

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED OCT 20 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

** Faribault County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Faribault County Courthouse

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North Main Street at Second Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Blue Earth

VICINITY OF

Second

STATE

Minnesota

CODE
27

COUNTY
Faribault

CODE
043

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

X PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

X GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

X YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Faribault County

STREET & NUMBER

North Main Street at Second Street

CITY, TOWN

Blue Earth

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Faribault County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

North Main Street at Second Street

CITY, TOWN

Blue Earth

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1972

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society, Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

Saint Paul

STATE

Minnesota

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Faribault County Courthouse is situated on a one-block site at the fringe of the central business district of Blue Earth. The building is surrounded by a prolific growth of trees and other vegetation which tends to obscure total visibility of any facade. An addition has been made to the rear of the building to provide additional office space and security facilities, although no structural changes have been made to the original building. A one-storey hallway butted to the original building provides the linkage of the two structures; both original and addition are constructed of similar red brick.

The Courthouse is a three storey brick and Kasota stone structure on a high basement; the basement is totally faced in Kasota. The most prominent feature is a six-storey corner tower with gabled roof. The juxtaposition of rusticated stone and brick on exterior walls, window sills and lintels, and Syrian-arched entries further exemplify the Richardsonian Romanesque design.

In addition to the massive corner tower, several semi-circular bays and secondary towers provide variety to the asymmetry of the facade and interior room arrangement. The primary entry is incorporated within a three storey central gabled bay. The first level of this bay comprises two Syrian arches with rusticated vouissours which spring from a central polished granite column with foliated carved capital. Noteworthy is the carved satyr head directly between the two arches. The second level is devoted to a three bay loggia with central wrought iron balustrade, polished granite columns with foliated capitals; the whole is surmounted by a massive stone lintel above which are four semi-circular lunettes. The third level is incorporated within a gable. Similar use of materials is noted in the tower.

Few changes have been made to the building both on the exterior and the interior. Over the years, caps of several small towers, chimneys, and a central cupola have been removed due to deterioration and storm damage. The cupola was removed in 1960 due to an extreme degree of deterioration; a flat deck now marks its position. The roof has retained original red tile covering and is in good condition.

The interior of the original building retains golden oak woodwork throughout in an excellent state of preservation. Offices on the first floor open onto a central hallway which runs through the building; doors to the offices bear titles (such as "AUDITOR") etched in glass and stained glass transoms. Much of the office furniture and furnishings of the courtroom is also of golden oak with carved panels. A rear tower houses a spiral staircase with intricate oak balustrade. Another tower is devoted to records/vault space; the windows in these spaces are provided with heavy iron plate shutters on the interior.

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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1891-92

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Builder: S.J. Hoban
Architect: C.S. Dunham

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed at a cost of \$52,120.00 in 1891-92 by S.J. Hoban according to designs by architect C.S. Dunham, the Faribault County Courthouse is an excellent example of the Richardsonian Romanesque influence on design of late nineteenth century public buildings. With the exception of the few modifications described in section 7, the building has retained original design integrity and is well maintained and preserved. Restoration of the main tower (re-pointing, etc.) is scheduled for the near future.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Cross, Marion E., Minnesota Courthouses, Colonial Dames of America in Minnesota, 1966.
- Kiester, Jacob A. The History of Faribault County, Minneapolis: Harrison & Smith, 1896.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	4,1,1,0,4,0	4,8,3,2,5,3,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charles W. Nelson, Architectural Historian and Susan Zeik, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

26 August 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Building 25, Fort Snelling

TELEPHONE

612-726-1171

CITY OR TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

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
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 10/1/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

CHIEF

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 4/11/97

ATTEST:

Charles E. ...

DATE 3.18.77

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

REFERENCE NUMBER: 77000731

STATE: Minnesota

COUNTY: Faribault

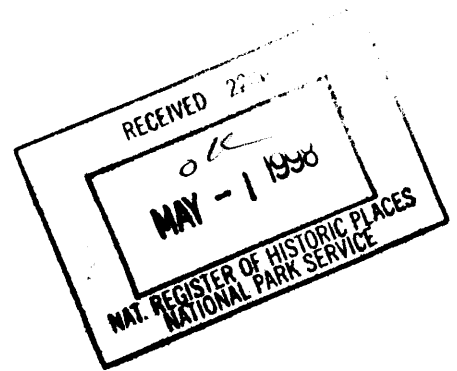
RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Faribault County Courthouse

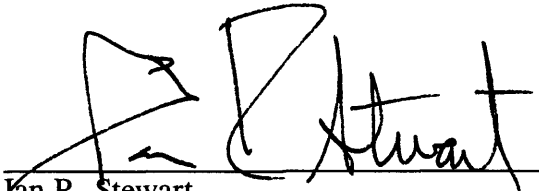
CITY/TOWNSHIP: Blue Earth

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: 415 N. Main St.

COMMENTS: Address Correction





Ian R. Stewart
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

 4/24/98
Date