

TOIX

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic LaSalle City Building

and or common LaSalle City Hall / Fire Station No. 1

2. Location

street & number 745 Second St.

not for publication

city, town LaSalle

vicinity of

state Illinois

code 012

county LaSalle

code 167

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of LaSalle, Illinois

street & number 745 Second St.

city, town LaSalle

vicinity of

state Illinois

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. LaSalle County Courthouse

street & number 707 Etna Rd.

city, town Ottawa

state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Illinois Historic Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1972

federal state county local

depository for survey records Illinois Department of Conservation, Division of Historic Sites

city, town Springfield

state Illinois

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The City Building for the City of LaSalle, IL was constructed to house city offices, the police department and jail, and the city council chambers in the the City Hall portion of the building, and the fire department in an adjoining portion of the structure. Although the entire structure was built as one unit in 1906, the marked division in form as well as in function necessitates separate consideration of each of the two components.

THE CITY HALL

The City Hall portion of the building is symmetrical and essentially rectangular, although side pavillions are suggested by the recessed three-bay-wide entrance on the East front, and further emphasized by pilasters framing the pavillions and entrance. This portion of the building stands two and one-half stories tall, with a steeply pitched hip roof. On the roof ridge stands the base of what was formerly a cupola and flagpole, removed prior to 1930.¹ This base now provides support for the communications antennas of the police, fire, and public works departments of the city.

The building is constructed of red brick set in common bond, with trim and base of bedford stone. Stone and brick also compose much of the detailing of the building, forming string courses, semicircular arches with corbelled keystones, and architrave window trim with flat keystone arches. Other detailing is of galvanized iron and tin and includes such features as: modillions; two short ballustrades; a broken, semental arch framing a hemispherical cartouche and a globe; two eyebrow windows; and, dormers. The building also features full entablature and elements of Doric order above the pilasters.

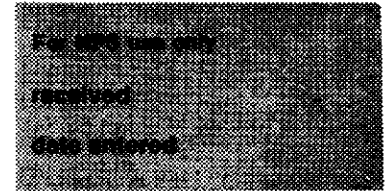
The City Hall has two public entrances: a single door facing Joliet St. (east); and a double door facing Second St. (south). A third entrance faces an alley which borders the north side of the property. This last entrance is used as a private entrance for the police department. The public entrances are raised, with wide concrete stairs leading up to them. The doorways are stone, while the doors and accompanying frames are of contemporary steel and glass design. A fanlight, covered by an exterior panel (but intact on the interior), is over each public entrance.

Windows are single, double, or triple. Second and attic story windows are transomed or croissetted. The first floor windows have been replaced by energy-efficient contemporary paired single pane clear glass windows (1973). Fanlights over these windows were replaced by panels due to the deterioration of the old frames and the installation of a suspended ceiling in the first floor office spaces. The exterior integrity of the window openings themselves, however, remains.

The interior of the City Hall has undergone some changes, but these changes have primarily been related to the changing needs of the city, and have affected the building's integrity in only minor ways. The building's first floor has a central hall plan with flanking offices. Vestibules in the two public entrances are floored with terrazzo in a Geek key design. The wooden hall floors (of the original design) have been covered with stone tile (1973). The police department, occupying the rear one-third of the first floor, gutted and modified the interior spaces to bring this area into compliance with state and federal codes (1973). No original interior features could be preserved in this area. The window openings retain their integrity (as modified and noted above) with the exception of the jail cell windows on the north side of the building, which have been bricked up due to the relocation of the jail. The public area of the first floor, however, retains all of its original splendor.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet A

Item number 7

Page 2

DESCRIPTION (CON'T)

During a recent restoration of this area, the plaster beams were repaired and repainted to emphasize the detailed moldings. Woodwork has been stripped and lightly varnished, revealing the original texture and color of the wood.

