

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

3071

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

DEC 01 1988

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 Sibley County Courthouse and Sheriff's Residence and Jail
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 400 Court Street, 319 Park Avenue not for publication N/A
city, town Gaylord vicinity N/A
state Minnesota code MN county Sibley code 143 zip code 55334

3. Classification

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

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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.

X Nina M. Archabal 11/22/88
Signature of certifying official Nina M. Archabal Date
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota Historical Society

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation 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.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Delores Byers Entered in the National Register 12/29/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/ courthouse

GOVERNMENT/correctional facility

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/ courthouse

GOVERNMENT/correctional facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Neo-Classical Revival

Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Limestone

Brick

roof Slate

other Ceramic tile

Glass

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Designed by the Minneapolis firm of James A. Burner and William K. Macomber and completed at a cost of \$147,490.00, the Sibley County Courthouse and Sheriff's Residence and Jail were completed in 1916, one year after the county seat moved from Henderson to Gaylord. Located on Court Street at Fourth Street, the courthouse is situated on a square block of land that was designated for the courthouse by the city of Gaylord in 1895 when the city began its official fight for the county seat. The three-story Neo-Classical Revival structure faces south and can be seen from the far end of Fourth Street, a main thoroughfare. The courthouse retains its early twentieth century grandeur despite an addition to the northwest portion of the building. A landscaped lawn surrounds the courthouse on three sides. A large parking lot is located on the west side of the courthouse. The more modest combined Sheriff's Residence and Jail is setback in the northeast corner of the square courthouse block on the southwest corner of Harrison Street and Park Avenue. Situated to the rear of the property, the Spanish Colonial Revival building remains convenient to courthouse activities. The Sibley County Courthouse and Sheriff's Residence and Jail, built at the same time, complement each other in early twentieth century styling and in functional location.

The county courthouse, a three-story structure, measures 96' X 100' and is designed in the Neo-Classical Revival style, based on the Greek and to a lesser degree on the Roman architectural orders. Constructed of poured concrete and steel and faced with Indiana limestone, the courthouse has seven bays on each side. Six two-story Ionic columns support a classical pediment and entablature above an elevated basement of horizontally coursed stone. Large glass windows, on two levels, opens the wall behind this slightly projecting portico. Above the fluted columns, "1853 Sibley County 1916" is engraved in the stone architrave. This is repeated on the rear architrave. Triglyphs and circles alternate in the frieze. The sculptured pediment features a face clock in the center of an elaborate decorative scene depicting agricultural and pioneering symbols. A low dome rises above the roofline of the courthouse.

The front and rear entrances support a plain entablature, braced by corbels, and a decorative pediment with the letters "S" and "C" carved in the head. Decorative circles found in the frieze are mirrored in the double doors with transom. The upper level windows in the courthouse are separated by stone pilasters and divided by bronze squares that also reflect elements in the frieze. The windows, at the level of the elevated basement, lack any adornment.

The interior of the courthouse retains many original elements. A stained glass skylight can be viewed above the three-story octagonal rotunda. The main floor is marble faced with the four principal offices, register of deeds, auditor, treasurer, and

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sibley County Courthouse and Sheriff's Residence and Jail, Sibley County

Section number 7 Page 1

clerk of court, located in opposite angles of the octagon. A narrow strip of ebony sets off the light wood in the doors. The ceiling is coffered and enameled in soft green and gold designs which blend with the colored marble decoration bordering the tops of the walls. Floors in the halls and lobbies are made of polished terrazo. The marble stairways rise to the second level.

Interior replacements to the courthouse include replacing the floor coverings in the offices during the 1960's and revamping the heating plant and adding air-conditioning in 1973. Exterior improvements include window replacements and relandscaping the front grounds by replacing a curved driveway up to the courthouse entrance with a front sidewalk. An addition to the northwest corner of the building was constructed in 1974-1975. Designed by Rieke-Carroll-Muller of Gaylord and constructed by Loeffel-Engstrand of Hopkins, the annex is attached to the northwest side of the main courthouse. The above ground levels of the annex and courthouse are connected by a three level glass enclosed corridor. Completed at a cost of \$652,369.00, the three story annex with lower level measures 50' X 80' and has 16,000 square feet of floor space. Built to house "high traffic" offices such as the clerk of court and the department of public works, the new addition is faced with the same Indiana limestone found in the courthouse. Elevator service in the annex makes the entire courthouse easily accessible. An enclosed entrance is located on the southwest side of the annex. The parking lot is adjacent to the annex and a driveway is found to the rear of the courthouse adjacent to the addition.

The combined sheriff's residence and jail, designed by Burner and Macomber and built in 1916, stands northeast of the courthouse setback on the block. The building is two stories in height and constructed of a light gold brick. It has a low hipped roof made of red tile and several other decorative features reminiscent of the Spanish Colonial Revival style. The first and second floors are separated by a brick belt course running under the second floor windows. The windows in the building are different sizes, singular and grouped in twos and threes, and have stone sills. Half-circles of decorative brickwork with a diamond shape in the interior are found over the first floor windows. Iron bars cover second floor windows at the rear. A slightly projecting rounded overhang is located above the side and front entrances. A one-story porch is found to the right of the front entrance.

The structure originally housed the county jail and sheriff's residence. Since 1960 sheriffs and their families have not lived in the building and the space is now used for additional office space. The jail is housed on the second floor for security purposes and can accommodate only six prisoners according to present state standards. Exterior improvements include enclosing the front porch and adding a one-story four door attached garage to the rear, constructed of the same light brick.

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)

Architecture
Politics and Government

Period of Significance

1916-1938

Significant Dates

1916

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/~~Builder~~

Burner, James A. and Macomber, William K.

Builder: Olson and Johnson

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

The Sibley County Courthouse and combined Sheriff's Residence and Jail, located on Court Street at Fourth Street, are architecturally significant as prominent public buildings designed to reflect the era of progress experienced in Gaylord during the late 1880's continuing through the early 1900's. Historically, the county government structures are significant as being a catalyst for the continued building boom and population growth first experienced when the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad platted the town in 1881 and again in 1915 when the county seat moved from Henderson, a river town on the eastern border of the county, to Gaylord, the center of the county and major stop on the only rail line constructed through the county.

Sibley County, established March 5, 1853, was named for General Henry Hastings Sibley, an early pioneer and military defender of the territory and governor of the state. The first county seat was located at Henderson, on the eastern border of the county and the Minnesota River. The first incorporated town in the county, Henderson was founded in 1852 and platted in 1855 by Joseph R. Brown, one of the prominent pioneers of the state. The first courthouse was located at a place of business owned by Henry Poehler, named the Altnow Building. Proceedings were held on the second floor from 1858-1862. The county offices then moved from that building to the Welch Building in 1862. In October 1863 the Welch Building and all the county records burned, with the exception of the Register of Deeds. From 1863 until 1879 when Henderson built a brick courthouse (National Register of Historic Places 7-2-79) county offices were housed at various temporary quarters.

During this time, from 1850 to 1880, stage routes intersected the center of the county, branching off the main thoroughfare, a road that ran east to west through the county from Henderson to towns and military posts in western counties. The center of the county was firmly established by this intersection long before Gaylord was platted. Nicknamed "Hub City", Gaylord vied for the county seat until it moved to the city in 1915.

During 1881-1882 the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad expanded diagonally across the county creating five new settlements and platting these towns as it crossed the county. During 1881 the railway town of Gaylord was platted and named by the railroad for Edward W. Gaylord, its master of transportation (1874-1877) and superintendent (1878-1880). The city was incorporated in 1883. Gaylord townspeople and settlers located in the central and western portion of the county believed the county seat should be

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sibley County Courthouse and Sheriff's Residence and Jail, Sibley County

Section number 8 Page 1

relocated to the center of the county. Henderson's location on the eastern border of the county made it difficult for people living in the western portion of the region to journey to the county seat, especially in bad weather.

During 1887 the county appropriated \$30.00 for village attorney fees to look after a county seat position. In 1890 Gaylord made its first attempt to remove the county seat from Henderson but lacked four votes of majority. In 1895 the neighboring town of Arlington, directly to the east of Gaylord, made a simultaneous attempt with Gaylord to secure the county seat. Both were defeated. A block of land in the Maas Addition was deeded to Sibley County by the city of Gaylord for use as a permanent site for the courthouse during this second bid. In 1902 Gaylord made a third attempt and was again defeated. After waiting thirteen years, Gaylord launched another campaign, circulating a petition. A vote was cast, the largest ever recorded in Sibley County. 3212 votes were cast and 2200 voted for the Gaylord site. In the Gaylord Hub, dated September 10, 1915, the headline read in large bold letters "Gaylord Wins Great Victory."

Gaylord townspeople viewed the matter as finally being settled after twenty-five years of agitation, the victory clean cut and decisive. The October 8, 1915 Gaylord Hub put it succinctly: "Gaylord, in the center of the county, on the only railroad running through the county and easily within reach of the majority, for whom government is maintained, is the most logical location of the county seat." On December 1, 1915, by order of the county board, the removal of the county seat from Henderson to Gaylord was effective. The Gaylord City Hall, leased to the county, became the temporary quarters. The block upon which the new courthouse was erected was donated to the county, free of charge, by the city. Gaylord had held the property for twenty-five years solely for that purpose.¹

