

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received APR - 6 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Norman County Courthouse

and/or common Norman County Courthouse

2. Location

street & number 3rd Avenue East and 1st Street East N/A not for publication

city, town Ada N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Norman code 107

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

4. Owner of Property

name Norman County Commissioners, Norman County Courthouse

street & number 3rd Avenue East and 1st Street East

city, town Ada N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Norman County Courthouse -- Registrar of Deeds

street & number 3rd Avenue East and 1st Street East

city, town Ada state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> </u> N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Norman County Courthouse is an imposing Romanesque structure situated on Ada's East Side. The red brick building features a tower at the center of a hipped roof and a slightly projecting entrance pavilion. The tower includes a pyramid roof with gabled clock dormers on each side, and an arcaded brick pattern and arched window openings on each of its side facades. The entrance pavilion is topped by a parapeted gable, below which is situated a name plate, a large arched window, a series of four smaller windows behind a colonade, and the entranceway itself, flanked by two shirt columns. Sections of foliated carved stone are utilized on the pavilion. The gabled dormers of the tower are repeated on each side of the four pyramid roofs at the corners of the building. A series paired relief archways are located just below the roofline. Second story windows include double hung sash with transoms; first story windows are paired and surmounted by arched transoms. The interior of the building has been somewhat remodeled but retains many original features. The site also includes a county building of recent construction. This building is not physically attached to the 1904 courthouse.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1904 ~~Builder~~ **Architect** Omeyer and Thori

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Norman County Courthouse is significant as the center of Norman County government since its construction and for the quality of its Romanesque design. The county, located in the heart of the Red River Valley area of Minnesota, was established in 1881, and the city of Ada was platted the same year by the St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Manitoba Railroad. A two story frame building was constructed for the county's use in 1883. Several attempts were made to re-locate the county seat to Twin Valley, which at that time occupied a more central location (the county also included present Mahnomon County until 1906). However, after a 1902 election favored keeping the county seat at Ada, plans were made for a new courthouse. The building was constructed on the same block as the 1883 building stood. Occupied in 1904, the imposing structure retains its original function and community prominence.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Cross, Marion E. Minnesota Courthouses. (Minneapolis?), Colonial Danes of America in the State of Minnesota, 1966.
- Johnson, Lenora I. Under Prairie Skies: The Centennial History of Ada, Minnesota, 1876-1976 (Ada?), (Privately published), 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Ada Quad., Minnesota-Norman Co.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A

1	4	6	8	8	0	4	0	5	2	4	1	1	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1,2,3,4 & 5. Lots 18, 19, 20, 21 & 22 of Block 17 original townsite, Ada, MN

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dennis Gimmetad, Assistant State Historic Preservation Officer

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date 16 February 1983

street & number Fort Snelling History Center

telephone 612-726-1171

city or town St. Paul,

state Minnesota

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
Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3/31/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 5/9/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 2 Page 1

REFERENCE NUMBER: 83000923

STATE: Minnesota

COUNTY: Norman

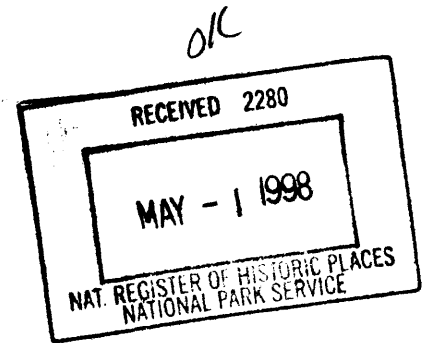
RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Norman County Courthouse

CITY/TOWNSHIP: Ada

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: 16 E. 3rd Ave.

COMMENTS: Address Correction



Ian R. Stewart
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

4/24/18
Date