A wide wooden staircase leads up to the second and third floors. Both of these floors feature extensive use of wood for chair rails, picture rails, corner moldings, and doorframes. Most of the office space in this area is unused due to the consolidation of some city administration. The features of the city engineer's office and former city clerk's office remain, including window signs, cabinetry, a cashier's window, and the original vaults. Some of these features are hidden behind temporary panelling or file cabinets, but can be easily seen. For the most part, the second floor looks as it did when the building opened --besides the decrease in use, only a few light fixtures have been updated and a partition wall has been added.

The third floor is devoted to the city council chambers and two ante-rooms or cloakrooms (now used for storage). The chamber is a magnificent room (now being restored), featuring wooden desks and chairs (original to the structure), a raised presiding stage, and a wooden ballustrade surrounding the council area. Plaster work in the room includes ceiling beams, pillars, coved ceilings, and arched window openings. An interesting chandelier hangs from a small rimlit dome which has some wrought iron ornamentation in the cap.

The basement of the City Hall was intended to be mostly unexcavated outside of the furnace room and coal bunker. It is now, however, a full basement used for storage and as a workshop for the city water department. The most striking aspect of the basement is the use of arches in the doorways to each room.

Lighting in most of the public spaces (and unrenovated offices) is by the original gas-electric brass fixtures. These fixtures have swan's neck arms, large brass and glass globes, and oak leaf details. Baseplates and equatorial bands on the globes echo the Geek key design found elsewhere in the building. This is certainly a unifying aspect of the building's design.

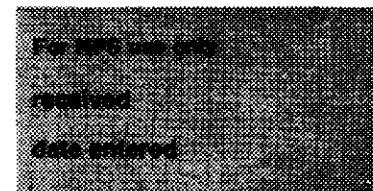
An especially interesting architectural feature in the City Hall is an airshaft which was originally designed to serve two purposes: to light and ventilate the two bathrooms on the west wall of the structure behind the staircase; and, to light a large, leaded beveled glass window which looks upon the landing between the first floor and the second floor (the skylight which provided the light and ventilation has been removed--the opening has been covered). Current plans call for backlighting to be installed behind the window.

FIRE STATION NO. 1

Attached to the west wall of the City Hall portion of the City Building is Fire Station No. 1. This portion of the structure is a two story "L" shaped building running west from the City Hall and then north to the rear alley. A one story portion of the building then spans the area between the west leg of the two story structure and the City Hall. The two story section has a cross-hipped roof, while the one story section has a slightly pitched shed

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet **B**

Item number **7**

Page **3**

DESCRIPTION (CON'T)

roof.

Three fanlighted apparatus doors and a pedestrian door face south. The original swinging doors have been replaced by overhead doors--the middle apparatus door was heightened by about one foot to accommodate a modern aerial ladder truck. The fanlights over the doors are otherwise intact. The rear (north) side has three smaller overhead doors and a pedestrian door, as well as a hayloft door on the second floor. These openings have been slightly modified as the fire department's needs have changed (i.e. doors constructed for horses were changed to accommodate vehicles). Windows on the fire station are single, double-hung in arched openings.

Exterior details on this portion of the structure are subdued. Windows have only stone sills and the apparatus door arches are detailed with raised brick keystones. Furthermore, the west and north walls are faced with common brick (whereas, the rest of the structure has face brick). The hose-drying tower at the southwest corner of the building is capped by a square, dome-topped cupola which, according to the building's original plans, echoes the design of the cupola which once graced the roof of the City Hall.

Inside, the first floor has room for an ambulance, an aerial ladder truck, and a pumper in the front, and a rescue truck in the back. Part of the interior space is occupied by the new jail and police garage (1973), which utilize space which was not needed by the fire department. In the midst of modern fire-fighting technology, however, are a few remnants of times past: harness hooks hanging from the ceiling; the name "Jim" over what was once a horse's stall; the hayloft door with lifting beam over it; and a haychute (partially removed) that once delivered hay from the hayloft to the first floor.² A skylight cut into the one-story section still provides light and ventilation for the apparatus floor.

