

PH0368491

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 10 1976  
DATE ENTERED SEP 8 1976

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

Stutsman County Courthouse and Sheriff's Residence/Jail

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

504 Third Avenue S.E.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Jamestown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

North Dakota

VICINITY OF

CODE

038

COUNTY

Stutsman

CODE

093

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Stutsman County

STREET & NUMBER

504 Third Avenue S.E.

CITY, TOWN

Jamestown

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Dakota 58401

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

504 Third Avenue S.E.

CITY, TOWN

Jamestown

STATE

North Dakota 58401

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

North Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of North Dakota  
Liberty Memorial Building

CITY, TOWN

Bismarck

STATE

North Dakota 58505

## 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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The original block of the Stutsman County Courthouse, an eclectic 2-story structure in which the Gothic Revival vocabulary predominates, has an ashlar granite foundation, exterior load-bearing masonry walls, stone sills and lintels, and interior wooden flooring and partition framing. The longitudinal axis of the basically rectangular plan is at right angles to Third Avenue S.E., on which the building fronts, and the north elevation parallels Fifth Street S.E. The corner at which facade and north elevation join contains the stair tower, the most striking feature of the design by virtue of its height and configuration. The upper stages of the tower are of greatest interest, particularly the identical north and south faces, with their consoles supporting pilasters from which, in turn, spring lancet arches enclosing circular clocks with Roman numerals. These compositions are crowned by steep pediments which, dormer-like, punctuate the now-truncated pyramidal roof of the tower from which the original cresting has been removed. An actual dormer with bell-cast mansard roof on brackets is at mid-point on the facade slope, while the rear or west slope remains unbroken.

In addition to the tower, the gables which bisect the hipped roof of the building on all four sides are a chief source of its impact. Those on the north and south project, in the manner of transepts, a few feet beyond the flanking walls. The simulation of church architecture is further augmented by large circular apertures with geometrical muntins, having the effect of traceried rose windows. With the windows set within lancet arches, the gables reinforce the effect of the clock-arch motif on the corresponding faces of the tower. The east (facade) and west gables are narrower, and that on the west is obscured by the 1926 addition to the rear of the courthouse. The east gable has a blind lancet arch above triple windows, but its principal embellishment is the entrance below, which combines elements of both the tower and the major gables. Metal-capped brick piers are joined by a pointed arch also topped with metal and rimmed by a series of spiky projections (originally there were seven but two have been removed). Recessed within is a compound lancet arch enclosing a transom consisting of a circular window centered between a pair of small triangular lights, again reminiscent of a rose window. Single tall paneled chimneys were originally located on each side of the building and a joined pair on the rear, with that on the south elevation, with its serrated cap, being especially evocative of the Picturesque aesthetic. It has been subsequently streamlined, and the other three chimneys have been removed. The fabric of the building itself, however—the polychromy of brick, stone, and metal, and the basketweave bond in the gable arches and beneath the belt course—continue to contribute to its overall associative quality.

The layout of the first floor of the original courthouse block consists of a central corridor flanked by offices. The interior throughout is finished in an ensemble of stamped metal sheathing, including wainscoting, chair rail, upper wall surface, picture molding, frieze, cornice, and ceiling. The scheme extends even to the soffit of an archway connecting rooms in the county treasurer's office and to the surround of a large floor safe recessed within the wall. The finish is presumably not contemporary with the building but added some years later, perhaps in 1905. (At that time, the sheriff's residence and the jail were built next door and the original jail in the courthouse basement was converted to additional offices, including one for the county surveyor. Rest rooms were also installed, tile flooring laid, and an outside entrance cut.) The pattern of the stamped metal is typically Academic Revival, with repetitive use of reeding, egg-and-dart and cable moldings, and ovals, squares, and borders enriched with variations on the anthemion.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The stairway to the right of the main entrance is the only significant element of wood finish in the building. (All doors and windows, for example, are simply framed, with shallow cornices.) A dog-leg type with landings connecting the basement, first, and second floors, the stairway features molded tread ends, a curved handrail atop turned balusters, and square newel posts with reeded shafts and urn finials. Standing surfaces of the stairwell and the stair soffit are sheathed in ornamental stamped metal, a treatment applied also to the walls and ceiling of the courtroom on the second floor. The transverse-gable roof structure gives the courtroom the visual impact of a vaulted ceiling, with a balcony recessed into the apex of the facade or east gable. Public seating occupies much of the room, and at the west end are the judge's bench and chambers and the jury box. The upper stages of the tower are accessible by stairs which continue from the courtroom landing. The unfinished interior of the tower bears evidence of structural deterioration (particularly on the north wall) which has resulted from insufficient maintenance.

