

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92001861 Date Listed: 2/10/93

Lake County Courthouse Lake SOUTH DAKOTA  
Property Name: County: State:

County Courthouses of South Dakota MPS  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Autawethi Niles*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
for Signature of the Keeper

2/23/93  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

No level of significance was indicated in the state/federal agency certification section. In consultation with the South Dakota SHPO, locally has been checked as the level of significance. Concrete was listed as a wall material but the text indicates brick and stone. In the description section, concrete has been deleted and stone has been added as a wall material.

The nomination is officially amended to include this information.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1801

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

DEC 23 1992

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: LAKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Other names/site number:

2. Location

Street & number: CENTER STREET

not for publication

City or town: MADISON

vicinity

State: SOUTH DAKOTA Code: SD County: LAKE Code: 079 Zip code: 57042

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination request for determination of eligibility  meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature and title of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the  
National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

removed from the  
National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patrick Andrews

2/10/93

LAKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

LAKE COUNTY, S.D.

Name of Property

County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public - local
- public - State
- public - Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

COUNTY COURTHOUSES OF S.D.

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Courthouse

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: Courthouse

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ART DECO  
MODERNE

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation CONCRETE  
walls CONCRETE  
BRICK  
roof ASPHALT  
other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS / GOVERNMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1934-1940

Significant Dates

1934

1935

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N A

Architect/Builder

Architect: Hugill & Blatherwick

Builder: S.W. Jonason & Co.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

LAKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
Name of Property

LAKE COUNTY, S.D.  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre.

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1</u> <u>4</u>	<u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>5</u>	2	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	4	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
							<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared by**

Name/Title: Mark Hufstetler/Lon Johnson  
Organization: Renewable Technologies, Incorporated Date: September 1, 1992  
Street & Number: 511 Metals Bank Building Telephone: (406) 782-0494  
City or Town: Butte State: Montana Zip code: 59701

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Lake County  
Street & Number: Courthouse Telephone: (605) 256-2048  
City or Town: Madison State: South Dakota Zip code: 57042

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Narrative Description:**

The Lake County Courthouse stands in the center of a square block in Madison, South Dakota. The site is located just to the east of the main commercial district. The Courthouse faces south onto Center Street. The courthouse square is landscaped with mature deciduous trees. A circular sidewalk from the front two corners of the block join the main approach near the building. Low-lying junipers are located at the point the walks intersect. A modern Public Safety Building is located at the northeast corner of the courthouse block.

The Lake County Courthouse is designed in the PWA Moderne Style. This governmental interpretation of the Art Deco style reflects the watered down version of an exuberant style expectant of a nation in the midst of a national depression. The uninterrupted square massing of the building, an unsuccessful attempt at verticality provided by the bands of windows, and the decorative spandrel panels are the main features providing an historical reference to the style.

The Courthouse is three stories in height. Exterior walls are brick resting on a smooth-faces stone podium. The main entry is located at this level. The first floor stone walls are topped with a Greek fret band. The entry is defined by engaged square columns topped by finials. The columns are decorated with a carved vase and floral motif with an incised heraldic shield near the top. Between the columns is a pair of doors with a transom (originally multi-light french doors, but now replaced with full-light mill finished aluminum units). The doors and transom are enframed with a carved rope torus molding. Above the doors is a carved panel representing Euro-American, pioneer settlement. A conestoga wagon is symbolically approaching a rising sun. Art Deco style lamp standards with metal globes rest on solid balusters at either side of the entry.

The upper floors of the building are brick. A slight vertical emphasis is provided by vertical bands of windows separated by spandrel panels of contrasting brick in a checkerboard pattern. Horizontal divisions exist with a band of stone above the second floor window heads and at the cornice. The band above the windows has carved floral patterns above each window. The cornice band is fluted with carved acroters between the window openings. The original steel sash windows have been replaced with anodized aluminum units. A small anodized aluminum vestibule has been added over the rear door.

The interior rooms of the courthouse are access from "L" shaped corridors. Interior finishes present a much more bold statement in the Art Deco style than does the exterior, although Classical Revival detailing is still present in some places. Floors are terrazzo laid in a contrasting geometric pattern. The walls

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are wainscotted with marble. Stair rails are brushed aluminum with horizontal divisions and newel posts with a floral motif at the top. The original light fixtures are pendants in an art deco motif. The coffered ceiling panels are enframed by an undulate torus molding of grapes and leaves. The soffit of each of the beams is embellished with a free ornament comprised of a wheel with spokes and vases with floral arrangements at each end.

The courtroom, which occupies the eastern half of the second floor is finished in the Art Deco style, except for the ceiling decorations which match those in the other public spaces. Some of the original Art Deco-style pendant light fixtures remain (others have been replaced with surface mounted florescent fixtures). The walls are wainscotted to above the door heads with wood paneling; the wood paneled pilasters have a lighter wood fluting running their full height. The paneling steps up at the judge's bench. The fluting is repeated on the courtroom railing and judge's bench. The floor is tiled with contrasting tile. All of the courtroom furnishings are original.

The architectural integrity of the Lake County Courthouse has been diminished by the replacement of the historic windows. Otherwise, the building retains almost complete integrity of design and materials. The courthouse block setting has also been somewhat diminished by the construction of a new building on the site.

**PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**

The Public Safety Building is located at the northeast corner of the Lake County Courthouse block. The building is L-shaped in plan. The eastern portion is two stories in height; the western portion is one story in height. The building is constructed of brick and has flat roofs. Concrete surrounds enframe the window and door openings. An enclosed exercise yard extends from the south side of the building. The building is less than 50 years old and is, therefore, a non-contributing building on the Lake County Courthouse block.

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### **Narrative Statement of Significance:**

The Lake County Courthouse is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criteria "A" and "C." The building is historically significant for its role as the symbolic and functional seat of government for Lake County. Since the building's construction, it has housed virtually all of the county's administrative, operational, and judicial functions, while simultaneously serving as the official repository for county records. The courthouse is the most important single physical element in the historic and contemporary governance of Lake County, and is an important local visual reminder of the importance of county government.

The Lake County courthouse is architecturally significant as a representative example of twentieth-century public and institutional architecture in South Dakota. The building's utilization of Art Deco and Moderne design elements is typical of state courthouses constructed during the 1930s. While the building's level of architectural detail is minimal by many standards, the courthouse remains among the largest and most visually striking examples of architecture in Madison and Lake County.

### *Historical Narrative:*

Lake County was among the many counties created by Dakota Territory's 1873 legislative session. The county's government was organized soon thereafter, and at Lake County's first election in 1874 the community of Madison was officially named the permanent county seat. The Madison townsite was relocated in 1880 when the town's original location was bypassed by the railroad, and the county seat was soon transferred to the new location as well. In common with many South Dakota counties, Lake County experienced a period of rivalry for its county seat during the 1880s, but Madison's rivals enjoyed relatively little success in instigating a true "county seat war."<sup>1</sup>

Lake County's first permanent courthouse was constructed in Madison in 1884. On March 8, 1884, the county's commissioners voted to construct a courthouse with the following specifications:

. . . a Court House and Jail combined, having ten foot stone basement, with about four foot excavation to be used for jail purposes. Upon this basement it was decided to build a two story building of either lumber, or brick veneer, the first floor of which is to be divided into six convenient office rooms, and provided with two fire proof vaults ten by twelve feet inside, each vault having one division wall and two door-ways. The second floor or upper room to be divided into

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a Court and two Jury rooms. . . . [The building's cost] when fully completed shall not exceed twelve thousand dollars.<sup>2</sup>

The following month, the commissioners accepted a courthouse design submitted by H.J. Anderson, of Spring Valley, Minnesota. In May, Anderson also received the contract to construct the new building. He apparently began work soon thereafter, and the building was finished by the end of 1884. The project was financed by the county's sale of \$15,000.00 in courthouse bonds, at 7% interest.<sup>3</sup>

The building Anderson designed and constructed was in many ways a typical nineteenth-century South Dakota courthouse. It was wood-framed with a brick veneer and ashlar stone foundation. It was two stories high and almost square; each facade displayed a three-part composition with a projecting center bay. The building was visually defined by a complex mansardic roof with an ornate dentilled cornice and small gables over the projecting bays. A large cupola was centered on the roof. Additional details in the brickwork included corner pilasters, rounded window openings, and contrasting string courses.<sup>4</sup>

The 1884 building served as Lake County's courthouse into the 1930s. In 1933, however, county commissioners became aware of the existence of New Deal programs which would provide financial and logistical assistance in the construction of a replacement courthouse, and on August 8 commissioners voted to pursue the possibility. It was noted that Federal assistance would cover 30% of the cost of a new courthouse. Commissioners emphasized "that [this] is not a personal campaign for a new Court House but it is done at the suggestion of the Federal Government . . ." as a means of helping the local economy. The idea was further strengthened by the existence of a county Court House Building Fund, active since the 1920s; by 1933 the fund amounted to over \$84,000.00.<sup>5</sup>