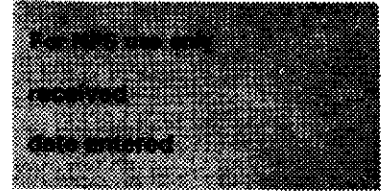
The second floor provides quarters for on-duty fireman. Today, only two or three paramedics and the pumper driver occupy a space constructed to house a full shift of 10 or 12 men. The spacious rooms have undergone changes to modernize and to meet lesser needs (suspended ceilings, partition walls, new lighting, etc.). Otherwise, much of the second floor retains its original form. Even the brass firpole stands ready to provide quick access to the apparatus floor, but is seldom used today.

SUMMARY

The City Building of LaSalle, IL is an eclectic building. Its steeply pitched roof and intricate details are similar to structures in the French Revival tradition, while its Classical lines, pilasters, arches, and stonework place it in the Colonial Revival tradition. In any case, the architect's primary objective seems to have been to design a public building on a grand scale (in the manner of the Beaux Arts tradition). The scale of the building, as well as its placement on the lot (above grade level, set back from the street), are indicative of the prominence of the building. Finally, the continued use and adaptation of the structure to the changing needs of the city, indicates the continuing importance and vitality of the City Building.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 4

The LaSalle City Building is the only contributing building within this nomination.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1906-07 ~~Builder~~ Architect Victor Andre Matteson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The LaSalle City Building, designed by Victor Andre Matteson in 1904, was built in 1906 at the height of the Progressive movement in the United States. Progressivism was characterized by a new sense of order and centralization of management.¹ The design of the City Building may be seen in this light. The consolidation of all city departments under one roof follows the trend of the time.

The City Building is significant for several reasons. Not only does it exemplify theories of management popular at the time it was built, but it is an integral part of the community. The construction of the City Building was a community event (as shall be shown below). The structure became, in effect, the trademark of the city of LaSalle, appearing prominently on city stationary. The building still serves as the center of the community, not only as the hub of city services, but as the central public gathering place.

It was to this end that V.A. Matteson designed the City Building. Matteson, a rather obscure architect, is best known for his work on public buildings. Matteson's philosophy of architecture called for the embellishment of buildings with woodwork and marble.² Matteson further emphasized this belief in a December, 1950 letter published in the AIA Chicago Chapter Bulletin. In this letter, he complained about the blandness of then contemporary architecture. Matteson, early in his career, worked for the Frost and Grainger firm, acting as construction superintendent on Chicago's LaSalle St. Station. He designed the Gary (Indiana) Heat, Light & Water Co. plant, the Saginaw (Michigan) Water Works, the Des Moines (Iowa) Municipal Water Plant, the Illinois State Exposition Building in Portland Oregon, among many others. In LaSalle, he also designed the Carnegie Library, several schools, and St. Mary's Hospital.³

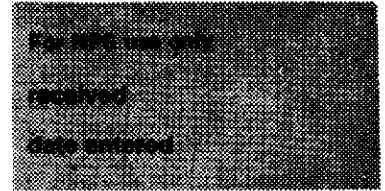
The City Building of LaSalle came about at a time of much improvement in LaSalle. Mayor Walter A. Panneck was the central figure and motivating force behind these public improvements. During his term of office (1903-09), Panneck initiated the construction of "water mains, miles of sewers, sidewalks, and paving"⁴ His greatest contribution to the city was his driving influence toward the construction of the new City Building. The City Building was built to replace a derelict structure on the same site. It was this fact, coupled with Panneck's notion of the civic image which LaSalle deserved, that pushed forward the construction.

"We have been able to accomplish a great deal of good for the benefit of all the people of our city. I hope that the same feeling will prevail and that harmony will exist during the coming year to the end that all the work which has been outlined may be accomplished, our city hall built, our streets improved, and the city placed in the class in which it properly belongs."⁵

Mayor Panneck and the city council members recognized the need for a new city building, but the city treasury did not have enough money to fund such a project. Thus, City Hall bonds were issued in order to raise the needed forty-five thousand dollars. Four hundred

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet C

Item number 8

Page 2

SIGNIFICANCE (CON'T)

fifty bonds were issued, at one hundred dollars each. Within one month, February, 1906, 422 bonds had been sold to over 60 citizens of LaSalle. The bonds would then be paid back, with five percent interest, over the next nine years.

