

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Houston County Courthouse and Jail COUNTY: Houston
 CURRENT NAME: CITY/TWP.: Caledonia City
 LEGAL DESC.: Courthouse Square, Original Plat, ADDRESS: Caledonia City Courthouse Square

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u> X </u>	Excellent <u> X </u>	Local <u> X </u>	<u>Politics/Government</u>
Structure <u> </u>	Good <u> X </u>	State <u> </u>	<u>Architecture</u>
Object <u> </u>	Fair <u> </u>	National <u> </u>	<u> </u>
District <u> </u>	Deteriorated <u> </u>		<u> </u>

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No Restricted PRESENT USE: County government
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No

DATE CONSTRUCTED: Jail: 1875; Courthouse: 1883 ORIGINAL USE: County government
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Houston County ARCHITECT/BUILDER: listed below

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Houston County Caledonia, MN 55921	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u> X </u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: N/A	UTM REFERENCE: Caledonia, Minn. Quad. 15 / 621340 / 4831980
FORM PREPARED BY: Robert M. Frame III, Ph.D. DATE: June 2, 1981	

DESCRIPTION:
 The Houston County Courthouse and Jail buildings are located in Courthouse Square in downtown Caledonia. The Courthouse is in the southwest corner of the square and faces east, while the Jail is in the northeast corner and faces west. The Jail (1875) is a rock-faced coursed ashlar stone structure of typical T-shaped jail and sheriff's residence configuration, in the Italianate style. The three-story residence (front) and two-story jail (rear) have cross-gable hip roofs, with a projecting bay on the front facade. Fenestration consists of four-over-four, double-hung sash in segmental arch openings, occasionally arranged in pairs. The Courthouse (1883) is a large three-story building of similar stone construction, in Romanesque style with hip roof and cross gables. The building is dominated by a tall, 75-foot pyramidal-roofed tower, which is flanked by hip-roofed dormers. Fenestration consists of one-over-one double-hung sash paired at the second story in very tall round-arch openings, and at the first story arranged in paired rectangular openings. There is a large wheel window in each of the projecting north and south bays. Modern stone additions project to the north.

SIGNIFICANCE:
 The Courthouse and Jail are significant for their association with the administration of government and law in Houston County, and for their architectural styles. Both the Courthouse (1883) and Jail (1875) were designed by the same firm, C.G. Maybury and Son, of Winona, Minnesota. Each is the major example of its style in the county: Italianate for the Jail, and Romanesque for the Courthouse.*

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:
 Courthouse: architect was C.G. Maybury & Son, Winona; builder was Noonan & Stelwagen.
 Jail: architect--C.G. Maybury; builder--A.W. Gage

* For additional information on Houston County and its county seat, Caledonia, see the Area Description and Area Significance statements of the Houston County MRN.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Cross, Marion E. Minnesota Courthouses. National Society of the Colonial Dames, 1966.
- History of Houston County. 1882. p. 300.
- St. Paul Daily Dispatch, January 14, 1976.
- St. Paul Daily Globe, March 29, 1883.
- Maybury, C.G., & Son. Architectural plans for Houston County Courthouse. 1883. Original copies in Houston County Historical Society.