UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NF		

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DATE ENTERED

DEC 5

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS **TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Morrison County Court House AND/OR COMMON

Morrison County Court House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Broadway and 2nd Street		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN Little Falls	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT		
state Minnesota	CODE 22	COUNTY Morrison	CODE 097

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY OWNERSHIP		STATUS PRE		SENTUSE	
DISTRICT	X_PUBLIC		AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM	
X_BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE		COMMERCIAL	PARK	
STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE	
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS	
OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	<u>X</u> GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC	
	BEING CONSIDERED	-YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION	
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:	

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Morrison Cou	nty		
STREET & NUMBER			
Broadway and	2nd Street		
CITY, TOWN		STATE	
Little Falls		Minnesota	
LOCATIO	N OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIO	N	
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEED	^{S,ETC.} Morrison County Office Bu	iilding - Registry of Deeds	
STREET & NUMBER			
Broadway and	2nd Street		
CITY, TOWN		STATE	
Little Falls	·	Minnesota	
6 REPRESE	NTATION IN EXISTING SU	JRVEYS	
TITLE			
Mn. Inventor	y of Historic & Prehistoric Pl	aces 1975	
DATE			
1975		FEDERAL XSTATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	Minnesota Historical Society	······	
CITY, TOWN		STATE	
	St. Paul	Minnesota	

7 DESCRIPTION

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Morrison County Courthouse is situated on a one-block site immediately adjacent to the central business district of Little Falls, Minnesota. Executed in the Richardsonian Romanesque mode according to designs by architect C.A. Dunham, the building is constructed of creme-colored brick and grey granite. Both of these materials were obtained locally. Distinctive features of the design include an assymmetrical plan emphasized by complex rooflines, towers, decorative gables, polychromatic facade treatment, semicircular arched window and door openings, and an extensive use of stained glass.

The foundation is of granite. Granite is also used in the form of banding to emphasize storiation, sills, and lintels. The two principal entries employ arches framed in granite.

The dominant architectural element is a four story clock tower. It is square in plan and is surmounted by a pyramidal roof. The roof of the entire building retians original slate shingle sheathing.

On the interior, the courthouse provides facilities for county offices, penal system, courts, welfare department, and superintendent of schools. The courtroom and adjoining judge's chamber and jury room are located on the second floor. Woodwork throughout is of natural oak. (The interial structural system is also wood.) Each office and the courtroom has a fireplace with individuallydesigned mantle and decorative tile hearth. Floors in all offices and throughout the second level are of maple; the main floor foyer has flooring of octagonal ceramic tile. Original brass hardware has also been retained.

Little alteration has been made in the original courthouse building. Two annexes, however, have been placed at the rear of the block. These are linked to the main building by means of glass concourses. In this fashion the integrity of the original building has been preserved. The building continues to function as the county seat of government and is well maintained.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Foster (Forster) & Smith, builderSPECIFIC DATES1891 -BUILDER/ARCHITECTC.A. Dunham, architect				
Ϫ1800-1899 Ϫ1900-	COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY INVENTION		TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)
	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1500-1599 1600-1699	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS EDUCATION		SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC		XLAW	SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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Constructed during the years 1890 - 1891, the Morrison County Courthouse represents a major effort on the part of the people of Morrison County to provide a substantial -- and impressive -- seat of government. The building replaced an inadequate frame building dating from 1869. It is a fine example of the Richardsonian Romanesque mode, a style particularly common in public architecture in the late nineteenth century. Noteworthy is the fact that it was constructed totally of local materials. Although threatened with replacement in the 1960's because it could no longer supply needs for increased office space, citizen concern responded with a proposal for the construction of annexes to the rear of the block, thereby insuring, preservation of the old courthouse.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Board of Co. Commissioners minutes 1856-1870 Board of Co. Commissioners minutes 1890-1891

Fuller, Clara History of Morrison and Todd Counties, Minnesota 1915

Little Falls Transcript - Clippings on file at Morrison Co. Historical Society.

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11 FORM PREPA	RED BY				
NAME / TITLE					•
Jan Warner, Din	rector Charle	es A.Weyerh	aeuser Memo	rial Museum March 7	, 1978
ORGANIZATION				DATE	
Morrison County STREET & NUMBER	/ Historical S	Society		<u>632-4007</u> TELEPHONE	
	(South Lindbe	rgh Drive)			
CITY OR TOWN	(bouth Arnuber			STATE	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Little Falls,				Minnesota 56	345
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				WITHIN THE STATE IS:	
		STATI			
NATIONAL		SIAH	£	LOCAL	
As the designated State H	istoric Preservation	Officer for the Na	ational Historic P	reservation Act of 1966 (Publi	c Law 89-665), I
hereby nominate this prop	perty for inclusion in	n the National R	egister and certif	fy that it has been evaluated	according to the
criteria and procedures set	forth by the Nation	al Park Service	\mathcal{I}	$\sim l$	
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	MAN-REGISTER				4,110

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number $\underline{}^2$ Page $\underline{}^1$

REFERENCE NUMBER: 78001552

STATE: Minnesota

COUNTY: Morrison

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Morrison County Courthouse

CITY/TOWNSHIP: Little Falls

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: 107 2nd St. S.E.

COMMENTS: Address Correction

Tan R. Stewart Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

RECEIVED 2780