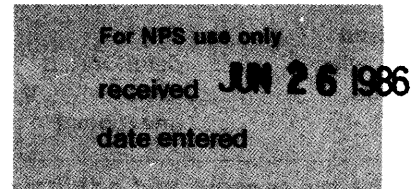


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Name

historic Odessa Jail

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Main and Second Streets N/A not for publication

city, town Odessa N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Minnesota code 22 county Big Stone code 011

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: unused jail

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Violet Raaf

street & number Rt. 1, Box 19

city, town Odessa N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 56276

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Big Stone County Courthouse

street & number 20 S.E. Second Street

city, town Ortonville state Minnesota 56278

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Minnesota Statewide Historic
title Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983-84 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair
 deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Odessa Village Jail, built in 1913, is located near the northeast corner of Main and Second streets in a residential portion of Odessa, a small community in southern Big Stone County. The jail was built adjacent to a small blacksmith's shop and the Odessa Village Hall, which was constructed between 1900 and 1912. Today the jail stands, unlocked, in a small city park.

The Odessa Village Jail was built by contractor Joe Buschnior at an estimated cost of \$1,200. The square, one story building measures approximately 18' by 18' and is constructed of stretcher bonded soft yellow brick. The jail has a simple brick cornice along three sides and rectangular window and door openings with concrete-dovered sills and lintels. The building has an entrance with a single leaf barred door and an iron plate inner door on the west facade, and double hung windows with both metal grates and iron bars on the north, west, and south facades. The interior of the jail is divided into two small rooms separated by a heavy metal door. Each room contains once cage cell with round iron bars, manufactured by the E. T. Barnum Iron Works Company of Detroit, Michigan. Each cell has two hinged iron sleeping berths, enabling the jail to hold four overnight prisoners. The jail is remarkably intact and in fair condition.

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 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 1913 **Builder/Architect** Joe Buschnior, builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Odessa Village Jail, built in 1913 on Main Street in Odessa, is historically and architecturally significant as an example of the type of small, brick jail buildings which were commonly built by rural Minnesota communities before the advent of centralized county law enforcement facilities. Furthermore, the building is historically important as the oldest public building standing in Odessa.

The community of Odessa, which is located along the Minnesota River in southern Big Stone County, was first settled in 1879, officially platted in 1881, and incorporated municipally in about 1895. The village has always remained small, although during the early twentieth century it was slightly larger than its present population of 177. The first government building erected in Odessa was apparently the Odessa Village Hall, a modest woodframe building constructed near this site sometime between 1900 and 1912. In December of 1912 the village council awarded a \$1,200 contract for the construction of a village jail to builder Joe Buschnior. The brick two cell jail completed by Buschnior in 1913 was typical of small, brick freestanding jails constructed by many isolated rural Minnesota communities around the turn of the century. Built in theory to hold all types of lawbreakers, these jails were usually used to detain disorderly or inebriated persons and petty criminals. They represent the insular nature of newly established western Minnesota communities in which nearly all public services were provided by the villages themselves before improvements in transportation and communication made consolidation of these services on larger levels possible. The Odessa jail was used by the village until it was condemned in 1945, after which all arrested persons were immediately transferred to the control of the county sheriff in Ortonville. The jail has been standing intact and vacant since 1945. The Odessa Village Hall, which originally stood next to the jail, was demolished shortly after a new village hall was constructed by the Works Progress Administration in 1937.

The Odessa Village Jail was included in a fifteen month historic sites survey of seven west central Minnesota counties conducted in 1983-84 by the State Historic Preservation Office. The survey staff determined that there are two turn of the century municipal jails standing in seven county area. The second jail, the Ortonville City Jail, is contemporary with the Odessa Village Jail, but is not as intact.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Village Council Minutes, 1912-13, Odessa, Minnesota.
Sparrow, Magdalene. Unpublished research on Odessa Jail, Big Stone County Historical Society, Ortonville, Minnesota.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Odessa Quad, Minnesota

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A

1	4	7	0	9	5	8	0	5	0	1	5	1	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The west sixty-five feet of Lot Twenty-two, Original Plat, City of Odessa, Minnesota.

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 Susan Granger, Field Assistant

organization State Historic Preservation Office
Minnesota Historical Society

date October 1984

street & number Fort Snelling History Center

telephone (612) 726-1171

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55111

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 State Historic Preservation Officer

date

6/20/86

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

7-24-86

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

Odessa Jail, Odessa, Big Stone County, Minnesota

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Resource Count

Item number 8

Page 1

The Odessa Jail Nomination contains 1 contributing building.