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DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 9 1976

DATE ENTERED APR 11 1977

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Sioux County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

off FA 10

CITY, TOWN

Orange City

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Iowa

VICINITY OF  
CODE

COUNTY

Sioux

CODE

167

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Sioux County, Bertha Rexwinkel, Auditor

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Orange City

VICINITY OF

Iowa

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sioux County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Orange City

Iowa

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sioux County Courthouse is a rectangular (80' x 100'), 3-story building, clearly Richardsonian in style. It is made of red Minnesota sandstone, laid in rock-faced random and regular ashlar bonds. All trim is white sandstone, the roof covered with tile.

The principal feature of this hipped-roof structure is the 120-foot, square tower rising above the entrance. It is in five stages, with four corner turrets and an octagonal spire topped by a statue of Blind Justice. Clocks are set in gables on each face below the spire. Several types of arcading are featured, in traditional Richardsonian style, including a two-story compound-arch arcade and above it a much smaller arcade of engaged columns. The main door, below the tower, is recessed within a large, compound Romanesque arch. A side entrance features a similar arch set in a massive stone wall. On this side, too, is a small turret with flagpole.

Window treatment is also typically Richardsonian, with long, rectangular windows on the main floor, smaller Romanesque windows trimmed in white above, and even smaller rectangular windows at the top. The tower and building cornices have classical overtones. Detailing is consistent on all facades.

Only the basement level has been altered in the interior (lowered ceilings, in particular). Public areas of the courthouse have marble floors, wainscoting and baseboards. The courtroom has oak woodwork, wainscoting and furnishings, original gas/electric light fixtures, and features a blind arcade across the front wall with a fresco above the bench.

In the main hall are four portraits done by Fred Reinders, of Hospers, Iowa. They depict the four members of the scouting party sent from Pella, Iowa in 1869 to seek a location for a Dutch colony in Sioux County, which began the real settlement of the area. A painting of the expedition, also by Reinders, accompanies the portraits.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES    1904

~~DESIGNER~~/ARCHITECT    Wilfred Beach

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sioux County Courthouse is one of the finest examples of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture in Iowa. Typical of the style are the massive, rusticated, varicolored stonework, bold Romanesque detail, wide, heavy arches and corresponding arcades, and the variety of window treatment.

The courthouse was designed in 1902 by Wilfred Beach, of Sioux City. It was begun in that year and completed two years later. It still serves the county as a center for government and law enforcement.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dyke, Charles L. The Story of Sioux County. Orange City: Sioux County Capital, 1942  
 Sioux County Herald, Orange City, 19 March 1902  
 Alton Democrat, Centennial Edition, 7 May 1970  
 The Centennial Book, Orange City, Iowa, 1970.  
 Orville Dorschner, County Engineer; John C. Kaericker and Rein Vanderhill, Northwestern College; Bertha Rexwinkel, County Auditor

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre  
 UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	4	7	3	9	7	5	0	4	7	6	5	3	1	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING							

C 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING							

D 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING							

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nelson Nieuwenhuis, Curator

ORGANIZATION

Ramaker Library, Northwestern College

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Orange City

STATE

Iowa

# 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

*Adrian D. Arden*

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE 11/2/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 4/4/77

ATTEST:

*Marko Arden*

DATE 5-18-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER