

PH0355496

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED DEC 6 1976  
DATE ENTERED APR 13 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

\*\*

Jackson County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Jackson County Courthouse

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER on the block bounded by Sherman and West Ashley  
and 4th and 5th Streets

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Sixth

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

CODE  
27

COUNTY  
Jackson

CODE  
063

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

\_\_\_ DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

\_\_\_ AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_ MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_ PRIVATE

\_\_\_ UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_ COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_ PARK

\_\_\_ STRUCTURE

\_\_\_ BOTH

\_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_ EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_ SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

\_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_ RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_ OBJECT

\_\_\_ IN PROCESS

\_\_\_ YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_ NO

\_\_\_ MILITARY

\_\_\_ OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Jackson County

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jackson County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1976

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society, Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Constructed by Charles Skooglun in 1908 according to designs by Minneapolis architects Buechner and Orth, the Jackson County Courthouse exemplifies integration of elements from the Neo-Classic and Renaissance Revival modes in architectural design. It is situated on a prominent one-block site immediately to the west of the central business district of Jackson, Minnesota. The elevation of the site amplifies the scale of the two storey stone and concrete structure in that the basement level on the east (principal facade) is high enough to convey the impression of a third storey. The central dome rises yet another two storeys and is capped by an octagonal metal roof. A cast metal statue of "Justice" surmounts the dome.

Each facade of the courthouse is symmetrical in distribution of design elements. The central bays and corner pavilions project slightly and corners of these projections are highlighted by stone quoins. A bracketted cornice supports a simple parapet. The east (principal) entry is incorporated within a two-storey Corinthian portico consisting of two pairs of two columns which support a bracketted pediment and entablature. The doorway and central second storey window are recessed under a segmental-arched pediment. The portico concept is repeated on each face of the base of the dome.

A central atrium provides the main circulation space for the first and second floors. The atrium is octagonal in shape as is the dome; flag niches are placed within the short planes of the octagon. A hallway of similar plan to the atrium is found on the basement level, however it is not linked to the first floor. The only entry to the atrium is provided via the main staircase on the east side of the building.

The interior of the dome and second floor courtroom is decorated by a significant number of murals. Four panels in the dome depict development of the county in allegorical terms; for example, construction and engineering is depicted by toga-clad figures in a classic setting. In addition to the primary mural of "Liberty, Equality, and Justice" over the bench in the courtroom, fourteen additional allegorical figures (such as "Fidelity") comprise a band which runs along the total perimeter of the room.

The interior decoration of the Jackson County Courthouse was undertaken by Odin J. Oyen of LaCrosse. (Oyen is also credited with direction of the mural work at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, Minnesota, executed four years earlier.) The murals are noteworthy for a subliminal humor in the execution of various figures and subjects. Several of the figures have either four or six toes. Most noticeable, however, is the incongruity of time frame in the dome mural depicting the arts and sciences of engineering and architecture: toga-clad figures work in the foreground amidst classic columns while in the background, a faint railroad track passes a sod-buster's cabin. The murals throughout the building have been restored within the last two years.

Both exterior and interior of the Jackson County Courthouse are in a state of excellent maintenance and preservation.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input 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 1908

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Buechner & Orth

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Since its construction in 1908 the Jackson County Courthouse in Jackson has served as the seat of county government. It is executed in the Neo-Classic mode of architectural design. The influence of such is evident in the design and construction of many turn of the century public buildings. Similarly the treatment of the interior spaces with architectural and artistic features represents a carry-through of Neo-Classicism from exterior to interior. The dome and courtroom are embellished with painted murals depicting allegorical and classical themes; these works are the products of regional artists and craftsmen.

The Jackson County Courthouse has recently undergone preservation/restoration work. It is significance as a local landmark and future plans ensure its continued use.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cross, Marion E., Minnesota Courthouses, (Minneapolis?) Colonial Dames of Am. in Minn., 1966.

Historical Records Survey, Minnesota. Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota, Vol. 32, St. Paul.

"When a Muralist has a sense of Humor," Worthington Minnesota Globe, 16 July 1975, p.13

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5
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3	3	9	4	4	0
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4	8	3	1	5	2	0
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ZONE      EASTING      NORTHING

B 

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ZONE      EASTING      NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charles W. Nelson, Architectural Historian and Susan Zeik, Research Associates

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

26 October 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Building 25, Fort Snelling

TELEPHONE

612-726-1171

CITY OR TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

## 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* 11/29/76

TITLE Russell W. Fridley

DATE

State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

CHIEF

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

4/13/97

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3.18.17

**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: 77000747

STATE: Minnesota

COUNTY: Jackson

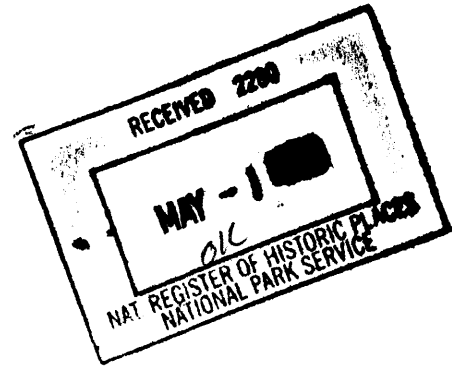
RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Jackson County Courthouse


CITY/TOWNSHIP: Jackson

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: 413 4<sup>th</sup> St.

COMMENTS: Address Correction



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ian R. Stewart  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

4/24/98  
Date