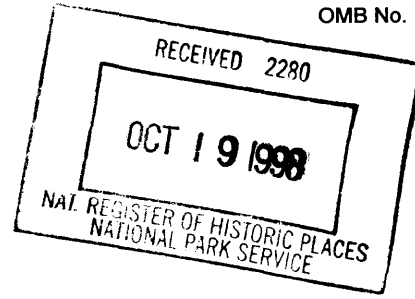


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



### 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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name Butte County Courthouse and Historic Jail Building  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Location

street & number 839 - 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue not for publication N/A  
city or town Belle Fourche vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state South Dakota code SD County Butte code 019 zip code 57717

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide  locally. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jay D. Vogt  
Signature of certifying official

10-05-98  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
  - See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register.
  - See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register.
- other,  
(explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

*Jones McCallard*

12/03/98

**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

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>2</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Court Houses of South Dakota

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### 6. Function or Use

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#### Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Government</u>	Sub: <u>Courthouse</u>
<u>Government</u>	<u>Jail</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

#### Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Government</u>	Sub: <u>Courthouse</u>
<u>Education</u>	<u>Law Library &amp; Court</u>
_____	<u>Records</u>
<u>Government</u>	<u>Correctional facility</u>

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### 7. Description

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#### Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revival  
Neo-Classical with Beaux Arts influence  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete  
roof Asphalt/Red tile  
walls Hot Springs sandstone, brick,  
Concrete fill  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

**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 a grave.

**D** a cemetery.

**E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

**F** a commemorative property

**G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Political/Government

Law

Social History

**Period of Significance**

1901-1911

**Significant Dates**    1901  
                                  1911  
                                  \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
                                  Seth Bullock  
                                  \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**    Architect: C. A. Randall/ Builder: Phillips and  
                                  Bartlett  
                                  \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### 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 #

### Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** Less than 1 acre

### UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>13</u>	<u>593940</u>	<u>4946760</u>	3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

Lot C8 of Original Township of Belle Fourche, SD

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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Name/title Aneitta Ziemer Albright  
Organization Belle Fourche Historic Pres. Comm. date May 15, 1998  
Street & number 825 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Telephone 605 892-4910  
city or town Belle Fourche state SD zip code 57717

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## Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Butte County Courthouse

Name of Property

Butte County, South Dakota

County and State

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## Property Owner

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name Butte County Courthouse

Street & number 839 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Telephone 605 892-4485

City or town Belle Fourche

state SD

zip code 57717

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**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. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## Narrative Description:

The Butte County Courthouse was erected in the center of a large rectangular block in Belle Fourche, South Dakota. The land on which it stands originally was part of Seth Bullock's SB Ranch. The courthouse faces west and is landscaped with seven mature deciduous trees and one evergreen. To the east of the courthouse is the original jail, which was built in 1901 and still houses the County Dispatch Center. The second floor served as living quarters for the sheriff and his family but is no longer used. A modern addition was added on the south side that serves the Butte County sheriff's office and staff.

The Butte County Courthouse is a two-story structure with a daylight basement. The foundation rises to just below the first floor and the quoins are native sandstone from the Hot Springs, South Dakota quarry. The exterior walls are brick construction and symmetrically designed. The Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Revival design exhibits Neo-classical "Renaissance Revival" and some "Beaux Arts" details. The dramatic portico boasts four ionic non-fluted columns ornamenting the projecting entrance from the front of the building. There is a large two-story wooden arch with a keystone over the entry doors. The roof's cornice hides a flat roof and centered over the portico is a beautiful statue of blindfolded Justice holding her scales. A large domed octagonal cupola rises from the center of the roof with alternating arched and flat windows repeating the arched key-stoned windows of the first floor and the flat key-stoned windows over the second floor. Its roof is six-sided and tiled in red clay tiles. Windows on the second story of the east side (rear) have been enclosed with brick. Windows on the original second floor, north and south sides have also been bricked-filled. The rectangular and arched windows on the west facade (front) have been enclosed on top and have been replaced with shorter windows.

Pomegranates in the architrave and a cast concrete garland enhance the triangular gable above the pillared entry. The cornerstone on the right hand (south) side of the entrance was laid by C. L. Brockway, Grand Master of the Masonic Lodge, AL 5911 and lists Jacob Snyder, Chairman, W. R. Glassie and E. A. Ritter, Commissioner; D. C. Barr, Auditor; F. E. Bennett, Treasurer; S. W. Sellers, Sheriff, T. G. Brown, County Judge; Susie Bird, County Superintendent; L. M. Simons, Attorney; and W. G. Rice, Circuit Judge. Phillip & Bartlett - Builders; C. A. Randall - Architect.

The first floor has a small rectangular entryway with a, four lamp, brass and glass chandelier with "Beaux Arts" or "Art Deco" influence. This same chandelier is found on the second floor landing and



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

lobby of the courtroom. The wainscoted walls of oak define a central reception area with offices of the Auditor and staff, the Commissioner's Meeting Room, the Register of Deeds and the Treasurer directly off this area. The wooden staircase leading to the second floor is accented with iron grillwork with a grape leaf design.

The second floor includes the judges chambers, law libraries and vault, the jury room, reporters room, the Clerk of Court and staff offices and the States Attorney's office and the Courtroom. As you ascend the stairs the west arched window lights the waiting area, which has a matching glass and brass chandelier as mentioned earlier. The wooden benches are original as are many of the desks and cabinets.

The Courtroom has been modified with the sound proof paneling but much of the original furniture is utilized to this day. The flooring is mainly cherry, oak and pine but has been carpeted, over time. Many of the office's ceilings have been dropped to conserve heating costs. The second floor foyer still retains some of the original metal ceiling. The original woodwork shows the signs of age and buildup of the oils and cleaning products associated with a much-used public building.

Two and half-story additions on the south and north sides of the building, providing 500 square feet on each level, were constructed in 1964 of concrete with brick facings. They provide a vault for the law library and the Judge's chambers on the south and court record storage on the north.

**BUTTE COUNTY JAIL** The Butte County Jail is a two-story, rectangular building. It is constructed of native red sandstone blocks cut by stonemason John A. Scotney. The sandstone was most likely quarried south of Belle Fourche. The stone shows Scotney's trademark of a rough rock base finish. Scotney also built the sandstone store building located on Sixth and State Streets in Belle Fourche, and his own home located at 830 9<sup>th</sup> Street. One of the most interesting aspects of the jail is the miniature knight located above the original entrance. It is unknown if it is an original part of the old jail or was added later. The jail is located directly east of the courthouse, and is separated by the parking area. A large deciduous tree in the front of the building is its primary landscaping. It was constructed in 1901-1902 and is therefore, a contributing building to the Butte County Courthouse complex.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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## Narrative Statement of Significance:

The Butte county Courthouse is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criteria "A," "B" and "C." The building is historically significant in the development of South Dakota county government and the symbolic nature of the growth of the Western Plains community. It has housed the county's administrative and judicial functions since its completion in 1912 and because of its extensive vault system serves as a complete repository for all Butte County records.

Because of the history of Belle Fourche's establishment as the county seat with the inspiration and instigation of Seth Bullock, it is eligible under Criteria "B." Despite the fact that not all the procedures used by Mr. Bullock would be considered proper and legal today, he did in fact, have the foresight to see the advantage of having the seat of county government in Belle Fourche rather than Minnesela. Mr. Bullock played a major role in the settlement and development of this area.

The Butte County Courthouse presents the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revival architecture that represents an example of public and institutional design in South Dakota. Its detail representing "Beaux Arts" (Art Deco) inspiration is unique and serves as a reminder that despite the isolation of this area, public architecture reflected the more sophisticated details of the larger cities but on a smaller scale.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE:

Dakota Territory was created in 1861 with its capitol at Yankton. One of the first items on the agenda of the first Legislative session was the creation of the first eighteen (18) counties. The 1883 Legislative session divided what are now Butte, Harding and Perkins Counties into eight unorganized seats of government on the premise that expected growth would require this number. By 1890, expectations were not fulfilled and all eight were absorbed into a single Butte County.

