

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	South Dakota
COUNTY:	Minnehaha
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	101973

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Old Minnehaha County Courthouse**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Main Avenue and 6th Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Sioux Falls** **Congressional District 1**

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
South Dakota	46	Minnehaha	099

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<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 (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Minnehaha County Commissioners**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Dakota and 7th Street**

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Sioux Falls	South Dakota	46

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Minnehaha County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE
Sioux Falls	South Dakota

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**South Dakota Historic Sites Survey**

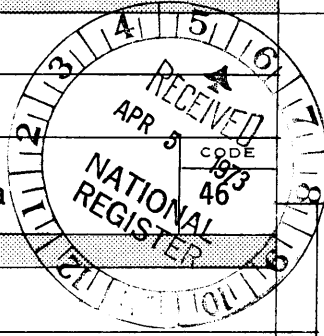
DATE OF SURVEY: **1968**     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**South Dakota Historic Preservation**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**W. H. Over Dakota Museum, University of South Dakota**

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Vermillion	South Dakota	46

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Minnehaha County Courthouse, built in 1890, is a three-story reddish-blue quartzite structure exhibiting the massive feeling and arched windows of the Romanesque style. The building forms a square of roughly 150 feet, dominated by a high tower centered in the front. A clock is on each side of the tower. Beneath the tower is a Roman arch which encloses the main doors. Other doors around the building are treated similarly. Windows are multiple and generally plain and rectangular on the first floor and arched on the second and third. The attic or fourth-floor gables are decorated and flush with the wall. The north wall boasts an oriel encasing the stairwell.

The interior includes a large courtroom and a maze of offices. The furnishings and ornamentation are simple and of light oak.

Minor alterations were made during the 1930's to both the interior and exterior, but these are not significant enough to detract in any way from the building's integrity.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1889-1890**

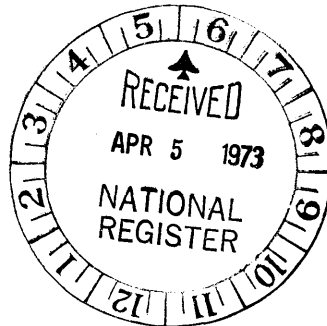
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Minnehaha County Courthouse is the finest example of Richardson Romanesque architecture in South Dakota. One of the oldest buildings in Sioux Falls (1889-1890), it is constructed of a local quartzite from which many public buildings and businesses in the area were constructed during the late 19th century; only a few remain.

For years the Courthouse served in its official capacity, but growing demands on county offices gradually proved it dysfunctional. In 1962, county offices moved to a new building. The City of Sioux Falls plans to preserve the structure as an art center and museum.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bailey, Dana R., History of Minnehaha County, Brown & Saenger, Sioux Falls, SD, 1899.

Bragstad, R.E., Sioux Falls in Retrospect, Sanders Printing Company, Garretson, SD, 1967.

Smith, Charles A., Minnehaha County History, Educators Supply, Mitchell, SD, 1949.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

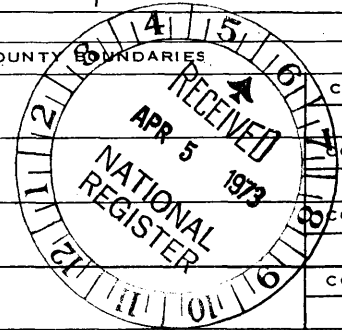
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43	33	01
NE	° ' "	° ' "		96	43	47
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM  
14/683480  
4824380  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than 1**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Paul Putz, Research Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **South Dakota Historic Preservation**      DATE: **3-30-73**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**W. H. Over Dakota Museum, University of South Dakota**

CITY OR TOWN: **Vermillion**      STATE: **South Dakota**      CODE: **46**

**12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: **Dr. James E. Gillihan**  
 Title: **State Liaison Officer SD Historic Preservation**  
 Date: **3-30-73**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

**Robertan Utley**  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: **5/10/73**

ATTEST:  
**W. M. [Signature]**  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: **5 9 73**