With the penetration of the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad through the county, the only rail line built through the county, the population of the area climbed 33% from 1880 to 1890. Agricultural production increased with the export of cultivated goods, the basis of Sibley County's economy. Gaylord's population increased 33% from 1890 (when the first census was taken) to 1900. The move of the county seat in 1915 caused another spurt in population growth and precipitated a major building boom. During 1916 Gaylord experienced unparalled growth in the community. Sewer and water systems were enlarged. Construction boomed with over \$250,000.00 spent in 1916, the largest annual amount in Gaylord history. The largest expenditure became the new courthouse and sheriff's residence and jail, the major catalyst for the upsurge in construction of new businesses and improvements. Transactions at the courthouse brought many people to town to use professional services. Gaylord became more important as a trade center with the laying of pavement between Gaylord and Glencoe, a city 18 miles to the north. The rail line became vital as a means of transportation to conduct county business as well as experiencing an upsurge in use as an agricultural trade center.

The courthouse and combined sheriff's residence and jail were designed by the Minneapolis firm of J.A. Burner and W.K. Macomber. The courthouse was designed to reflect an era of progress experienced at the time. To house county offices, architects, many times, built pleasing structures in the shape of temples and palaces reflecting an era of prosperity. Large public buildings all over Minnesota reflect this progress. Fifteen

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sibley County Courthouse and Sheriff's Residence and Jail, Sibley County

Section number 8 Page 2

courthouses were built in Minnesota during the early 1900's. The Sibley County Courthouse and Sheriff's Residence and Jail are the best known buildings designed by Burner and Macomber who were partners for only two years, from 1916-1917. Not much is known about the practices of these two architects. Burner in private practice during the teens also had a practice in 1914 with Ralph Mather. Macomber, a Hawaiian, born in Hawaii in 1884, practiced in Minneapolis and St. Paul with several partners, with Kinney in 1915, Fallows and Huey in 1921, and Walter Dennis in 1930-1931. He practiced on his own from 1919 to ca. 1935. Macomber designed the Minneapolis Masons Cataract Lodge #2 in 1925. Arlen J. Olson, formerly of Severance Township in Sibley County, of the firm of Olson and Johnson, Missoula, Montana, was awarded the general contract for the courthouse and sheriff's quarters and jail. Other costs included electrical work, plumbing, sewage and drainage, heating, furniture, painting, architectural fees, jail fixtures, and grading, plantings, sidewalks, and driveways bringing the total cost to \$147,490.00.

The annex addition is located on the northwest corner of the block, balanced with the northeast location of the jail building. The addition is physically connected to the main building by a three-story corridor, detracting from neither the front or rear entrances of the building. Massing and size remain proportional between the two structures which are constructed of the same Indiana limestone. Perhaps most importantly, the new addition cannot be viewed by the onlooker as the courthouse is approached travelling north on Fourth Street. The approaching view allows the observer a solitary look at the Neo-Classical Revival structure, the jail building and addition hid in the northeast and northwest portions of the block.

The Sibley County Courthouse and Sheriff's Residence and Jail were included in an historic sites survey of Sibley County recently conducted by the State Historic Preservation Office. The survey staff determined that the courthouse and jail retain physical integrity as county government offices in comparison to other county courthouses and jails where the integrity has been compromised by structural changes. The Sibley County Courthouse and Sheriff's Residence and Jail fit within the SHPO's Agricultural Development and Railroad Construction historic context and provide a valuable example of early twentieth century architectural style and is significant for its part in the role of county government in rural Minnesota.

¹ The battle to retain or gain a county seat was a recurring theme throughout much of Minnesota during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. County seats were usually designated in early settlements near transportation thoroughfares, such as rivers or early rail lines. As the railroad network developed, centrally located settlements began to vie for the county seat. A central location was geographically convenient for travelling to and from all corners of the county and a railroad hub became the natural choice for county seats in much of Minnesota. Many counties experienced battles that took decades to resolve. Adjacent to Sibley County, Renville County experienced a forty-five year struggle. Carlton, Grant, Houston, Lac qui Parle and other counties all experienced a county seat battle. The Sibley County struggle took twenty-five years to resolve.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The First One Hundred Years: The Minnesota State Bar Association, The Minnesota State Bar Association, Minneapolis, 1983.

Gaylord, The Hub of Sibley County. Gaylord History Committee. Gaylord, Minnesota, 1982.

Gaylord Hub. September 10, 1915, October 8, 1915, February 11, 1916, May 5, 1916, June 23, 1916, July 14, 1916.

"Open House: Sibley County Courthouse Annex and Courthouse Remodeling," December 7, 1975, Pamphlet (on file at the SHPO).

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one

UTM References

A 1,5 4,0,3 0,6,0 4,9 3,4 1,6,0
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is Block 25 of the Maas Addition, Village of Gaylord.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

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

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Liz Holum Johnson / Contract Research Historian

organization Minnesota Historical Society - SHPO date 6/87

street & number Fort Snelling History Center telephone (612) 726-1171

city or town St. Paul state Minnesota zip code 55111