

PH0670448

# DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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FEB 13 1976  
RECEIVED

JUN 3 1976

DATE ENTERED

## 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 **\*\***

Brown County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

### LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Aberdeen

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

South Dakota

VICINITY OF  
CODE

46

No. 1  
COUNTY

Brown

CODE

013

### CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

#### ACCESSIBLE

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

#### PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

### OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Brown County

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Aberdeen

VICINITY OF

STATE

South Dakota

### LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Aberdeen City Hall Assessor's Office

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Aberdeen

STATE

South Dakota

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

South Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE

May 1974

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Historical Preservation Center

CITY, TOWN

Vermillion

STATE

South Dakota

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Brown County Courthouse in Aberdeen, South Dakota is a Renaissance Revival Style building, which was constructed in 1904. The three story building is thirteen bays wide and made of cut Berea sandstone. Two giant Corinthian columns of Ortonville granite decorate the front (south) entrance, which is topped with a pediment. The frieze is ornamented, but the architrave is not. All of the second and third story windows are double sash with transoms. Third story windows on the corners and near the entrances ✓ are roundheaded with keystones in the Renaissance tradition. Second story windows have triangular pediments. All of the other windows on all floors have plain surrounds. The double front doors are enclosed in a two story roundheaded stained glass arch. Between the second and third stories of the arch is a balcony over the front entrance. A balustrade crowns the cornice while dentils appear beneath it. Quoins enhance the building on all corners.

Atop the building is a dome. Some of the dome's outstanding features are four clocks, one facing in each direction, and a copper statue of Justice, which rises above the entire building. Two different sizes of Roman Doric columns in sets of two support the dome.

In 1974, the sandstone steps leading up to the second story front entrance were removed to enable easier access to the building through the first floor. The front doors now consist of modern plate glass. Extensive remodeling was done on the interior in the summer of 1974.

The courthouse was formerly the sole occupant of the block; however, recent years have called for greater office space. To meet this need, a modern extension was made to the southwest of the 1904 building. A new jail now sits in the southeast corner. The old courthouse is in excellent condition and towers above her recent intruders.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1904

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, the Brown County Courthouse is a fine example of a small Midwestern county's impression of the Renaissance Revival style. It is typical of the size, materials and style of architecture seen in many South Dakota county buildings erected between the turn of the century and the 1930's.

The Berea sandstone used on the walls was quarried near Cleveland, Ohio. The giant Corinthian columns of Ortonville granite are twenty feet high and twenty-eight inches in diameter at the base. These columns were said to be the largest single-piece columns west of Chicago when they were placed on the Brown County Courthouse. The builders were interested in obtaining materials that would set the courthouse apart from other structures in the area. They succeeded in erecting a prominent public building, for three years later the state capitol in Pierre used the same style of architecture and building materials in its construction.

Alterations have been made on the front entrance of the courthouse, and modern additions have been affixed to the east and west. It is hoped that future alterations and buildings constructed in the vicinity will be made without doing further damage to one of Aberdeen's landmarks.

Since its construction in 1904, this Renaissance style building has been the center of government for Brown County. The courthouse is in excellent condition and surely will continue to serve the purpose for which it was built.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A South Dakota Guide. Pierre: State Publishing Company, 1938.

Schell, Herbert S. History of South Dakota. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1968.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than an acre

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1,4 | 54,0 | 1,7,0 | 5,0 | 3,4 | 4,7,0 |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | | | | | | | | | | |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | | | | | | | | |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D | | | | | | | | | | | |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Edith M. French, Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Historical Preservation Center

DATE

March, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

USD Alumni House

TELEPHONE

605-677-5315

CITY OR TOWN

Vermillion

STATE

South Dakota

# 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*[Handwritten Signature]*

TITLE

Cult Pres Div. / SHPO

DATE

Feb 9, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Active*

DATE

6/3/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTES*Active*

DATE

6.7.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

RBR for WJM 6-2-76