

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 6 1976

DATE ENTERED APR 18 1977

**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

** Cottonwood County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Cottonwood County Courthouse

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

10th St

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Windom

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

27

COUNTY

Cottonwood

CODE

033

3 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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Cottonwood County

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Windom

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cottonwood County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Windom

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society, Building 25, Fort Snelling

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Constructed by Jacob B. Nelsen of Mankato in 1904 according to designs by Saint Paul architects O-Meyer and Thori, the Cottonwood County Courthouse exemplifies an integration of elements from the Neo-Classic and Renaissance Revival modes. These styles replaced the Richardsonian Romanesque in application to public building design in Minnesota during the first decade of the twentieth century. The Cottonwood County building is situated on the center of the public square in Windom, Minnesota. Principal facades on east and west are embellished by monumental Corinthian porticoes. The center of the essentially rectangular mass is crowned by a domed tower; a statue of Justice surmounts the tower. Corners are defined by low domed pavilions. All facades are symmetrical.

The courthouse is two storeys in height and is set upon a high basement. Sandstone of a deep red hue is used in the construction of the rusticated basement, first floor window arches and sills, east and west porticoes, pilaster capitals and ball-type finials on the parapets. A buff-colored brick with pigmented mortar joints is used for the facing of the two principal floors and parapets. Domes are sheathed with metal.

The dominant feature of the interior is a central domed atrium which rises through the two upper storeys and off of which circulation is provided to offices and chambers. The plan of the dome itself is square with corners beveled to create the impression of an octagon. The interior face of the dome is divided into four tympani each bearing individual allegorical subjects; i.e. "government", "justice", "freedom of the press", and "freedom of religion". The short legs of the octagon bear emblems relating to history, art, government, and science. These are the work of the artist L.A. Thiel. The entire interior decoration was undertaken under the supervision of Odin J. Oyen of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, who personally executed the gold-leaf embellished mural of "Justice" above the bench in the second floor courtroom. This mural is patterned after the painting "Justice" in the Palace of Justice in Paris. The paintings throughout the courthouse have been restored and are presently in excellent condition, as is the entire building.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1904

BUILDER/ARCHITECT O'Meyer & Thori of St. Paul

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Builder: J.B. Nelson

Since its construction in 1904 the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom has served as the seat of county government. It is executed in the Neo-Classic mode of architectural design. The influence of such is evident in the design and construction of many turn of the century public buildings. Similarly, the treatment of the interior spaces with architectural and artistic features represents a carry-through the Neo-Classicism from exterior to interior. The dome and courtroom are embellished with painted murals depicting allorigical and classical themes; these works are the products of regional artists and craftsmen.

The Cottonwood County Courthouse has recently undergone preservation/restoration work. It is significant as a local landmark and future plans ensure its continued use.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cross, Marion E., Minnesota Courthouse. (Minneapolis?), Colonial Dames of Am. in Minn. 1966.

Lewis, Lucille, Cottonwood County Courthouse, 1976.

"Windom pioneer built enduring 'monuments', "Worthington Minnesota Daily Globe, 9 March 1974, p. 9

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 329900 4858960
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charles W. Nelson, Architectural Historian and Susan Zeik, Research Associate

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

10/26/76

STREET & NUMBER

Building 25, Fort Snelling

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 X

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 11/29/76

TITLE Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

CHIEF

Jan P. ...

DATE

4/18/89

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles ...

DATE

3.18.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property Cottonwood County Courthouse

Cottonwood
77000728

State Miss.

Working Number 12.6.76.4675

TECHNICAL

Photos 6
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK pl
12.9.76

HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
Livengood
13D 76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

accept
Lebowich
3.17.77

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
3-18-77

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Hurry
for Muntogh
3.18.77

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 6-7-77

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered APR 18 1977

INT:2106-74

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 2 Page 1

REFERENCE NUMBER: 77000728

STATE: Minnesota

COUNTY: Cottonwood

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Cottonwood County Courthouse

CITY/TOWNSHIP: Windom

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: 900 3rd Ave.

COMMENTS: Address Correction





Ian R. Stewart
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

4/24/98
Date



Photo 1 of 6

Cottonwood County Courthouse
Windom, Minnesota
Minnesota Historical Society
ca. 1925
Minnesota Historical Society, 690
Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minn.
Southwest, West (portico) and
south side
22204

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

22204

DEC 6 1976

DOE APR 18 1977

FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THIS PHOTOGRAPH IS FOR REFERENCE USE
ONLY. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED OR
SOLD WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION.