After July 1883 Butte County was separated from Lawrence County and encompassed the territory of what is now not only Butte but Harding and Perkins Counties as well. In 1882 A. A. Chouteau and D. T. Harrison laid out and plotted Minnesela - the only town in the county and proposed that it would become the Chicago of the west. A. A. was a descendant of Pierre Chouteau, who came from St. Louis to work as a trapper and fur trader on the Missouri River and after whom our state capitol was

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named. He also served as our state representative. The town boasted a blacksmith, Frank Thullen; the teacher and superintendent, Jay Pyles; a hotel operated by Mr. Follens; a saloon keeper, Dan Roberts, who later owned a saloon in Belle Fourche; the Minnesela Star edited by Mr. Dawley and a bank. Susan B. Anthony even came to speak in Minnesela on women's suffrage.

In 1886, the F. E. & MV Railroad reached Rapid City and as it moved northwestward, a new town, Whitewood, served as its railhead. For three years Minnesela's residents campaigned for the railroad to logically route through their town. In 1890 the tract laying was begun and the race for land speculation began as price soared. However, Seth Bullock and his partner, Sol Starr, Mayor of Deadwood had well laid plans as well: a new town "Belle Fourche" on the site of the old DeMores stage stop. Seth even offered free lots to any business that would move to his town. One of the first to move was the Butte County Bank!

So began one of South Dakota's unique and controversial battles for the county seat. If it had not been for Seth Bullock and Sol Starr, Mayor of Deadwood and their sometimes-questionable tactics Minnesela may well have continued to be the Butte County seat rather than Belle Fourche.

Upon hearing the news of gold discovery in the Black Hills, these two adventurers left their Montana homes and arrived in Deadwood on August 2, 1876 and immediately opened a hardware and mining store. Their success and prosperity brought them social standing in the thriving community and encouraged their entrepreneurial instincts to expand to the prairie land north of the Black Hills where headstaders were flocking. They staked a claim on land where the Redwater and Belle Fourche Rivers meet (the lower end of present day State Street) and established a trotting horse ranch there. Shrewdly they enlarged their holdings both south and north by buying up land holdings as they became available and soon owned much of the land that became Belle Fourche proper.

Bullock dreamed of having a town established on the SB ranch land and when asked by the Minnesela Board of Trade to negotiate with the FE & MV Railroad to establish its terminal at Minnesela, used that information to negotiate for himself, leaving Minnesela high and dry.

Bullock advised T. G. Carter, the railroad right-of-way buyer, that there were water holes on Middle Creek flat just west of the forks and by coincidence part of Bullock's ranch. It made sense to build the station terminal just south of there across the river. He got an agreement with the railroad to set up the terminal on the south side of the Belle Fourche River on his land by establishing a depot,

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shipping pens, giving the railroad rights-of-way through his ranch and other considerations that no one has records or official knowledge of today.

Bullock had already plotted the land and laid out "his" town. On September 16, 1890 the first train came east and in one month's time 1,315 carloads of cattle had been shipped from the Belle terminal. On December 28, 1890 the depot opened with Harvey A. Giles as agent. Bullock planned for industrial development to the north of the tracks and residential to the south. In June of 1891, not only did he give free lots to businesses that would move to Belle Fourche but also offered to move residential homes from Minnesela for free.

Minnesela maintained its role as the County seat until the 1892 election. New schemes were in the making and Seth Bullock offered a new free courthouse if the election favored Belle Fourche. The supporters of this idea raised two thousand dollars (\$2,000) to build a two-story frame building across the street and north of the present City Hall on 6<sup>th</sup> and Grant. A trainload of floaters from the mining camps in the Black Hills arrived a few days ahead of the election and they were kept around with beverage enticements to vote as directed. Another stunt to bring people to town was to stage a racing program at the fairgrounds the day before the balloting and have them there to vote before they headed back home. This combination of underhanded tactics won the county seat contest that almost flared into open warfare.

"Victory at the polls invited a night of whopping in Belle Fourche. Minnesela, bowing to the inevitable, went to bed in silence. The next morning it was discovered that the offices in the rented house (that served as the Courthouse) at Minnesela had been ransacked by night raiders. The county's books and files had been stolen. Sheriff Wamsley headed the armed posse that rode into Belle to demand the books. Soon the jeering street bristled with gun packers ready to fight the sodbusters. The intervention by cooler heads averted the clash. Lawyers said books were surrendered to the posse and they were hauled back to Minnesela in triumph," was documented in Pioneer Footprints on p. 128.

On April 7, 1903 a petition of 50 signatures was recorded with the county auditor requesting incorporation as a city. A vote on April 20<sup>th</sup> of that year was passed and an election on May 14, 1903 gave a group of men on a citizens-independent ticket a unanimous vote. Belle Fourche now boasted the youngest mayor in South Dakota, twenty-three year old Samuel Mortimer. The Pioneer Town Site Company, owned by Seth Bullock, officially registered the plat on July 20, 1904. Between 1900

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and 1915, Belle Fourche experienced a building boom and one of those buildings was the new, elegant Courthouse.

The March 2, 1911 Northwest Post stated that Belle Fourche had a population of 1,562. In the first week of April of that year the Commercial Club "took up the question of securing a new court house in this county." It was decided that most of the influx in settlers came here "poor in purse but stout of heart" and that bonding was doubtful. It was finally decided that assessment rolls would be made and a fund created by the city for this express purpose. President Mortimer and the board of directors placed W. B. Penfold, D. P. Roberts and A. S. Gay in charge of collecting funds." "Before night that first day, they had gathered in \$9,575" and by the following Thursday had increased that amount to \$14,530. On Friday, L. M. Simons, spokesman for the Commercial Club went before the County Commissioners and tendered the \$14,000 to them for the express purpose of building a new court house in Block 31, Original Town site of Belle Fourche. This was truly a grass roots effort and every citizen gave his money and time for its accomplishment.

Mr. C. A. Randall of Newcastle, who had recently completed the courthouse there, was hired as architect and general supervisor of the construction. Bids for construction were to be opened on May 22, 1911 but there were no bids. An extension to June 12, 1911 was approved and the June 22 issue of the Northwest Post noted that excavating for the basement by H. Phillips and Barnett was well under way. It also reported that the Hot Springs quarries were busy loading the necessary stone for the trimmings of the building.

The formal laying of the cornerstone was August 26, 1911 and was conducted by the local Masonic fraternity. An interesting note reported in the Dakota Montana Trade Journal published in Aberdeen, S. D., mentions the numerous building activities going on in Belle Fourche including a new "\$50,000 water works system, a new \$50,000 courthouse, a \$5,000 steel bridge" as well as a modern concrete business block and dozens of new, substantial dwellings. "Belle Fourche seems to be doing well this season."

A call for bids for the steam heating system and plumbing and sewerage system came in September and by the first of March 1912 it was announced the county officials would have the opportunity to move into their new quarters. The head carpenter, Charles S. Smith, said that if the winter weather had been milder they might have advanced quicker. The stone cutters had completed their work and polishing had begun on the pillars on the front entrance. A grand jury was subpoenaed to appear on

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June 21, 1912 as the new courthouse would be ready for occupancy so the May term of the court was postponed until it could be seated in the new quarters. Today a photograph of the first Butte County Judge hangs on the courtroom wall; his name was Judge Robert Mullenger (1831-1903). Judge Rice was the first to hold court hearings in the new building.

