

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 20 1976

DATE ENTERED APR 11 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
** Faribault County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON
Faribault County Courthouse

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
North Main Street at Second Street

CITY, TOWN
Blue Earth

STATE
Minnesota

VICINITY OF
Second

CODE
27

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Second

COUNTY
Faribault

CODE
043

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
☐ DISTRICT	☒ PUBLIC	☒ OCCUPIED	☐ AGRICULTURE
☒ BUILDING(S)	☐ PRIVATE	☐ UNOCCUPIED	☐ MUSEUM
☐ STRUCTURE	☐ BOTH	☐ WORK IN PROGRESS	☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ SITE	☐ PUBLIC ACQUISITION	☐ ACCESSIBLE	☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ OBJECT	☐ IN PROCESS	☐ YES: RESTRICTED	☐ ENTERTAINMENT
	☐ BEING CONSIDERED	☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED	☒ GOVERNMENT
		☐ NO	☐ INDUSTRIAL
			☐ MILITARY
			☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Faribault County

STREET & NUMBER
North Main Street at Second Street

CITY, TOWN
Blue Earth

STATE
Minnesota

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Faribault County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
North Main Street at Second Street

CITY, TOWN
Blue Earth

STATE
Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE
1972

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Minnesota Historical Society, Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN
Saint Paul

STATE
Minnesota

FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL ☐

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Faribault County Courthouse is situated on a one-block site at the fringe of the central business district of Blue Earth. The building is surrounded by a prolific growth of trees and other vegetation which tends to obscure total visibility of any facade. An addition has been made to the rear of the building to provide additional office space and security facilities, although no structural changes have been made to the original building. A one-storey hallway butted to the original building provides the linkage of the two structures; both original and addition are constructed of similar red brick.

The Courthouse is a three storey brick and Kasota stone structure on a high basement; the basement is totally faced in Kasota. The most prominent feature is a six-storey corner tower with gabled roof. The juxtaposition of rusticated stone and brick on exterior walls, window sills and lintels, and Syrian-arched entries further exemplify the Richardsonian Romanesque design.

In addition to the massive corner tower, several semi-circular bays and secondary towers provide variety to the asymmetry of the facade and interior room arrangement. The primary entry is incorporated within a three storey central gabled bay. The first level of this bay comprises two Syrian arches with rusticated vouissours which spring from a central polished granite column, with foliated carved capital. Noteworthy is the carved satyr head directly between the two arches. The second level is devoted to a three bay loggia with central wrought iron balustrade, polished granite columns with foliated capitals; the whole is surmounted by a massive stone lintel above which are four semi-circular lunettes. The third level is incorporated within a gable. Similar use of materials is noted in the tower.

Few changes have been made to the building both on the exterior and the interior. Over the years, caps of several small towers, chimneys, and a central cupola have been removed due to deterioration and storm damage. The cupola was removed in 1960 due to an extreme degree of deterioration; a flat deck now marks its position. The roof has retained original red tile covering and is in good condition.

The interior of the original building retains golden oak woodwork throughout in an excellent state of preservation. Offices on the first floor open onto a central hallway which runs through the building; doors to the offices bear titles (such as "AUDITOR") etched in glass and stained glass transoms. Much of the office furniture and furnishings of the courtroom is also of golden oak with carved panels. A rear tower houses a spiral staircase with intricate oak balustrade. Another tower is devoted to records/vault space; the windows in these spaces are provided with heavy iron plate shutters on the interior.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

☐ PREHISTORIC
☐ 1400-1499
☐ 1500-1599
☐ 1600-1699
☐ 1700-1799
☒ 1800-1899
☐ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
☐ AGRICULTURE
☒ ARCHITECTURE
☐ ART
☐ COMMERCE
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING
☐ CONSERVATION
☐ ECONOMICS
☐ EDUCATION
☐ ENGINEERING
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
☐ INDUSTRY
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
☐ LAW
☐ LITERATURE
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSIC
☐ PHILOSOPHY
☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION
☐ SCIENCE
☐ SCULPTURE
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ THEATER
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1891-92

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Builder: S.J. Hoban
 Architect: C.S. Dunham

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed at a cost of \$52,120.00 in 1891-92 by S.J. Hoban according to designs by architect C.S. Dunham, the Faribault County Courthouse is an excellent example of the Richardsonian Romanesque influence on design of late nineteenth century public buildings. With the exception of the few modifications described in section 7, the building has retained original design integrity and is well maintained and preserved. Restoration of the main tower (re-pointing, etc.) is scheduled for the near future.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cross, Marion E., Minnesota Courthouses, Colonial Dames of America in Minnesota, 1966.

