

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1912

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Brookings County Courthouse is representative of the courthouses built around the turn of the century for two reasons: (1) it incorporated a Renaissance Revival design, and (2) its location is the result of a county seat dispute involving several small towns.

The Renaissance Revival was a popular style in this area for public buildings during the 1890's and early 1900's. Like the Brookings County Courthouse, many were constructed of limestone.

Brookings received the county seat designation permanently after an election on November 4, 1879, when it received over two-thirds of the votes cast. Other contenders were Volga and Aurora. In 1912, a new courthouse was erected in Brookings by the J.B. Nelson Construction Company and designed by architects C.E. Bell, Tyrie, and Chapman. From 1912 to the present the building has housed county offices.

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 Renaissance Revival style Brookings County Courthouse is three stories tall and made of limestone. A large cupola is centered on top of the building, which is three bays wide and five bays long. First floor windows are rectangular with three arched radiating voussoirs. Windows on the second floor are also rectangular, but they are topped with transoms. Third floor openings appear in sets of three encased in an arch. A single set of large triple windows are fixed in the middle bay of the rear (east) facade between the top of the third floor and the top of the second floor windows.

The middle bay on the front (west) facade features the ground floor entrance, fluted Ionic pilasters running the height of the second and third floors, and a triangular attic above the top floor. Each of these features is decorated with cut stone. Cut stone modillions encircle the courthouse beneath the cornice.

Modern glass doors have been installed in the front and back entrances. No other modernizations detract from the building's appearance.

The courthouse rests in the middle of a square block. It shares the property with a jail and sheriff's residence currently under construction. The courthouse is in good condition and continues to dominate the block.

PH0670413

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 9 1976
DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

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 **
Brookings County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON
Brookings County Courthouse

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Brookings VICINITY OF No. 1
STATE South Dakota CODE 046 COUNTY Brookings CODE 011

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Brookings County
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Brookings VICINITY OF STATE South Dakota

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. City Hall
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Brookings STATE South Dakota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE South Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE June 1974 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historical Preservation Center

CITY, TOWN Vermillion STATE South Dakota