

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAY 23 1990

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sioux County Courthouse
other names/site number SX04-002

2. Location

street & number NE cor. Main & 3rd Sts. N/A not for publication
city, town Harrison N/A vicinity
state Nebraska code NE county Sioux code 165 zip code 69346

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	_____ objects
		<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
County Courthouses of Nebraska

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. 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. See continuation sheet.

James A. Harrison
Signature of certifying official
Nebraska State Historical Society

May 14, 1990

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See cont. sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet

Beth Boland

7/5/90

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

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) Classical Revival
Materials (enter categories from instructions)
foundation stone
walls stone
roof other (tar & gravel)
other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

[X] See continuation sheet, section 7, page 1.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Politics/government
Architecture
Period of Significance 1930-40
Significant Dates 1930-31

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Significant Person N/A
Architect/Builder Goldsmith, E.L.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

[X] See continuation sheet, section 8, page 1.

9. Major Bibliographical References

[X] See continuation sheet, section 9, page 1.

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:

- [x] State historic preservation office
- [] Other state agency
- [] Federal agency
- [] Local government
- [] University
- [] Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A	1 3	5 9 1 5 3 0	4 7 2 6 6 6 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

[] See continuation sheet, section 10, page 1.

Verbal Boundary Description

[X] See continuation sheet, section 10, page 1.

Boundary Justification

[X] See continuation sheet, section 10, page 1.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Barbara Beving Long, consultant
organization	Four Mile Research Co. date January 2, 1990
street & number	3140 Easton Boulevard telephone (515) 266-4964
city or town	Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50317

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Built in 1930-31, the Sioux County Courthouse is a fine, unaltered example of the Property Type, County Citadel. Identifying features include: rectangular shape, centered entrance, costly materials, distinctive ornamentation, Classical Revival stylistic influence, provision for fireproof storage, and the impression of a government building representing modernity, simplicity, strength, and prosperity. In addition, the courthouse has other County Citadel characteristics: flat roof and designed by an architect. It is one of six stone-faced County Citadels built between 1917 and 1930 across the state, an important subgroup of the property type. The courthouse, small jail (contributing), and veterans memorial (contributing) are considered a district, for purposes of this nomination.

The Sioux County Courthouse is a two-story rectangular building. The building is faced with Bedford limestone on three sides, and the rear or west facade is faced with light tan brick.

Six fluted shallow squared pilasters and a round-arched doorway on the east facade identify the entrance, and there is also a minor nonpublic entrance at the back. Attention is focused on the public entrance by means of the recessed original wood double doors, round-arched wrought iron grill above them, lintel with consoles, doorway moulding including papyrus capitals, and "1930" date plate. Above the entrance along the cornice is more carving identifying the building to be the "Harrison County Court House."

Rectangular double-hung windows occur between the fluted pilasters. Slightly projecting bays with three-part rectangular windows flank the pilasters, and there are five bays with paired rectangular windows on the north and south facades of the 100x62' building.

The cornice, the smooth stone wall surface, and the window treatment provide unifying features on the north, south, and east facades. Ornamentation is shallow and restrained and includes alternating discs and stylized triglyphs along the east cornice, carved panels with delicate Adamesque swags between upper and lower windows, and distinctive acanthus capitals on the fluted pilasters.

The floorplan is an uneven X-shape, and the staircase is centered on the rear wall. Rectangular vaults are located in the southwest and southeast corners of the building; one runs east-west, the other north-south. County offices occupy the south half of the first floor, and the county attorney, courtroom, and judge have the other half. The second story

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contains the district courtroom on the north side of the hallway, with more offices on the other side.

The courthouse is an excellent late example of the County Citadel courthouse exhibiting Classical Revival stylistic elements. These include the symmetric arrangement, smooth stone surface, prominent engaged columns or pilasters, relatively unadorned parapet, and such classical elements as swags, fluting, and acanthus. The ornamentation is shallow and in some cases stylized, reflecting the 1930s construction date. Classical detail is interpreted in an Art Deco manner as befits a courthouse designed in the 1930s.

Exterior alterations include replacement windows, but they are similar to the originals. A small concrete ramp to provide access by the handicapped has been added to the rear entrance. An historic photograph at the Nebraska State Historical Society reveals how little the property has changed. Interior modifications are minor and include an acoustical tile ceiling in the district courtroom.

A variety of materials adorn the interior: grey marble for some surrounds, wainscoting, and staircase banister, an art glass panel on the staircase landing, terrazzo flooring, and original woodwork. The third floor district courtroom features six fine light fixtures suspended by chains, plaster beams with wood moulding, and relatively simple but original, woodwork and judicial furnishings.

The Sioux County Courthouse occupies only a quarter block site which it shares with residential buildings. The courthouse site is located at the north end of Harrison's small main street. Railroad tracks are at the other end of main street. A concrete walk leads directly to the three broad entrance steps which have stone pedestals. At the southeast corner of the site is a small granite memorial "dedicated to those men of Sioux County who gave their lives and to all those who served in the armed forces of the United States." The memorial has been included as a contributing object because it is an appropriate symbolic addition to the courthouse site and appears to be more than fifty years of age.