On January 1, 1907, the City Building was dedicated. In commemoration of the event, a medallion bearing the likeness of Panneck on one side and the City Building on the other, was cast and presented to each person visiting the building that day. The January 2, 1907 issue of the LaSalle Daily Tribune commented that the citizens who purchased bonds should be thanked "for putting their money into this building." The article continued, "surely the citizens of this town do believe in LaSalle" and it was hoped that "...the city hall would remain as a fine monument to the progressiveness of the citizenship of LaSalle in 1906-07."⁶

It is this heritage which the LaSalle City Building brings to the present. It is a monument to those people of nearly 80 years ago, but it is a vital, living monument as well. Within this structure are the voices of the past, as well as the promise of the future. Few communities in the LaSalle area can claim such a structure.

FOOTNOTES

Significance section:

- ¹ Wiebe, Robert H. The Search for Order, 1877-1920.
- ² "One of the Finest Water Purification Plants in America", Through the Ages, Jan. 1930, pp. 11-16
- ³ Brochure, Victor A. Matteson, Architect, obtained from AIA Chicago Chapter. (Also held by University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana archives.)
- ⁴ "Twentieth Anniversary Edition", The LaSalle Tribune, July, 1911, p. 22.
- ⁵ "Minutes of the LaSalle City Council", LaSalle Record (unpubl.), vol. 14: p. 147; May 1, 1906. (LaSalle City Clerk files.)
- ⁶ LaSalle Daily Tribune, Jan. 2, 1907.

Description section:

- ¹ This date is unverified. Records relating to the removal have been destroyed. A local historian had some recollection of the cupola being removed "around 1922", but this fact cannot be substantiated.
- ² The fire department purchased its first motorized vehicle in 1917.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cummings, Elizabeth. LaSalle, Illinois: An Historical Sketch. LaSalle, 1952.
Hoffman, U.J. History of LaSalle County, Illinois. Chicago: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1906.

CONTINUED ON SHEET D

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .57

Quadrangle name LaSalle (Illinois)

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000 (7.5 min.)

UTM References

A

1	6	3	2	4	7	1	0	4	5	7	7	2	4	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

Southeast one-fourth, Section 15, Township 33 North, Range 1 East. Original Town of LaSalle, Block 106, Lots 8, 12, 13, 14.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patrick Cunningham, Joseph DeRose, Donna Neary

organization For the City of LaSalle date May 12, 1985

Loyola University of Chicago

street & number Department of History telephone 312-670-3078

820 N. Michigan Ave.

city or town Chicago state IL 60611

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Deputy William G. Farnan date 6/19/85

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

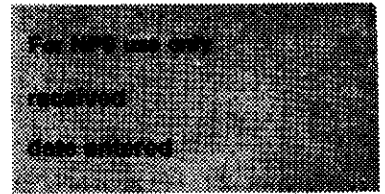
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet D

Item number 9

Page 2

BIBLIOGRAPHY (CON'T)

LaSalle Daily Tribune, "New City Hall is Dedicated", January 2, 1907, p. 3.

. "City Hall Anniversary Celebration", August 3, 1927, p. 1.

O'Byrne, Michael Cyprian. History of LaSalle County Illinois. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1924.

The Comprehensive Plan of LaSalle, Illinois. Prepared by Harland Bartholomew & Associates. St. Louis, Missouri--Chicago, Illinois.

Through the Ages. "One of the Finest Water Purification Plants in America." January, 1930, pp. 11-16.

Wiebe, Robert H. The Search for Order, 1877-1920. New York: Hill and Wang, 1967.

