

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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FEB 26 1979

MAY 2

1979

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**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

Wayne County Courthouse

(WY05-2)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

510 Pearl Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Wayne

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Nebraska

CODE
031

COUNTY

Wayne

CODE
179**3 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 COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Board of Wayne County Commissioners

STREET & NUMBER

510 Pearl Street

CITY, TOWN

Wayne

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds, Wayne County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

510 Pearl Street

CITY, TOWN

Wayne

STATE

Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Preservation in Nebraska

DATE

1971

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Nebraska State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Lincoln

STATE

Nebraska

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED DATE _____

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The 1899 Wayne County Courthouse occupies the center of a four-acre square located north-northwest of the business district in Wayne, Nebraska (1970 pop., 5,379). Mature trees of various species dot the square, and the courthouse's situation is at the summit of a slight rise. The majority of buildings located around the square are modest frame dwellings.

Measuring 70' x 80', the courthouse rests on a raised stone basement and is constructed of Omaha pressed brick with Lake Superior redstone trim. Both the brick and stone are a warm, reddish-brown tone--the effect of their combination being monochromatic.

The massing of this modified Richardsonian building is symmetrically arranged, excepting the presence of an 80-foot-high square tower at the southeast corner. The structure's core is covered by a hipped roof of steep pitch, and three of the corners terminate with a pyramidal-roofed pavilion. Centered on each side of the building is a large dormer pierced by a Palladian window and treated with a shaped parapet; centered on the east and west walls are oriels.

A stone watertable is above the basement, and the first level's brick masonry imitates rusticated bands. A continuous molded stringcourse and simulated denticulation render further distinction between first and second stories. Excepting the square tower, there is a corbel table wrapping around all sides below the roof.

The main (south) facade is served by a one-story, three-bay arcaded portico whose redstone components include; keystones, impost blocks, plinths, engaged columns with stylized, organic capitals, and the entire entablature. Atop the entablature is an iron rail.

The tower--the courthouse square's dominant visual feature--is somewhat richly treated. Its windows decrease in size upward, those above the first level being contained within recessed panels and being treated with stone lintels overhead. Three-bay arcades perforating the tower's south and east walls are served by fulcimented balconies, and there are two differing corbel tables above the arches. The tower is crowned with an eight-sided roof, conical-topped corner turrets, and parapeted gables.

Since the completion of the Wayne County Courthouse, interior alterations have been few and limited. Floors throughout are finished in oak and hard maple, except the basement floor which is concrete. Offices on the first floor, bisected by a spacious 20½' x 35' corridor, include those of the county judge, treasurer, clerk, and commissioners. On the second floor are offices of the county attorney and superintendent, a 45' x 58' courtroom, a judge's chamber, and three jury rooms. Two staircases approach the basement level which contains the county sheriff's office, restrooms, and a commodious space known as the farmers' hall.

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Located less than 100 feet northwest of the courthouse is a low, one-story brick county building of recent construction. To the north is a paved parking area. Due to the reciprocal nature between courthouse and square, the entire four acres are necessary for inclusion in the nomination. This exigency is augmented by the square's having been a gift to the county as early as 1882, seventeen years prior to the erection of the courthouse. The square is not, as one would expect, along a principal route or within the business district of the town. Rather, the neighborhood is mostly residential.

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The one-story county building on the square was erected in the early 1970s as a jail and sheriff's residence. Covered by a flat roof, this L-shaped structure rests on a partial basement whose space is used for records storage by the county. The main block's east and west walls contain three floor-to-ceiling windows each; the north wall is unfenestrated. Concrete panels are at the walls' apex on all sides. The north and south walls are extended, creating indentation of east and west walls.

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

SPECIFIC DATES

1899

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Orff and Guilbert, Minneapolis

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1899 Wayne County Courthouse is a well preserved example of Richardsonianism as interpreted by a Midwestern architect. Serving as a local landmark, the building also ranks as the county's grandest and most substantial edifice, reflecting the level of affluence Wayne County attained at the turn of the century.

Organized in 1870 by a proclamation of Governor David Butler, Wayne County's first county building was a small frame structure erected that same year in the environs of LaPorte. Four years later a county bond issue was approved by voters, enabling the construction of a more substantial courthouse inside the newly incorporated LaPorte.