"The old shell which from the time Belle Fourche has been the county seat has been used as a makeshift for a courthouse, will this week be deserted forever more for that purpose, for the reason that on the first of this week the various office holders commenced moving their respective effects from the aforesaid shack to the elegant new building," reported the Northwest Post on May 16, 1912. The total cost as per the contract was \$31,820 with walks and "fitting basement" \$4,404.51, finishing work of painting, furniture and fixtures, plumbing and wiring was \$11,200 which brought \$8,000 so the total cost to the taxpayers was \$26,424.51.

The Butte County Courthouse dedication was held on May 9, 1912 and rededicated on June 19, 1989. It truly was the "Pride of the County."

### The Butte County Jail

In March 1896, Butte County Commissioners awarded a contract to A. G. Challis, carpenter, to build a community jail on the corner across the street from the old white courthouse (corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Grant Streets). The estimated cost was \$375.00. Unfortunately, an exuberant celebrant at the Black Hills Soldiers and Sailors Reunion burned it down on June 24, 1897. The arrested one-legged man said he had started a fire in the jail to keep warm, as it was unusually cool for that time of year. After the burning site of the jail and the cage had cooled off, "the prisoner was locked in and given a day and night for meditation." Just three days later the Butte County Bank was robbed, a fiasco of great magnitude ensued and when some of the culprits were finally caught they had to be transported to the Deadwood jail.

In April 1901, the Butte County Grand Jury recommended that a stone jail be built for the county and that it be at least thirty by thirty feet. The Commissioners instructed the County Auditor to secure estimates for construction and fitting of cells. It seems that when anyone was arrested the officer who was responsible for the prisoner would also either send them to another county for safekeeping or maintain sufficient guards at the present "coop" that goes by the name of a jail. The sheriff at that time was keeping the prisoners in his home due to the lack of an adequate facility.

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There was much debate about raising funds. Jail bonds were debated and finally approved in November 1901 in the amount of \$7,000. By March 1902 the foundations were nearly completed and by the end of July the new jail was accepted from the contractors. Separate cells were provided for male and female prisoners. The Sheriff's family had the upper floor for their living quarters and everyone felt relief that the security of prisoners was finally resolved.

The Butte County Courthouse and Jail are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria "A," "B," and "C" because of its historical importance in the continuation of civic improvements and the growth of western plains communities. The Courthouse has played a major role in the development of Butte County as the heart of its judicial and administrative functions since it was completed in 1912.

The Courthouse is eligible under "B," for its association with Seth bullock. It was because of his incentives, whether legal or not, that the F. E. & MV Railroad was rerouted through his land. This led to the commercial and residential growth of Belle Fourche and its eventual acceptance as the county seat.

The architecture of the Butte County Courthouse and Jail make it eligible under "C." The Courthouse is representative of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revival architecture popular for public and institutional buildings in South Dakota. The Count Jail's architecture is unusual in its Romanesque Revival design highlighted by the rough-edged red sandstone that is found locally.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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## Bibliography

"A Bit of History," Northwest Post (Belle Fourche, South Dakota) No. 18, January 25, 1912.

"Architect Engaged," Northwest Post (Belle Fourche, South Dakota) No. 31, April 27, 1911.

"A Deluge of Water," Northwest Post (Belle Fourche, South Dakota) April 11, 1912.

"Belle Fourche Busy," Northwest Post (Belle Fourche, South Dakota) No. 45, August 3, 1911.

"Butte County Commissioners Minutes," Book 2 (1911-1912), pp. 140-143 (April 14, 1911); "Whereas, the County at this time has a jail and sufficient ground, situated in Block 31 of the City of Belle Fourche upon which to build a Court House with in said City, the County Seat of said County, and having a substantial jail building already constructed upon said property ...W. R. appointed as committee of one to secure plans and specifications...."

"Butte County Commissioners Minutes" Book 2 (1911-1912), pp. 140-143 (April 21, 1911-June 12, 1911); "Sump and pumphouse to be built on back of Courthouse lots," On June 12, 1911 "Commissioners added \$2000 to building fund, ... received the lowest bid from Phillips and Bartlett ... not to exceed \$16,000." It was decided to use "Sandstone Buff for trim and white for columns with Omaha hydraulic gray pressed brick No. 575."