CONNECTICUT, Hartford County, Hartford, Prospect Avenue Historic District, Roughly bounded by Albany Ave., N. Branch Park River, Elizabeth & Fern Sts., Prospect & Asylum Aves. & Sycamore Rd. (08/29/85)

CONNECTICUT, Litchfield County, Washington, New Preston Hill Historic District, New Preston Hill, Findley and Gunn Hill Rds. (08/26/85)

CONNECTICUT, Middlesex County, Middletown, Connecticut General Hospital for the Insane, Silver St. E. of Eastern Dr. (08/29/85)

CONNECTICUT, New Haven County, Northford, Fourth District School, Old Post Rd. (08/29/85)

CONNECTICUT, Windham County, Central Village, Plainfield Woolen Company Mill, Main St. (08/29/85)

CONNECTICUT, Windham County, Danielson, Quinebaug Mill-Quebec Square Historic District, Roughly bounded by Quinebaug River, Quebec Square, Elm & S. Main Sts. (08/29/85)

GEORGIA, Banks County (also in Hall County), Gillsville, Gillsville Historic District, GA 52 (08/30/85)

GEORGIA, Hall County, Flowery Branch, Flowery Branch Commercial Historic District, Main St. & Railroad Ave. (08/30/85)

GEORGIA, Randolph County, Shellman, Shellman Historic District, Roughly bounded by Dean, Church, Mary Lou, Ward, Pecan and Pine Sts. (08/29/85)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Municipal Courts Building, 116 S. Michigan Ave. (08/29/85)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Perkins, Dwight, House, 2319 Lincoln St. (08/29/85)

ILLINOIS, LaSalle County, LaSalle, LaSalle City Building, 745 Second St. (08/29/85)

ILLINOIS, Madison County, Collinsville, Miners Institute Building, 204 W. Main (08/29/85)

ILLINOIS, McDonough County, Adair vicinity, Welling-Everly Horse Barn, Off US 136 (08/29/85)

ILLINOIS, Rock Island County, Rock Island, Lincoln School, 7th Ave. and 22nd St. (08/29/85)

KENTUCKY, Muhlenberg County, Greenville, Greenville City Hall (Greenville Kentucky MRA), Court St. (08/26/85)

MINNESOTA, Carlton County, Carlton, Carlton County Courthouse, 3rd St. and Walnut Ave. (08/29/85)

MINNESOTA, Carlton County, Cloquet, Cloquet-Northern Office Building, Avenue C Arch St (08/29/85)

MINNESOTA, Carlton County, Cloquet, Park Place Historic District, 1, 512, 520, and 528 Park Pl. (08/29/85)

MINNESOTA, Carlton County, Cloquet, Shaw Memorial Library, 406 Cloquet Ave. (08/29/85)

MINNESOTA, Douglas County, Brandon, Brandon Auditorium and Fire Hall, Holmes Ave. (08/29/85)

MINNESOTA, Mille Lacs County, Princeton, Dunn, Robert C., House, 708 S. 4th St. (08/29/85)

MINNESOTA, Mille Lacs County, Princeton, Gile, Ephriam C., House, 311 8th Ave S. (08/29/85)

MINNESOTA, Mille Lacs County, Wahkon, ELLEN RUTH (launch), Main St. between Lake Shore Blvd. and Fifth St. (08/29/85)

MISSISSIPPI, Adams County, Natchez vicinity, Glen Aubin, Off US 61 (08/29/85)

MISSISSIPPI, Noxubee County, Macon, Maudwin, 101 Washington St. (08/29/85)

MISSISSIPPI, Simpson County, Mendenhall, Simpson County Courthouse, Courthouse Square (08/29/85)

NEW YORK, Nassau County, Flower Hill, Denton, George W., House, West Shore Rd. (08/29/85)

NEW YORK, Onondaga County, Jamesville, Ives, Dr. John, House, 6575 E. Seneca Turnpike (08/29/85)

NEW YORK, Westchester County, Yonkers, Bell Place-Locust Hill Avenue Historic District, Roughly bounded by Cromwell Pl., Locust Hill Ave., Baldwin Pl & N. Broadway (08/29/85)