in 1925 the ore was exhausted at the Kennedy Mine and the mine closed. Many of the miners moved to Crosby or Ironton to work in the Meacham mine and other underground mines belonging to the Roger-Brown Company. Poor roads and unreliable automobiles made it almost essential to live near one's place of employment. As the miners and their families left Cuyuna, many of the stores, hotels, and businesses moved out. Dependent on a one-industry economy, in less than a generation Cuyuna had become a boom-bust town.²⁸

The First State Bank

The building that was to become the Cuyuna Village Hall was first constructed as the First State Bank. The bank purchased two lots for their new building on March 30, 1910. The bank bought the land from Joe P. and James M. Maguire for \$1,500.00. They had previously purchased the lots from its original owners, T. R. Foley, Jr. and his wife Mildred.²⁹ The land is located at the intersection of Minnesota Avenue and Foley Street, at the north end of Cuyuna's business district, and is defined as Lots 16 and 17, Block 2, Original Town.

²⁴ "Cuyuna," *The Duluth Herald*, December 7, 1912, 5.

²⁵ "Cuyuna: A Coming City of the Cuyuna Iron Range," *The Duluth Herald*, May 26, 1913, 41.

²⁶ Berger Aulie and Beverly Mindrum Johnson, eds., *Cuyuna County: A People's History*, vol. 2 (Crosby-Ironton: Cuyuna Country Heritage Preservation Society, 2002), 134.

²⁷ "History," City of Cuyuna website, accessed August 14, 2021, <https://www.ci.cuyuna.mn.us/about/history>.

²⁸ *Cuyuna Country*, 135.

²⁹ Deed Nos. 390328 and 390329, Crow Wing County Property Records, Crow Wing County Land Services, Brainerd, Minnesota.

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Construction of the building was nearing completion by the fall of 1911. An article dated September 29, 1911, in *The Brainerd Daily Dispatch* stated, "The Deerwood Heating & Plumbing Co. has received the contract to put in a heating plant in the new First State Bank of Cuyuna."³⁰ The newspaper included a photograph of the completed building in an issue dated November 15, 1912.³¹

The building was described as, "... 25 x 50 feet, with full basement, built of Menominee pressed brick, steam heated and electric lighted." The same article discussed the financial strength of the bank. "In financial circles Cuyuna is rated equal to that of other range towns. The First State Bank, with capital of \$12,000, surplus and undivided profits of \$2,500, is certainly a good showing as a commencement." The officers were identified as Isaac Hazlett, president; F. B. Coon, vice-president; and R. W. Wedgwood, cashier.³² Historic photographs depict the exterior and interior of the First State Bank shortly after construction was completed (Images 11 and 12).

A full financial statement for the bank was published in the *Cuyuna Range Miner* on December 13, 1912. The statement listed assets and liabilities equaling \$56,449.66. The statement also listed J. J. Meyer as a director of the bank in addition to the officers noted above.³³

As of 1913, Isaac Hazlett and R. W. Wedgwood remained as president and cashier of the bank respectively. J. J. Meyer and H. J. Ernster had been appointed vice presidents, and H. D. McNeil had been named assistant cashier.³⁴ A photograph of Cuyuna from the same year depicts the bank building with the growing town in the background (Image 13).

The First State Bank may have been one of the few or perhaps the only brick or masonry building in town. While a comprehensive set of photographs for the town has not been located, the photographs located thus far depict only frame buildings. In addition, a photo of the bank was featured in several articles and advertisements about Cuyuna. The use of brick and stone was a logical choice as the materials presented an image of strength and permanence for the bank.

The First State Bank offered typical banking services including checking and savings accounts and loans. Yet the bank offered an array of additional services, some of which were rather unexpected in a small, newly established mining community. These services were advertised in the *Cuyuna Range Miner*. For example, the bank would assist with travel arrangements:

Tickets sold for the two best steamship lines, at the First State Bank, Cunard and Scandinavian lines.

Reduced rates on rail and steamship tickets for those going to the Olympic Games at Stockholm, Sweden at the First State Bank.³⁵

³⁰ "Property Values Jump in Deerwood," *The Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, September 29, 1911, 4.

³¹ *The Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, November 15, 1912, 6.

³² *Duluth Opportunities Magazine*, quoted in "Local News," *Cuyuna Range Miner*, December 20, 1912, 4.

³³ "Bank Statement," *Cuyuna Range Miner*, December 3, 1912, 7.

³⁴ "1913-14 Cuyuna City Directory," Crow Wing County Historical Society, Brainerd, Minnesota.