Cottonwood County Courthouse

Windom, Minnesota

Charles W. Nelson

1976

Minnesota Historical Society, 690

Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minn.

Perspective view showing East (entry)

and North sides

11A/01652

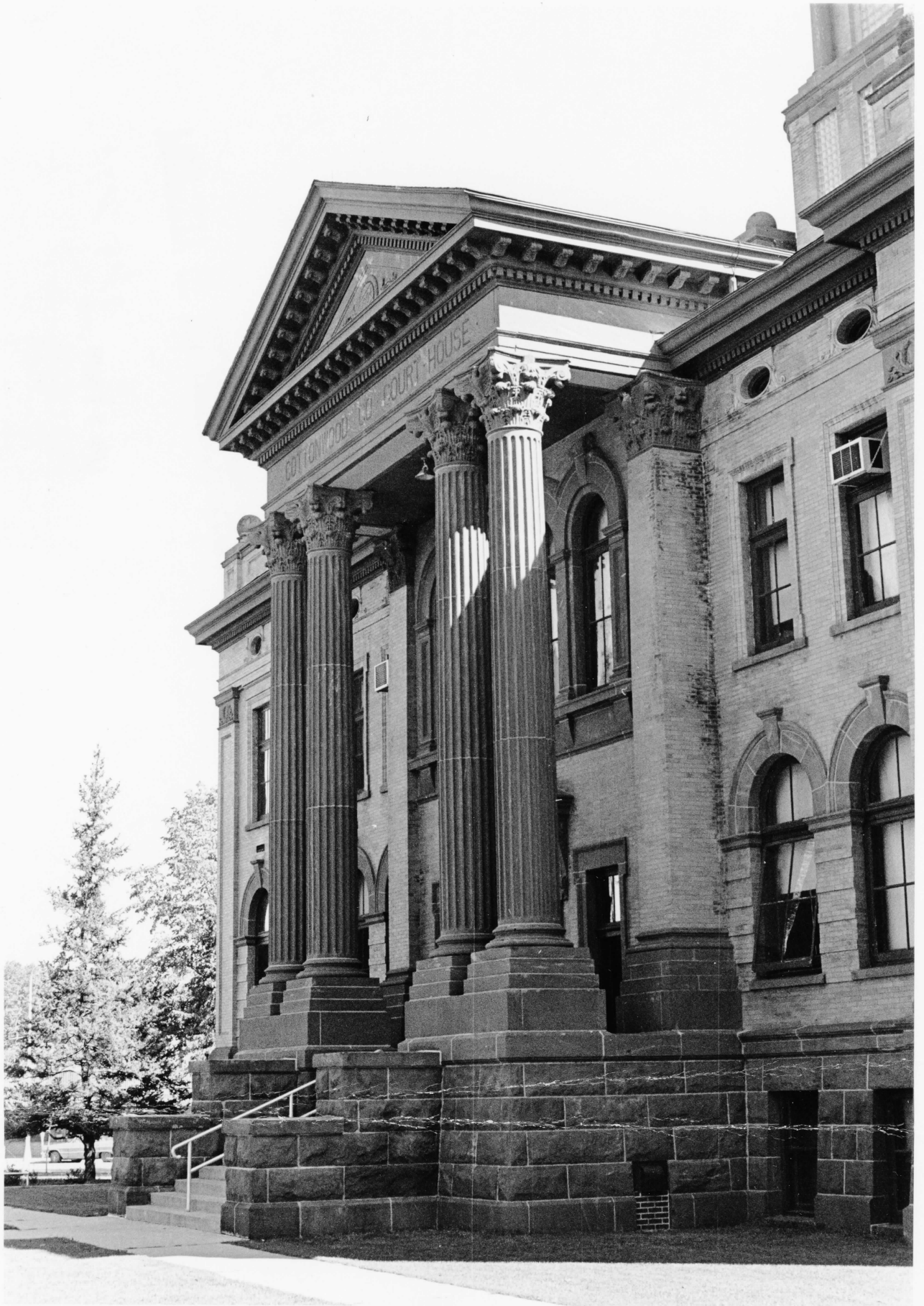
DOE

APR 18 1977

Photo 2 of 6

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

01652
11a



Cottonwood County Courthouse
Windom, Minnesota
Charles W. Nelson
1976
Minnesota Historical Society, 690
Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minn.
Detail of West portico
4/01653

DEC 6 1976

DOE APR 18 1977

Photo 3 of 6

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

01653
4



Cottonwood County Courthouse
Windom, Minnesota
Charles W. Nelson
1976

Minnesota Historical Society, 690
Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minn.

