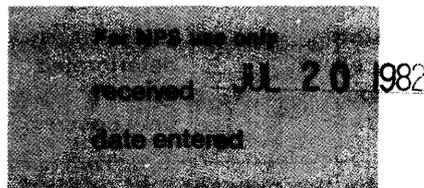


14-0018
EXP. 10/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Waseca County Courthouse

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 307 North State Street N/A— not for publication

city, town Waseca N/A vicinity of congressional district N/A

state Minnesota code 22 county Waseca code 161

3. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input 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:

4. Owner of Property

name Waseca County Courthouse

street & number 307 North State Street

city, town Waseca N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds -- Waseca County Courthouse

street & number 307 North State Street

city, town Waseca state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Minnesota Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society -- Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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 Waseca County Courthouse is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of North State Street and Third Avenue. The masonry building with its clock tower provides a dominant visual focus in the community.

The three-story (with raised basement) Waseca County Courthouse was designed by the Minneapolis architectural firm of Orff and Joraleman and constructed in 1897 by J.D. Carroll, contractor from St. Paul Park. The modified Richardsonian Romanesque structure is constructed of buff-colored brick with Kasota limestone (Dolomite) highlights. The building design is basically symmetrical with an arcaded loggia front entrance supported by two granite pillars. Above the entrance is balustraded terrace. There are three square corner towers with pyramidal roofs and spires, all of the same height. The bell tower on the southeast corner has stone quoins, and rises a full story above the building. There is a clock on each side of the tower. The roof is also pyramidal with a flagpole, and parapets are centered above each clock. There is a cornerstone inscribed with the date "1897" in the southeast corner above the foundation.

The building has a gabled north/south roof, the eastern roofline punctuated with a buttressed dormer centered over rectilinear transomed windows. There are corbelled cornices. Groupings of rectilinear windows appear on the raised basement, first, and second levels. The second story windows all have transoms. On third floor of the bell tower and gabled ends are treatments of semi-circular arched windows. The south and north facades exhibit a two-and-one-half-story rounded bay. Seven bands of Kasota limestone reinforce the rectilinear arrangement of windows as well as highlight the arches, parapets and roofline. Glass block and brick have been used to fill some of the second and third floor windows.

In 1976 a two-story brick and limestone addition was attached to the north side of the courthouse allowing for office expansion and handicapped accessibility. The addition was designed by the Architectural Design Group of Rochester, MN. The treatment of the addition is in harmony with the original structure. A west entry of Kasota limestone has also been added. The interior retains original wainscoting, oak woodwork, tiled fireplaces, furniture, etched glass, paneled doors and marble floors, counters, and sinks.

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 type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 1897 **Builder/Architect** Orff & Joralemon, Mpls. (Architect)

J.D. Carroll, St. Paul Park (Builder)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Waseca County Courthouse is significant as the seat of county government and as the best representative of the role county government has played in the development of the city of Waseca. In 1857, when the county was first organized, the county seat was at Wilton, Minnesota.

Controversy over the location of the county seat developed after the decision of the Winona & St. Peter Railroad to chart its course four miles north of Wilton, through the hitherto non-existent town of Waseca. Discussion began as early as 1868 to remove the county seat from Wilton to Waseca. In 1870 Major W.C. Young, Waseca county's state representative, introduced two bills to the legislature: 1) to allow Waseca County to put the question of the removal of the county seat to a vote of county residents, and 2) to authorize the city of Waseca to raise bonds for the construction of a new courthouse to give the county if the county seat should be removed to that site. The bills were successful and the vote to remove the courthouse to Waseca was successful. Most of the records and furniture were transported the night of the election, opening for business in the newly constructed courthouse in Waseca the day after the election.

The present courthouse, built in 1897, is located on the north end of State Street, the main north/south commercial artery of Waseca. The scale and attention to design for courthouses of the period mark this building as a prominent local landmark.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Child, James E. Child's History of Waseca County, Whitney & Luers, Publ.,
 Owatonna, MN., 1905.
History of Steele & Waseca Counties, Minnesota, Union Publ. Co., Chicago, 1887.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre
 Quadrangle name Waseca Quad. Minn.-Waseca Co.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>10</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>8</u> <u>10</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>10</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet - page 1

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peggy Korsmo-Kennon, Director; Jan Brown, Curator

organization Waseca County Historical Society date May 1, 1982

street & number P.O. Box 314 telephone 507-835-7700

city or town Waseca state Minnesota 56093

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 State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/9/82

For NPS use only

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

Beth Crowson
 Keeper of the National Register

date 9/1/82

Attest: Dana McClelland
 Chief of Registration

date 8/25/82

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Waseca County Courthouse

Item number

10

Page

1

Legal Description

Beginning at a point of junction of the North Boundary line of Lake Avenue and the West Boundary line of Second Street, in the said Village of Waseca in Waseca County, Minnesota, and running thence Northerly on the West Boundary line of said Second Street, one hundred and thirty feet (130) thence Westerly parallel to Lake Avenue one hundred and sixty-seven (167) feet, thence Southerly parallel to Second Street one hundred thirty feet (130) thence Easterly along the North Boundary line of Lake Avenue to place of beginning, the same being on Section Eighteen in Township one hundred and seven, Range twenty two.