³⁵ "Local News," *Cuyuna Range Miner*, February 4, 1912, 1.

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The bank also served as an agent for land sales. An advertisement for lots for sale in Cuyuna stated, "New prices, fine terms, cash discount on Cuyuna lots, this is your chance, First State Bank."³⁶ The bank also offered trust services and assistance with wills and estate planning.³⁷

One of the most interesting activities of the bank was their ongoing effort to educate the public about the safety, convenience, and advantages of a bank account. Each week the bank placed a large, illustrated advertisement in the *Cuyuna Range Miner* that discussed some aspect of the importance of a bank account. Advertisements discussed how periodic savings facilitated planning for the future and the possible purchase of land, a house, or a farm. Children's accounts were also encouraged as well as saving for a child's education. Some advertisement took on a humorous tone such as an ad that discouraged a woman from marrying a man who did not have a bank account as he might be a spendthrift. The impact of earning interest was also discussed (Images 14 and 15).

With the closing of the Kennedy mine in 1925, the Village of Cuyuna began its decline. Miners moved to communities with active mines and Cuyuna's businesses closed. The First State Bank survived the initial closure of the mine and the early years of the Great Depression, but by 1932 it had become apparent that the bank would not remain viable in a town with a dwindling population. On December 20, 1932, the First State Bank of Cuyuna reached an agreement with the First National Bank of Crosby to assume its business. Documents filed with Crow Wing County describe the agreement:

It is the desire of the stockholders of the first party (First State Bank of Cuyuna) to dispose of its assets and to liquidate its liabilities herein listed so as to enable it to discontinue its business and go into voluntary liquidation.

By reason of the foregoing facts the party of the first part has proposed that the party of the second part (First National Bank of Crosby) assume all of said liabilities, in consideration of which the party of the first part shall assign, transfer, set over and deliver to the party of the second part certain cash money, loans and discounts, warrants, overdrafts, bonds and other property and the party of the second part has duly considered said proposal and has agreed to assume said obligations of the party of the first part upon the terms and conditions hereinafter stated.³⁸

The detailed agreement itemized the bank's assets and liabilities, the names and balances of all account holders, all outstanding loans, as well as the bonds and other assets owned by the bank. The bank building was valued at \$4,850.00. The contents of the building was valued at \$3,000.00

³⁶ "Advertisement," *Cuyuna Range Miner*, October 18, 1912, 1.

³⁷ "About Your Will," *Cuyuna Range Miner*, October 4, 1912, 4.

³⁸ Document No. 10170 dated December 20, 1932, Crow Wing County Property Records.

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including the "bank safe, adding machine, typewriter, safe deposit boxes, desks, chairs and all other furniture and fixtures of whatever description."³⁹

A trustee was appointed to handle the matter, which was concluded on March 10, 1936, with the ownership transfer of the First State Bank building and other real estate owned by the bank to the First National Bank of Crosby.⁴⁰

Cuyuna Purchases the First State Bank Building

Cuyuna purchased the former First State Bank building for its village hall on August 21, 1954, for the sum of \$541.00.⁴¹ According to the 1913 plat map, the first village hall was located two blocks to the west on Foley Street. The village likely purchased the First State Bank building because it was a more substantial building.

Sometime after the First State Bank closed, the building was said to have been used as Cuyuna's post office.⁴² The town's first post office (no longer extant) was located on Foley Street, about a block to the west of the First State Bank as shown on the 1913 plat map. In *Minnesota Places Names: A Geographical Encyclopedia* it is noted that a post office operated in Cuyuna from 1908-1954.⁴³ Postal services were then provided in the nearby town of Deerwood. However, the post office never acquired title to the building and it remained in the ownership of the First National Bank of Crosby and perhaps the bank authorized its use under an informal arrangement.

In any event, the First National Bank of Crosby had been unsuccessful in trying to sell the building, which is not surprising due to the decline of the town, and at some point, the building was tax forfeited. A local man by the name of Claude Wahl acquired title to the building from Crow Wing County on August 19, 1954, and the building was subsequently sold to the village two days later on August 21, 1954.⁴⁴

Meanwhile, the old village hall building was sold and dismantled:

Dismantling of the old landmark, the Cuyuna village hall, was begun last week by Ed Blomen and John Larson of Deerwood, highest bidders on the building in a recent call for bids made by the village council.⁴⁵

The newly acquired building served as both the village hall and fire department. The large window on the south elevation was removed to provide an entrance for the fire truck. The three

³⁹ Document No. 10170 dated December 20, 1932, Crow Wing County Property Records.