Interior: Mural over bench in
second floor courtroom

19A/01652

DOE APR 18 1977

Photo 4 of 6

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

01652
19a



Cottonwood County Courthouse
Windom, Minnesota
Charles W. Nelson
1976

DEC 6 1976

Minnesota Historical Society, 690
Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minn.
Interior detail of mural in dome
("Government")
17A/01652

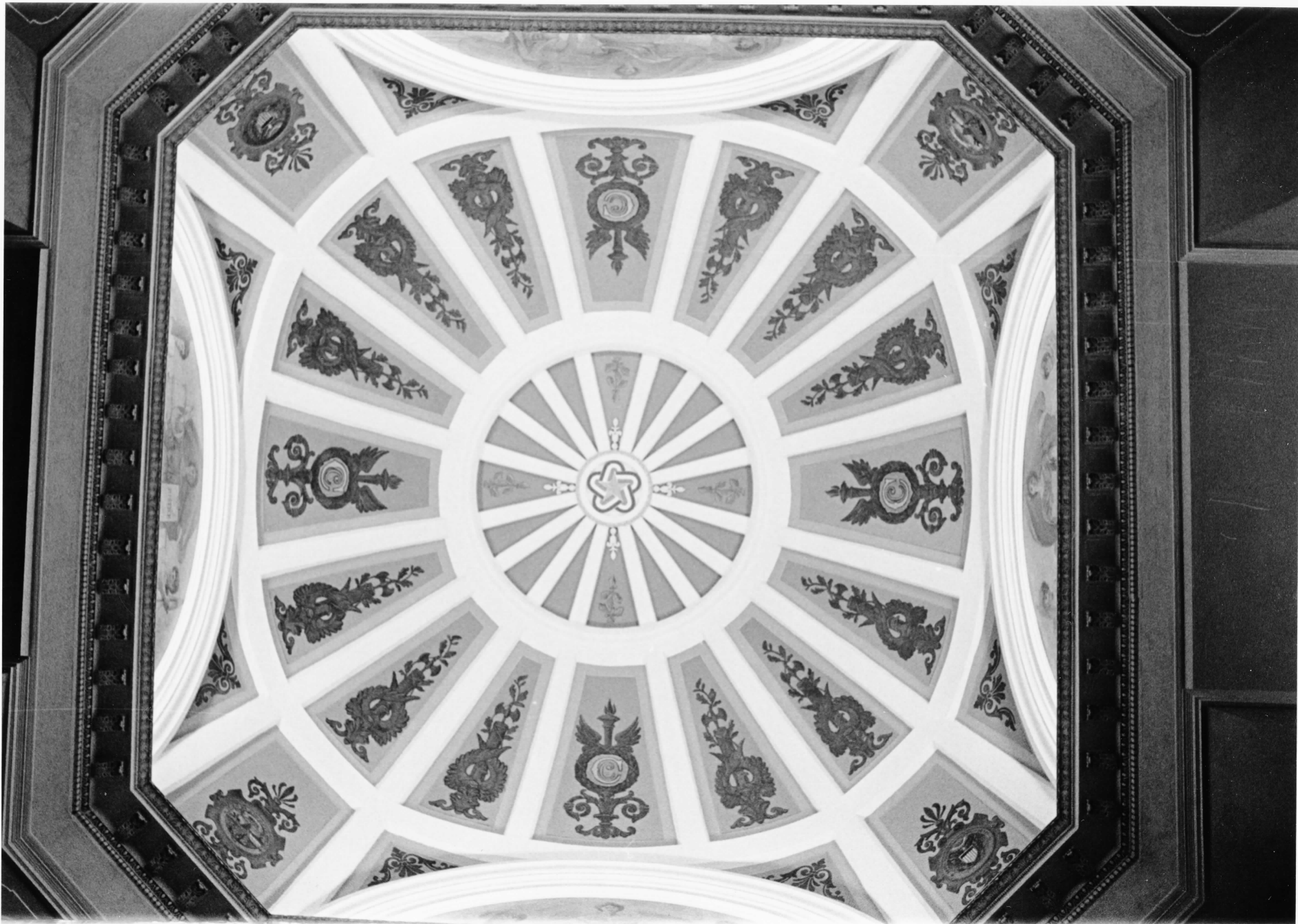
APR 18 1977

DOE

Photo 5 of 6

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

01652
17a



Cottonwood County Courthouse

Windom, Minnesota

Charles W. Nelson

1976

Minnesota Historical Society, 690

Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minn.

