National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

	No. 10 10-31-	24-001 -84	8

For NPS use only received AUG 5 (985 date entered SEP 5 (985

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

1. Name

historic	Todd County	7 Courth	iouse,	Sheriff's	House	and Jail		
and/or common	N/A							
2. Loca	tion							
street & number	215 lst Av	enue So	ıth			N	′A	not for publication
city, town	Long Prair	ie		_ vicinity of	N/A			
state	Minnesota	code	22	county	I Tod	d		code 147
3. Class	sificatio	n						
Category district _Xbuilding(s) structure site object	Ownership X public private both Public Acquisit in process being consid N/A		wo Access yes	cupied occupied irk in progress		esent Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military		museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Pro	oper	ty					
name	Todd Count							······································
street & number	215 lst Av		ıth					
city, town	Long Prair	ie		vicinity of	N/A	state	Min	nesota 56347
5. Loca	tion of	Lega	l De	script	ion			
courthouse, regis	try of deeds, etc.	Todd (County	Courthouse	, Regi	ster of Deeds	3	
street & number		215 1:	st Aven	ue South				
city, town		Lòng l	Prairie	2		state	Min	nesota 56347
6. Repr	esentat	ion i	n Ex	cisting	Sur	veys		
Minnesot title Sites Su	a Statewide H rvey	listorio	2	has this p	roperty b	een determined o	eligible	e? yes no
date 1	984					_ federalX_ st	ate _	county local
depository for sur	vey records			storical Sc History Ce	-			
city, town		St. Pau	.1			state		Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one		
excellent	deteriorated	<pre> unalteredX_ altered</pre>	<u>X</u> original site moved date	N/A	
fair	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

8. Significance

Period	Areas of SignificanceC	heck and justify below		
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	re religion
1400–1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500–1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600–1699	<u>X</u> architecture	education	military	social/
1700–1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
<u>X</u> 1800–1899	commerce	exploration/settlement	t philosophy	theater
1900–	communications	industry	<u>X</u> politics/government	transportation other (specify)
		IIIVEIIII0II	·	other (specify)

Specific dates 1883

Builder/Architect Chas. H. Sparks; P. J. Pauley and Bros.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Todd County courthouse was built in 1883 to house the governmental needs of a quickly growing central Minnesota county. The courthouse site, on a hill overlooking the city of Long Prairie, has been used for governmental purposes since the first county building was erected on the site in 1870. The courthouse is significant architecturally as a good example of an Italianate public building. The courthouse, supported in its role by several ancillary buildings which share the site, has served the needs of the county for over a century.

Following the organization of Todd County in 1867, county business was conducted in the homes of the officers until February 1870, when the citizens of Long Prairie donated a small frame building to the county. This building was located on the hill and was placed next to the liberty pole, a flagpole so named because it had been erected by the twenty-seven inhabitants of the county in 1860 who had chosen to gather at the spot to celebrate Independence Day.

The present courthouse is the third at the site, replacing a two story frame building which had replaced the donated building in 1873. The 1883 courthouse is a brick structure, designed in the Italianate style popular at the time. Architects for the building were P. J. Pauley and Brothers, Architects, of St. Louis, Missouri, and Charles H. Sparks. The exact contribution of each remains unknown. Three years later Pauley designed another Italianate courthouse for Starke County, in Dickinson, North Dakota.

Modifications undertaken ca. 1900, apparently consisting of the conversion of the spaces at the rear of the building from a sheriff's residence into offices were the work of Fremont D. Orff, who designed several Minnesota courthouses and is probably responsible for the design of the jail south and west of the Todd County courthouse. The enclosed front entry, built in 1938, was a public work relief project sponsored by the Works Progress Administration.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

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10. Ge	ographi	cal Dat	a						
Acreage of nomi	nated property ne Prair:	2.5 acres				Q	uadrangle s	cale <u>1:2</u> 4	4,000
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	and counties for				_		-		
state N/A		code	N/A	county	N/A		iuur ie s	code	N/A
state N/A		code	N/A	county	N/A			code	N/A
11. Fo	m Prep	ared B	y						
name/title	Thomas L. J	enkinson and	d Nore	ne Rober	ts				
organization	Historical 1	Research, I	nc.		dat	te	March 1,	1985	
street & number	5535 Richmon	nd Curve			tele	ephone	(612) 929	9-2921	
city or town	Minneapolis				sta	ite	Minnesota	a 55410	
	te Hist	oric Pro	esei	rvatio	on C	Offic	er Cei	rtific	ation
As the designate 665), I hereby no	gnificance of this national ed State Historic F minate this prope criteria and proce	X state Preservation Offerty for inclusio	licer for	_ local the Nation National Re	egister a	nd certify			
-	eservation Office	\sim	Ľ	100	1 6	17	rid l.	1	2 1
Ru	ssell W. Frid	lley	Yes				date	7/,	- 185
For NPS use	ate Historic only	Preservatio	on Off:	icer					3/83
I hereby co	ertify that this pro	Fyan	ب ۲	National R Intered National	li the	ter	date	9/5-	185-
\ \	e National Regist	er -					,		
- <u>Attest</u> : Chief of Reg	istration						date		· · · ·

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Todd County Courthouse, Sheriff's House & Jail, Long Prairie, MN Continuation sheet Description, cont'd. Item number 7

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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Todd County Courthouse, Sheriff's House & Jail, Long Prairie, MN Continuation sheet Bibliography Item number 10

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