⁴⁰ Document No. 11890 dated March 10, 1936, Crow Wing County Property Records.

⁴¹ Deed No. 106159, Crow Wing County Property Records.

⁴² *Cuyuna Country: A People's History*, 133.

⁴³ Warren Upham, *Minnesota Place Names: A Geographical Encyclopedia* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2001), 158.

⁴⁴ "Conveyance of Forfeited Lands," Deed No. 129591; Deed No. 106159, Crow Wing County Property Records.

⁴⁵ "Old Cuyuna Landmark Is Being Torn Down," *Crosby-Ironton Courier*, March 30, 1955, n.p.

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large windows on the east elevation of the building were later infilled with wood panels, each with a single window, in about 1960.

A periodic search through issues of the *Crosby-Ironton Courier*, a newspaper which featured news from Cuyuna, provided information about services, activities, and social events associated with the village hall. For example, an article dated August 19, 1954, announced that residents could obtain applications for driver's licenses along with instruction materials at the village hall. The materials were provided by the Minnesota Department of Highways.⁴⁶

The Cuyuna Fire Department was featured regularly in newspaper articles for both official duties and for social events that the department sponsored. In September 1954, five fireman, including Gus Steinke, Tom O'Brien, John Deblock, Peter Sorenson, and Ernest Burgwald attended a training session held in Little Falls.⁴⁷ In November 1954, nine fireman from Cuyuna attended a district firemen's meeting in Staples.⁴⁸

The firemen also sponsored card parties for the community on a regular basis. A card party held in December 1954 was described as follows:

A card party will be held Dec. 2, sponsored by the fire department. Cribbage and 500 will be played with prizes given. Refreshments will be served. Tickets are 50 cents.⁴⁹

The *Crosby-Ironton Courier* also featured notices of local elections and the subsequent results. In 1954, the following were elected to city offices: Bernard Nephew, clerk; Tom O'Brien, trustee; Ernest Burgwald, assessor; Tony Krall, constable; and Kenneth Maddux, justice of the peace.⁵⁰

A review of articles about Cuyuna in the *Crosby-Ironton Courier* from 1959-1960 identified additional announcements about the on-going card parties sponsored by the fire department.⁵¹ In 1959, the following were elected to city offices: Gus Steinke, mayor; Julia Carsten, treasurer; and Clarence Denning, trustee.⁵² It was also noted that the mayor's salary was \$100 per year and the trustee's salary was \$90 per year.⁵³

In 1971, the Cuyuna Fire Department won \$15 for the most comical float at the 4th of July parade in Crosby.⁵⁴ Unfortunately, the *Crosby-Ironton Courier* did not include a photo depicting the float.

⁴⁶ "Cuyuna," *Crosby-Ironton Courier*, August 19, 1954, 9.

⁴⁷ "Cuyuna," *Crosby-Ironton Courier*, September 22, 1954, 6.

⁴⁸ "Cuyuna," *Crosby-Ironton Courier*, November 17, 1954, 8.

⁴⁹ "Card Party Set By Cuyuna Men," *Crosby-Ironton Courier*, November 17, 1954, 2.

⁵⁰ "Light Vote is Cast in Village Elections," *Crosby-Ironton Courier*, December 8, 1954, 1.

⁵¹ "Card Party," *Crosby-Ironton Courier*, October 14, 1959, 3.

⁵² "Bedard, Mrs. Thomas Are Elected in Ironton," *Crosby-Ironton Courier*, December 9, 1959, 1.

⁵³ "Village Posts to be Filled Tuesday," *Crosby-Ironton Courier*, December 2, 1959, 1.

⁵⁴ "Weather Cooperates for Big July 4th Observance," *Crosby-Ironton-Courier*, July 7, 1971, 1.

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Expanding the Village Hall

The Cuyuna Village Council discussed a proposed addition to the village hall at their council meeting held on April 12, 1978. The purpose of the addition was to provide better facilities for the fire department and more space for community events. The minutes noted that a government official from Minneapolis was in attendance who discussed financing options for the addition that were available to small cities including loans and bonds. Based on an expected cost of between \$25-28 per square foot, the 50 foot by 32-foot addition was estimated to cost \$40,000.00.⁵⁵

At the May 10, 1978, meeting of the village council, council member John Deblock made a motion "to build (the) new fire hall." The motion was seconded by Roger Bierman and passed unanimously. A \$5,000.00 payment was also authorized payable to Merle Cernohlavek for the concrete and cement work.⁵⁶

