

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	JUL 3 1978
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DATE ENTERED	NOV 14 1978

**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

Steele County Courthouse (First)

AND/OR COMMON

Owatonna Chamber of Commerce Building

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

139 East Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Owatonna

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Minnesota 55060

VICINITY OF
CODE

COUNTY

CODE

147

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	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Chamber of Commerce Office

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Owatonna Public School District No. 761

STREET & NUMBER

140 East Mill Street

CITY, TOWN

Owatonna

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota 55060

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Courthouse
Steele County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

590 Dunnell Drive

CITY, TOWN

Owatonna

STATE

Minnesota 55060

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1978

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society, Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED (Exterior) ORIGINAL SITE
 ALTERED (Interior) MOVED DATE _____

CHECK ONE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Steele County Courthouse is located within Owatonna's commercial district at 139 East Main Street. This one story, forty-two foot square building is constructed of buff-colored brick on a dressed stone foundation. The roof is formed by a slightly pitched hip. The principal facade of the building is divided into three bays by a central entry with flanking windows. Burnt orange bricks are employed to highlight the building's Italianate design features. These features include a corbelled cornice, segmentally arched window hoods, and a keystone arched principal entry. Dressed stones form the window sills.

In 1973 the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce undertook an extensive project to rehabilitate the building. The exterior was cleaned to remove a dull coat of red paint; mortar was replaced where necessary. The original multi-paned, double hung windows were replaced with single-sash, thermo-pane glass (which conformed to the original window openings). Interior rehabilitation included the removal of temporary interior wall partitions. The interior walls were insulated and faced with wall paneling.

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 checked="" 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	1874	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Unknown
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Steele County Courthouse, constructed in 1874, is significant as the location of Steele County's government offices from 1874 to 1891. Although the building no longer serves as a seat of county government, it has continued to function as a public building since its construction.

When Steele County had outgrown this building in 1891 a new courthouse was constructed (listed on the NR June 3, 1976). From 1891 to the present the building has served as a school, museum, and meeting place for the Steele County Historical Society; a meeting place for such civic organizations as the United Fund and the Owatonna Development Company; and currently as a building to house the offices of the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce.

Architecturally, the building is a well preserved example of the Italianate style.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- History of Steele and Waseca Counties, Union Publishing Company, Chicago 1887.
- History of Rice and Steele Counties, compiled by Franklyn Curtis-Wedge, published by H. C. Cooper, Jr. & Co., 1910, Chicago.
- Owatonna, The Social Development of a Minnesota Community, by Edgar Bruce Wesley, published by the University of Minnesota Press, 1938.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 65 ft. x 65 ft. (appr.) less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	4,8,2	¹⁰⁰ 0-8-0	4,8,8,0	9,6,0	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

Philip H. Winship, President

2-22-78

ORGANIZATION

Steele County Historical Society

DATE

1-507-451-0231

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 204

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Owatonna

STATE

Minnesota 55060

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

6/28/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *William Telovak*
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11/14/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE Nov 7, 1978

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER