

## MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Pope County Courthouse

COUNTY: Pope

FEB 17 1982

CURRENT NAME: Pope County Courthouse

CITY/TWP.: Glenwood

LEGAL DESC.: Courthouse Block (entire) at First St. SE  
and MinnesotaADDRESS:  
East Minnesota Street  
(Courthouse Block)

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent <u>X</u>	Local <u>X</u>	Primary Politics/Govt.
Structure _____	Good _____	State _____	Secondary Architecture
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ Restricted X

PRESENT USE:

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

County Courthouse

OCCUPIED: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1930

ORIGINAL USE: County Courthouse

ORIGINAL OWNER: Pope County

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Nairne Fisher, Arch.  
Mads Madsen, ContractorOWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Pope County  
Pope County Courthouse  
Glenwood, MNACREAGE: Less than one acre XLOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Pope County Historical Society  
Highway 104 South, Glenwood, MN

UTM REFERENCE:

GLENWOOD, MN QUAD  
15-313960-5057690

FORM PREPARED BY: Dennis A. Gimmetad

DATE: September 1980

## DESCRIPTION:

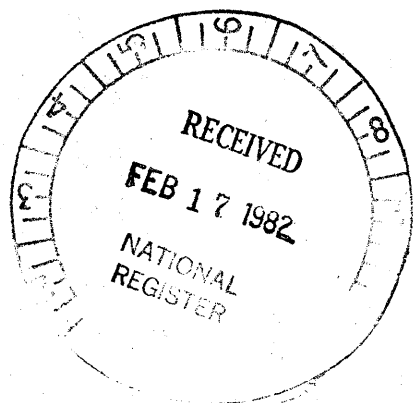
The Pope County Courthouse is situated on an elevated courthouse block immediately east of the central business district of Glenwood. The building is the only structure on the block and is located at its center.

The flat-roofed structure is composed of a central three story section flanked by two slightly shorter side sections. Exterior surfaces are of light colored brick and Bedford, Indiana stone. A 1930's version of Beaux Arts Classicism, the building features three bays on the center section divided by pairs of engaged pilasters, a dentil-lated cornice with a wide frieze carrying the legend "Built to Perpetuate Civic Order and Justice", and a decorative architrave surmounted by a name and date panel at the central entrance. Stone is also utilized as the water table and wall material for the ground floor of the building. Fenestration is symmetrical, with second and third story windows of the side sections linked vertically by placement in recessed panels. Decorative metal work includes grilles on the panels and transom of the main entrance, and circular light standards flanking the entrance.

Interior surfaces utilize Vermont marble, terrazzo, sculptured plasterwork, and specially designed metal stairrails. Both the interior and the exterior have retained a high degree of integrity.

## SIGNIFICANCE:

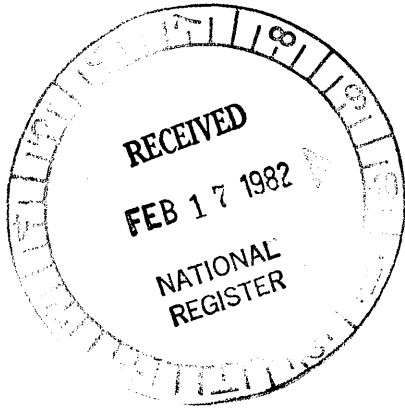
The Pope County Courthouse is significant as the seat of Pope County government since 1930, and as a well-preserved example of the type of "replacement" courthouses constructed in a few Minnesota counties during the 1930's. Earlier, Pope County offices had been located in a log cabin in Gilchrist Township (1866, building now reconstructed on the grounds of the Pope County Museum), in a frame building in Glenwood (1866-1879), and in an Italianate courthouse building on the site of the present building (1879-1929). Designed by St. Cloud architect Nairne Fisher, the 1930 building's modest but distinctive detailing is enhanced by its prominent siting in downtown Glenwood. The decades surrounding construction marked the height of Pope County's population, and the building's outstanding integrity is due in part to the fact that it has not been necessary to construct additional facilities in the courthouse block. The County recently observed the 50th anniversary of the building's construction.



BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Hughes, Daisy. Builders of Pope County. (Glenwood?) privately published, 1930. pp. 8-11.

Pope County Tribune Courthouse Edition. June 12, 1930.



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 2 Page 1

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REFERENCE NUMBER: 82002997

STATE: Minnesota

COUNTY: Pope

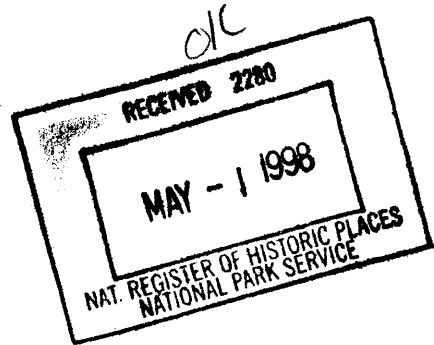
RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Pope County Courthouse

CITY/TOWNSHIP: Glenwood

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: 130 E. Minnesota Ave.

COMMENTS: Address Correction



Ian R. Stewart  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

4/24/98  
Date