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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JAN 18 1977

DATE ENTERED JUL 24 1978

DATA SHEET

**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
Codington County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1st Avenue, Southeast

CITY, TOWN
Watertown

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
No. 1

STATE
South Dakota

___ VICINITY OF
CODE
046

COUNTY
Codington

CODE
029

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
___ DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	___ AGRICULTURE ___ MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	___ PRIVATE	___ UNOCCUPIED	___ COMMERCIAL ___ PARK
___ STRUCTURE	___ BOTH	___ WORK IN PROGRESS	___ EDUCATIONAL ___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___ SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	___ ENTERTAINMENT ___ RELIGIOUS
___ OBJECT	___ IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT ___ SCIENTIFIC
	___ BEING CONSIDERED	___ YES: UNRESTRICTED	___ INDUSTRIAL ___ TRANSPORTATION
		___ NO	___ MILITARY ___ OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Codington County

STREET & NUMBER
1st Avenue, Southeast

CITY, TOWN
Watertown

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
South Dakota

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Codington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
1st Avenue, Southeast

CITY, TOWN
Watertown

STATE
South Dakota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
South Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE
September 1975

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Historical Preservation Center

CITY, TOWN
Vermillion

STATE
South Dakota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The three story Codington County Courthouse is rectangular in shape and occupies the central portion of a city block near downtown Watertown. It uses a light grey stock of Indiana oolitic limestone from the Bedford district. The lower level is rusticated while the upper two have smooth surfaces. The structure also has various projections at each corner.

The architectural firm of Freed, Perkins, and McWayne designed the building in the Neo-classical style with some Renaissance exterior elements. The front facade displays eight fluted, Ionic columns that appear at the central axis of the building which is indented from the second to third floors. Carved in the architrave are the words "Codington County Courthouse" while the phrase "The Corner Stone of Civilization is the Law" appears on the building's attic.

The side facades have four columns while the rear is without any and has had some alterations during the middle 1960's, mostly to the windows. The only other major differences in the courthouse area is the addition of a parking lot to the building's rear.

The first story windows are of the casement type with three sash and no mullions. The openings at each end of the front facade have bracketed lintels and the center three windows on each side extend beyond the structure's plinth. Tall windows that extend from the second to third floors are separated by the columns and also by decorated panels that are used for horizontal division. These openings are of the casement type and have four sashes.

The front entry has a bracketed surrounding with a cartouche; this has the year 1928 inscribed on it. Two double doors with transom also appear as do two lantern lights that flank the doorway.

However, the most spectacular feature of the courthouse is the interior which is one of the most ornate in South Dakota; it is reminiscent of Italian Renaissance design.

Richly finished in marble with harmoniously blended colors, and artistically lighted, the interior is at once a surprise and a delight. The building is spacious, possessing four floors, including the basement which is completely finished. It is carefully arranged for efficiency as well as artistic effect.

The marble entrance hall gives access, up a short flight of Tennessee marble steps, to the imposing rotunda, which is the central and most striking decorative feature of the building. The rotunda reaching from the ground floor to the lofty dome, is practically all cased in marble except for the spaces occupied by two large beautiful mural paintings. Arches on the second and third floors, guarded by brass railings, permit excellent views of the building's interior. Cathedral glass admits light at the dome in a manner best suited for the proper illumination of the Rotunda, while a huge hanging chandelier and a series of concealed lights in the dome itself, provide a beautiful effect at night.

Floors throughout the courthouse are of marble and terrazzo, while marble hallways carry the note of dignity, splendor, and permanence throughout the structure.

1. "Dedication Codington County Courthouse," Watertown, SD, 1929.

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	1929	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Gray Construction Company-builder Freed, Perkins and McWayne-architect
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, the Codington County Courthouse is the best example of Neo-classic architecture in Watertown and one of the most ornate courthouse interiors in the state. In this case, the interior design exceeds the importance of the exterior; although that, too, is quite distinct. The building was designed by the architectural firm of Freed, Perkins, and McWayne.

A second significance is of course that the building has been the center of the county government since 1929. Over the years, various events that shape the history of the county have occurred within these walls.

This courthouse was a ten year dream and when finished, people proclaimed it a "palatial work of art." This \$375,000 building is today as it was during its first years, a truly remarkable structure; one which the citizens of Codington County are still proud. Although the structure is not quite fifty years old, it is close enough and important enough to be placed on the National Register.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Dedication Codington County Courthouse," Watertown, South Dakota, 1929.

Stokke, Vel, HERITAGE SAMPLER, Watertown: WATERTOWN PUBLIC OPINION, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 3/4

UTM REFERENCES

A	14	648860	4973190	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		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

Scott Gerloff, Survey Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Historical Preservation Center

DATE

September 1975

STREET & NUMBER

USD Alumni House

TELEPHONE

605/677-5314

CITY OR TOWN

Vermillion

STATE

South Dakota

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

John J. Little

TITLE Director/Historical Preservation Center

DATE 13 Jan 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

<p><i>Charles Adams</i></p> <p>DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION</p> <p>ATTEST: <i>Carlson Cole</i></p> <p>KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER</p>	<p><i>John J. Little</i></p> <p>KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER</p> <p>DATE 7-24-78</p> <p>DATE 7-5-78</p>
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Although the Codington County Courthouse has stood for only forty-eight years rather than the required fifty, its architectural importance should transcend this rule. Of the courthouses in the state this has probably the most ornate interior of any. Combine this quality with the local support and recognition of the courthouse's importance, it should be placed on the National Register.