Interior: General view of dome

13A/01652

DEC 6 1976

DOE APR 18 1977

Photo 6 of 6

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*01652
13A*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 6 1976
DATE ENTERED APR 18 1977

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Cottonwood County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Cottonwood County Courthouse

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Windom

___VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Cottonwood

STATE

Minnesota

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

USGS, Windom Quadrangle, Minnesota

SCALE

7.5

DATE

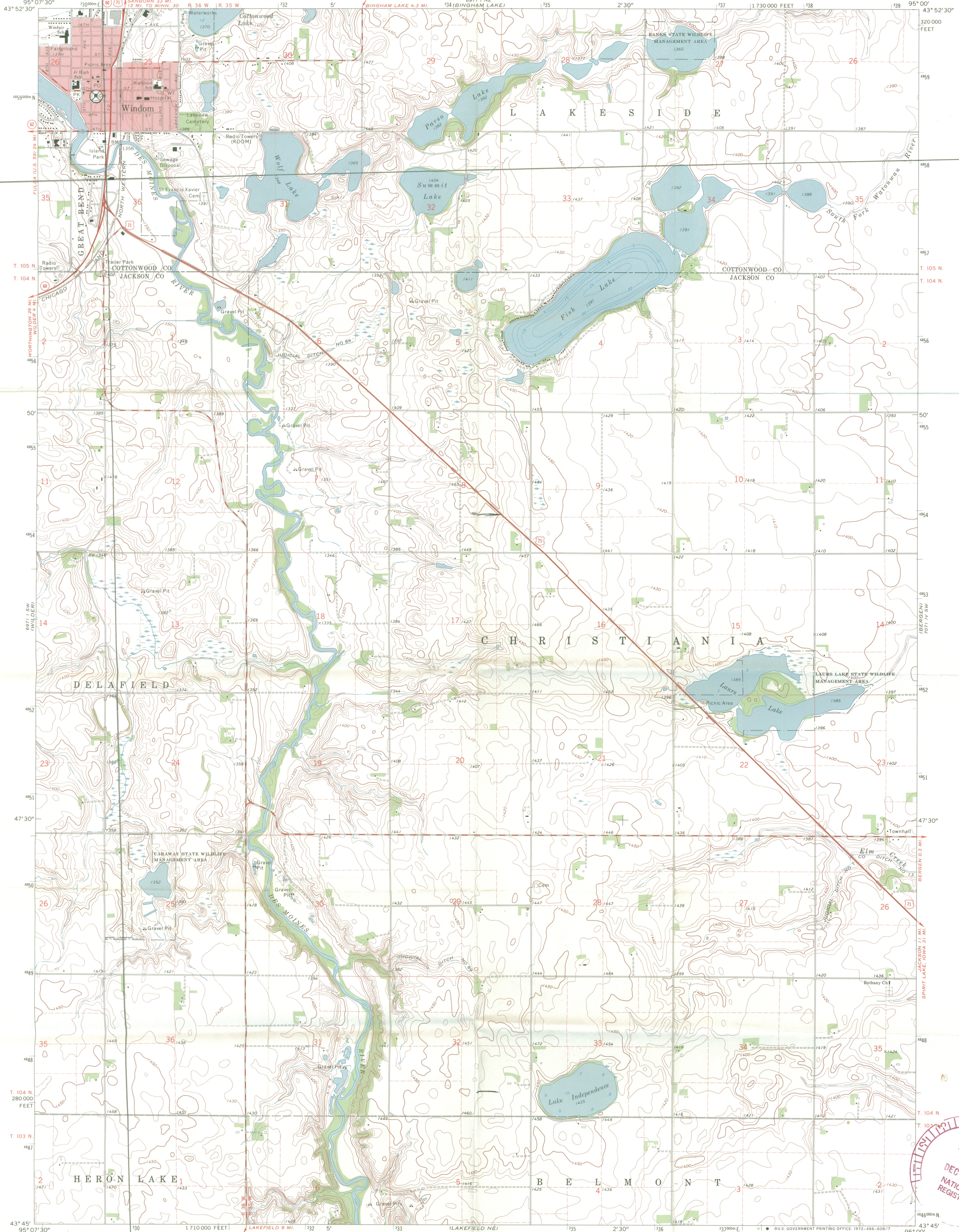
1970

4 REQUIREMENTS

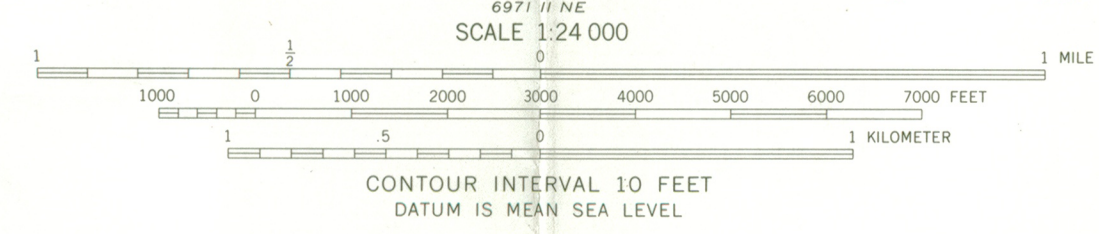
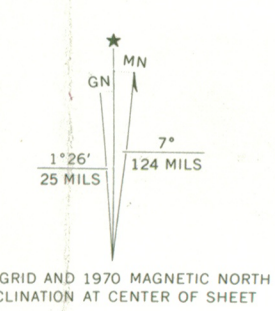
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

Cottonwood County Courthouse
Windom, Minnesota
Easting 15/4858960
Northing 15/4858960



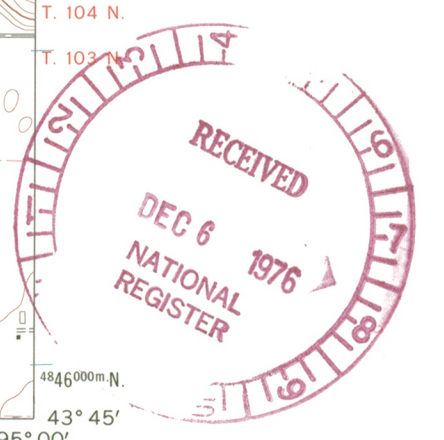
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1970
Depth curves and soundings compiled from charts furnished by
Minnesota Department of Conservation
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Minnesota coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

U. S. Route (red line with shield)
State Route (black line with circle)



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

WINDOM, MINN.
N4345-W9500/7.5
1970

AMS 6971 I SE-SERIES V872

w 9 d

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MINNESOTA**

Date Entered **APR 18 1977**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Rock County Courthouse and Jail	Luverne Rock County
Lohmar, John, House	Minneapolis Hennepin County
Wyer-Pearce House	Excelsior Hennepin County
Cottonwood County Courthouse	Windom Cottonwood County

Also Notified

Hon. Wendell R. Anderson
Hon. Hubert H. Humphrey
Hon. Richard M. Nolan
Hon. Bill Frenzel
Hon. Thomas M. Hagedorn

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Russell W. Fridley
Director, Minnesota Historical Society
690 Cedar Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Regional Director, Mid West Region

880 Mott 4/21/77

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: *Nso-Classical*

architect/m.builder: *O'Meyers Thorl*

~~engineer:~~ *Adin J. Oyer*

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan: *L. A. Thiel*

interior decorator:

builder/contractor: *J. B. Nelson*

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role & appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): *1904*

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

BRICK, 2 STORY, RECTANGULAR, corner pavilions with pilasters and domes, portico, central dome with statue

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

This has been the seat of government in the county for more than a half century. The building's design still reflects its function.

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 13076
 Reviewer INITIALS: *[Signature]*
 NR DOE APR 18 1977

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Cottonwood County Courthouse

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER 10th St.

CITY/TOWN Windom

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6th

STATE Minnesota 27

VICINITY OF

COUNTY code
 Cottonwood 033

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N.ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST
 SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

<u>INTERIOR</u>	<u>EXTERIOR</u>	<u>ENVIRONS</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substantially intact-1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substantially intact-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Substantially intact-3
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown - 4	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown - 5	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown - 6
<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable - 7	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable - 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable - 9

Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
	<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
	<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	<input type="checkbox"/> Reconstructed	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
		<input type="checkbox"/> Unexcavated	<input type="checkbox"/> Excavated	

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
 IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
 IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- COURTHOUSE

now- same

SIGNIFICANCE:

- | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW/Gov't/politics | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | <input type="checkbox"/> health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | <input type="checkbox"/> settlement |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | <input type="checkbox"/> socio/cultural |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | | <input type="checkbox"/> urban & commun |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | | <input type="checkbox"/> planning |

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO