

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NOV 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

2231

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 Garden County Courthouse

other names/site number GD03-3

2. Location

street & number NE cor F & Main Streets N/A not for publication

city, town Oshkosh N/A vicinity

state Nebraska code NE county Garden code 069 zip code 69154

3. Classification

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

James A. Hanson
Signature of certifying official

November 17, 1989
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.

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:)

Patrick Andrews

1/10/90

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 concrete

walls brick

roof other

other terra cotta

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

1921-39

Significant Dates

N/A

1921-22

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

Acreage of property less than 1 acre

UTM References

A	<u>1 3</u>	<u>7 2 2 10 4 10</u>	<u>4 5 8 7 2 8 10</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 1921-22, the Garden County Courthouse is a good, largely unaltered example of the Property Type, County Citadel. Identifying features include: rectangular shape, centered entrance, costly materials, costly ornamentation, 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.

The Garden County Courthouse in Oshkosh is rectangular and consists of two stories set upon a raised basement. Two bays of double-hung windows are regularly spaced on either side of the south entry portico and also on either side of the west facade entrance. With its steps, distinctive terra cotta dentiled pediment, and smooth columns with Ionic capitals, the south portico is clearly the primary entrance. The secondary west entry pavilion has a brick pilasters framing a small rectangular doorway and two narrow windows topped with attractive round-arched transoms and keystones. These windows light the staircase. Materials and treatment continue on the rear or north facade, but in a simplified manner.

Two shades of brick--reddish brown and light tan--and the bisque-colored terra cotta provide effective color contrasts. And tan roughly cast concrete blocks (for the raised basement) also work well with the tans of the brick and terra cotta. The reddish brown brick is used for pairs of squared corner pilasters, as a water table, for the attractive arcades of round-arched surrounds for second story windows, and for the simple parapet. An attractive cornice with small patterned courses effectively unites the composition.

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

The floorplan of the approximately 60x80' building has a modified or uneven T-shaped hallway, similar to that of adjacent Deuel County (also a Huddart design). Halls from the two entrances meet at the center of the first floor, then the north-south hall continues north slightly, where more offices open off it. Stairs to the basement and to the second floor and its district courtroom are located in the west hall.

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Exterior alterations are minor and expected: metal storm windows, opaque transoms in the round-arched portion of second story windows, new glass and metal entry doors, and an unobtrusive concrete ramp at the secondary entrance to provide access for the handicapped. A small shed-roofed entrance to the Sheriff's ground floor office has been added to the east facade, and a similar small entry has also been affixed to the rear.

Original interior elements include attractive woodwork for chair rails, transoms, doors and their frames, simple plaster capitals and pilasters, and high ceilings in hallways. The rather simple district courtroom has a modern ceiling and flush fluorescent lighting but retains its original trim and furnishings. Behind the judge's bench is an attractive oak screen that is pedimented and has pilasters, panels, a row of dentils, and a shell motif centered on the design.

The courthouse is located at the north end of the main commercial street in Oshkosh, across the railroad tracks. No prominent objects are placed on the courthouse grounds, although a modest concrete block storage building is located at the rear (not counted for this nomination due to its small size and unobtrusive location). The grounds occupy a quarter of the block, which it shares with residences. Concrete walks lead to the building's entrances and also around the building between these straight walks. The courthouse site is a half block from cornfields at the east edge of town.

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The Garden 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 Garden County. It is a fine example of public architecture in the community and contains good examples of design features and facilities distinctive to its design and use as a courthouse.

As a good example of the County Citadel, the courthouse contains design 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 1921, when construction began, to 1939, when the "fifty year rule" takes effect. The Garden 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.

Garden County is located in the western panhandle of Nebraska, and the Platte River crosses its south end. The area saw limited settlement beginning in 1868 when the Union Pacific Railroad was constructed through the area. In the 1880s cattle ranchers came to the area to run cattle on the vast open ranges, but 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 Garden County had been part of Cheyenne County, and it was one of six counties to be carved from that formerly immense county between 1888 and 1909. 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 Deuel Counties. Present Garden County was then part of Deuel County.

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,

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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.

Oshkosh, the Garden County seat, was established in 1889 but not platted until 1905. In 1908 the community gained railroad connections. When Oshkosh won the county seat designation the following year, its importance in the county was assured.

With the county seat question settled, officials set about obtaining a suitable courthouse. However, county voters failed to approve a \$40,000 bond issue to underwrite construction of a courthouse in 1914. A subsequent bond issue passed, and construction began in 1921, the year shown in a panel above the west entrance. Progress such that the cornerstone was laid March 4, 1922, the year of completion. John J. Huddart was the architect, and J. Mackie the contractor.

English-born and -trained Huddart (1856-1930) settled in Denver, Colorado in 1882 and established his own practice there five years later. He enjoyed a regional practice, with commissions in other Colorado communities as well 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 Deuel County Courthouse in Chappell, Nebraska (1915).

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Long, Barbara Beving. "County Courthouses of Nebraska." Multiple Property Submission. 1989.
Nebraska State Historical Society. Photo Collection. #M281-974 and M281-975.
Communication from Colorado Historical Society, July 3, 1989.
Records in Courthouse File Box. Clerk's office.
Historical Society of Garden County. History of Garden County, Nebraska. 1885-1985. Privately printed, 1986.
Cornerstone. Garden County Courthouse.
"Garden County." Who's Who in Nebraska. Lincoln: Nebraska Press Association, 1940.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property, Garden County Courthouse, occupies Lots 12-17 in Block G of August Sudman Addition in Oshkosh and is roughly 150x150' size.

Boundary Justification

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