The development of Wayne County progressed slowly from the date of its organization until the early 1880's when the railroad came through the present townsite of Wayne. At that time a group of Wayne residents proposed to furnish a courthouse free of rent for ten years if the county seat were relocated in Wayne. A special vote was held in 1882 in which county citizens approved the proposal. The group initiating the relocation formed the Wayne Town Hall Association and had a brick veneer building constructed in 1883. Slightly more than a year after its occupation however, this courthouse was destroyed by fire. Only \$2,500 in insurance was collected and the Town Hall Association was "confronted by their guarantee to furnish a courthouse to the county. They proceeded to put up such a structure as could be erected for this amount of money"(James E. Brittain, From Then To Now, Wayne: The Wayne Democrat, 1931, n.p.).

When the county seat had been moved to Wayne, the owners of Block 2 in the community donated that block to the county with provisions that: "The said block to be used by the county of Wayne to put county courthouse and other county buildings thereon. Said courthouse to be erected thereon within twenty years... and in case no courthouse of the value of \$5,000 shall be erected...the land shall revert to the grantors"(Ibid., n.p.).

This offer posed an opportunity for Wayne countians to provide the county with a permanent courthouse site, but it was toward the end of the twenty-year period when voters finally approved a bond issue financing a new courthouse. At the general election in November, 1898, the question of a bond issue was voted upon and was carried by a large majority (The Wayne Herald, Dec. 7, 1899, p.1). Designs selected for the new courthouse were provided by the architectural firm of Orff and Guilbert of Minneapolis, and the construction contract was awarded to Rowles and Moore of Omaha. The cornerstone was laid on August 9, 1899, and construction proceeded speedily enough for the building to be accepted and occupied four and one-half months later (The Wayne Herald, Dec. 28, 1899).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Wayne, NE

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 693 4610 4677 5010

B 14 693 4610 4677 4010

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 14 693 3510 4677 4010

D 14 693 3510 4677 5010

E 663

F 663

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The courthouse square, comprised of four acres; bounded by Sixth Street on the north, Pearl Street on the east, Fifth Street on the south, and Lincoln Street on the west.

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

Daniel Kidd, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

February, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

1500 R Street

TELEPHONE

402/471-3270

CITY OR TOWN

Lincoln

STATE

Nebraska

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

Marion E. Knott

2/15/79

TITLE

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles Ackerman

DATE 5-2-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: William H. Bralham

5-1-79

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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Although the courthouse's design is assigned to the Minneapolis firm of Orff and Guilbert, it appears that Orff may have been solely responsible for the delineations since progress accounts of the building's construction in Wayne newspapers mostly referred to him. Also, an article in The Wayne Herald concerning the courthouse's completion implies that Orff was the single designer: "Mr. Orff, of Minneapolis, the architect...made a careful examination of the structure and pronounced it...in accordance with the plans and specifications" (The Wayne Herald, Dec. 28, 1899, p.1).

Fremont D. Orff (1856-1914) maintained a practice with several different partners in Minneapolis between 1881-1912 (Torbert, "Minneapolis Architecture and Architects, 1848-1908."). He was involved with the design of a few notable county courthouses in Minnesota, the majority of these combining a Richardsonian spirit with elements of other styles (Gebhard and Martinson, A Guide to the Architecture of Minnesota, pp. 169, 228, 323, and 349).

The Wayne Courthouse is no pure representative of the Richardsonian Romanesque mode, although the tower is closely akin to that of Richardson's 1884-88 Allegheny County Courthouse in Pittsburgh. Also, the Wayne building is of brick construction with monochromatic smooth stone trim--a departure from the texture of rough stone preferred by Richardson. Still, Orff's borrowings and liberties in the Wayne Courthouse place the building in the nature of Richardson's inclinations. As H. R. Hitchcock has pointed out: "Richardsonian Romanesque was neither particularly Romanesque nor Richardson's. Richardson himself combined at various times specific borrowings from French and Spanish Romanesque models in the typical manner of High Victorian Picturesque Eclecticism" (Alan Gowans, Images of American Living, p. 353).

The square tower's placement at a corner aids the courthouse in achieving a picturesque quality, although a desirable amount of formality does exist through a quiet balance of exterior parts. The building exemplifies the brickmason's art; a variety of textural effects is accomplished through imitated rustication, simulated dentils, rounded tower corners, and corbel tables. Also, the rich reddish-brown tone of the brick and stone places the courthouse apart from structures around the square which are much smaller and are mostly of frame construction. Significantly, no severe alterations have occurred and this 1899 structure presently exists as a well preserved turn-of-the-century courthouse.

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The Wayne Herald. Wayne, Nebraska. May 4, 1899.

_____ . December 7, 1899.

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The Wayne Republican. Wayne, Nebraska. February 22, 1899.

_____ . August 9, 1899.

_____ . December 27, 1899.