The addition was well underway by mid-June when a construction photograph was featured in the *Crosby-Ironton Courier* on June 14, 1978 (Image 16). The following description of the addition accompanied the photo:

The Cuyuna fire-hall city-hall, one of the first brick buildings in the early mining community, is going modern. An addition is being built adjacent to the present building which will give considerable and much needed space for community events. A contractor is doing the cement work on the new addition with a good deal of the rest of the construction to be on a volunteer basis by firemen and other residents.⁵⁷

By mid-July, construction had proceeded to the point where the city council noted that the wiring and sheet rock would be installed along with the doors.⁵⁸ The final expense for the addition was paid in October 1978. The disbursements included \$8,175.00 to Merle Cernohlavek for the concrete work; \$4,423.69 to Timber Building Supply for rafters, roofing, and miscellaneous supplies; \$555.00 to James Pepel for taping and spraying; \$550.43 to Peyser Electric for electrical supplies; \$676.85 to Lakes Gas Company for the purchase and installation of a gas heater; \$46.98 to Prushek Plumbing for pipes; \$122.72 to Harlan Peterson for plumbing supplies; and \$1,212.45 to James Hohmen for the walls and doors for the restroom.⁵⁹

The cost of the addition totaled \$15,763.12 or just 40% of the estimated cost of \$40,000.00 had all the work been contracted out. The city council decided it could not finance the entire construction costs and of necessity used volunteer labor to complete the building. Of particular note is the payment of \$122.72 to Harlan Peterson for plumbing supplies. Peterson was serving

⁵⁵ "Cuyuna City Council Minutes," Cuyuna City Council, April 12, 1978.

⁵⁶ "Cuyuna City Council Minutes," Cuyuna City Council, May 10, 1978.

⁵⁷ *Crosby-Ironton Courier*, June 14, 1978, 6.

⁵⁸ "Cuyuna City Council Minutes," Cuyuna City Council, July 12, 1978.

⁵⁹ "Disbursements Ledger," Cuyuna City Council, June-November 1978.

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as Cuyuna's mayor and he was among those who volunteered their time and installed the building's plumbing. The volunteer effort is all the more remarkable, and perhaps necessary, when considering that Cuyuna's population was said to have declined to 82 by 1970.

The completed 1978 addition to the village hall is depicted in a photograph of the building that was taken in June 1979 as part of a survey of the area conducted by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office.⁶⁰ The image depicts the two overhead doors and a service door on the south elevation (Image 17). The photograph also depicts the opening for the fire truck on the south elevation of the 1911 building that had been created after the city purchased the building in 1954. In 1980, after the fire truck was relocated to the new addition, the overhead garage door was sold for \$75.00 and the opening infilled and insulated.⁶¹

There were several notable events that took place in Cuyuna in 1978. On June 29, 1978, the community of Cuyuna was invited to a town meeting where residents could "look at hopes, challenges and proposals." The meeting was part of a broader initiative called Iron Range Future Days in which citizens were asked to create a vision for their communities for the next 20 years.⁶²

A notice of elections in Cuyuna was published in the November 1, 1978, issue of the *Crosby-Ironton Courier*. City Clerk Martha Ruikka filed the announcement, which stated, "The General Election for the City of Cuyuna will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 1978, at the Fire Hall. Polls are open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Sunday Liquor question will also be voted on." It was also announced that William F. Bedard was running for councilman.⁶³ Mr. Bedard currently serves as Clerk Treasurer of Cuyuna.

The Second Addition to the Village Hall

The second concrete block addition was added to the building in 1987, extending the building to the west. The expansion provided additional space for the fire department as well as more space for community events and included two garage stalls and a service door at the far west end of the building. The city selected C-R Builders for the concrete and roof work. The estimated cost for their work was roughly \$14,000.00, exclusive of the costs for the electrical, plumbing, heating, and painting. However, when the city's disbursements are tabulated, the total cost for the addition was roughly \$11,000.00.⁶⁴ As was the case with the 1987 addition, considerable work was completed by volunteer labor.

⁶⁰ Photograph by Robert Frame, Minnesota Historic Properties Inventory Form, Contact Sheet 03019, Frame 19, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota.

⁶¹ "Cuyuna City Council Minutes," Cuyuna City Council, June 11, 1980.

⁶² "Town meetings in Ironton and in Cuyuna," *Crosby-Ironton Courier*, June 21, 1978, 1.

⁶³ "Election Notice," *Crosby-Ironton Courier*, November 1, 1978, 16; "Tuesday, Nov. 7 general election day," *Crosby-Ironton Courier*, November 1, 1978, 1.

