

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JAN 19 1984
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Mahnomen County Courthouse

and/or common Mahnomen County Courthouse

2. Location

street & number Main Street at Washington Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Mahnomen N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Mahnomen code 087

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 checked="" 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 Mahnomen County Commissioners, Mahnomen County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Mahnomen N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Mahnomen County Courthouse -- Registrar of Deeds

street & number Main Street

city, town Mahnomen state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Statewide Survey of Historic title Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minn. Historical Society -- Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" 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 <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Mahnomen County Courthouse sits on a city block on Mahnomen's Main Street. The original 1909 structure is a diminutive, two-story, flat-roofed box, strikingly set at the center of expansive open space. A 1977 addition altered the symmetry of the courthouse on the block. The neo-classical original courthouse is built of red brick on a high, raised basement constructed of brick and stone. Limestone trim is used in the window sills and a watercourse. The front and side facades consist of three bays each, with each center bay projected slightly. The central bay of the front facade forms a projecting pavilion set out by brick pilasters which rise to a classical pediment with partial returns. The pediment encloses the words "Mahnomen Co. Courthouse." A dentillated cornice encircles the building and defines the top of the second story.

Fenestration consists of rectangular windows on the first floor and arched window openings at the second level. In all but the projecting side bays, these windows are in pairs. The 1977 remodeling filled the arched top portions of the second floor windows with metal panels. The original double-doored front entrance has been replaced with a single, off-set door placed in the same opening. A limestone entablature remains above the entrance.

The remodeling included modernization of the interior and a large addition attached to the back of the original courthouse by a brick and glass passageway. The addition is of brick similar to the original. It is a two-story structure but is lower in height than the 1909 courthouse. Fenestration in the planar brick walls consists of wide, low windows. All rear fenestration in the original courthouse was covered in the remodeling and addition.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1909, 1977 **Builder/Architect** Kenney & Halden, Mpls (1909)
Genesis Architects (1977)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mahnomen County Courthouse is significant as the seat of government of one of Minnesota's most unusual counties and for the quality of its simple, neo-classical architectural design. Mahnomen county was established in 1906 and lies entirely within the boundaries of the White Earth Indian Reservation. County formation was the direct result of a change in federal public policy that came with passage of the Clapp Amendment in Congress in 1906. This act gave Indians title to, and the right to sell, reservation land. White settlers in the Soo Line railroad town of Mahnomen and settlers on alternate sections of railroad lands pushed for a new county made up of the sixteen eastern townships of Norman County. Residents of the western portion of Norman County favored the new county as well since the soon to be opened reservation lands lay too far from the existing county seat in Ada. A 1906 referendum passed easily, Mahnomen County was formed, and white farmers soon controlled much of the reservation lands. In 1908 the county residents passed a bond issue to construct the new courthouse. Designed by the Minneapolis architectural firm of Kenney and Halden, the courthouse was built by Mahnomen builder Carl Nelson in 1909. Despite a 1977 remodeling and major addition, the original structure retains its striking visual appeal and is a prominent Main Street structure.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The First 100 Years...The Minnesota State Bar Association, Mpls, Mn. Bar Assn, 1983, p. 144.
Slattery, Tom and Carol. "Mahnomen County - Mahnomen." Unpub. history of Mahnomen County formation and courthouse.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property @ 2 acres
Quadrangle name Mahnomen, Minn.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 14 275 625 52 44 530
Zone Easting Northing

B Zone Easting Northing

C Zone Easting Northing

D Zone Easting Northing

E Zone Easting Northing

F Zone Easting Northing

G Zone Easting Northing

H Zone Easting Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 23, Original Townsite of Mahnomen

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 Harvey, Contract Historian
organization N/A date 31 October 1983
street & number 1916 Drew Ave. S. telephone (612) 920-6917
city or town Minneapolis state Minnesota 55416

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 *Russell W. Fridley*
Russell W. Fridley title State Historic Preservation Officer date 1/13/84

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
[Signature] Entered in the National Register date 2/16/84
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 2 Page 1

REFERENCE NUMBER: 84001488

STATE: Minnesota

COUNTY: Mahnomen

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Mahnomen County Courthouse

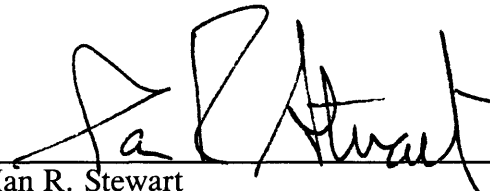
CITY/TOWNSHIP: Mahnomen

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: 311 N. Main St.

COMMENTS: Address Correction





Ian R. Stewart
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

4/24/98
Date