

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

For NPS use only
received APR - 6 1983
date entered

1. Name

historic Cook County Courthouse

and/or common Cook County Courthouse

2. Location

street & number 5th Avenue West and 2nd Street N/A not for publication

city, town Grand Marais N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Cook code 031

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	N/A 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 Cook County Commissioners, Cook County Courthouse

street & number None

city, town Grand Marais N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number None

city, town Grand Marais state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society--Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul, state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____ N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Cook County Courthouse is located on a spacious block site overlooking Lake Superior to the north and west of the business district of Grand Marais. The Neo-Classic Revival building is rectangular in shape with a flat roof and features a overhanging cornice with modillions at the roofline. The central entrance at the front features six Ionic columns which run the full two stories of the building and five recessed bays. The two stories of this area are separated by a band of decorative brickwork. "Cook County Courthouse" appears over the area in large lettering. The staircase which approaches the entrance has been somewhat modified with the removal of the original end units. The building features symmetrically placed double hung windows and simple relief decoration at the water table and below the cornice line. The integrity of the building and the entire city-block site is good.

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 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 1911-12 ~~Builder~~ **Architect** Kelly and Lignell, Duluth

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cook County Courthouse is significant as the seat of Cook County government from 1912 to the present and, locally, for the distinctiveness of its Neo-Classic Revival design. Cook County, Minnesota's northeasternmost county, bordering on Lake Superior and Canada, was established in 1874; its first County Commissioners were appointed in 1882. At first, county business was conducted in the Mayhew Brothers Post Office and Trading Post, located on a point of land extending into Lake Superior. In 1888, the county accepted the donation of a block of land from the Grand Marais Real Estate and Improvement Company as the site for a county building, and the first courthouse, a two-story frame structure, was completed later that year. This building served a sparsely populated area; at the time of its construction there were "scarcely 100 people living in the county". By 1910, however, the population had grown to 1336, and the commissioners took measures to have a more substantial building erected on the same block. The Neo-Classic Revival Courthouse was completed over the next two years, and the 1889 building was removed from the site soon after. Statutes enacted by the state legislature in 1927 and 1933 led to the dissolution of all local government in Cook County outside the City of Grand Marais (governments in Schroeder and Tofte were re-instituted in the 1970s), and the courthouse has played an especially prominent role in the government of the area since its construction. Its locally notable siting and styling have made it a community landmark.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Cross, Marion E. Minnesota Courthouses. (Minneapolis?): Colonial Danes of America in the State of Minnesota, 1966.
- Raff, Willis H. Law and Order in the Wilderness. Grand Marais: Cook County Historical Society, 1982.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Grand Marais Quad., Minnesota, Cook Co. Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 73 Village Plat Section 21, Township 61 North, Range 1 East, Block 5 of the Harbor Addition and part of the central addition Section 20, Township 61 North, Range 1 East.

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	Dennis A. Gimmetad, Assistant State Historic Preservation Officer		
organization	Minnesota Historical Society	date	16 February 1983
street & number	Fort Snelling History Center	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

title
Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3/31/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 5/9/83

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: 83000902

STATE: Minnesota

COUNTY: Cook

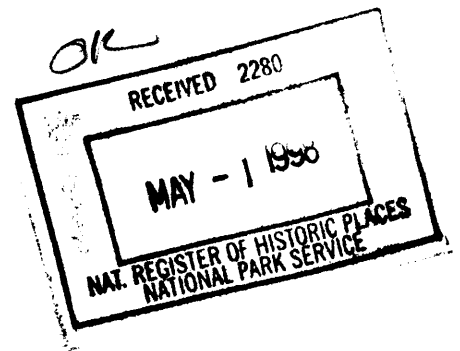
RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Cook County Courthouse

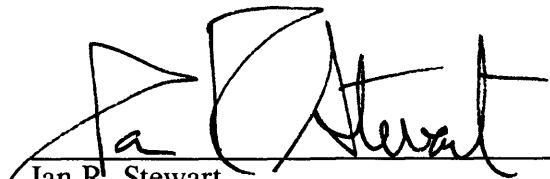
CITY/TOWNSHIP: Grand Marais

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: 411 2nd St.

COMMENTS: Address Correction





Ian R. Stewart
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

4/24/98
Date