In the 2-story block added in 1926 on the west elevation of the courthouse, main partitions are of 14-inch reinforced concrete, rendering offices in effect individual vaults. Doors as well as casings for both doors and windows are enameled steel. Separating the 1883 and the 1926 blocks is an automatic fire door opening onto a hall containing a concrete and steel stairway, giving access to the county court offices on the second floor. Floors of the addition are laid in terrazzo, and walls and ceiling are plastered. Exterior walls are faced with brick, and composition slate covers the roof. The addition does not intrude beyond the side lines of the main block, nor above the irregularity of its roof mass. The newer brick fabric also blends with the older, its coursework above the arched windows, along the water table, and at the cornice line subtly echoing the bolder patterning of the original.

The combined sheriff's residence/jail is a 2-story structure with walls of red Menominee (Wisconsin) sand-mold brick and rusticated stone foundations, sills, and lintels. The design reflects Georgian principles in the symmetrical placement of openings and the hipped roof with dormers. The main entrance is sheltered by a 1-story front porch, now screened, featuring bracketed posts and steps with cheekblocks. There are secondary entrances on the side elevations, with that on the north, facing the courthouse, being the single most decorative element of the composition: a door labeled "Sheriff's Office" in gilt and recessed within an arch enriched with pilasters, sidelights, and fanlight. The plan of the residence portion of the structure, on the east, includes a parlor, dining room, kitchen, and four bedrooms, with basement storage rooms and unfinished attic. Interior trim consists of heavy door and window casings, picture molding, a straight stair with turned balusters and newel, and a custom-built china cupboard in the dining room. The jail adjoining the residence on the west contains on each floor two cell blocks of steel, stone, and cement construction, as well as offices. In the southwest yard is the heating plant which provides steam-radiation to the residence/jail and the courthouse. The brick and stone complex contains two boilers, coal and ash bins, and a tall stack. The grounds of the courthouse block are planted in grass and deciduous and evergreen trees, with cement service walks connecting the buildings.

# 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 checked="" 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 1883; 1905; 1926 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry C. Koch (1883)  
Gilbert R. Horton (1926)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Stutsman County Courthouse in Jamestown is distinguished for both its age and design, being the oldest courthouse in North Dakota and one of two in the state which derive from the Gothic Revival tradition. The building shares a city block with a combined sheriff's residence/jail, an imposing complex of Georgian inspiration, and the site is probably the principal location in Jamestown in terms of architectural and historic significance. Despite its 93 years, the original exterior character of the courthouse is intact (having fortunately been sympathetically treated when a sizable addition was made half a century ago), and inside is a veritable museum of ornamental stamped metal interiors. But the building is not only a repository of past craft practices and taste. It is also symbolic of the values with which an earlier era confidently informed its architectural monuments: in this case, the advancement of civilization, the winning of self-government, and the orderly administration of justice.

Jamestown was founded in 1872 where the Northern Pacific Railway crossed the James River. The following year it became the seat of newly formed Stutsman County, named for Enos Stutsman (1826-1872), member of the Dakota Territory House of Representatives. From 1878 to 1883 the James River Valley witnessed one of the greatest land speculation booms in American history, and the new Stutsman County Courthouse, even before completion, was hailed as a fitting celebration of the achievements of the past half decade:

The new court house will be one of the most substantial structures in the Northwest. Its foundation of imperishable granite and massive walls of brick will stand the devastating storms of time and seasons for ages. The building of such a structure for public purposes by a town of five years old is a compliment to the taste and public spirit of our citizens, and will stand as a monument to their enterprise that will not be lost in its influence and impression upon our visitors. (James-town Daily Alert, November 24, 1882.)

The architect of the building was Henry C. Koch (born 1841 in Hanover, Germany), who was educated in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and served during the Civil War on General Philip H. Sheridan's staff as a topographical engineer. Following the war, Koch established the firm of H.C. Koch & Co. in Milwaukee, where he was responsible for a number of public projects, one of the most notable being the 1895 City Hall. He also produced buildings for the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and in Wisconsin and other states, his work included over 120 schools and 26 courthouses. Koch was commissioned to design the Stutsman County Courthouse by Anton Klaus, German-born

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Horton, Gilbert R., AIA, Jamestown, North Dakota. Telephone interview, July 8, 1976.  
 Maddox, Dawn. Personal inspections, May 4; June 19 and 24, 1976.  
 Young, Mrs. Ernest, Jamestown, North Dakota. Chairman, Heritage Committee, City-County Bicentennial Commission. Personal interviews, May 4 and June 19, 1976.  
 Files, Heritage Committee.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.812

UTM REFERENCES

A | 14 | 522420 | 51194270 |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 C | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 D | | | | | | | | | |

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

Dawn Maddox, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of North Dakota

DATE

July 20, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Liberty Memorial Building

TELEPHONE

701-224-2666

CITY OR TOWN

Bismarck

STATE

North Dakota 58505

# 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

*Jane E. Sherry*

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

8-6-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Wm. D. ...*

DATE

9/8/76

ATTEST DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

*Robert B. Rettig*  
 Acting  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/7/76

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

entrepreneur who came to Jamestown in 1879 from Green Bay, Wisconsin. Known in local tradition as "the Father of Jamestown," Klaus purchased the plans for the courthouse at his own expense.

On August 8, 1883, a dedication ball was given at the courthouse, attended by "all the elite of the city" (Jamestown Daily Alert, August 9, 1883). A few days later the courthouse was made available to the congregation of the First Baptist Church until the completion of its new edifice, "The church to furnish their own lights and fuel, and perform all janitor work and to leave room in as good condition as when taken" (Minutes Book of the Stutsman County Commissioners, August 17, 1883). After the passage of two decades, the basement jail was found to be inadequate and a new one, combined with a sheriff's residence, was built in 1904-05 south of the courthouse. New construction and remodeling of the courthouse basement into additional offices and vaults cost approximately \$35,000. In February, 1916, a fire in the basement resulted in smoke and water damage to the two upper floors, necessitating their extensive refurbishing. Possibly it was at this time that the stamped metal interiors now in place were installed.

Within another decade, the growth of county government demanded additional space, but the 1926 west wing was built only after the county commissioners were unsuccessfully sued by residents protesting the tax levy of \$48,500 which financed the project. The architect was Gilbert R. Horton of Jamestown, born 1888 in Litchfield, Minnesota, and founder (in 1913) of the oldest active architectural firm in North Dakota, which bears his name and which he still heads. Horton was one of 17 architects to be licensed by the state in 1917, the first year the requirement was enacted.

After nearly a century of existence, the Stutsman County Courthouse is today facing its greatest crisis: whether or not that existence will be terminated. The county commissioners have placed on the September, 1976, primary ballot a \$1.5 million bond issue to supplement funds for a new courthouse and a law enforcement center, to be constructed on the present courthouse block. The issue makes no mention of the fate of the existing courthouse, but demolition is known to be the course favored by a majority of the commissioners. However, local support for saving the building has been mobilized by the Heritage Committee of the City-County Bicentennial Commission, which has chosen the goal of preserving the courthouse in fulfillment of its obligation to contribute a material legacy to the Bicentennial observance. Following an architectural and engineering study made by the firm of Foss, Engelstad and Foss of Fargo, the building has been declared technically and artistically restorable, as well as "a superb and rare example of Gothic-Revival institutional architecture in the Upper Midwest and containing the finest complete assembly of pressed metal interiors in the state of North Dakota" (Jamestown Sun, July 7, 1976). A petition urging the rehabilitation and continued use of the courthouse is being circulated to the residents of Stutsman County by the Heritage Committee, which also advocates having the option of preservation placed on the September primary ballot for a decision by the voters.