

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

2239

NOV 23 1989

### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name Deuel County Courthouse  
other names/site number DU02-1

#### 2. Location

street & number 718 3rd Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Chappell N/A vicinity  
state Nebraska code NE county Deuel code 049 zip code 69129

#### 3. Classification

|  |   |                                     |                     |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ownership of Property                            | Category of Property                            | Number of Resources within Property |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> private                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Contributing                        | Noncontributing     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <u>1</u>                            | <u>0</u> buildings  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-state            | <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <u>0</u>                            | <u>0</u> sites      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal          | <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <u>0</u>                            | <u>0</u> structures |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <u>0</u>                            | <u>0</u> objects    |
|  |   | <u>1</u>                            | <u>0</u> Total      |

Name of related multiple property listing: County Courthouses of Nebraska  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

#### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

[Signature] November 17, 1989  
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See cont. sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrus 1/10/90  
 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] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
Government/courthouse  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
Government/courthouse  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)  
Classical Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (enter categories from instructions)  
foundation brick  
walls brick  
roof other  
other stone  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

[X] See continuation sheet, section 7, page 1.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:  
 nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Politics/government  
Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance  
1915-39  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates  
N/A  
1915  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder  
Huddart, John J.  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

[X] See continuation sheet, section 8, page 1.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

[X] See continuation sheet, section 9, page 1.

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
- Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property less than 1 acre

UTM References

|   |             |                  |                    |   |             |             |             |
|---|-------------|------------------|--------------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| A | <u>13</u>   | <u>711231710</u> | <u>41512101610</u> | B | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> |
|   | Zone        | Easting          | Northing           |   | Zone        | Easting     | Northing    |
| C | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u>      | <u>    </u>        | D | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> |
|   | Zone        | Easting          | Northing           |   | Zone        | Easting     | Northing    |

[ ] See continuation sheet, section 10, page 1.

Verbal Boundary Description

[X] See continuation sheet, section 10, page 1.

Boundary Justification

[X] See continuation sheet, section 10, page 1.

**11. Form Prepared By**

|                 |                                 |           |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| name/title      | Barbara Beving Long, consultant |           |                     |
| organization    | Four Mile Research Co.          | date      | November 8, 1989    |
| street & number | 3140 Easton Boulevard           | telephone | (515) 266-4964      |
| city or town    | Des Moines                      | state     | Iowa zip code 50317 |

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Built in 1915, the Deuel County Courthouse is a good, largely unaltered example of the Property Type, County Citadel. Identifying features include: rectangular shape, centered entrance, costly materials, distinctive ornamentation, limited Classical Revival stylistic influence, provision for fireproof storage, and impression of a government building representing modernity, simplicity, strength, and prosperity. In addition, the courthouse has other County Citadel characteristics: flat roof, prominent raised basement, and designed by an architect. Denver architect John H. Huddart designed another Nebraska courthouse as well as two in Colorado during his 40-year career.

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The Deuel County Courthouse is rectangular and consists of two stories set upon a raised basement. The compact building is 60x70' and thus appears to be nearly square. Two bays of simple double-hung windows are regularly spaced on either side of centered entrances on the south and west facades. The south facade is clearly the primary entrance and has steps up to the door. The secondary west entrance has a narrow pavilion that projects more from the building than does the south entrance.

Two shades of brick--golden tan ("goldenrod") for the body and a speckled light tan for trim--provide an effective contrast. The tan trim brick is used for simple flat lintels on first floor windows and for radiating voussoirs on the second story, also a pleasingly designed parapet with raised corners and center. A rather broad painted metal moulded cornice is located within the tan brick parapet and entablature portion, all of which effectively crown the design.

Materials continue on the rear or north facade, but there is no parapet or special lintel treatment. The architect has adeptly used less expensive materials, such as tan brick, rather than stone. The appearance of the parapet level is quite effective.

Parts of the trim, likely concrete, are painted white to further highlight them. Note the base or foundation of the raised basement, slender water table (which also forms a continuous sill for lower windows), keystones and sills of upper windows, and voussoirs on the west pavilion. White painted trim also highlights the south entry: plaque with "DEUEL COUNTY", eared window surround, and pedimented lintel over the doorway.

The courthouse is a good example of a County Citadel courthouse exhibiting limited Classical Revival stylistic elements. These include the symmetric arrangement, smooth surfaces, simple parapet, and such

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classical elements as vousoirs and the pedimented entry.

The floorplan has a modified or uneven T-shaped hallway. Halls from the two entrances meet at the center of the first floor, then the north-south hall continues north a short distance where more offices open off it. Access to the basement level is from stairs off the west entrance (where there are also interior steps up to the first floor). On the south side the steps up to the first and down to the basement are both on the exterior. Stairs to the second floor and its district courtroom are located in the west hall. The basement level has the jail and "farmers rest room" in it.

Exterior alterations are minor and expected: metal fire stairs on the east side, glass block in some windows (including the west pavilion and around the south entry), and a rebuilt entry with new pedestals and light fixtures. It is notable that the original windows with vertical mullions remain, as shown in an historic photograph. Interior changes include: modern wood paneling and dropped ceilings throughout (after vandals caused water damage in c. 1981).

The district courtroom has modern oak paneling but retains its high ceiling, oak trim, and furnishings. Interior details are relatively simple--limited oak woodwork, several plaster consoles, an oak bannister.