Kiester, Jacob A. The History of Faribault County, Minneapolis: Harrison & Smith, 1896.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,5 4,1,1 0,4,0 4,8 3,2 5,3,0
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
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

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

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

26 August 1976

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

LOCAL X

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

TITLE Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

10/1/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

CHIEF

DATE

4/1/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

3.18.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property Faribault County Courthouse

State Minn.

Working Number

10.20.76.4335

77000 731

TECHNICAL

Photos 6+1
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK KP
10.20.76

HISTORIAN

Accept
E. Smith
11-10-76

Significant for architecture only.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept Holt
12.23.76 Lebowich
H.29.76

As indicated in photo #2, new building attached by
one story wing to rear of old building.

I see no problem with accepting only
original courthouse.

Should have photo + date
of addition

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
2/21/77

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Turned
for duplicate
3.18.77

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered APR 11 1977

Federal Register Entry 5-3-77

Re-submit _____

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: 77000731

STATE: Minnesota

COUNTY: Faribault

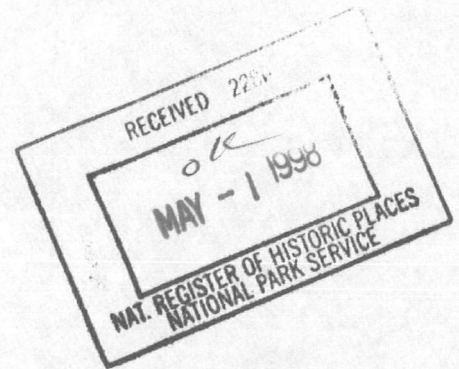
RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Faribault County Courthouse

CITY/TOWNSHIP: Blue Earth

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: 415 N. Main St.

COMMENTS: Address Correction



Ian R. Stewart
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

4/24/98
Date



FARIBAULT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Blue Earth, Minnesota

Charles W. Nelson

1976

DEC 22 1976

Minnesota Historical Society

690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minn.

Rear view showing addition

01632/15

DEC APR 11 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Photo 1 of 7

01632
15

FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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ONLY. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED OR
SOLD WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION.



FARIBAUT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Blue Earth, Minn.
Charles W. Nelson
Minnesota Historical Society
690 Cedar St. St. Paul, Minn.
1976
Interior: Second floor courtroom
10/01632

OCT 20 1976

DOE APR 11 1977

Photo 2 of 7

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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FARIBAULT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Blue Earth, Minn.

Charles W. Nelson

Minnesota Historical Society

690 Cedar St. St. Paul, Minn.

1976

Interior; detail of spiral
staircase.

11/01632

OCT 20 1976

DOE APR 11 1977

Photo 3 of 7

01632

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FARIBAULT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Blue Earth, Minn.
unknown

Minnesota Historical Society
690 Cedar St. St. Paul, Minn.
ca; 1900
south and east (front) sides
13/01632

OCT 20 1976

DOE APR 11 1977

Photo 4 of 7

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

01632
13

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Photo 5 of 7

01632
8

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FARIBAULT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Blue Earth, Minn.

Charles W. Nelson

OCT 20 1976

Minnesota Historical Society

690 Cedar St. St. Paul, Minn.

Detail of sculpture at east

(main) entry

8/01632

DOE APR 11 1977



FARIBAULT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Blue Earth, Minn.
Charles W. Nelson
Minnesota Historical Society
690 Cedar St. St. Paul, Minn.

1976

North and east (front) sides

2/01632

OCT 20 1976

DOE APR 11 1977

Photo 6 of 7

01632

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Photo 7 of 7

01632
6

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PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FARIBAULT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Blue Earth, Minn.

