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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Hand County Courthouse and Jail

Other names/site number: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: 415 West First Avenue

not for publication

City or town: Miller

vicinity

State: South Dakota Code: SD County: Hand Code: 059 Zip code: 57362

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature and title of certifying official

Date

11/8/94

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the
National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the
National Register.

removed from the National Register.

Entered in the National Register
for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Greg M. Rapsley 3/17/94

Hand Co. Courthouse/Jail
Name of Property

Hand, SD
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public - local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>2</u>		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

County Courthouses of South Dakota

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

~~1~~0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/courthouse
GOVERNMENT/correctional facility
DWELLING

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/courthouse
GOVERNMENT/correctional facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Art Deco

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation concrete
walls stone/granite
roof concrete
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Hand Co. Courthouse/Jail
Name of Property

Hand, SD
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Government

Architecture

Period of Significance

1924-1943

Significant Dates

1924

1927

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

John G. Ralston

Currie Construction Company

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Hand County Courthouse/Auditor

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Section number 7 Page 1

Narrative Description:

The Hand County Courthouse and Jail preside over an entire city block and impose their impressive architectural style on the small town of Miller, South Dakota. Both buildings were constructed in the Art Deco style and both retain a high degree of historic integrity.

The main facade of the courthouse faces east; however, there is an entrance door on the west. The materials of the outer walls are Bedford stone of medium shade, imported from Bedford, Indiana. 664 tons of the stone, or 17 railroad car loads, were used for the outer walls of the building. All trimmings on the outside are of the same material. There is a 19 inch base course of Minnesota granite tooled six points to the inch above the foundation before the stone wall begins. Forty tons of Minnesota granite were used, it was shipped in from Cold Springs, Minnesota. The structure measures 70 feet by 100 feet, the height is 51 feet from the first floor to the roof. There is a marble corner stone on the southeast corner of the building engraved with the date of dedication and the words "Hand County Courthouse". The inner walls are of tile blocks and concrete.

Approaching the main entrance are three steps. On both sides of the double front doors are pedestal lights. Along the east front cornice line above the third story windows, the inscription "Hand County Courthouse" is engraved, over that, the year "1925". A clock is located over the front door with dials that were once illuminated at night. The clock system is an Electric Automatic mechanism with the master clock on the second floor, one over the elevator on the first floor, and small clocks in all principle rooms.

The interior metal doors came from Richmond, Virginia. All walls and ceilings are Keene's cement plastered. Paint work was done by a force of workers from Waterloo, Iowa and millwork was done at Dubuque, Iowa. All wood work and doors are oak. The marble was imported from Alaska. The windows are Campbell windows with metal casings and were furnished by a firm from New York, the screens came from Kentucky. Wire glass was used for windows in all of the vaults. Local lumber yards furnished the lumber needed. Freight charges for the vast quantity of materials cost over \$30,000.

Stepping through the solid bronze entrance, inside the decorative vestibule at the front of the Courthouse, immediately noticeable is the beautiful five foot wainscot of "Blue Alaska" marble, leaded glass windows, brass doors, exquisite moulding, and terrazzo floors. The main architectural feature of the lobby, opposite the main entrance, is a terrazzo stairway leading to the second floor. The newel posts on the first, second, and third floors are marble. First floor also has a large lobby area with an elevator on the south side of the building.

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The elevator, which reaches the basement, all three floors, and the attic, is electric and run by push button. It has manual doors that must be opened and closed by the person wishing to ride the elevator. Safety is provided by making it unmovable until the person inside has closed both doors, thus automatically locking the doors on all floors. If the car is not present at a particular floor, the doors do not open. The outside doors of the elevator, on each floor, are metal with wire plate glass windows. The inside doors, on each floor, are metal and move back accordion style. The window above the elevator on each floor is wire glass.