⁶⁴ "Cuyuna City Council Minutes," Cuyuna City Council, May 13, 1987; "Disbursements Ledger," Cuyuna City Council, May-December 1987.

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Clerk-Treasurer Bill Bedard noted that Cuyuna's strong spirit of volunteerism continues to this day. Citizens, elected officials, and firemen have all provided additional volunteer services including completing repairs to the village hall, clearing snow from hydrants, conducting controlled burns around the city, turning water supplies off and on as needed, reviewing and adding ordinances for organized growth of the city, and completing other needed projects.⁶⁵

Area organizations also used the building for events. City council minutes from 1988 note that the Cuyuna Range Conservation Club was planning to hold its spring annual meeting and dinner at the city hall.⁶⁶

Continuing Service to the Community

In 1999, the city council voted to establish its own police department.⁶⁷ While there had been a police department during Cuyuna's boom days, in more recent decades law enforcement services had been provided by Crow Wing County. The police department began utilizing space in the 1987 addition and partitioned the west end of the addition for office space.

In 2001, the fire department began discussing the possibility of expanding the current building but ultimately decided to construct a separate building. In 2002, a new metal-clad building for the fire department was built on Minnesota Avenue, just one block south of the city hall. However, the fire department still utilizes space in the 1978 addition while the police department continues to utilize the space in the 1987 addition.

Thus, throughout the years, the Cuyuna Village Hall served as the principal location for governmental activities and municipal services. Yet, as noted previously, the building served the citizens of Cuyuna in numerous additional ways, typical of a small town where citizens depended on city government and their city hall building for a range of civic services and as a location for community events. Clerk-Treasurer Bill Bedard recalled the range of services provided to the citizens of Cuyuna at the city hall, which included:

- Storm shelter during adverse weather
- Hall for election voting
- Location for city and area organizations to hold meetings
- Site for community dinners
- Location of annual fire department benefit
- Venue for dances, annual 4th of July and holiday celebrations, and personal gatherings⁶⁸

⁶⁵ Clerk-Treasurer Bill Bedard, email message to Rolf Anderson, December 7, 2023.

⁶⁶ "Cuyuna City Council Minutes," Cuyuna City Council, August 10, 1988.

⁶⁷ "Cuyuna City Council Minutes," Cuyuna City Council, October 13, 1999.

⁶⁸ Bill Bedard, email to Rolf Anderson, January 4, 2022; Bill Bedard, discussion with Rolf Anderson, October 30, 2023.

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After the Boom

Today, few buildings remain from Cuyuna's settlement era (Compare Images 13 and 18). Over the years, the vast majority of Cuyuna's buildings from its boom days have been moved, dismantled, or demolished. The village hall is the only remaining building from the once numerous commercial and civic buildings. A 2013 survey of Cuyuna identified about a dozen residences that survive from settlement era, with various levels of integrity. The houses are typically one-and-one-half story and gabled fronted.⁶⁹ Yet the original street grid and street names remain in place and the Cuyuna Village Hall and homes from the boom days recall the first mining town established on the Cuyuna Iron Range, and its namesake.

Today Cuyuna serves mainly as a residential community with the residents employed in nearby towns. While the population had decreased to 82 by 1970, the population has currently rebounded to about 300. The city is expecting the population to continue to increase and two new plats are in the initial planning stages in order to accommodate additional homes.⁷⁰

Conclusion

For the past 70 years, as Cuyuna's population ebbed and flowed, the Cuyuna Village Hall has continued to meet the needs of its citizens and served an important focal point for community events and activities.

⁶⁹ Sutherland, Fred, "Cuyuna Range Historic Structures Survey," vol. 3, 2013, n.p. The 2013 survey of buildings in Cuyuna suggests that a building directly across Foley Avenue from the village hall may have been built during the boom days, although historic photographs depict a large two-story building at that location. The current building is only one story and features metal siding and a metal roof.

⁷⁰ Clerk-Treasurer Bill Bedard, email message to Rolf Anderson, December 7, 2023.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Berger, Aulie and Beverly Mindrum Johnson, eds. *Cuyuna Country: A People's History*, 3 vols. Ironton: Cuyuna Country Heritage Preservation Society, 2002.

Hansen, Arlie, ed. *Cuy-Una!: a Chronical of the Cuyuna Range*. Crosby-Ironton: Cuyuna Range Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. Works Progress Administration. *The Cuyuna Range: A History of a Minnesota Iron Mining District*. St. Paul, Minnesota, 1940.

