

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JAN 5 1977  
DATE ENTERED SEP 19 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

NAME

HISTORIC

Swift County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Swift County Courthouse

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Idaho Avenue & 14th Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Benson

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7th

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

27

COUNTY

Swift

CODE

151

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Swift County

STREET & NUMBER

Idaho Avenue & 14th Street

CITY, TOWN

Benson

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Swift County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Idaho Avenue & 14th Street

CITY, TOWN

Benson,

STATE

Minnesota

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Minnesota Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1972

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Swift County Courthouse is located on a city block opposite a park north of Benson's central business district. The courthouse is a three story brick and Kasota stone building on a rusticated limestone foundation. The most prominent feature is a four story corner tower with gabled roof. The juxtaposition of bush hammered stone and brick, triple arched projecting entry, projecting pavillions, and window sills and lintels exemplify the Richardsonian Romanesque design.

The exterior of the courthouse is embellished with decorative details including finished granite columns with carved capitals supporting the triple arches in the entry, carved stone frieze, carved stone tympani on the second story level of the tower, pressed metal cornices, and central gables capped with finials on each facade of the building.

The interior of the building retains original design integrity. The original golden oak woodwork, parquet floors, oak wainscotting, and marble mop boards are in an excellent state of preservation.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1897 - Present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Deeks & Co./ Beuchner & Jacobsen

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Swift County Courthouse is significant both as an example of the Richardsonian Romanesque influence on design of late nineteenth century public buildings and as the location of Swift county's government offices since 1897.

By 1888, Swift County had outgrown the courthouse which had housed all county offices since 1876. In 1889 the Minnesota Legislature authorized the County Board of Commissioners to issue bonds for the construction of the courthouse. The architectural plans of the firm of Beuchner and Jacobsen were accepted and the contract for the execution of those plans were awarded to the Deeks Company in 1897. The courthouse was officially dedicated in June of 1898.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Anonsen, Stanley Holte, A History of Swift County, Doctorate Thesis, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 1929.

Cross, Marion E., Minnesota Courthouses, publication of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Minnesota, 1966.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY One city block *less than one acre*

UTM REFERENCES

A [ 1, 5 ] [ 2, 9, 6 ] [ 1, 4, 0 ] [ 5, 0, 2, 1 ] [ 2, 6, 0 ]  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
D [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

*Delaware 4.26.77*

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Lynne VanBrocklin Spaeth

10/29/76

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Minnesota Historical Society

612/726-1171

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Fort Snelling Branch, Bldg. 25

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

St. Paul

Minnesota

## 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

*Russell W. Fridley*

TITLE

Russell W. Fridley

DATE

12/22/76

State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

*Wm. H. Hunt*

DATE

9/19/77

ATTEST

*Charles [unclear]*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7.16.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 2 Page 1

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REFERENCE NUMBER: 77000771

STATE: Minnesota

COUNTY: Swift

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Swift County Courthouse


CITY/TOWNSHIP: Benson

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: 301 14<sup>th</sup> St. N.

COMMENTS: Address Correction



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ian R. Stewart  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

4/24/98  
Date