The main floor has both a men's "smoking" room and women's restroom. The women's restroom has a large lounge area before entering the restroom. Both restrooms have "Napoleon Grey" marble dividers for the stalls with oak swinging doors. Located on the main floor is a meeting room, known as the "Assembly" room. The main floor also has several one and two room offices. One of the offices located on the main floor has a walk-in cooler, which was used for commodities. Two offices on the main floor have built in vaults (safes) with combinations. All grills, lamp shades, and the balustrade for the stairs leading from the main to second floor, then on to the third floor and around the rotunda on the third floor are of solid cast dark bronze with hand rails of solid oak. Built-in metal office counters have marble fronts, the back sides of which have brass trim and drawer pulls. The hardware came from Connecticut. The floors in the offices and the tops of the tables, desks, and counters are covered with "Battleship" linoleum from cedar Falls, Iowa.

Second floor is divided into five office areas, each for one department. Again, the marble, oak woodwork, terrazzo floors and leaded glass are apparent. The County Commissioners room is located at the front of the building and opens onto a small balcony over the main entrance. The Auditor's Office and Treasurer's Office are connected by a cloakroom/hallway that runs behind the elevator and each office has a private coat and restroom. All offices on the second floor have large fireproof working vaults. Second floors hosts the master clock for the courthouse and has three storage closets. Looking upward from the second floor rotunda is a beautiful dome, set in Florentine glass. The dome has an arched form, with fine plaster ornaments, including a "C" and an "H" intertwined for Hand County, and a shield in each arched corner. On the landings between first and second floors and between second and third floors, each of the windows has a stain glass panel. The art glass came from a studio in Minneapolis.

The main feature of the third floor is the courtroom with a seating capacity of 200 people. The courtroom has lovely stain glass panels in the ceiling, the oak woodwork is abundant. Over the main doors into the courtroom is an art glass transom, with the word "Courtroom".

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This floor also houses the judges chambers, jury rooms, law library, witness rooms and both a men's and women's restroom (both have marble dividers for the stalls). The two jury rooms, both have private restrooms. The former sheriff's office has a holding cell for prisoners and a vault. There is a spiral staircase connecting the attic with the third floor.

The attic is used for storing records. It is light and ventilated by skylights in the roof and made strictly fireproof. Original plans for the attic were to make part of it into jury dormitories. The Huron Roofing Company had charge of the roofing.

The courthouse and jail are connected by an underground tunnel that runs under the parking lot between the two old buildings. The tunnel was used to transport prisoners back and forth from the courtroom to the jail. The tunnel measures five feet wide by six feet eight inches high.

The basement had one meeting room known as the "Farmer's" room; however, was meant mostly for storage. The original plans were to add more vaults in the basement for storage. The Farmer's room has since been converted into office space. The boiler room is located in the basement, the entire courthouse and jail originally were heated by steam heat with radiators in each office. The heat pipes for the sheriff's office ran through the tunnel. Electric heaters have since been added. Also located in the basement is a spacious coal bin and ash pit.

Much of the original furniture, including counters, shelving, desks, bookcases, tables, chairs, and benches are still in use. Some of the original light fixtures are also still in place. Most offices and meeting rooms have picture mouldings and some have chair rails.

DESCRIPTION - JAIL

The Hand County jail and residence is located on the same block as the courthouse, directly behind (west) the rear entrance of the courthouse. Excavation for the building started May 18, 1931. The building measures 71 feet one inch by 48 feet 8 inches and is two stories high with a full basement. It is constructed of Bedford stone and in much the same style as the courthouse. The inner walls are of tile blocks and concrete. The north end of the building was originally devoted to cell and office space for the sheriff's department and the south end of the building was used as living quarters for the resident sheriff or deputy. Along the cornice line "1931" is engraved in the stone, below that, are the words "County Sheriff", below that is a C intertwined with an H.

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The sheriff's residence has nine steps leading to a small porch before entering the front door. The stair rail is made of wrought iron, the newel post has a cast iron rosette. The front vestibule has impressive woodwork, a closet, and plate glass windows. Moving into the living quarters, the original open stairway leading to the second floor has been enclosed. On the main floor the living quarters had a large living room and dining room, one on each side of the open stairway. Off from the living room there is a bedroom with a private bathroom. Off from the dining room is another bedroom. Leading from the dining room to the kitchen is the serving pantry with built-in oak cupboards. The kitchen has an enclosed kitchen porch off the west side. The remainder of first floor held the sheriff's office, restroom, and cell space.

The entrance for the Sheriff's office was on the east side of the building. The outside entryway leads into an "office" porch and then on to the sheriff's office. The actual jail consisted of two detention cells, two juvenile cells, and four prisoner cells. The juvenile cells and a shower area were located off of the sheriff's office through a steel door, this was later converted into more office space. The office porch has been divided into a porch and storage closet.

In the hallway, leading from the sheriff's office to the kitchen is the entrance to the main cell area, stairway to the basement and garage, and also a stairway to the second floor jail area. The main cell area on the first floor consists of two areas: the first two cells are detention or holding cells. Each cell has two bunks, one toilet, and one sink. Leading from the detention area, through another steel door, is the main cell area. This area housed two cell blocks. One cell block on each side of the building, with each cell block having two cells. The doors to the cells were operated from outside the blocks. Outside the two cells, but still inside the actual prisoner cell block, was a small area with a bench and shower.

At the top of the U-shaped staircase, is a bathroom, and five bedrooms. A skylight is located above the stairway. The middle bedroom on the south side has a small balcony that leads out over the front entrance. At the west and east ends of the hallway, in each of the bedroom closets there was a built in hat cupboard, each cupboard had a window above it. Plans were drawn to remodel the second floor of the jail to be used as a nurses dormitory; however, this remodeling was never carried out. The second floor prisoner area is accessible from this side of the house through a doorway on the landing; however, was seldom used. The second floor of the prisoner area had a padded cell that was used when there was a concern for the prisoner's safety.

The basement of the jail is unfinished; however, it does house an underground three car garage with direct access into the sheriff's office. The original plans called for a kitchen in the basement that was to be used for preparing the meals of prisoners and a dumbwaiter; however, it was never completed. The tunnel

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between the courthouse and the jail enters through the basement of the sheriff's office.

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Narrative Statement of Significance:

The Hand County Courthouse and Jail is locally significant under criterion A and C. The building is significant for its role as the symbolic and functional seat of government for Hand County. Since the building's construction, it housed most county government-administrative, operative and judicial functions, while simultaneously serving as the official repository for historic and contemporary governance of Hand County, and is an important visual reminder of the importance of county government. Under the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Plan the Hand County Courthouse relates to the context labeled V. Depression and Rebuilding (1893-1929), C. Civic Improvements and New Government Related Structures.

Hand County was created in 1873 by the Territorial Legislature and was intermittently realigned before reaching its present boundaries in 1882. Hand County, Dakota Territory, was organized for civil government in September of that year by Governor N. G. Ordway and was named for George H. Hand, a native of Akron, Ohio. Hand was serving as Territorial secretary at the time. Governor Ordway appointed three county commissioners to take charge of the preliminary work of setting up Hand County's government. Two of those commissioners were pioneer farmers of the county, John M. King, and George W. Livingston of. The third member appointed was then Governor Ordway's nephew and private Secretary, Frank G. Wilkens of Yankton who had never set foot in Hand County. This was due to the rivalry between the ambitious towns of Miller and St. Lawrence for location of the county seat of the new county. Mr. King was a known supporter of St. Lawrence and Mr. Livingston allied with Miller.

This new board of commissioners called the first election to locate a county seat and to elect the necessary county officers in November 1882. At that election Miller was chosen county seat by a majority of 38 votes. The newly elected officers conducted the county business in various buildings about Miller for a year or so when Messrs. J. C. Yetzer and A. D. Hill, president and cashier of the pioneer Hand County Bank, built a large two story frame building on the corner of Broadway and First Street, which the county rented for a courthouse.