By September 1933 commissioners had decided to proceed with the construction of a courthouse, and had engaged the architectural firm of Hugill and Blatherwick to prepare building plans. This partnership consisted of George C. Hugill (1888-1950) and Wilfred F. Blatherwick (b. 1892). Hugill studied architecture at the Art Institute of Chicago, and worked for the firm of Patton & Miller there from 1908-1918, when he moved to Sioux Falls. Blatherwick graduated from the University of Illinois in 1913, and moved to South Dakota six years later to work as a draughtsman for the Perkins & McWayne firm. The Hugill & Blatherwick partnership was formed in Sioux Falls in October, 1921, and continued until Hugill's death. A successor firm still operates in Sioux Falls. The firm advertised itself as being "devoted to institutional, commercial, medical, [and] educational buildings." Hugill & Blatherwick became one of the most prominent architectural firms in post-World War I South Dakota, executing major commissions in restrained Classical forms and later in Art Deco or Moderne motifs. The firm's most well-known commission is for the Soldiers and Sailors World War

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Memorial building in Pierre. Hugill and Blatherwick also designed four South Dakota courthouse buildings, all relatively utilitarian in form: Ziebach County (1930), Hughes County (1933), Clark County (1934), and Lake County (1935).<sup>6</sup>

Lake County held a courthouse bond election on September 19, 1933, and the issue passed easily. A total of \$75,000.00 in bonds was authorized, with the bonds to be repaid from the assets of the building fund. Commissioners immediately advertised for courthouse construction bids, and contracts were awarded on October 26. The principal construction contract went to S.W. Jonason & Company of Aberdeen, South Dakota, for \$84,035.00. Smaller contracts were also awarded for heating and plumbing, for electrical wiring, and for an elevator system. Jonason's bid included an allowance for "the brick and lumber in the old Court House," which was to be razed prior to erection of the new building. (The old and new courthouses were located on the same site.)<sup>7</sup>

Construction work on the new courthouse was then ready to proceed, subject only to the sale of the building bonds authorized by the county. The nationwide economic uncertainties of the Depression era, however, made the bond sale a surprisingly difficult proposition. The announced bond sale date of October 31, 1933 passed without any purchase offers for the bonds being made. A second deadline passed with a similar result, followed by a third, a fourth, and a fifth. After the last unsuccessful attempt, the Federal Government finally agreed to purchase the courthouse bonds itself, as a way to allow the project to proceed. The government's offer was formally accepted on July 10, 1934, and construction of the new building probably began fairly soon thereafter.<sup>8</sup>

Work on Lake County's new courthouse continued throughout the winter of 1934-35. The building was largely finished by April, 1935, and on May 7 the county commissioners formally inspected the courthouse and accepted the work of the architect and contractors. A dedicatory program for the building was held on June 20, 1935, featuring speeches, music by the Madison Municipal Band, and a "public inspection" of the building. The total cost of the completed building was reported at \$127,914.72.<sup>9</sup> The building, little-changed from 1935, continues to serve as the Lake County courthouse in 1992.

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ENDNOTES

1. For a brief summary of Lake County's creation and early government, see "Lake County Formed in 1873 by Territorial Legislature," *Madison* [South Dakota] *Daily Leader*, June 26, 1980, p. B-10.
2. "Lake County Commission Record," manuscript volume 1 (1873-1890), p. 154 (March 8, 1884).
3. "Lake County Commission Record," manuscript volume 1 (1873-1890), pp. 156-184 (April 8, 1884 - January 5, 1885).
4. A good photograph of the old Lake County courthouse is included in "Lake County Formed in 1873 by Territorial Legislature," *Madison* [South Dakota] *Daily Leader*, June 26, 1980, p. B-10.
5. "Lake County Commissioners Record," manuscript volume 8 (1933-1940), p. 4 (August 7, 1933); p. 10 (October 3, 1933).
6. Carolyn Torma, "Building Diversity: A Photographic Survey of South Dakota Architecture, 1913-1940," *South Dakota History* 19 (1989): 156-193; "Architects" vertical file, South Dakota State Historical Preservation Center, Vermillion.
7. "Lake County Commissioners Record," manuscript volume 8 (1933-1940), p. 16 (October 25-26, 1933).
8. "Lake County Commissioners Record," manuscript volume 8 (1933-1940), pp. 16-57 (October 25, 1933 - July 10, 1934).
9. "Lake County Commissioners Record," manuscript volume 8 (1933-1940), pp. 54-100 (June 25, 1934 - May 7, 1935); "Dedication: Lake County Courthouse, Thursday, June 20, 1935" [program].

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### **Bibliography:**

"Dedication: Lake County Courthouse, Thursday, June 20, 1935" [program].

"Lake County Commission Record." Manuscript volumes maintained at the County Auditor's Office, Madison, South Dakota.

"Lake County Formed in 1873 by Territorial Legislature," *Madison* [South Dakota] *Daily Leader*, June 26, 1980, p. B-10.

Torma, Carolyn, "Building Diversity: A Photographic Survey of South Dakota Architecture, 1913-1940," *South Dakota History* 19 (1989): 156-193.

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

All of Block 10, Original Townsite of Madison, South Dakota.

