

PH 0506516

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED OCT 25 1977  
DATE ENTERED MAR 21 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  
Douglas County Courthouse and Auditor's Office  
AND/OR COMMON  
Douglas County Courthouse and Douglas County Museum

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
US 281  
CITY, TOWN  
Armour  
STATE  
South Dakota  
VICINITY OF  
CODE  
046  
COUNTY  
Douglas  
CODE  
043  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
2nd  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Douglas County  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN  
Armour  
VICINITY OF  
STATE  
South Dakota

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Douglas County Courthouse - Register of Deeds  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN  
Armour  
STATE  
South Dakota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
South Dakota Historic Sites Survey  
DATE  
August 1976  
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
Historical Preservation Center  
CITY, TOWN  
Vermillion  
STATE  
South Dakota  
FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The three story Douglas County Courthouse is 81.2 feet long and 61.2 feet wide. Its facing consists of reddish-brown brick and in a flemish bond a light select grey stock of Indian oolitic limestone from the Bedford district. The latter material is used mainly on the front facade and cornice line. The lower floor is rusticated.

The architectural firm of Perkins and McWayne of Sioux Falls designed the building in a simplified Neo-classic mode. The front facade displays four engaged Ionic columns/round arched windows between them. The other main classical element is the denticulated cornice. The three round arched openings have two sets of windows, keystones and modillion work in the top section. Above the main door is an entablature with egg and dart moulding and a cartouche. The projection of the podium that flanks each side of the steps displays Beaux Arts Cast iron light fixtures.

Almost all the windows are coupled with mullions and only the third floor has a decorative top surround which is flat with voussours as keystone. The remaining openings are flat-topped; all have slipsills.

Tennessee Tavernelle marble along with plaster and red oak trim decorate the interior of the courthouse. The floor has tile design number 2, Lombardic which was made by the American Encoustic Tile Company.

The auditor's building, built 1902, is a small one story, rectangular shaped structure. A red colored pressed brick that was manufactured by the Twin Brick Company appears as the main facing material while the trim brick came from the Hydraulic Pressed Brick Company in Omaha.

The major decorative feature is an arcaded cornice; this round arch design also appears on the single stack chimney. The windows have lintel and slipsill surrounds of limestone material. The rear facade is devoid of any openings. The only entry feature is a transom.

**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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Government
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

---

SPECIFIC DATES	1902, 1927	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Courthouse-C. Perkins & McWayne Museum-W. L. Dow
----------------	------------	-------------------	---

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Architecturally the 1927 courthouse is the only example of Neo-classic style in Armour and probably in the county. The old auditor's building, now the Douglas County Museum is good as an example of a small venacular building with Romanesque elements. Another obvious importance is that the buildings have served for the most part the county government. It is also the legal center for the area with circuit and county courts. Over the years various events have occurred within the walls that shaped the history of the county.

The city of Armour in the late 1890's was the second largest rail producer in the state. This was because it was the end of the road for the Milwaukee railroad. Over 1400 rail cars were sent east in 1897. Because of the railroad, Armour became the county seat.

The structure which now houses the museum served as the clerk of courts and auditor's office. The town had to construct the building because of state law that stated certain records had to be kept in a fire proof building. The architectural firm of W. L. Dow and Sons designed the structure while M.C. Momson was the builder. Total cost for construction - \$3,625.

The Douglas County Courthouse, designed by Perkins and McWayne, of Sioux Falls, and built by Gray construction Company of Watertown. The cost for this was \$150,000; it was said to have been the first building in the state to have records in racks<sup>14</sup> rather than locked in safes. The old wooden courthouse was old and was torn down.

Both these buildings are locally significant to the population of Douglas County.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Douglas County Commissioner Proceedings, Armour, 1902-1927.

Douglas County Courthouse specifications - 1927.

Wiese, Sharon, personal interview, 16 August, with Scott Gerloff.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES None Available

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Latitude  $43^{\circ} 18' 48''$   
Longitude  $98^{\circ} 20' 31''$

## 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

Scott Gerloff, Survey Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Historical Preservation Center

STREET & NUMBER

USD Alumni House

CITY OR TOWN

Vermillion

DATE

August 1976

TELEPHONE

(605) 677-5314

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

TITLE Director/Historical Preservation Center

DATE 10/19/77

## FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: W. M. ...  
Walter ... Cole  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 3.21.78  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
DATE 3.10.78