

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **AUG 5 1985**
date entered **SEP 5 1985**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Todd County Courthouse, Sheriff's House and Jail

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 215 1st Avenue South N/A not for publication

city, town Long Prairie vicinity of N/A

state Minnesota code 22 county Todd code 147

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Todd County

street & number 215 1st Avenue South

city, town Long Prairie vicinity of N/A state Minnesota 56347

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Todd County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

street & number 215 1st Avenue South

city, town Long Prairie state Minnesota 56347

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society
Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town St. 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 _____ N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Todd County Courthouse is prominently sited on a small hill which rises above the commercial district of Long Prairie, Minnesota. The courthouse and other county buildings occupy the entire Block 13 of the Original Townsite plat, an area bounded by 1st and 2nd Avenues on the north and south and by 2nd and 3rd Streets on the west and east. The courthouse is placed at the center of the block and is sited facing north. Other buildings which share the site are a jail and sheriff's house, set south and west of the courthouse; a two stall garage, directly south of the courthouse; and two office buildings, cut into the slope of the hill south and east of the courthouse. A single story detention center cut into the hill directly east of the courthouse is currently under construction. The sides of the hill are held in place by fieldstone retaining walls, built originally ca. 1895 and rebuilt in the 1930s.

The courthouse was built in 1883. It is of brick construction, and measures approximately sixty by eighty feet. An extension approximately thirty feet square extends to the rear. The building is designed in a simplified Italianate style; its plan and facades are symmetrical on major and minor axes. Cream colored common-grade brick is the primary building material. Cast stone is used on the water table course and on the first floor window sills. The foundation is of split fieldstone.

First floor windows are flat arched. Second floor windows are semi-circular arched, and have contrasting red brick moldings. Red brick is also used in string courses at the height of the window sills. The roof is hipped. Gable-roofed bays extend from the main body of the building on the front and sides. The front gable end has a dentilled pediment containing a stone dateblock, below which are five semi-circular arched windows. The side bays have three flat arched set in the gable end. Encircling the main body of the building is a wide wooden cornice. A pyramidal-roofed lantern is placed at the peak of the roof.

The interior of the building is arranged with offices on both sides of a central corridor. A stair is located at the northeast corner. The rear extension originally contained offices for the sheriff, but has since been converted to the assessor's office. The courtroom is located in the center of the second floor. Judges' chambers, an attorney's room and a law library are in rooms adjacent. A vault and the museum of the county historical society are located in the basement.

The courthouse has been altered at several times since it was built, but the changes made do not affect the historical integrity of the building. First floor offices on the northwest and northeast corners were enlarged between 1910 and 1915 by small one story additions. Materials used duplicated the original. Work undertaken as W.P.A. projects in 1934 and 1938 included excavating and enlarging the basement, adding a vestibule at the north entry, and refinishing the interior wall surfaces. While the room arrangement was

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.5 acres

Quadrangle name Long Prairie, Minn.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 15 355839 5092480
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 13 (all), Original Townsite of the City of Long Prairie

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas L. Jenkinson and Norene Roberts

organization Historical Research, Inc.

date March 1, 1985

street & number 5535 Richmond Curve

telephone (612) 929-2921

city or town Minneapolis

state Minnesota 55410

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national X 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

title Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/15/85

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Entered in the
National Register

date 9/5/85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Todd County Courthouse, Sheriff's House & Jail, Long Prairie, MN

Continuation sheet Description, cont'd. Item number 7 Page 1

left unchanged, walls were replastered with a textured finish. The ceilings were lowered and covered with acoustical tile. Exterior windows were replaced and the tops of the openings infilled with wood. The terrazzo floor was left unchanged.

The 1938 W.P.A. project also included modifications in the areas surrounding the courthouse. Fieldstone retaining walls surrounding the block were reconstructed, with the original double tiered retaining wall being replaced by a single wall of greater height. Steps at the corners of the site were removed and replaced by a new entryway at the center of the block. This entry featured two paths up to the courthouse building. Exterior steps flank a central enclosed stair, which has landings at the street level and the basement level of the courthouse.

The sheriff's house and jail, built in 1900, is a two story hip roofed red brick building. The house portion faces south, and has a facade scaled similarly to a house. The jail is attached to the rear courthouse side, and is slightly offset from the house to allow for a separate side entry. A tile-brick garage east of the hosue appears to have been built during the 1920s.

The three other buildings on the site are of relatively recent dates. All are cut into the slope of the hill and are located along the bordering streets. All are of a similar modern design, having flat roofs and narrow window openings which cut through lime brick walls.

A parking lot, reached by a ramp coming up from the southwest corner of the site, lies on the hill top west of the courthouse building.

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Continuation sheet Bibliography

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Minnesota Bar Association. The First One Hundred Years. St. Paul: North Central Publishing, Inc., 1983.

"Repairs at Courthouse Progressing." Long Prairie Leader, February 15, 1934, p. 1.

"Work Progressing at County Capital." Long Prairie Leader, August 16, 1934, p. 1.