The courthouse is located one block north of the main commercial street in Chappell. Railroad tracks cut a diagonal swath just south of the commercial street. No prominent objects are placed on the courthouse grounds. The grounds occupy a quarter of the block, which it shares with residences. Concrete walks lead to the entrances and also around the building on two sides. The courthouse site has been attractively landscaped and is very well maintained.

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The Deuel County Courthouse is architecturally significant (Criterion C) and also historically significant (Criterion A) for its association with politics and local government. The property derives its historic significance as the focal point for the administration of local government and institutions in Deuel County. It is a good example of public architecture in the community and contains design features and facilities distinctive to its design and use as a courthouse.

As a good example of the County Citadel, the courthouse contains features and facilities distinctive to its design and use (such as fireproof vaults), has a rectangular shape, centered entrance, costly materials, distinctive ornamentation, and Classical Revival stylistic influence. Elements of the design combine effectively to convey the impression of a government building representing modernity, simplicity, strength, and prosperity, also features of the County Citadel.

The Period of Significance is 1915, when construction began, to 1939, when the "fifty year rule" takes effect. The Deuel County Courthouse is being nominated as an example of the Property Type, County Courthouses of Nebraska (County Citadel) of the Context, County Government in Nebraska, 1854-1941, from the Multiple Property Submission, County Courthouses of Nebraska.

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Deuel County is located in the western panhandle of Nebraska, south of the Platte River in the high plains area. The area saw limited settlement beginning in 1868 when the Union Pacific Railroad was constructed through the area. Chappell, the present county seat, was a construction point and later station on the railroad. In the 1880s cattle ranchers came to the area to run cattle on the vast open ranges. Homesteaders quickly followed, causing friction between those who established small homestead claims and the cattlemen who needed large expanses of grazing ground.

What is present Deuel County had been part of Cheyenne County, and it was one of six counties to be carved from that formerly immense county. Beginning in 1887, area settlers campaigned to be a separate county. Cheyenne County voters rejected the proposal that year, but on November 6, 1888, agreed to the creation of Banner, Kimball, Scotts Bluff, and

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Deuel Counties.<sup>1</sup>

The first Deuel County election of officers was held January 15, 1889. Chappell, which had been platted in 1884, was named the temporary county seat. Big Spring, Chappell, and Froid then competed fiercely for the permanent county seat designation. It required several elections and a court case between 1889 and 1894, but Chappell retained the county seat standing.

In 1909 Deuel County experienced a loss similar to that of Cheyenne County. Buoyed by railroad construction through the north part of the county in 1908 and increased settlement due to the 1904 Kinkaid Act, ranchers there petitioned to have a new county created. In an election held in 1909, Deuel County voters approved the creation of Garden County, and the older county lost three-fourths of its territory. Deuel County is now the smallest of the panhandle counties.

Once Chappell had captured the county seat designation in 1889, a small courthouse was built on the present courthouse site. By 1915 the county was prepared to provide a more costly edifice, despite the loss of much of their land and tax rolls to the newly created Garden County. The county likely had new homesteaders arriving after passage of the Kinkaid Act that increased the size of homesteads. The Kinkaiders brought a measure of prosperity to Chappell, and in 1915 a Methodist Church and a bank building were constructed in addition to the courthouse. The local newspaper noted

the building of the courthouse is the most important of the buildings to be built as far as the county is concerned, while the other two buildings are good improvements for the community in general.

On February 13, 1915, voters approved a \$20,000 bond issue for the new courthouse and jail. The county board acted quickly. Five days after the election, they signed a contract with the architect, John J. Huddart.

English-born and -trained Huddart (1856-1930) settled in Denver in 1882 and established his own practice there five years later. He enjoyed a regional practice, with commissions in other Colorado communities as well

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<sup>1</sup>In 1909 Morrill and Garden Counties were created out of former Cheyenne County lands, the last of the six counties that were once part of Cheyenne County.

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as Salt Lake City, Wyoming, and Oklahoma. According to a report from the Colorado Historical Society, Huddart specialized in courthouses and schools in these non-Denver commissions. His work in Denver was extremely varied and included a number of distinctive houses, the Queen of Heaven Orphanage, factories, and the Hotel St. Regis. Huddart is known to have designed the Cheyenne County Courthouse in Cheyenne Wells, Colorado (1908), Logan County Courthouse in Sterling, Colorado (1910s), and Garden County Courthouse in Oshkosh, Nebraska (1922).

In February 1915 the Deuel County board opened bids from contractors and selected M.J. Kenney of Denver, who bid \$21,505. In April the board agreed to have the Masonic Lodge lay the cornerstone, and ceremonies were held May 15, 1915. Construction was completed that year.



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Long, Barbara Beving. "County Courthouses of Nebraska." Multiple Property Submission. 1989.  
Nebraska State Historical Society. Photo Collection. #M281-952.  
Deuel County. Commissioners' Records. Book 3.  
Communication from Colorado Historical Society, July 3, 1989.  
"Contracts Let on Saturday for Three Building in Chappell, Court House, M.E. Church and First National Bank Building." Chappell Register, February 1915. (Quoted.)  
Cornerstone. Deuel County Courthouse.  
"Deuel County." Who's Who in Nebraska. Lincoln: Nebraska Press Association, 1940.

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### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property, Deuel County Courthouse, occupies Lots 7, 8, 9, and 10 in Block 11 of the Original Plat of Chappell and is roughly 150x150' in size.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes that part of the city block that has historically been associated with the property.