Tucked behind the west side of the courthouse at the south corner is a tiny jail, also a contributing resource on the property. Trees obscure the modest unaltered building from view, which is a one-story, stucco, 3-bayx3-bay flat-roofed box with a stepped parapet and a centered entry. No information was available regarding construction of the jail. Based on its appearance, it dates from the 1920s and was either already on the site or was moved there when the present courthouse was built. There are several references to a wood jail built in 1887, one which would certain-

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ly have required replacement.

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The Sioux County Courthouse is architecturally significant (Criterion C) and also historically significant (Criterion A) for its association with politics and local government. The property derives its historic significance as a focal point for the administration of local government and institutions in the county. It is a fine example of public architecture and contains good examples of design features and facilities distinctive to its design and use as a courthouse.

As a good example of the County Citadel Property Type, the courthouse contains design features and facilities distinctive to its design and use (such as fireproof vaults), has a rectangular shape, centered entrance, costly materials, distinctive ornamentation, and Classical Revival stylistic influence. Elements of the design combine effectively to convey the impression of a government building representing modernity, simplicity, and prosperity, also features of the County Citadel.

The Period of Significance is 1930, when construction began, to 1940, when the "fifty year rule" takes effect. The Sioux County Courthouse is being nominated as an example of the Property Type, County Courthouses of Nebraska (County Citadel) of the Context, County Government in Nebraska, 1854-1941, from the Multiple Property Submission, County Courthouses of Nebraska.

One of the state's larger counties in size (2,055 square miles), Sioux County is located at the far northwestern tip of the state, on the state line with South Dakota and Wyoming. As established in 1877, Sioux County was originally even larger than it is now. With increased settlement in the Nebraska Panhandle, residents sought to create smaller counties. Sioux County decreased in size in the 1880s as other counties were created; finally, in 1886 present Sioux, Dawes, Box Butte, and Cherry Counties were organized, and the present boundaries for Sioux County were established.

Harrison was platted in 1886 as a stop on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, which reached the community (then known as Summit) that same year. The county seat has always been located in Harrison, now the only incorporated municipality in the county. In the 1880s Bodarc also competed for the designation. The first courthouse, built of locally produced brick, was completed in 1888 on the present courthouse site. A two' metal cow (now stored in the county clerk's office) topped the building in recognition of the importance of cattle to the county economy.

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By early 1929 the 1888 courthouse had deteriorated; county commissioners banned dances and parties there "to eliminate unnecessary strain" to the building, according to Bruce's report. On June 14, 1929 the county contracted with E.L. Goldsmith, a Scottsbluff architect, to report on the condition of the aging building. His report, which concluded that the building was in a perilous state, fueled interest in a replacement facility.

An election on whether to issue courthouse bonds was held February 18, 1930, and the measure passed. County commissioners visited other county seats and reported favorably on other courthouse designs by Goldsmith. Goldsmith was thus selected as architect. In May of 1930 bids were opened for the general contractor, and Fullen Construction Company was selected.

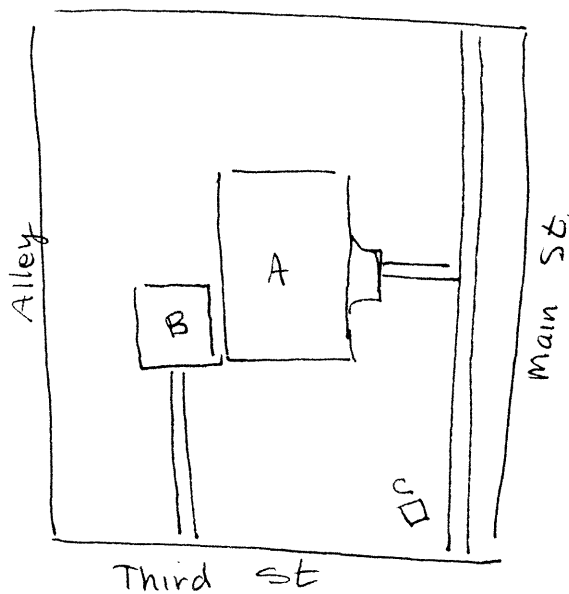
The older courthouse was razed, and the same site used. Construction proceeded on the courthouse, and progress was such that cornerstone-laying ceremonies were held in mid-July of 1930. The county moved in in March of 1931.

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SLOUX COUNTY COURTHOUSE



- A - courthouse - contr.
- B - jail - contr. bldg.
- C - veterans memorial - contributing object

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Long, Barbara Beving. "County Courthouses of Nebraska." Multiple Property Submission. 1989.
Nebraska State Historical Society. Photo Collection. #M281-1064 and -1062. Tracings. Sioux County Courthouse. E.L. Goldsmith & Company.
Bruce, Willa. "Sioux County. Grandeur on the Range." Report filed with Historic Preservation. 1987.
Sioux County History. 1st 100 Years. 1886-1986. N.p: Harrison Community Club, 1986.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property, the Sioux County Courthouse, occupies lots 7-9 of block 10 of the Original Town Plat of Harrison and is roughly 120x125' in size.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes that portion of the city block that has historically been associated with the property.