In 1888 St. Lawrence succeeded in getting another vote on the location of the county seat because Miller had not built the new courthouse as was promised, but the law required two thirds instead of a majority for removal. The proposition failed and Miller retained the county seat. This ended the struggle between the rival towns for county capital honors. However, as an outgrowth of the campaign, ap ledge to the voters, the town of Miller gave the county a block of ground and built thereon a brick veneered courthouse which was used from 1889 to 1926. 1889 was the year in which the Dakota territory was divided and admitted to statehood as two states.

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The town of Miller, county capital of Hand County was established in the fall of 1881 by a colony of 22 men under the leadership of Henry Miller of Blairstown, Iowa, as near the center of the county as possible. Mr. Miller and his party filed on the government land about the townsite, but to facilitate settlement and improvement, Mr. Miller bought a 40 acre Indian Script and filed it where the present town now stands. At the date of the dedication of the new courthouse, Mr. Miller's son, John D. Miller, was the only surviving member of that original colony still residing in the town and county.

The Hand County Commission signed an agreement with the architect, John G. Ralston on december 11, 1924. A resolution was passed on february 17, 1925 that stated that prisoners convicted and sentenced to hard labor shall work on the courthouse grounds preparing them for the new courthouse. On March 25, 1925 the Women's Club met with the commission asking that the courthouse be placed in the center of the block. The courthouse construction bid letting was held on June 3, 1925.

Supervision of the courthouse building project was the srchitect's superintendent, George Metcalf: Mr. Carl Rehm of Minneapolis, Minensota, had the contract for plaster and artistic ornamental plaster work, Mr. John Sabo was foreman in charge ofplastering; Sunderland Brothers of Omaha, Nebraska had the marble and terrazzo contract. The plumbing, heating and ventilating system was awarded to G. V. Swanson of Mitchell, South Dakota, and installed by J. C. Voss. Electrical wiring was completed by Aberdeen Engineering Company and Dakota pUblc Service Company handled the electrical fixtures. The General Fireproofing Company furnished the steel equipment. The State Cement plant at Rapid City furnished all of the cement for the building. A St. Louis firm furnished 60 tons of reinforcing steel for the necessary steel work. The building of the sidewalks was awarded to george A. Dornberger at a cost of 7 1/2 cents per square foot.

The new courthouse was dedicated on December 1, 1926. According to The Miller Press, "An elaborate and impressive program of addresses and music had been prepared and was presented at the Auditorium" for the dedication of the new courthouse. The cornerstone contains a manuscript stating a brief history of Hand County. The cost of the cornerstone and engraving was \$175.00. The courthouse was completed in November 1926, and was occupied November 25, 1926. The totalcost of the building, including furniture and fixtures, was \$253,078.09.

The Hand County Courthouse and Jail represent the seat of government and law enforcement. Both buildings are constructed in the Art Deco style and are important and impressive representatives of their building type and function. The period of significance begins at 1924 the beginning of construction for htecourthouse and extends to 1943 the established 50 year cut-off date for the National Register.

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Bibliography:

The Miller Press, June 4, 1925; November 18, 1926; November 25, December 2, 1926;
December 16, 1926; May 28, 1931; July 23, 1931; and October 29, 1931.

"Bring on the Pioneers," History of Hand County by Scott Heidepriem.

Historical papers and minutes of the Hand County Commission, on file in the Hand
County Auditor's Office

Dedication speech of the Hand County Courthouse, given by Harlan J. Bushfield.

History of Hand County, placed in Cornerstone of Courthouse, written by John A.
Bushfield, Hand County Pioneer Editor.