Sutherland, Frederick E. "The Cuyuna Iron Range: A Legacy of a 20th Century Industrial Community." PhD diss, Michigan Technological University, 2016.

Newspapers

Brainerd Daily Dispatch

Crosby-Ironton Courier

Cuyuna Range Miner

Archival Collections

Crow Wing County Historical Society, Brainerd, Minnesota

Cuyuna Iron Range Heritage Network, Crosby, Minnesota

Hallett Library, Crosby, Minnesota

Unpublished Sources

Cuyuna Village Council Minutes. Village of Cuyuna

Interviews

John Deblock, Sr. and John Deblock, Jr., interview with Rolf Anderson and Todd Grover, August 2, 2021.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): CW-CYC-004

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .14 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude:	Longitude:
2. Latitude:	Longitude:
3. Latitude:	Longitude:
4. Latitude:	Longitude:

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Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☒ AD 1927 or

☐ NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 429280 | Northing: 5151820 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots 16 and 17, Block 2, Original Town

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the building historically associated with the property.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Rolf T. Anderson
organization: _____
street & number: 212 West 36th Street
city or town: Minneapolis state: MN zip code: 55408
e-mail: roanders6@aol.com
telephone: 612-824-7807
date: February 1, 2024

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Cuyuna Village Hall

City or Vicinity: Cuyuna

County: Crow Wing

State: Minnesota

Photographer: Rolf T. Anderson

Date Photographed: October 30-31, 2023, unless noted.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 19. South and east elevations, facing northwest.
- 2 of 19. South and east elevations, facing northwest.
- 3 of 19. Masonry detail, south elevation, 1911 building, facing north.
- 4 of 19. East elevation, 1911 building, facing west.
- 5 of 19. Masonry detail, east elevation, 1911 building, facing west.
- 6 of 19. North elevation, 1911 building, facing south.
- 7 of 19. North and west elevations, 1911 building, with 1978 addition at right, facing southeast.
- 8 of 19. South elevation, 1978 and 1989 additions, facing northeast.
- 9 of 19. West elevation, 1989 addition, facing northeast.
- 10 of 19. North elevation, 1978 and 1989 additions, facing southwest.
- 11 of 19. Interior, 1911 building, facing north.
- 12 of 19. Bank vault, 1911 building, facing north.
- 13 of 19. Interior doors, bank vault, 1911 building, facing north (August 2, 2021)
- 14 of 19. Ceramic tile floor, bank vault, 1911 building, facing north (August 2, 2021)
- 15 of 19. Basement, with foundation walls for vault at left, 1911 building, facing north.
- 16 of 19. Vault floor as seen from the basement, facing north.
- 17 of 19. Interior of 1978 addition, with view into the 1911 building, facing southeast
- 18 of 18. Interior of 1989 addition, facing northeast.
- 19 of 19. Interior of police office, 1989 addition, with marble trim from the 1911 bank decorating the service counter, facing north.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Cuyuna Village Hall
Name of Property

Crow Wing, MN
County and State



Image 1. Aerial View of Cuyuna with the Cuyuna Village Hall noted with an arrow. Google Maps.

Cuyuna Village Hall
Name of Property

Crow Wing, MN
County and State

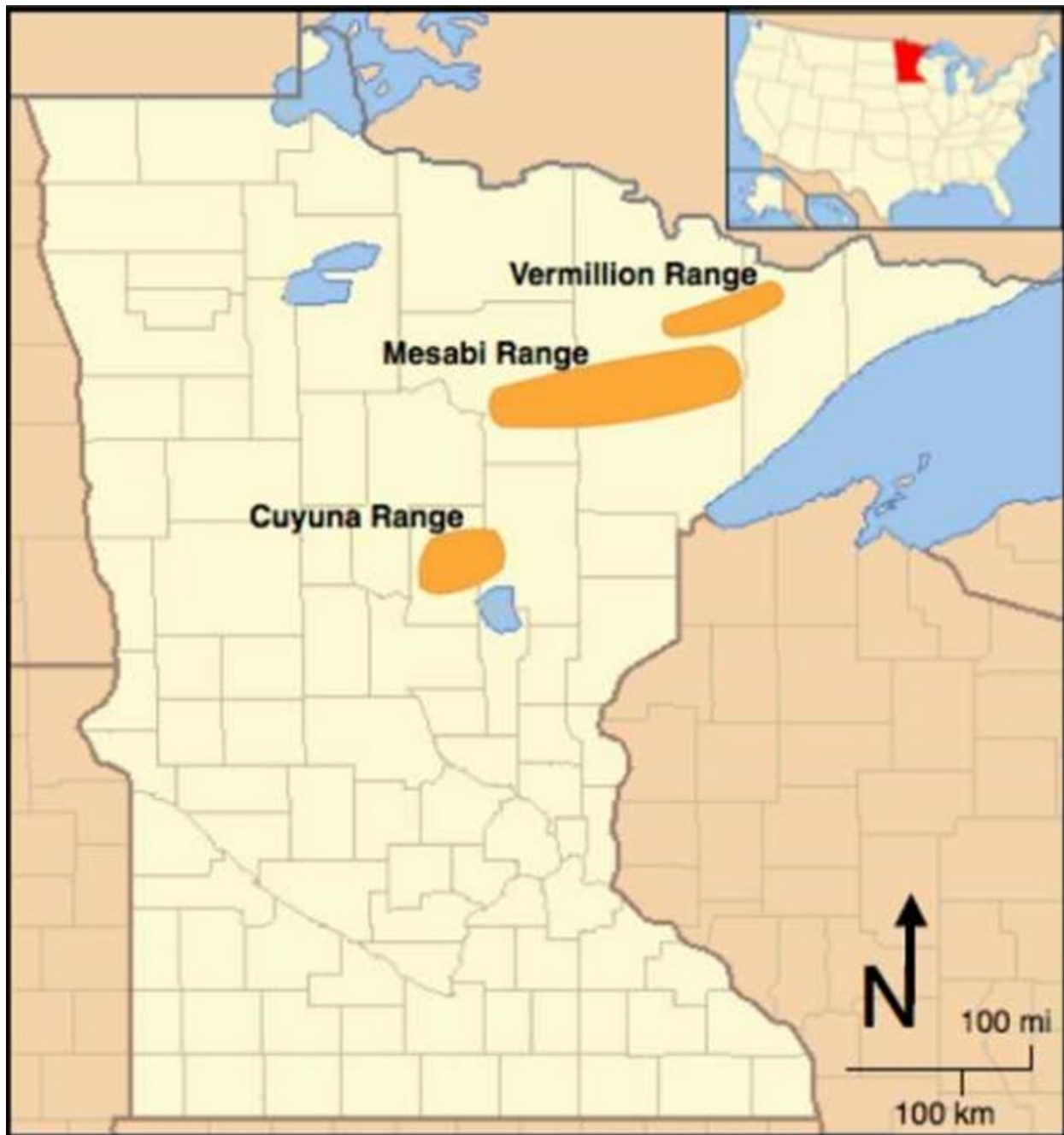


Image 2. The three iron ranges in Minnesota. Map by Fred Sutherland, MNOPEdia.

Cuyuna Village Hall
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Images 3 and 4. The Kennedy Mine, ca. 1910. Photos Minnesota Historical Society.

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Image 6. Vintage fire wagon that had been stored in the 1978 addition of the Cuyuna Village Hall, 2021. Photo Rolf Anderson.

Cuyuna Village Hall
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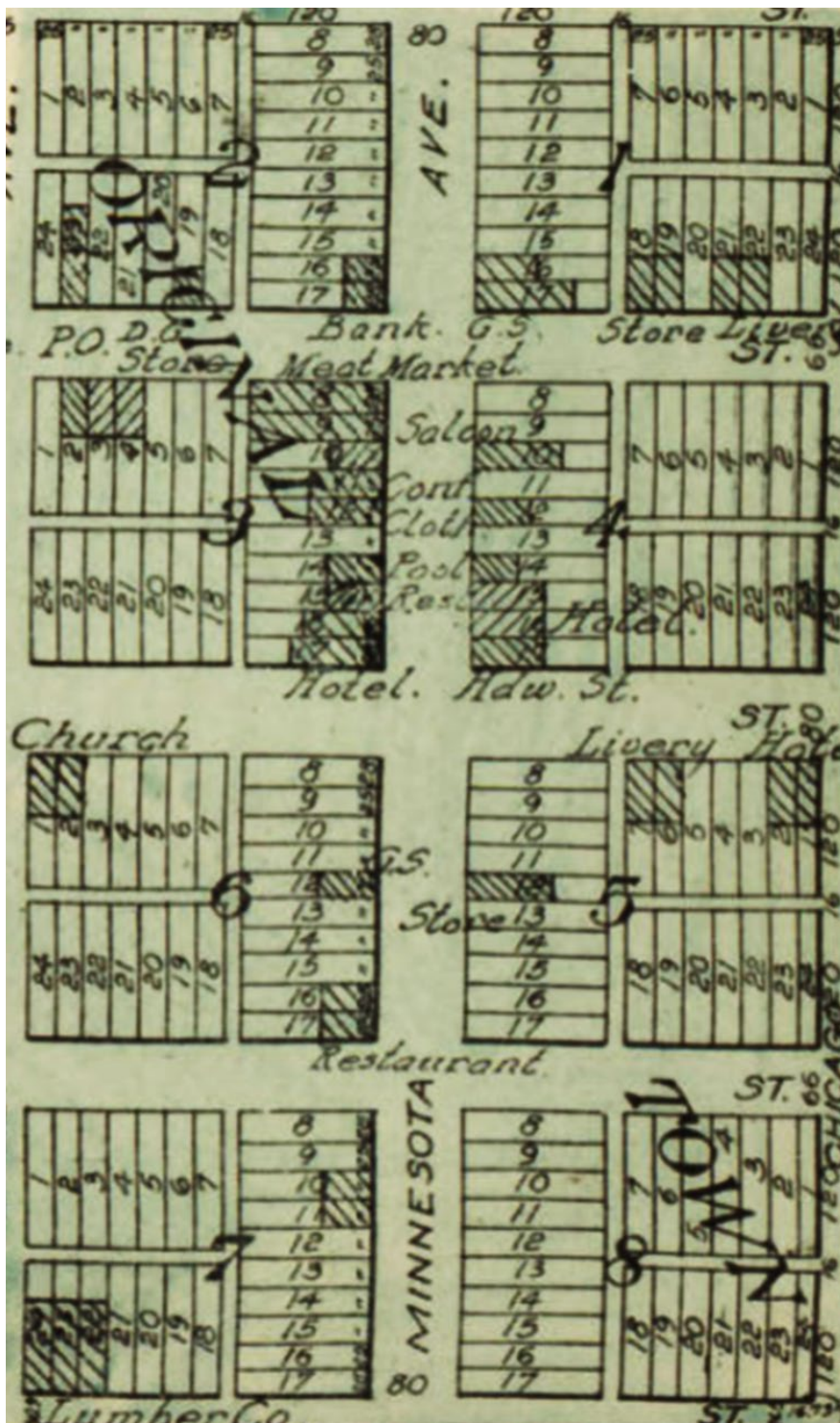


Image 8. Detail of the six blocks comprising Cuyuna's concentrated business district from the 1913 map shown in Image 6. The First State Bank is shown near the top of the map on a corner on the west side of Minnesota Avenue.

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Images 9 and 10. Top: Minnesota Avenue, facing north, ca. 1910. The three-story Cuyuna Hotel with the Mansard roof is at center left. Bottom: Minnesota Avenue facing south, ca. 1910. Photos Minnesota Historical Society.

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Image 11. First State Bank, ca. 1911. Photo from a brochure published by the Cuyuna Improvement Company. Photo courtesy Cuyuna Iron Range Heritage Network.

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Image 12. First State Bank interior, ca. 1915. Note the marble baseboard and counter. Photo courtesy Cuyuna Iron Range Heritage Network.

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Image 13. 1913 view of Cuyuna from the north with the north and east elevations of the First State Bank seen to the right of center. Photo courtesy Cuyuna Iron Range Heritage Network.

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Every pay day put some money in the bank

YOU can always afford something--no matter how small 

---put it in the bank. The most successful men in the world say, "your expenses should never exceed your income."

Take that advice and bank the surplus--It will make you independent is a safeguard against sickness, accident and misfortune. Next pay day--don't forget--start it here--even a dollar will do.

FIRST STATE BANK
CUYUNA, MINN.

Image 14. Advertisement. *Cuyuna Range Miner*, May 10, 1912.

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Image 15. Advertisement. *Cuyuna Range Miner*, July 19, 1912.

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Image 16. Construction photograph of the 1978 addition, which is to the left of the 1911 building. Note the rising sections of concrete blocks that will flank the service and garage doors. Also note the rear wall, which is built into the hillside. Photo courtesy *Crosby-Ironton Courier*.

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Image 17. June 1979 photo of the Cuyuna Village Hall depicting the 1978 addition at left. Photo by Robert Frame, Minnesota Historic Properties Inventory Form, Contact Sheet 03019, Frame 19, State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society.

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Image 18. 2021 view to the southwest on Minnesota Avenue with the Cuyuna Village Hall at right. The new fire department building is in the background at the left. Photo Rolf Anderson.