**Boundary Justification:**

The nominated property includes the courthouse building and the landscaped grounds immediately surrounding it. It coincides with the legal description of the tract of land historically set aside as the courthouse grounds. It does not include adjacent city streets, or the unrelated urban development surrounding the block.

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**Index to Photographs**

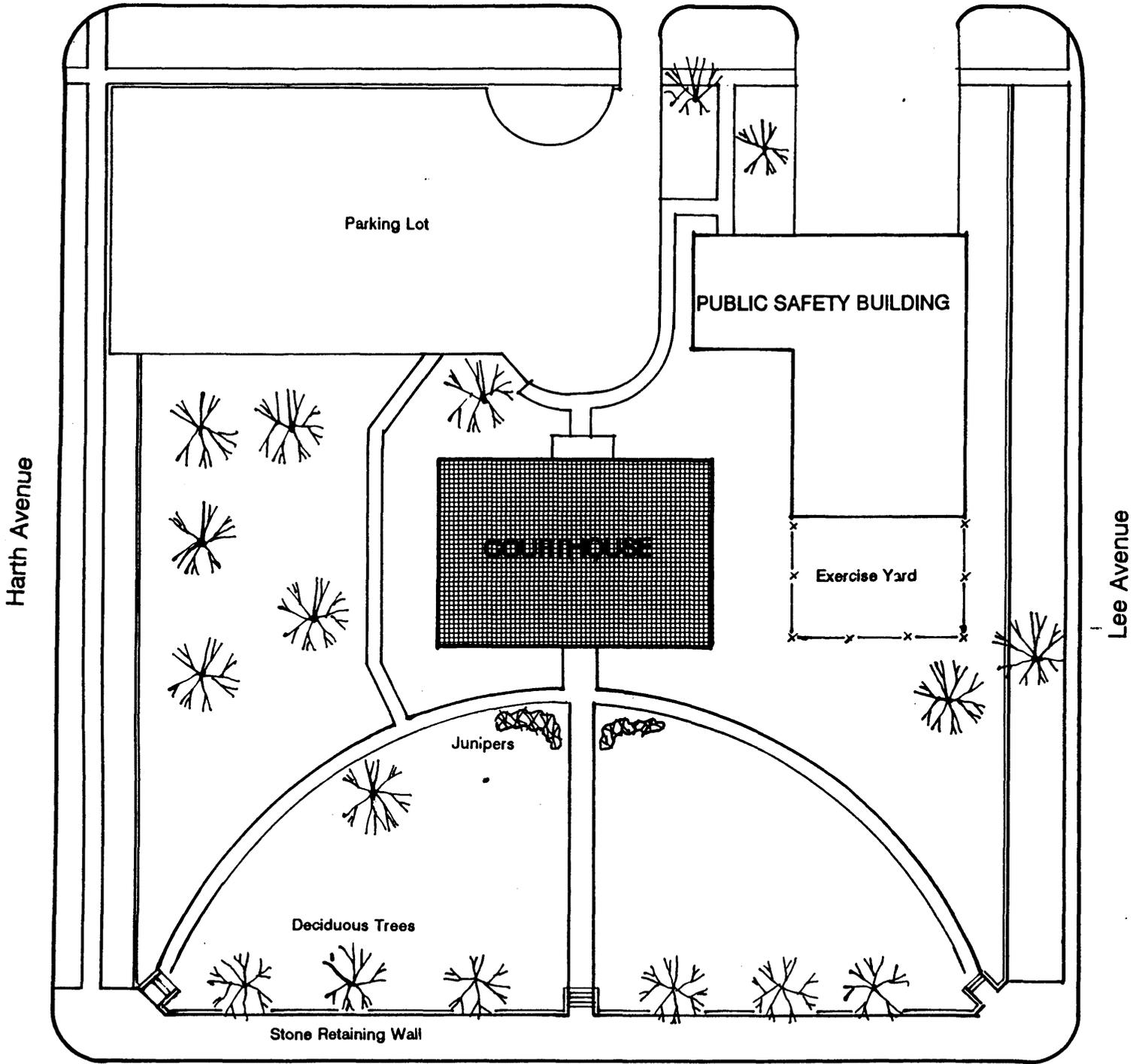
Photographer: Lon Johnson

Date: January 16, 1992

Location of original negatives: South Dakota State Historical Preservation  
Center, Vermillion, South Dakota

Photograph Number	Description	Direction of View
1	West and south exterior elevations	Northeast
2	South and east exterior elevations	Northwest
3	South (primary) exterior elevation	North
4	West exterior elevation	East
5	Detail of primary entrance, south elevation	North
6	Courtroom interior	
7	Detail of interior light fixture	
8	Public Safety Building, north and west exterior elevations	Southeast

First Street Northeast



Center Street



Scale: 1" = 50'

**LAKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE**  
Madison, South Dakota

All of Block 10 - Original Townsite