

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0676411

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APR 3 1979

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DATE ENTERED

JUL 2 1979

**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

Old Sibley County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Old Sibley County Courthouse/Henderson Community Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Sixth and Main Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Henderson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

122

COUNTY

Sibley

CODE

143

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Henderson ✓

STREET & NUMBER

Sixth and Main Streets

CITY, TOWN

Henderson

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds - Sibley County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Gaylord

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1978

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society - 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

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 Old Sibley County Courthouse occupies a prominent wooded site at Sixth and Main Street in Henderson, Minnesota. Placed on a forty-eight by eighty foot foundation of Kasota stone (a locally obtained creme-colored limestone) the building stands two stories in height. Walls are constructed of yellow brick which was manufactured in the Henderson Brickyard. A combination of brick and stones is employed to highlight decorative features within the facade design; this treatment is apparent in windows arches, sills, keystones, date stone, and dentillated cornice.

Stylistically the old courthouse is executed in the Italianate mode. Originally the truncated hip roof was punctuated by a centrally located cupola (a feature of the Villa style). This cupola, along with five of the original six brick chimneys, has been removed. Characteristic of the Italianate motifs are the attenuated window openings on the second story, a combination of semi-circular and stilted arches, symmetrical facades with corners and central bays defined by pilasters, and low bracketed gables over the central bays. The door and window moldings and fenestration is original.

On the interior, the first floor is bisected by a longitudinal hallway. This floor was formerly designated for office use. (It presently serves as community meeting space.) The second floor, the original courtroom, is accessible via a wide staircase at the rear of the building. This space consists of a large open hall/auditorium which occupies the entire second floor. With the exception of the woodwork, little of the original detailing remains. There is a full basement under the building.

The building continued to serve community and county functions from the time of construction in 1879 until the county seat was moved to Gaylord in 1915. It has since served community needs, and continues to be maintained in a good state of repair.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1879

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frank Barnard

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The "borough" of Henderson functioned as the county seat of Sibley county until 1915 at which time the county offices were moved to a new building in Gaylord. During the 1860s the county government was housed in temporary quarters. One of the temporary "courthouses" was the Welch Building in Henderson. All county records were destroyed when fire gutted the Welch Building on 18 October 1863. This circumstance prompted the Sibley County Commissioners to draft a resolution on 2 January 1867 to request the state legislature to pass an act enabling the county to issue bonds (in the amount of \$20,000 for a new courthouse. In 1870 a four acre tract of land at Sixth and Main Streets in Henderson was purchased for \$5000. A two-story sheriff's residence and jail were erected on the site in 1871. Nearly eight years later, in 1879, final arrangements were made for the erection of the "first permanent courthouse."

The courthouse was constructed according to plans and specifications submitted by Frank Barnard. The style of the building is Italianate, in accordance with the architectural "vogue" of the period. Upon completion, a total amount of \$12,419.96 was expended on the new county facility.

Since its completion, the Old Sibley County Courthouse served the needs of county government and later of community groups and agencies. It is recognized as the "first permanent courthouse" in the county and attests to a stylistic preference in public architecture during the years following the Civil War. It remains today as a functional reminder of the beginnings of Sibley County and the role of Henderson as its County Seat.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Records of Sibley County Commissioners 1867-1879.
Neill, Rev. Edward D., History of the Minnesota Valley, 1885, page 412.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	4, 2, 7	7, 5, 0	4, 9	3, 0	7, 5, 0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						
C				D								

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charles W. Nelson, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

11 October 1978

STREET & NUMBER

240 Summit Avenue - Hill House

TELEPHONE

612-296-9073

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 X RWF

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

3/26/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles Adams DATE 7-2-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *William H. Brennan* *6-28-79* DATE 6-28-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper *Melvin Lyman*
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Old Sibley County Courthouse in
Sibley County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 79001255

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Sibley

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Sibley County Courthouse (1879)

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date