Spelling of the nursery stock was taken directly from the invoice.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The legal description of the property is Lots 1-14 inclusive, block 17, W. H. Miller's Addition to the City of Miller, South Dakota.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the courthouse building, jail and the landscaped grounds immediately surrounding it. It coincides with the legal description of the tract of land historically set aside as the courthouse grounds. This was also the location of the previous courthouse.

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1.
Hand County Courthouse and Jail
Hand County, SD
Photo by: Betty Morford, County Auditor
October 1993
State Historical Preservation Center
View of southeast facade, camera facing northwest
No. 1

2.
Hand County Courthouse and Jail
Hand County, SD
Photo by: Betty Morford, County Auditor
October 1993
State Historical Preservation Center
View of northeast facades, camera facing southwest
No. 2

3.
Hand County Courthouse and Jail
Hand County, SD
Photo by: Betty Morford, County Auditor
October 1993
State Historical Preservation Center
View of east facade, camera facing west
No. 3

4.
Hand County Courthouse and Jail
Hand County, SD
Photo By: Betty Morford, County Auditor
October 1993
State Historical Preservation Center
View of entrance, east facade, camera facing west
No. 4

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5.
Hand County Courthouse and Jail
Hand County, SD
Photo By: Betty Morford, County Auditor
October 1993
State Historical Preservation Center
View of interior brass doors and marble walls
No. 5

6.
Hand County Courthouse and Jail
Hand County, SD
Photo by: Betty Morford, County Auditor
October 1993
State Historical Preservation Center
View of interior plasterwork
No. 6

7.
Hand County Courthouse and Jail
Hand County, SD
Photo by: Betty Morford, County Auditor
October 1993
State Historical Preservation Center
View of interior plasterwork
No. 7

8.
Hand County Courthouse and Jail
Hand County, SD
Photo by: Betty Morford, County Auditor
October 1993
State Historical Preservation Center
View of main stairway
No. 8

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9.

Hand County Courthouse and Jail
Hand County, SD
Photo by: Betty Morford, County Auditor
October 1993
State Historical Preservation Center
View of main floor lobby
No. 9

10.

Hand County Courthouse and Jail
Hand County, SD
Photo by: Betty Morford, County Auditor
October 1993
State Historical Preservation Center
View of stained glass dome
No. 10

11.

Hand County Courthouse and Jail
Hand County, SD
Photo by: Betty Morford, County Auditor
October 1993
State Historical Preservation Center
View of second floor balcony
No. 11

12.

Hand County Courthouse and Jail
Hand County, SD
Photo by: Betty Morford, County Auditor
October 1993
State Historical Preservation Center
View of southwest facade of jail with courthouse in background, camera facing northeast
No. 12

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13.

Hand County Courthouse and Jail
Hand County, SD
Photo by: Betty Morford, County Auditor
October 1993
State Historical Preservation Center
View of northwest facade, camera facing southeast
No. 13

14.

Hand County Courthouse and Jail
Hand County, SD
Photo by: Betty Morford, County Auditor
October 1993
State Historical Preservation Center
View of east facade with courthouse in foreground, camera facing west
No. 14

15.

Hand County Courthouse and Jail
Hand County, SD
Photo by : Betty Morford, County Auditor
October 1993
State Historical Preservation Center
View of interior jail cell
No. 15

16.

Hand County Courthouse and Jail
Hand County, SD
Photo by: Betty Morford, County Auditor
October 1993
State Historical Preservation Center
View of interior spiral staircase

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17.

Hand County Courthouse and Jail

Hand County, SD

Photo by: Betty Morford, County Auditor

October 1993

State Historical Preservation center

View of interior main staircase

No. 17

18.

Hand County Courthouse and Jail

Hand County, SD

Photo by: Betty Morford, County Auditor

October 1993

State Historical Preservation Center

View of kitchen interior

No. 18

19.

Hand County Courthouse and Jail

Hand County, SD

Photo by: Betty Morford, County Auditor

October 1993

State Historical Preservation Center

View of interior main entrance

No. 19