



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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Sully County Courthouse
other names/site number N/A

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number Main & Ash Streets not for publication n/a
city or town Onida vicinity n/a
state South Dakota code SD county Sully code 119 zip code 57564

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jay D. Voigt 03-14-2001
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

name of property Sully County Courthouse county and state Sully Co., SD

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the

National Register .

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the

National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Edson H. Beall

4-25-01

Edson H. Beall

Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

0 buildings

 sites

 structures

 objects

1

0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing County Courthouses in SD MPL

name of property Sully County Courthouse county and state Sully Co., SD

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Government Sub: Courthouse

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Government Sub: Courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Neo-Classical Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
roof Tar
walls Stone
other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Politics/Government
Social History

Period of Significance 1912-1941

name of property Sully County Courthouse county and state Sully Co., SD

Significant Dates 1912

Significant Person N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Architect W. M. Rich of the Black Hills Company

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, Pierre, SD

name of property Sully County Courthouse county and state Sully Co., SD

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property 1.5 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
1 14 415580 4950620 3.
2 4
 See continuation sheet.

Map Ipswich

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Michelle C. Saxman
organization South Dakota State Historical Society date June 2000
street & number 900 Governors telephone 605-773-6296
city or town Pierre state SD zip code 57501

=====
Additional Documentation
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

name of property Sully County Courthouse county and state Sully Co., SD

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title _____

street & number _____

telephone _____

city or town _____

state _____

zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Description

The Sully County Courthouse is a Neo-Classical style three-story stone building. Common features of the Neo-Classical Style are a full height porch supported by classical columns, columns typically having Ionic or Corinthian Capitals and facade show symmetrically balanced openings.¹ This style was popular for public buildings throughout the United States between about 1880 and 1920, and is seen in many South Dakota courthouses constructed during this period. The courthouse also exhibits elements of enframed block type of commercial architecture. The type is characterized by two or three stories, punctuated by columns, pilasters, an arcade or a treatment suggestive of such classical elements. "This main section is bracketed by much narrower end bays, more or less equal in height, to form a continuous wall plane. The end bays may contain windows and other openings."² This type is generally used in public and institutional buildings from 1900-93.

The Sully County Courthouse is located on a central city block in Onida, South Dakota, surrounded by many trees. The walls are composed of rusticated stone base and tile brick with Bedford Stone facing. The flat roof features a cupola that acts as a clock tower. A clock is located on all four sides of the cupola. A belfry is located below the cupola. A beltcourse separates the first and second stories. An entablature spans the building with a dentil molding, providing a transition between entablature and cornice. The first story of stone is laid out in a rusticated pattern. All four elevations of the building feature slightly projecting central bays. On the corners of the projections are pilasters. These pilasters only extend from the second to third floors. All of the windows on the second and third floors have been reduced in size.

The main façade also features a portico front with a pediment and entablature. "Sully County 1911" is located in the center of the pediment. Two round Ionic columns with capitals and two square Tuscan columns with capitals on the corner support the pediment. Below the portico lays the main entrance. A circa 1980 one story flat roof enclosure covers the original door. The original pediment over the door is slightly visible over the top of the enclosure. Above the entrance is Palladian Style window. The arch center window has a keystone arch. A smaller one-over-one window is located on either side of the center window. On either side of the portico on the second and third floor are single four light windows. A pair of four light windows are located on the second and third floor on either side of the projection.

¹ McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000), 343.

² Longstreth, Richard. *The Building of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture*. (Lanham: AltaMira Press, 2000), 114.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

The side elevations (east and west) are identical. The three floors each feature five window openings. Two windows are located on either side of the projection with one window located in the center of the projection. The rear elevation is similar to the front elevation. The slight projection has four windows on the second and third floors; the pattern is a pair of windows in the center with a window on either side. A small one story rusticated stone block projection is located in the center of the projection. Additions on either side of the area serve as a second entrance into the building. A pair of four light windows is located on the second and third floor on either side of the projection. Four cottage windows are located on the first floor.

The interior of the building retains a high level of historic fabric. The building interior conveys the perceived civic importance of the interior space. A stairway extends to each floor with a wrought iron balustrade. Only a few alterations have occurred in the building. Many of the original light fixtures have been replaced with fluorescent lighting. Two large easel paintings reside in the building. F. C. Van Stone painted them in 1911 for location in the 1912 county courthouse. Restoration of the painting took place in 1996.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Statement of Significance

The Sully County Courthouse is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. The building is historically significant for its role as the symbolic and functional seat of government for Sully County. The courthouse is the most important single physical element in the historic and contemporary government of Sully County, and is an important local reminder of the importance of county government.

The Sully County Courthouse is architecturally significant as a representative example of early twentieth-century public and institutional architectural in South Dakota. The building uses the Neo-Classical style that is typical of the courthouses built in this era. The building represents an excellent example of a Neo-Classical style building.

Historic Context

Sully County was settled in the early 1883. The county seat selection started almost from the beginning. Clifton initial selected as the seat of government. An election took place to finalize the selection of the county seat. Onida won the election by nine votes. A court case followed based upon the fact that nine men did not vote in the election.

When the county offices out grew the building in the 1910s, officials discussed building a new courthouse. Officials contracted with W. M. Rich for design of the building. Rich worked for the Black Hills Company. The firm which focused on public projects, only existed from 1909 to 1912, and commissioned 25 works. Sixteen of their commissions were in South Dakota.

Construction began on the 1912 courthouse in 1911. County offices moved into the new building on March 25 and 26, 1912. The building included the most recent improvements such as office fixtures, vaults, and telephones. The dedication of the building took place on April 9, 1912.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8,9, 10 Page 4

According to the MPS, "the most frequent modification to the exterior design of South Dakota's county courthouses is the replacement of historic windows. Replacement windows range in design from exact replications of the historic windows to small residential units floating in an infill panel of plywood. Although replacement windows which do not accurately replicate the historic windows diminish the integrity of design, their visual impact is lessened by the overall scale of the building. Because of this fact, window replacement alone is not justification to disqualify a courthouse for listing on the National Register. "

This Sully County Courthouse has served the citizens of Sully County since its construction in 1912. The Courthouse has played a major role in the development of Sully County as the heart of its judicial and administrative functions since it was completed. It has symbolized the importance of local government in the community. The courthouse is eligible under criterion A for its association with the government of Sully County.

The architecture of the Sully County Courthouse makes it eligible under "C." The Courthouse is representative of the 20th Century Revival architecture popular for public and institutional buildings in South Dakota. This Classical Style building has had minor alterations; windows were reduced in size and some ceilings were lowered. These alterations were done in the 1970s and 1980s to make the building more energy efficient.

Bibliography

Mrs. E. L. Thompson, edited, 75 years of Sully county history, 1883-1958 Onida, S.D. : Onida Watchman, 1958.

Mrs. B. M. Lister, Mrs. Bessie B. Lumley, History of Sully county Onida SD : The Onida Watchman, 1939.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Block 41 of Court Addition to Onida.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes courthouse building, garage and the surrounding property. It coincides with the legal description of the tract of land historically set aside as the courthouse grounds.