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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### 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 Perkins County Courthouse  
other names/site number PR04-001

#### 2. Location

street & number Lincoln St bet 2nd & 3d Sts N/A not for publication  
city, town Grant N/A vicinity  
state Nebraska code NE county Perkins code 135 zip code 69140

#### 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>1</u>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____
		<u>1</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. [Signature] \_\_\_\_\_ May 14, 1990  
Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
Nebraska State Historical Society

#### 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 Poland 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 brick

roof asphalt

other stone

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

1926-40

Significant Dates

1926-27

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Reynolds, J.F.

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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

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Built in 1926-27, the Perkins County Courthouse is a fine 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.

A modest utility shed on the site was not counted as a resource. As one of the more elaborate courthouse designs, the building has a higher degree of tolerance for its principal alteration, windows filled with glass block. Significant original exterior elements and materials remain to a sufficient degree to recognize the architectural form of the building as a courthouse.

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The courthouse is rectangular and consists of three stories. The use of rusticated brick (set upon a small stone foundation) and a water table gives the appearance of a raised basement, but entrances are at grade. A prominent entry pavilion on the east facade identifies the principal entrance, but there is also access on the other three facades. The north entrance was intended to be a nonpublic entrance to the janitor's living quarters.

A series of imposing elements focus attention on the centered main entrance. These include pairs of fluted engaged columns, the broad cornice, a fine carved eagle at the parapet, and the deeply recessed entry. Two distinctive two-globe wall lights have small lion's heads and a torch shape executed in metal flanking the entry.

The moulded cornice continues around the other facades, a unifying feature along with the water table and brick parapet with panels. The three secondary facades continue the materials and elements of the primary facade but in a simplified manner and lacking entry pavilions.

Stone trim provides an alternate texture to contrast with the light tan face brick. The trim is used effectively to highlight narrow sills, water table and other courses, pilaster bases and capitals, and at the entry pavilion.

Two bays consisting of large window spaces on all floors flank the principal entrance, and the other facades have five bays. Paired or single pilasters separate the bays effectively. The floorplan is a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

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truncated X-shape on the ground floor, but is T-shaped on upper floors. Vault placement is variable.

The courthouse is a fine example of the County Citadel courthouse exhibiting Classical Revival stylistic elements. These include the symmetric arrangement, rusticated base, monumental engaged columns, and such classical elements as fluted Ionic columns and swags.

Windows have been filled in with glass block and two smaller windows, although the original shapes remain. An historic photograph at the Nebraska State Historical Society shows that the original windows consisted of a number of horizontal and vertical divisions. The fire escape on the secondary or south facade does not appear original, and glass and metal doors are replacements. Interior modifications include acoustical tile ceilings and some replacement lighting. An elevator has been added near the stairs to provide access to upper floors for the handicapped.

Notable interior elements include grey marble staircases and wainscoting, metal banisters in a geometric pattern, moulded plaster panels and cornices in hallways, and green metal counters in offices. The district courtroom retains a number of important original features, including attractive dark woodwork (bar, judge's bench), moulded pilasters set on high bases, and distinctive light fixtures.

The Perkins County Courthouse enjoys a full courthouse square one block from the principal commercial street of Grant. There are houses on three sides with open space (rodeo grounds) behind the site. The slightly sloping site is strewn with mature trees. Pedestrian walks extend from the building (which is centered on the site) to the corners on Lincoln Street, and there is also a central entry walk with a small bench. A small parking lot and a modest utility shed (not counted for this nomination) are located on the rear or west side of the building.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

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The Perkins 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 1926, when construction began, to 1940, when the "fifty year rule" takes effect. The Perkins 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.

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Perkins County is located in the southwest part of the state just south of the Platte River. Its western boundary is the state line between Colorado and Nebraska. The area was settled in the 1880s. During that decade the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad constructed a line through the county. The town of Grant was platted that same year, but not at the present location. When it was learned the rail line would miss Grant, the town site was moved to a trackside location, a reflection of the importance of rail connections.

Perkins County was established in 1887 and fittingly named for the president of the railroad. Communities competed for the county seat designation, and two elections were required to select Grant in 1888. A modest frame courthouse was built which served the county until 1901 when a former bank was acquired for courthouse purposes and used until 1927.

In May of 1926 the county contracted with J.F. Reynolds, an architect from Sioux City, Iowa, to design the courthouse, in anticipation of a successful bond election. The measure passed at the end of the month, and construction plans proceeded. Bonds, a tax levy, sale of old buildings, and general fund monies paid for the building. On August 2, 1926 the general contractor was selected, Cork and Ferrier from

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page   2  

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Manhattan, Kansas. At that time proposed stone pilasters for the secondary facades were replaced with less expensive brick. On September 1, 1927, the county commissioners formally accepted the \$126,000 courthouse.

**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:
- State historic preservation office
  - Other state agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 1 acre

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>4</u>	<u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	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**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page   1  

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Long, Barbara Beving. "County Courthouses of Nebraska." Multiple Property Submission. 1989.  
Nebraska State Historical Society. Photo Collection. #M281-1033.  
Tracings. Perkins County Courthouse. J.F. Reynolds.  
Perkins County. Commissioners Records. Book 2.  
Dedication Program. Perkins County Courthouse.  
"Perkins County." Diamond Jubilee Souvenir Album. 1962.  
Richter, Robert and Gauthier, Larry. Plainscape: A Portrait of Perkins County. N.P.: Perkins County Historical Society, 1987.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

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### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property, the Perkins County Courthouse, occupies all of block 32 of the Original Plat of Grant.

### Boundary Justification

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