

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Lincoln County Courthouse & Jail

COUNTY: Lincoln

70004541

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Ivanhoe

LEGAL DESC.:

ADDRESS: Rotherwood Street
Ivanhoe, MN

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local _____	Primary <u>Politics/Government</u>
Structure _____	Good _____	State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secondary <u>Architecture</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes No _____ Restricted

PRESENT USE:

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes No _____Courthouse,
Sheriff's Office & County
JailOCCUPIED: Yes No _____

DATE CONSTRUCTED: Courthouse-1919

ORIGINAL USE: Sheriff's Residence & County
Jail, Courthouse

ORIGINAL OWNER:

Jail-1904

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: (see text)

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Lincoln County
Ivanhoe, MNACREAGE: Less than one acre LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Lincoln County Historical Society
Hendricks, MN 56136

UTM REFERENCE:

14 / 718600 / 4926720

FORM PREPARED BY: Susan Roth

Lake Benton NE 7.5

DATE: May 1980

DESCRIPTION: Lincoln County Jail and Sheriff's Residence

The Lincoln County Jail and Sheriff's Residence is located on the courthouse block immediately west of the Lincoln County Courthouse in Ivanhoe, Minnesota. The 2½ story building built in 1904 of red Springfield brick on a field stone foundation is of irregular plan, with a dormered hip roof and a three story tower. Kasota stone is used in the exposed, rusticated foundation and window lintels. The building is an eclectic combination of Romanesque detailing featuring a low Syrian arched entry, round hooded windows, heavy stone lintels and prominent towers: Queen Anne detailing featuring a polygonal tower, modillions under the roof and polychromatic use of building materials, and Medieval detailing featuring a square corner tower with crenelations, a high rusticated foundation, and a fortress-like appearance. The interior features birch floors and white pine wood work. Jail cells located on the first and second floor were installed by the Pauly Jail Company of St. Louis, Minnesota. The first floor (which served as the sheriff's residence) and the second floor (which probably served as county offices) are not currently in use. The Sheriff's Office is located at the rear (north) of the building.

Lincoln County Courthouse

The Lincoln County Courthouse is located in a central position on the courthouse block, immediately east of the County Jail. The three story, rectangular building is constructed of Bedford limestone from the Indiana Quarry Co. of Bedford, Indiana. Neo-Classic in style, the building features symmetrical facades. Its first story is striated in horizontal bands to form a high base for the upper two stories. The second and third floors are divided into bays by two story pilasters. A wide frieze is covered by a dentilated projecting cornice above which is a simple stone parapet. The central area of the front facade forms a two story projecting Ionic portico. The Beaux Arts influence is noted in the paired columns at the corners. A bulls-eye window or oculus occupies the tympanum of the pediment which is surmounted by an eagle. An additional Beaux Arts feature is a low dome over the central atrium. Courthouse furniture was designed by the building's architect. Many original lighting fixtures and the stenciling in the courtroom (by the William C. Andrews Decorative Co. of Chicago) are intact. Interior marble was furnished and installed by Babcock and Wilcox of Kasota, Minnesota. Window alterations were done in 1959 and 1965.

(See continuation sheet)

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Lincoln County Courthouse and Jail are significant as two of the most prominent public buildings in the county, as an example of the role the railroad played in determining the commercial and political growth of communities in Lincoln County, and as the location of government since 1904.

In 1873, by an act of the State Legislature, the 15 western townships of Lyon County were joined to create Lincoln County. Marshfield, one of the first communities established in the county, became the county seat. With the construction of a rail line in 1879-80 (Chicago and Northwestern) through the newly platted towns of Tyler and Lake Benton, many buildings in Marshfield were moved and the county office and records were relocated in the two new rail communities. The competition between Tyler and Lake Benton for the county seat was heated, but in 1883, after a special election and court decision, Lake Benton was designated, and a courthouse was constructed on land donated by the Western Town Lot Company (a subsidiary of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad). The controversy flared again in 1901, when a second rail line was laid across the northern portion of the county and petitions were circulated to move the county seat to the newest railroad community of Ivanhoe. The petition passed and the county records were loaded into box cars, transported by special train to Ivanhoe, and kept in a commercial building designated as the courthouse. Determined to retain the county seat, Lake Benton appealed to the Minnesota Supreme Court, who reviewed the petition and returned the county seat to Lake Benton. In 1904 Ivanhoe also appealed to the Supreme Court, had the decision reversed, and once again the records were moved to Ivanhoe and placed in the newly constructed Sheriff's residence and Jail that, like the courthouse in Lake Benton, was built on land donated by the Western Town Lot Company. By 1904, all of Lincoln County's rail townsites were established, and the controversy of placing the county seat in newly platted towns subsided. In 1919 the county constructed the present courthouse. The Courthouse and Jail are significant for their links with the impact the railroad had on the development of the county; through the laying of track, platting of towns, and donations of land the railroad was able to affect the county's decision as to where to locate the county seat. The effects of such actions are still felt and discussed among community residents.

The Courthouse and Jail are also significant as monumental public buildings in a rural county which retain a high degree of architectural integrity. The eclectic Jail, designed by A.J. Van Duesen of Winona and built by Bartleson and Kringler of Lake Miller, Iowa, at a cost of \$11,695 and the Neo-Classic Courthouse, designed by C. Howard Parsons of Minneapolis, and built by Madsen and Peterson of Minneapolis at a cost of \$143,000, reflect the effort the county went through to obtain the finest quality design, materials and workmanship. The buildings, located on the courthouse block, are free of encroachment and are excellent examples of early 20th century courthouse architecture.

Legal Description:

Commencing at a point on the west line of Rebecca St. in said Village of Ivanhoe 70 ft. west of the N.W. corner of block 14 in said Village running thence west on the south line of Saxon St. extended 300 ft., thence south and at right angles with said last line 300 ft., to the north line of Rotherwood Street extended, thence east on the north line of Rotherwood St. extended 300 ft. to the west line of Rebecca Street, thence north on west line of Rebecca to the place of beginning.

Bibliography:

Lincoln County Centennial History Committee, Lincoln County, Minnesota, 1873-1973.
Lake Benton, Minnesota: Journal Printing Company, 1973.

Tasker, A.E. Early History of Lincoln County. Lake Benton New Print, 1936.

Ivanhoe, Minnesota. Lincoln County Courthouse, Auditor's Office. "Lincoln
County Commissioners Records," 1901.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80004541

STATE: Minnesota

COUNTY: Lincoln

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Lincoln County Courthouse & Jail

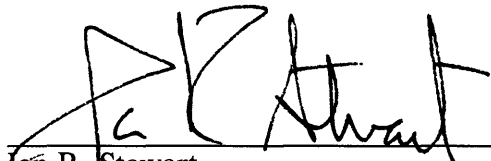
CITY/TOWNSHIP: Ivanhoe

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: 319 N. Rebecca St.

COMMENTS: Address Correction
Lincoln County mRA





Ian R. Stewart
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

4/24/98
Date