UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PHO680249
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 2 4 1978

SEE	INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW T	<i>O COMPLETE NATIONAL F</i> COMPLETE APPLICABLE S	REGISTER FORMS ECTIONS	•
NAME	THE ALL LIVINGS	SOWI ELTE ALL ELOADEL O	LOTIOITO	
HISTORIC				
HISTORIC				
AND/OR COMMON				
Fillm	ore County Courthouse		(FM05-1)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
LOCATION	V			
STREET & NUMBER				
	9th & G Streets		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	:
CITY, TOWN	Comorra		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRI	СТ
STATE	Geneva	VICINITY OF CODE	COUNTY	CODE
	Nebraska	031	Fillmore	059
CLASSIFIC	CATION			
-				
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESI	NT USE
DISTRICT	X_PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDEN
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	X_GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
Y		_NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
OWNER O	F PROPERTY	<i>t</i>		/
NAME				₹
Fillmore	County			
STREET & NUMBER				
9th & G	Streets			
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
Geneva		VICINITY OF	Nebraska	
LOCATION	N OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION	*** **********************************	•
COURTHOUSE,	•			
REGISTRY OF DEEDS	Fillmore County Co	urthouse		
STREET & NUMBER				
	9th & G Streets		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
	Ceneva		<u>Nebraska</u>	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
REPRESEN	NTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
- TÎTLE	•		•	
Histori	c Preservation in Nebr	aska		
DATE	e reservation in Medi	aona		
1971		FEDERAL X_STATE	COUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR				
SURVEY RECORDS	Nebraska State Histori	cal Society		
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
Т	incolm		1 1	

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

__UNALTERED

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT X_GOOD

__FAIR

___DETERIORATED

__RUINS __UNEXPOSED

X_ALTERED

X_ORIGINAL SITE

__MOVED DATE____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fillmore County Courthouse is located on a two square block parcel of land along the southern edge of Geneva's main business district. The park-like setting is broken only by the courthouse parking lot just south of the building and by public parking at both the far western and eastern edges of the site. Neither of the public parking lots infringe on the setting of the courthouse.

The building is a two story brick structure above a raised basement. The foundation is rustricated limestone in a slightly battered wall, while the roof is an asphalt shingled hipped roof. The overall design of the building represents a rather vernacular version of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Each major facade exhibits a five-part composition with three-sided bay pavilions at each end and a slightly projecting pavilion in the center. The end pavilions have hipped roofs with gabled wall dormers. The central pavilions of the east, west and south walls are all topped with gabled dormers—those of the east and west being of an unusual stepped gable design.

Attention is focused on the north wall where a three story tower surmounts the central entrance pavilion. The tower roof, which still has its original slate roofing, is a flat-topped octagonal pyramid surrounded by a simple balustrade. The original gabled dormers have been removed. The large round-arched entrance is detailed in stone in typical Richardsonian Romanesque fashion. A community clock is located on each side of the tower, installed by Geneva jeweler W. P. McCall in 1909.

Designed by the then Geneva architect, George E. McDonald in 1892, the building was modeled after the fine Gage County Courthouse in Beatrice by Gunn and Curtis. The building lacks the sophistication in design and execution of the Beatrice example which is more thoroughly Richardsonian in form and detail. McDonald's design, while exhibiting many characteristic features of Richardsonian Romanesque, is more eclectic in its excessive variety of form, detail and material.

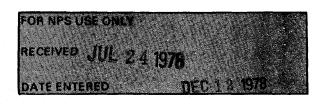
The axial symmetry of the exterior (along a north-south axis) is evident in the interior arrangement of space. A large hallway runs through the center of the building in an east-west direction and widens at the main entrance vestibule in the center. Large stair-halls on both the first and second floors are at either end, opening to the south of the main hallway. Offices open off the hallway north and south on both levels except on the second floor where the large district courtroom occupies the central section of the building south of the hallway. Notable interior features include the borrow lights between the court offices and the second floor stair hall, large frame Romanesque arches in the main floor hallway and a profusion of pressed metal wall and ceiling coverings (added in 1916). The pressed metal work is nowhere more evident than in the district courtroom where three different designs are used for the ceiling, walls and wainscot.

^{1.} Goeldner. (1970), page 330.

Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



CONTINUATION SHEET Description **ITEM NUMBER**

PAGE

The building is in good shape and retains much of its original fabric, both inside and out. The most unfortunate alteration has been the window replacement project which took place in the late 1960's. Fully one-half of the 155 windows have been bricked closed or replaced with glass block. All four entrances have been modernized. Original wall openings, however, remain in tact.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION	
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE	
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER	
X1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION	
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	X_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)	
	and the Same	INVENTION	ૂત્વાલા છે. કરા છે		
				<u> </u>	

SPECIFIC DATES 1892-1894

BUILDER/ARCHITECT L. F. Pardue/George E. McDonald

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first settlements on the land which became Fillmore County occured in 1866-67. Four years later, organic elections were held and the county was organized in 1871. The townsite of Geneva was surveyed in that year and the first county buildings were under construction by December of 1872. The county jail was completed early in 1873 and the first court house was completed shortly thereafter in the same year.

Less than two decades later, the need for an expanded, fireproof facility became evident. After one unsuccessful attempt, the voters of the county approved a bond issue for construction of a new building on the basis of plans submitted by local architect, George E. McDonald. Ground was broken in December of 1892 and the contract was awarded to Geneva contractor, L. F. Pardue for \$46,176.55 on January 11, 1893. The building was dedicated on February 22, 1894.

The building has been a focal point of county legal activities and has been the major landmark in the region since its completion in 1894. Its significance as landmark perhaps outweighs its architectural significance, however, it is the major building of any architectural pretense identified in the county to date.

The architectural importance of the building is evident as a local interpretation of the Richardsonian Romanesque style of architecture. The style gained widespread popularity following the completion of H. H. Richardson's Allegheny County Courthouse in Pittsburgh in 1888. Of particular interest is the attempt to copy, on a smaller scale and with less expensive materials, Gunn & Curtis' design for the Gage County Courthouse, fifty miles to the east. Goeldner notes (1970, page 330) that a perspective drawing of the Gage County building was used to illustrate the proposed Fillmore County building prior to the bond issue vote.

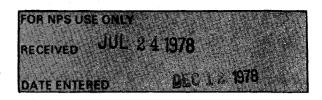
9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL D ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPER	<i>j</i> 1	WHB 4,78		
QUADRANGLE NAME <u>Genev</u>	a, Nebr.		ANGLE SCALE 1:240	000
TIM REFERENCES A 1 14 6 7 + 2 7 + 8 + 10 ZONE EASTING C 7 + 4 6 7 8 3 8 0	NORTHING 14.4 8.6 7.7.0	B ZONE EASTING	NORTHING	
EL LL		F	ad lady ta	الـــا
G		HH		
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRI	PTION			
LIST ALL STATES AND	COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIE	S OVERLAPPING STATE OF	COUNTY BOUNDARIE	ES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	со	DE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CO	DE
11 FORM PREPARED NAME / TITLE D. Murphy, Archit ORGANIZATION			DATE	
Nebraska State Hi	storical Society		July 1978 TELEPHONE	i. -
1500 R Street			(402) 432-2793	
CITY OR TOWN			ŠTATE .	
Lincoln	DECEDIATION		Nebraska DIGA WIGA	
12 STATE HISTORIC I	IATED SIGNIFICANCE OF TI	HIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE	di salah di Tabu N	
NATIONAL	STATE		OCAL	
As the designated State Historic Pro- hereby nominate this property for criteria and procedures set forth by	inclusion in the National Re	and the second of the second o	the contract of the contract o	
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFF	ICER SIGNATURE Wa	run to Truett	7/10/7	8
TITLE Director Nobrack	a State Historical		DATE	
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS I				
1. aleader	Execut		DATE /2-12-78	2
ATTEST: KEEP ER OF THE NATIONAL			DATE	
CHEE OF REGISTRATION	,			
<u> William H Bra</u>	whom 12.	4,18		GBO 921-809

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

- Fillmore County Board. Minutes. Compiled by Douglas E. Rung, 820 J Street, Geneva, Nebraska 68361 (for National Register nomination).
- Gaffney, Wilbur G. (Ed.). The Fillmore County Story. Geneva: Geneva Community Grange No. 403, 1968.
- Goeldner, Paul Kenneth. <u>Temples of Justice: Nineteenth Century County Courthouses in the Midwest and Texas</u>. unpublished dissertation, Columbia University, 1970.

History of the State of Nebraska. Chicago: The Western Historical Company: 1882.