"Butte County Commissioners Minutes," Book 2 (1911-1912), p. 146 (July 5, 1911); "...invitation to Cedar Lodge AF & AM to lay cornerstone."

"Butte County Commissioners Minutes," Book 2 (1911-1912), p. 164 (October 20, 1911); "The Commissioners awarded the heating and plumbing contract to Wilson & Kenny Company for \$3325.00."

"Butte County Commissioners Minutes," Book 2 (1911-1912); p. 165 (November 14, 1911) "H. W. Foye, Rapid City, S. D., was reimbursed \$1878.70 for painting and decorating."

"Butte County Commissioners Minutes," Book 2, (1911-1912), p. 178 (March 15, 1912); "Brown & Sanger, Sioux Falls, S. D. was reimbursed \$5,655.48 for furnishing the Courthouse."

"Butte County Commissioners Minutes," Book 2, (1911-1912), pp. 189-195 (May 6, 1912-June 29, 1912); The final payments to the various contractors are listed and "one office room in basement is donated to people to rest and read."



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*Butte County South Dakota: A History*, Belle Fourche Public Library Staff, Curtis Media, 1989.

"Call for Bids," Northwest Post (Belle Fourche, South Dakota) NO. 52, Part II, p. 5 September 21, 1911.

"Call for Bids," Northwest Post (Belle Fourche, South Dakota) No. 21, February 15, 1912.

"Circuit Court Convenes," Northwest Post (Belle Fourche, South Dakota) No. 33, May 9, 1912.

"Commissioners Proceedings," Northwest Post Belle (Belle Fourche, South Dakota) No. 36, June 1, 1911.

"Courthouse Dedication," Daily Belle Fourche Post (Centennial Edition) June 30, 1989.

"Court House Progressing," Northwest Post (Belle Fourche, South Dakota) No. 44, July 27, 1911.

"In New Quarters," Northwest Post (Belle Fourche, South Dakota) No. 34, May 16, 1912.

"New Court House," Northwest Post (Belle Fourche, South Dakota) No. 30, April 20, 1911.

"Notices of Special Election," Northwest Post (Belle Fourche, South Dakota) No. 21 Part II, p. 2, February 15, 1912.

"Ordinance 48," Northwest Post (Belle Fourche, South Dakota) No. 38, Part II, p. 2, June 15, 1911.

"Past Week's Doings," Northwest Post (Belle Fourche, South Dakota) No. 17, January 18, 1912.

*Pioneer Footprints*. Black Hills Half Century Club, Belle Fourche, S. D.; Midwest Book Co., Sioux Falls, S. D. 1963.

*South Dakota Department of Historical Collections*. Vol. XXIV, State Historical Society, "Minnesela Days," pp. 1-113, 1949.

"Work on the Court House Progressing," Northwest Post (Belle Fourche, South Dakota) No. 39, June 22, 1911.

"Years Good Work," Northwest Post (Belle Fourche, South Dakota) No. 15, January 4, 1912.

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

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

All of platted Outlot C, Block 31, Section C-8, Original Town of Belle Fourche, South Dakota

**Boundary Justification:**

The nominated property includes the courthouse buildings, and the original Butte County Jail building. It coincides with the legal description of the tract of land historically set aside by the Pioneer Town Site Company as reserved plat. It does not include adjacent city streets or unrelated urban development surrounding the area.

United States Department of the Interior  
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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 98001398

Property Name: Butte County Courthouse and Historic Jail Building  
County: Butte State: South Dakota

Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Sandra McWilliam*                      December 3, 1998  
Signature of the Keeper                      Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

**Section 8. Significance:**

"Architecture" is, hereby, entered as an Area of Significance to correspond to the building's significance under Criterion C.

The period of significance is, hereby, amended to read "1901 to 1948" to correspond to the historic period when the property served as a center of local government and law.

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Michelle Saxman-Rogers of the South Dakota State Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)