

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JAN 5 1977
DATE ENTERED SEP 15 1977

**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 ****** Koochiching County Courthouse
AND/OR COMMON Koochiching County Courthouse

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Fourth Street at Eighth Avenue
CITY, TOWN International Falls VICINITY OF 8th
STATE Minnesota CODE Koochiching COUNTY CODE 071

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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Koochiching County
STREET & NUMBER Fourth Street at Eighth Avenue
CITY, TOWN International Falls VICINITY OF
STATE Minnesota 56649

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Koochiching County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds
STREET & NUMBER Fourth Street at Eighth Avenue
CITY, TOWN International Falls STATE Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Statewide Historic Sites Survey
DATE 1976 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Minnesota Historical Society, Building 25, Fort Snelling
CITY, TOWN St. Paul STATE Minnesota

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Koochiching County Courthouse is a three story structure with a central dome cupola. The first floor of the building is built of limestone with a rusticated finish. The blocks are laid in courses. The second and third floors are built of red brick. Stone belt courses emphasize the division between the floors. Third floor corners are articulated by brick quoins.

The projecting cornice is embellished with modillions. A brick parapet rests above the cornice and is capped by a stone coping.

The front or north facade of the building has three projecting pavilions and two recesses. The central pavilion forms the entry. This entry, which is two stories in height, is flanked by pilasters with doric capitals which support a broken segmental arched pediment. The third floor of this central pavilion is a recessed loggia with a balustrade and flanking columns. The pavilion has a full pediment at the cornice.

The south facade of the building has a single central pavilion, the third floor of which has a Palladian window. The east and west facades have central pavilions. The latter three facades have little decoration.

The central domed cupola has four identical facades. Each facade has a tripartite colonnade. Each corner is adorned with an acroterion. Each facade has a dormer with porthole-type window.

County offices are located on the first and second floors. The district court room, jury room, judges chambers, and law library are located on the third floor. There is a circular mezzanine in the center of the third floor which complements the circular muraled dome directly above.

The interior is notable for the brass fixtures at the stairs and for some rather simple stenciling on the plaster walls.

The dome has four murals, each of which represents a portion of the county's history. They portray the original waterfalls at the townsite; the first white settler, Alexander Baker, and his cabin; a steamboat on Rainy River; and a sleigh of logs which represents the early lumbering in the county. The oculus in the dome has been sealed.

Construction of the courthouse was begun in 1909 and was completed the following year.

An addition was made to the courthouse in 1975 and 1976 immediately to the east. The addition is two stories in height and maintains the same elevations as the original courthouse. Similar brick was used for the facing and the stone belt courses on the original building are continued in the addition. Quoins are at each of the corners. The addition is connected to the courthouse by a concourse at the first and second stories. The linkage does not detract from the original design features and massing of the courthouse itself.

Both the courthouse, the new addition, and the surrounding grounds are excellently maintained.

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 checked="" 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 1909-10

BUILDER/ARCHITECT C.E. Bell

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Koochiching County Courthouse was constructed in 1909-1910 according to designs by the architect, C.E. Bell, of Minneapolis. The building is an interesting example of the Renaissance and Neo-classic influence on the design of public buildings in the early twentieth century. The murals in the dome were painted by E. Sonderberg under contract to O.J. Oyen. Both men were from LaCrosse, Wisconsin. The murals are a local recognition of the county's heritage. Together the building and murals are a significant expression of regional art and architecture.

The courthouse has been the seat of county government since the building's completion. As such the building has been a part of the life of each of the county's citizens.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files of the Koochiching County Historical Society.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1
UTM REFERENCES

A | 1 | 5 | | 4 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 0 | | 5 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located on a block in International Falls bounded by Sixth and Eighth Avenues and Fourth and Fifth Streets

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charles Skrief, State Historic Preservation Office

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

9 November 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Building 25, Fort Snelling

TELEPHONE

612-726-1171

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

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

12/22/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

9/15/77

ATTEST:

Charles Skrief

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9-13-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 2 Page 1

REFERENCE NUMBER: 77000749

STATE: Minnesota

COUNTY: Koochiching

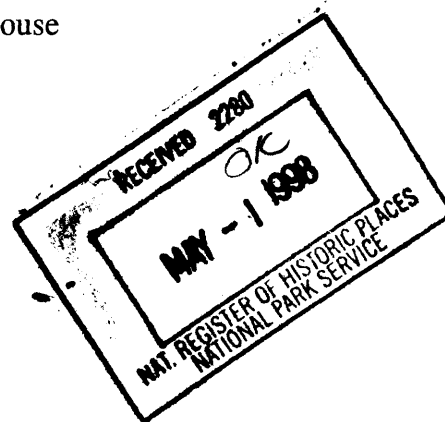
RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Koochiching County Courthouse


CITY/TOWNSHIP: International Falls

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: 4th St. and 7th Ave.

COMMENTS: Address Correction





Ian R. Stewart
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

4/24/98
Date