1. NAME
   COMMON: The McColl Building
   ANONYMOUS: Merchants National Bank Building

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: 366-368 Jackson Street
   CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul
   STATE: Minnesota
   CODE: 22
   COUNTY: Ramsey
   CODE: 123
   4th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

3. CLASSIFICATION
   CATEGORY (Check One)
   □ District □ Site □ Object
   □ Building □ Structure □ Private
   □ Site □ Structure □ Both
   □ Building □ Private
   □ Site □ Structure □ Both

   OWNERSHIP: Public
   □ Public Acquisition:
   □ In Process
   □ Being Considered
   □ Occupied
   □ Unoccupied
   □ Preservation work in progress
   YES: □ Restricted
   □ Unrestricted
   □ No
   ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

   PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
   □ Agricultural □ Government □ Park
   □ Commercial □ Industrial □ Private Residence
   □ Educational □ Military □ Religious
   □ Entertainment □ Museum □ Scientific
   □ Transportation □ Business
   □ Offices
   □ Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
   OWNER'S NAME: Norman B. Mears Investment
   STREET AND NUMBER: First National Bank Building -- Robert and Fourth Streets
   CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul
   STATE: Minnesota
   CODE: 22

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
   COURT HOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Ramsey County Courthouse
   STREET AND NUMBER: 15 West Kellogg Blvd.
   CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul
   STATE: Minnesota
   CODE: 22

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
   TITLE OF SURVEY: Statewide Historic Sites Survey/Historic St. Paul Buildings Survey
   DATE OF SURVEY: 1973/1964
   □ Federal □ State □ County □ Local
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Minnesota Historical Society
   STREET AND NUMBER: Building 25, Fort Snelling
   CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul
   STATE: Minnesota
   CODE: 22
### Description

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The Merchant's National Bank is a four-story, combination stone bearing wall and steel frame commercial structure. Built in 1892, the first floor was designed as a banking facility with office space available on the top three floors and accessible from the staircase leading from the first floor lobby.

Architecturally, the building is a well articulated example of Romanesque design. The front (west) and side (south) elevation, which are the only two elevations with any architectural detailing, are well organized complimentation of glass and stone masonry surfaces. Each vertical bank of windows is divided by a turret extending above the roof line. The windows are of arched design at the bottom and top levels, with the bottom window being designed in such a manner as to make the first two floors appear as one. The overall effect is to create the appearance of an extremely well proportioned, three-story building.

The most distinctive feature of the exterior is its ornate appearance, characterized by the careful utilization of rough, carved and polished stone. Built on a granite base, local rusticated red sandstone faces the exterior with polished stone columns and carved stone lintels detailing the window openings. Carved stone is also utilized along the upper cornice line. Consequently, the overall result is the creation of an extremely attractive and highly textured exterior facade.

The building is presently used almost entirely as an office structure. The entry lobby along with the exterior elevations have undergone very little alteration and the only major change being the recent remodeling of the basement into a restaurant.
### S. SIGNIFICANCE

<table>
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<td>15th Century</td>
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**SPECIFIC DATES (If Applicable and Known):** 1892-present

### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Aboriginal
- Prehistoric
- Historic
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communications
- Conservation
- Education
- Engineering
- Industry
- Invention
- Landscape
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Political
- Religion/Philosophy
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation
- Urban Planning
- Other (Specify)

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McColl Building, located at Fifth and Jackson Streets in St. Paul, was built in 1892 according to the design of Edward P. Bassford. Originally, this building housed the old Merchants National Bank Building and law offices. The history of the bank dates back to 1872 when it opened for business in the old St. Paul Press building.

The financial institution was founded by some of the most prestigious business and industrial leaders in St. Paul. The name of the institution symbolized the majority of those gentlemen who represented the city's wholesale and retail mercantile industry; this industry was responsible for the growth of St. Paul into one of the major urban centers in 19th century upper midwest America.

By 1880 the Merchants National Bank had doubled its capital to one million dollars, and had two hundred thousand dollars of surplus. The space that the bank occupied in 1890 was no longer adequate, and the directors decided to erect a suitable building. A site convenient to the wholesale district on the northeast corner of Fifth and Jackson Streets was purchased for seventy thousand dollars. There the bank erected this building, costing approximately one hundred seventy thousand dollars. The bank building was the center of some of the major financial transactions of the Northwest's development at the turn of the century.

The law offices of many nationally eminent legal figures who practiced in the era when St. Paul was playing an important national role in the law were located in the McColl Building. It was here that Cushman Kellogg Davis, governor, United States Senator, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and scholar practiced in partnership with Cordenio A. Seaverance, one time president of the American Bar Association, and with Frank B. Kellogg, later United States Senator, ambassador to Great Britain, Secretary of State and Justice of the World Court. Here also practiced the firm of Butler and Mitchell. Pierce Butler went on to the United States Supreme Court and William D. Mitchell to the solicitor generalship of the United States.

In the spring of 1967 the McColl Building was threatened by demolition. Threatened demolition was due to a proposed plan to widen the east side of Jackson Street by twelve feet and the north side of Fifth Street by fifteen feet, to accommodate the desired number of traffic and turning lanes at the intersection where the McColl Building stands. At this time architects and historians presented a strong defense to preserve the building. They considered the four story red sandstone...
8. Significance

structure, at the lower end of the loop where St. Paul history began, to be a prime example of what the city was like in the late 19th century. Weighing downtown traffic needs against St. Paul's historical values, the St. Paul City Council members decided to save the building.

The McColl Building is one of the last remaining examples of those massive red stone Romanesque structures which so typified the prosperous, growing St. Paul in its great era of expansion following the completion of the Northern Pacific to the Coast in the 1880s. It is the only structure to remind generations to come of old Jackson Street, once one of the busier arteries in downtown St. Paul, and it is truly one of the most beautiful of St. Paul's old business houses.
**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**


**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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Approximate acreage of nominated property: less than 1 acre

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

Lynne VanBrooklin and Thomas J. Lutz

**MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Building 25, Fort Snelling

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [ ] Local [ ]

Name: Russell W. Fridley, Director

Title: Minnesota Historical Society

Date: [ ]
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME
   COMMON: The McColl Building
   AND/OR HISTORIC: Merchants National Bank Building

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: 366-368 Jackson Street
   CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul
   STATE: Minnesota
   CODE: 22
   COUNTY: Ramsey
   CODE: 123

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT: Thomas J. Lutz
   DATE OF PHOTO: 1974
   NEGATIVE FILED AT: Minnesota Historical Society, 690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
   Southeast perspective view of the building showing the only two architecturally developed street exteriors
# National Register of Historic Places

## Property Photograph Form

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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### Location

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### Identification

Describe view, direction, etc.

Detail view of side (South) elevation illustrating the masonry detailing and ornamentation of the exterior
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<td>Map Reference</td>
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**To be included on all maps:**
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.
The Director of the National Park Service

Ronald H. Walker

is pleased to inform you that the historic property listed on the enclosed sheet has been nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer responsible for your State's implementation of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, P.L. 89-665 (80 Stat. 915), as amended. It has accordingly been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed for your information and convenience.

Enclosures
<table>
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**Also Notified**

Hon. Walter F. Mondale  
Hon. Hubert H. Humphrey  
Hon. Joseph E. Karth