

RECEIVED DEC 16 1976
DATE ENTERED APR 18 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
Rock County Courthouse and Jail
 AND/OR COMMON
Rock County Courthouse and Jail

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Cedar Street North at Luverne Street E. NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN Luverne VICINITY OF Sixth CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE Minnesota CODE 27 COUNTY Rock CODE 133

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Rock County
STREET & NUMBER Cedar Street North at Luverne Street East
CITY, TOWN Luverne VICINITY OF Minnesota STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Rock County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds
STREET & NUMBER Cedar Street North at Luverne Street East
CITY, TOWN Luverne STATE Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Statewide Historic Sites Survey
DATE 1972, 1976 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Minnesota Historical Society, Building 25, Fort Snelling
CITY, TOWN St. Paul STATE Minnesota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Rock County Courthouse and Jail occupy a wooded one-block site at Cedar and Luverne Streets in the central business district of Luverne, Minnesota. The courthouse is situated in the approximate center of the block. The jail building is provided with direct street access and is approximately 100 feet to the east of the courthouse.

In 1887 the contract for design of the courthouse building was awarded to T.D. Allen of Minneapolis. Allen's design prescribed a two storey Sioux Quartzite and Kasota stone structure set on a full basement. The attic is incorporated within a high combination hip/gable roof. The dominant feature of the design is the provision of the principal entry through a four-storey tower situated on the southwest corner of the building. This tower is capped by an open balustraded gazebo-like observation area with conical roof.

The courthouse is stylistically Richardsonian Romanesque. Masonry throughout the exterior is rusticated. The semi-circular arch motif is found in the colonnaded entry, several second storey windows, and large windows in the gables of the attic storey. Polychromatic highlights are created through the use of the buff-colored Kasota stone in arches, lintels, sills, strapwork, and column capitals and bases in contrast to the deep red of the Sioux Quartzite. The shafts of the three columns in the principal entry are of polished granite.

The interior of the courthouse remains relatively unaltered since its construction. The staircase, balustrades, and wainscoting is of oak; a significant number of oak desks, counters and office furnishings remain. The main staircase which links all floors of the building is incorporated within the tower and adjoining bay. Both first floor and basement is bisected by a hallway which runs through the building from north to south.

Offices of the Registrar of Deeds, Auditor, Clerk of the District Court, and Treasurer occupy the first floor; each of these offices are provided with a vault for records. The second floor is devoted to a large courtroom with auxiliary chambers for judge and jury. The courtroom has been recently re-decorated and is presently in excellent condition. Original woodwork, furnishings and hardware have been retained where possible on the second floor as in the first.

The adjacent Jail building was constructed two years after the courthouse. It is constructed of Sioux Quartzite with Kasota trim in a complementary fashion to the courthouse. The rustication and the use of the semi-circular arch add further to the cohesiveness of the two buildings on the site.

The Jail is two storeys in height with attic incorporated under a low hipped roof. The southern half of the building functions as residence and office for the sheriff. Two cell blocks, including a dungeon cell in the cellar and a cell in the attic (total capacity of ten prisoners) comprise the northern half of the building. (Informant stated that floors in the cell block area were of granite, however, this fact was unascertainable at the time of the survey.)

A continuing maintenance program has aided greatly in the preservation of the architectural integrity of both the courthouse and jail buildings. Both are in excellent condition and continue to serve their original functions.

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 1887-1890

BUHLER/ARCHITECT T.D. Allen

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Designed and constructed during the years of 1887 through 1890 the Rock County Courthouse and Jail are significant as one of the few remaining county governmental/punitive complexes in the State of Minnesota. Both buildings draw upon local materials and craftsmanship for their design quality. The red Sioux Quartzite which forms the primary building material was quarried at Pipestone, Minnesota, about 25 miles away. The rusticated facade treatment of this material is characteristic of the Richardsonian Romanesque mode which had a substantial influence on public building design in Minnesota during the 1880s and into the 1890s. The design harmony of the two buildings is further emphasized by their placement on a prominent one-block site immediately adjacent to the central business district of Luverne.

Both the Courthouse and Jail remain essentially as designed and constructed. Both have been subjected to constant programs of maintenance and preservation and continue to serve Rock County in their original capacities.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cross, Marion E., Minnesota Courthouses. (Minneapolis?) Colonial Dames of Am. in Minn., 1966.

Historian Records Survey, Minnesota. Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota, Vol. 67, St. Paul.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 4	7, 2, 5, 2, 4, 0	4, 8, 3, 7, 3, 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 Associate

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

2 November 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 11/29/76

TITLE

Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

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

4/18/92

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3. 8. 77

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 2 Page 1

REFERENCE NUMBER: 77000769

STATE: Minnesota

COUNTY: Rock

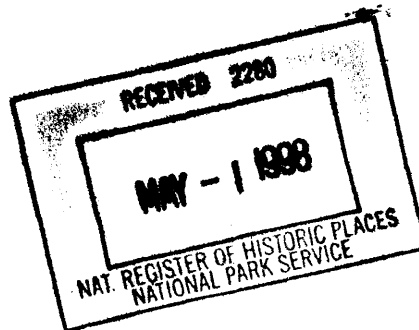
RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Rock County Courthouse and Jail

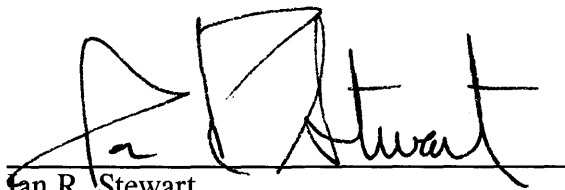
CITY/TOWNSHIP: Luverne

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: 204 E. Brown

COMMENTS: Address Correction





Ian R. Stewart
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

4/24/98
Date