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

# 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

Type an entires	complete app					
1. Nam	e					
historic	Todd Count	Todd County Courthouse, Sheriff's House and Jail				
and/or common	N/A					
2. Loca	ation					
street & number	215 1st Avenue South N/A not for publication					
city, town	Long Prair	ie	vicinity of N	/A		
state	Minnesota	code	22 county	Todd	<b>code</b> 147	
3. Clas	sificatio	n				
Category  district _X building(s) structure site object	Ownership  X public private both Public Acquisi in process being consi		Status  X occupied  unoccupied  work in progress  Accessible  X yes: restricted  yes: unrestricted  no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainmentX government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:	
4. Own	er of Pro	oper	ty			
name	Todd Count	У				
street & number	215 lst Av	enue Soi	ıth			
city, town	Long Prair	ie	vicinity of N	/A state	Minnesota 56347	
5. Loca	tion of	Lega	l Description	on		
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Todd (	County Courthouse,	Register of Deeds		
street & number		215 1:	st Avenue South			
city, town		Long l	Prairie	state	Minnesota 56347	
6. Repr	esentat	ion i	n Existing S	Surveys		
Minnesot title Sites Su	a Statewide l irvey	Historio		perty been determined eli	gible? yes X no	
date 1	.984			federal _X stat	e county local	
depository for su	rvey records		ota Historical Soc elling History Cen	•		
city, town		St. Pau	11	state	Minnesota	

#### 7. Description

Condition excellentX good	deteriorated	Check one unaltered _X altered	Check one _X_ 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

1700–1799 X 1800–1899	9	community planning conservation economics education	landscape architectu law literature military music t philosophy _X politics/government	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater
Specific dates	1883	Builder/Architect Chas	s. 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.

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Ge	ographical Dat	a		
Acreage of nom	inated property 2.5 acres			
	ne Long Prairie, Minn.		Quadrangle scale 1:24,000	
UTM References	<b>5</b>			
A 15 35 Zone East	5839 5092480 ing Northing	B Zone Easting	Northing	
c L L				
E		J FLJ LL		
$G \bigsqcup \bigsqcup$		J # L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L		
Verbai bounda	ary description and justificati	on .		
			wai wi a	
DIOCK .	is (air), Original Towns:	ite of the City of Long P	rairie	
List all states	and counties for properties of	overlapping state or county bo	undaries	
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. Fo	rm Prepared By	7		
<del></del>				
name/title	Thomas L. Jenkinson and	Norene Roberts		
organization	Historical Research, In	date date	March 1, 1985	
street & number	5535 Richmond Curve	telephone	(612) 929-2921	
city or town	Minneapolis	state	Minnesota 55410	
12. Sta	ate Historic Pro	eservation Offic	er Certification	
The evaluated s	ignificance of this property within	the state is:		
	nationalX state	local		
665), I hereby no	ominate this property for inclusion	າ in the National Register and certi	rvation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– fy that it has been evaluated	
according to the	e criteria and procedures set forth	by the National Park Service.		
State Historic Pr	reservation Officer signature	Tussell W. T.	ridley /	
+i+la	nssell W. Fridley Tate Historic Preservatio	on Officer	date 7/15/85	
For NPS use only				
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register Entered in the				
Mational Register date 9/5/85				
Keeper of the National Register				
Attest:			date	
Chief of Reg	istration		*	

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

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

Continuation sheet Description, cont'd.

Item number 7

Page :

received

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.

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

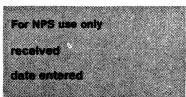
# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number

10



Page 2

Book of Todd County. Long Prairie, Minnesota: Todd County Argus, 1910.

Building Plans, Fremont Orff, filed at Assessor's Office, Todd County Courthouse.

Fuller, Clara K. <u>History of Morrison and Todd Counties, Minnesota</u>. Indianapolis, Indiana: B. F. Bowen and Co., Inc., 1915

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

"Repairs at Courthouse Progressing." <u>Long Prairie Leader</u>, February 15, 1934, p. 1.

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