Charles W. Nelson

OCT 20 1976

Minnesota Historical Society

690 Cedar St. St. Paul, Minn.

1976

Southeast corner (principal tower)

6/01632

DOE APR 11 1977

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 20 1976

DATE ENTERED APR 11 1977

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Faribault County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Faribault County Courthouse

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Blue Earth

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Faribault

STATE

Minnesota

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

USGS Blue Earth Quadrangle, Minnesota-Faribault Co., 7.5 Minute Series

SCALE

1:24000

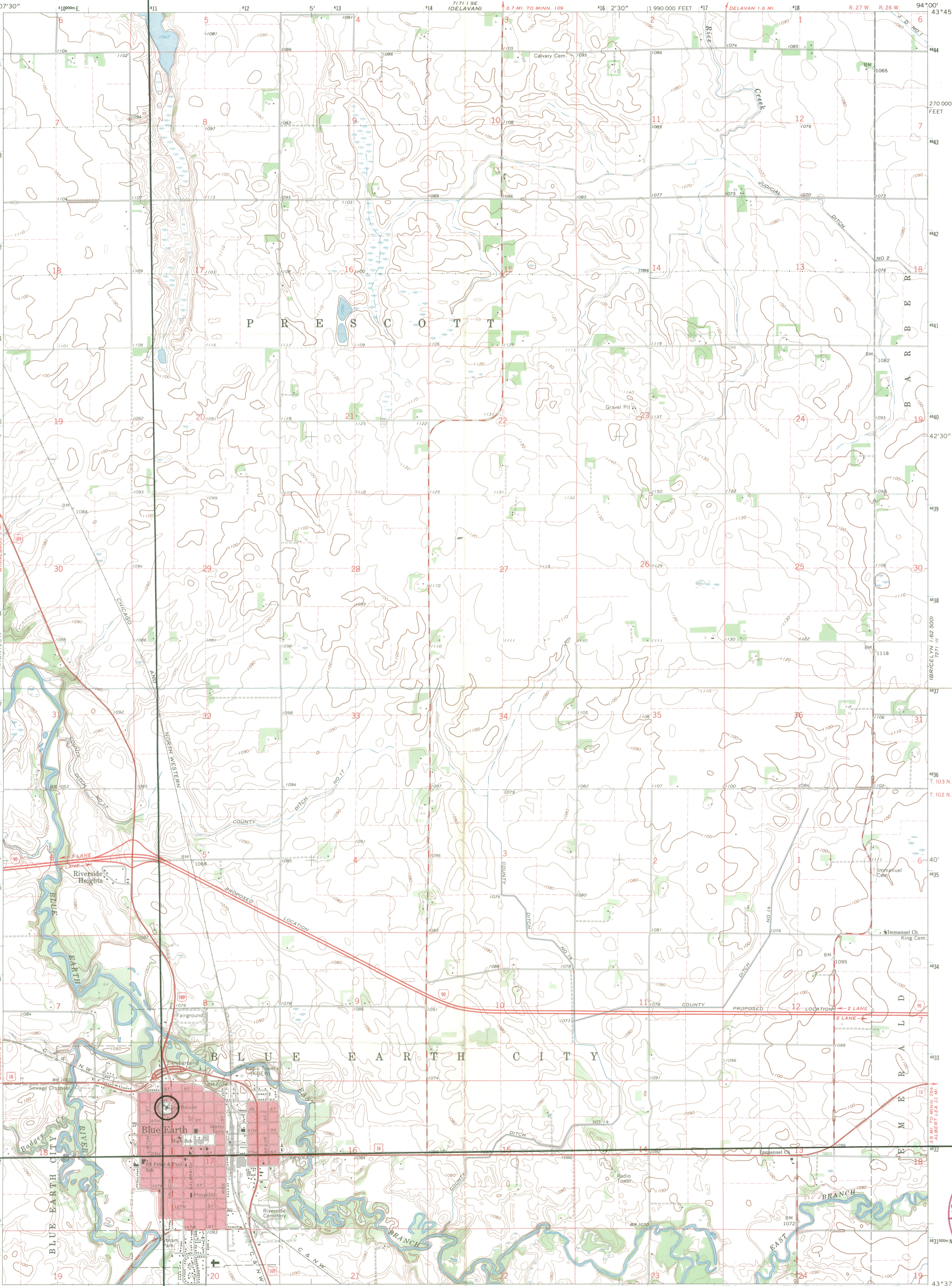
DATE 1967

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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

Faribault County Courthouse
Blue Earth, Minnesota
15/4832530 Northing
15/411040 Easting

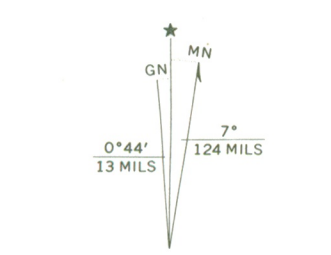


Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1967

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 areas 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



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

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

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route ——— U.S. Route ———



BLUE EARTH, MINN.
N4337.5—W9400/7.5

1967

AMS 7171 II NE—SERIES V872



Photo Rec'd

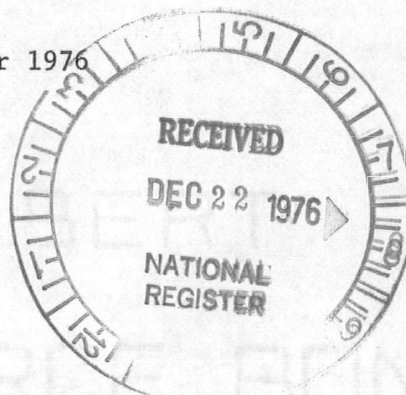


MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fort Snelling Branch (Building 25), Fort Snelling, St. Paul, Minnesota 55111 • 612-726-1171

10 December 1976

Mr. William L. Lebovich
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Mr. Lebovich:

Enclosed please find the photograph you requested of the Faribault
County Courthouse, Blue Earth, Minnesota, Faribault County.

Respectfully,

Charles W. Nelson
Architectural Historian

CWN/fr
Encl.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MINNESOTA

Date Entered APR 11 1977

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Faribault County Courthouse	Blue Earth Faribault County
Akerlund, August, Photographic Studio	Cokato Wright County
Kanabec County Courthouse	Mora Kanabec County

Also Notified

Hon. Wendell R. Anderson	State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. Hubert H. Humphrey	Mr. Russell W. Fridley
Hon. Thomas M. Hagedorn	Director, Minnesota Historical Society
Hon. Richard M. Nolan	690 Cedar Street
Hon. James L. Oberstar	St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
Regional Director, Midwest Region	

NR Data Sheet

DATE:
Reviewer INITIALS:

NR

DOE

APR 11 1977

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Faribault County Courthouse

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER N. Main and 2nd Sts.

CITY/TOWN Blue Earth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2nd

STATE Minnesota

VICINITY OF
27

COUNTY code
Faribault 043

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>
☐ Substantially intact-1	☐ Substantially intact-2	☐ Substantially intact-3
☐ unknown - 4	☐ unknown - 5	☐ unknown - 6
☐ not applicable - 7	☐ not applicable - 8	☐ Not applicable-9

☐ Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -	☐ EXCELLENT	☐ DETERIORATED	☐ UNALTERED	☐ ORIGINAL SITE
	☐ GOOD	☐ RUINS	☐ ALTERED	☐ MOVED
	☐ FAIR	☐ UNEXPOSED	☐ Reconstructed	☐ Unknown
		☐ Unexcavated	☐ 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-

now-

SIGNIFICANCE:

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

Claims

"first" YES NO

"oldest" YES NO

"only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Richardsonian Romanesque

architect/m.builder: C.S. DUNHAM

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor: S.J. Hoban

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role

&

appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1891-1892

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)

~ 1

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

POSTICATED STONE FOUNDATION AND SILLS, BRICK, RECTANGULAR, CORNER TOWERS,
DOUBLE ARCHED ENTRANCE BENEATH LOGGIA AND GABLE WITH PALLADIAN
WINDOW

1960-1970 is addition in rear

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

The Fairbault County Courthouse is an excellent example of the
Richardsonian Romanesque influence on design of late 19th C public
buildings.