

PHO 368431

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 26 1977
DATE ENTERED	JUL 21 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
Griggs County Courthouse
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER	Post Office Box 326, Rollin Avenue			— NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN	Cooperstown	— VICINITY OF	1	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE	North Dakota	CODE	38	COUNTY CODE
			Griggs	039

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
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME	Griggs County		
STREET & NUMBER	Post Office Box 326, Rollin Avenue		
CITY, TOWN	Cooperstown	— VICINITY OF	STATE
			North Dakota 58425

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.	Griggs County Courthouse		
STREET & NUMBER	Post Office Box 326, Rollin Avenue		
CITY, TOWN	Cooperstown	— VICINITY OF	STATE
			North Dakota 58425

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE	North Dakota Historic Sites Survey		
DATE	1976	— FEDERAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	State Historical Society of North Dakota Liberty Memorial Building		
CITY, TOWN	Bismarck	STATE	North Dakota 58505

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

As built, the Griggs County Courthouse was 91 feet long, 48 feet wide, and occupied 3,077 square feet of ground. The original dimensions of the 2-story building with raised basement were first increased in 1918 when a brick register of deeds' vault was constructed on the rear (south) elevation. An adjoining brick addition on the southwest corner of the building was erected in 1960 by Wells-Denbrook & Associates, Grand Forks, to serve as the auditor's office. Other alterations have included the installation of new sash and opaque window panels and rebuilding the chimneys.

The foundation of the courthouse is stone and the walls are red brick laid in mortar of the same color. Beneath the windows of the second story are rectangular recessions of white brick centered with lozenge-shaped patterns of black brick. More subtle variegation is produced by white brick banding above the windows and by a water table of dark brown brick. Additional wall enrichment is derived from pilasters and, at the eaves line, a corbel table arcaded in pointed arches. The latter repeat in miniature the gables which on all four elevations interrupt the slopes of the multi-hipped, cedar-shingled roof. Within the gable pediments are round arches containing round-arch windows, the curves of which contrast with the segmental-arch openings on the first and second stories and those with flat lintels in the basement.

The stair tower at the northeast corner of the courthouse recapitulates a number of design elements such as round-arch fenestration, the interplay between pointed and round arches (the entrance gable with its fanlight doorway), corbeling, and contrasting brickwork. The tower also carries the single liveliest treatment in the overall composition: a pyramidal roof surmounted by an ornate weather vane and illuminated on each steeply pitched slope by a gabled dormer perforated by an oculus and cut-out tracery.

The first-floor hallway on the interior of the courthouse has a 10-foot ceiling of ornamental stamped metal. The covering also extends down the walls to the wainscoting, which, along with the hall doors, was grained at the time of construction in imitation of oak and black walnut. The oak floor of the hallway was later covered with vinyl tile, but in a reversal of the process, the original inlaid tile in some of the adjoining offices has been replaced by hardwood flooring. Other changes in the office spaces include the installation of acoustical ceiling tile, fluorescent lighting, and plywood paneling. The original plastered walls have undergone the following paint sequence: olive (1884), buff (1930s), and light green (1950s).

The courtroom on the second floor, measuring 45½ by 47½ feet and with a 16½-foot ceiling, was refurbished in the summer and fall of 1976 with wall-to-wall carpeting, a dropped acoustical tile ceiling in which fluorescent lighting is concealed, and wall coverings of 4 by 10-foot vinyl fabric panels. The original predominance of highly varnished wood, however, is still maintained in the 78 captain's chairs used as public seating (down 22 from an original consignment of 100); louvered interior shutters for the 14 windows; a lawyer's railing with turned balusters and crested, cross-rail gates; a paneled judge's bench; and 5-panel doors with grooved casings and corner blocks. Still in the process of renovation are the judge's chamber and

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the jury room west of the courtroom, in both of which will be installed vinyl wall panels and tile floors and ceilings. As in the courtroom, efforts are being made to preserve as nearly intact as possible the original heavy wooden molding which frames doors and windows.

The basement of the courthouse has plastered walls and concrete floors covered with tile. There are offices beneath the additions built on the first floor, and the original basement area is occupied by the sheriff's residence and the jail. The latter contains three brick cells with windows barred by 1-inch iron rods set four inches apart in the brick walls. There are two stairways in the building: the principal one in the tower and a secondary flight in the southwest corner. Both are half-turn types with landings, molded handrails atop turned balusters, and dados of beaded, vertical matched board above closed stringers.

The setting for the courthouse is the entire 300 by 300-foot block on which it is situated, planted in grass and trees. A concrete walkway leads from the entrance to the sidewalk on the north boundary of the block, both of which were laid in 1903 by the North Dakota Tile Works, Fargo. On the northwest lawn stands a metal flag-pole erected in 1918, and a white frame garage and a paved parking lot are on the south (rear) side of the block. An 1879 log house was moved to the east lawn in 1932 from its original location about ten miles northeast of Cooperstown in Washburn Township, at the Fort Totten crossing of the Sheyenne River. Constructed of notched and fitted logs, it was the first house in Griggs County known to have been built by a permanent white settler (Omund Nelson Opheim, who came from Iowa to Dakota Territory with his family).

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 checked="" 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	1884	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	F.B. Edwards (Architect) Alexander Moffat (Builder)
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Griggs County Courthouse is one of North Dakota's oldest public buildings, erected five years prior to the 1889 division of Dakota Territory into the states of North and South Dakota. In terms of design, the courthouse exhibits the eclecticism prevalent in American architecture during the late nineteenth century. Its polychrome fabric and pointed arch motifs are particularly noteworthy since both are features of the High Victorian Gothic mode which was rarely executed in North Dakota.

Formed from parts of Traill and Foster Counties in 1881, Griggs County was named for Captain Alexander Griggs, the founder of Grand Forks, who was closely identified with the earliest phases of steam navigation on the Red River of the North. The Cooperstown Townsite Company was incorporated in 1882 to promote the development of the county seat, the name of which was chosen in honor of two of the company's five members, the brothers R.C. and T.J. Cooper. The Coopers were engaged in large-scale mechanized (orbonanza) wheat farming, and Cooperstown was platted near the center of their holdings. When a site for the courthouse within the original town could not be agreed upon by the county commissioners, the Cooper brothers laid out the Cooper Addition to the south and offered any block in it free to the county, plus one thousand dollars in cash upon completion of the courthouse. The proposal was accepted and block 3 decided upon since its center was an elevation which sloped in all directions and would give prominence to the structure erected thereon.

Following the passage of a \$30,000 bond issue for building a courthouse and a jail, the plans of F.B. Edwards were approved (and are still on file in the register of deeds' office). Alexander Moffat of Sanborn, a skilled carpenter who constructed many early Cooperstown buildings, submitted the successful contractor's bid of \$20,980, and work began in May, 1884. S.B. Langford did the grading and excavating, and a large force of masons was engaged under the direction of subcontractor A.J. Coddington of Valley City, who also was responsible for the plaster work. Sand for mortar was brought in from Bald Hill Creek southeast of town, and brick was imported from Brainerd, Minnesota. Vault doors for the completed building were obtained from the Detroit Safe Company, and the S.I. Pope Company, Chicago, installed the steam heating system.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Edwards, F.B. Plans for Griggs County Courthouse, 1884. On file in Register of Deeds' Office, Griggs County Courthouse, Cooperstown.
 Griggs County Heritage Book Committee. Griggs County Heritage. Dallas, Texas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1976.
Griggs County Sentinel - Courier. "The Court House." December 26, 1884.
 Maddox, Dawn. Personal inspection, November 4, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.06 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	4	5	6	6	0	3	0	5	2	5	4	4	4	0
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

B

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

C

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

D

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

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

Dawn Maddox, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of North Dakota

DATE

January 6, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Liberty Memorial Building

TELEPHONE

(701)224-2666

CITY OR TOWN

Bismarck

STATE

North Dakota 58505

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

Jana E. Shroy

TITLE

N.D. State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

January 14, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Wm. M. ...

DATE

7/21/77

DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles ...

DATE

6/14/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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A well for the courthouse had to be dug twice because it proved impossible to brick up the first one, a 48-foot excavation which filled with 21 feet of water at such a rapid rate that workmen had to climb for their lives. The grounds were first landscaped by R.C. Cooper in 1886, but trees were not planted until 1891. In 1897 an acetylene gas plant for lighting the courthouse and the jail was purchased for \$285.00, and a second gas plant acquired in 1904. Four years later, gas lighting was removed and an electrical system installed by the Piatt Electric Company at a cost of \$385.00. Arc lighting in the courtroom was replaced by incandescent lamps in 1915. The exterior of the courthouse was painted during a Works Progress Administration project of the mid-1930s, at which time the roof was also resingled. In 1974 the building was sandblasted and given a silicone coating.

County officials presently occupying the courthouse are as follows: judge, clerk of court, register of deeds, auditor, treasurer, superintendent of schools, agricultural extension agent, welfare agent, and sheriff. The basic soundness of the structure, its value as a county landmark, and its capacity for continued service were affirmed in the summer of 1976 when the Griggs County commissioners approved its renovation rather than replacement.