

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Nebraska	
COUNTY: Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Jefferson County Court House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court House

CITY OR TOWN:
Fairbury

STATE Nebraska	CODE 31	COUNTY: Jefferson	CODE 095
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Jefferson County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Nebraska

CITY OR TOWN:
Fairbury

STATE: Nebraska	CODE 31
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Jefferson County Court House - County Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court House

CITY OR TOWN:
Fairbury

STATE: Nebraska	CODE 31
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic Preservation in Nebraska

DATE OF SURVEY:
October 1970 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Nebraska State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
1500 "R" Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Lincoln

STATE: Nebraska	CODE 31
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Nebraska	COUNTY: Jefferson	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jefferson County Court House built 1890-1892 is one of Nebraska's most exemplary court house structures, in the classical Romanesque mode of architecture. The building is complete with 114 foot, four faced clock tower - cupola, and four statues, one over each of the axial entrances, in a classical character.

The building is constructed of rusticated limestone with cornice and window detailing in smooth faced stone. It stands two full stories with the basement projecting up a full window height. This projection forms the base of the classic combination of base, shaft, and capitol. The low corner reliefs are capped by ornate roof structures with pseudo-dormers. This exaggerated detailing along with the cupola gives a victorian air to the otherwise classic Romanesque features.

The integrity of the courthouse has survived unaltered to the extent of the interior furnishings remaining in their original order. The only noticeable deterioration in the exterior is minor damage to three of the statues atop the structure.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fairbury was established as Jefferson County Seat in 1871 and the town was incorporated in January, 1872. It was soon realized that to conduct governmental duties properly a courthouse building was needed. A small two story brick building was erected in 1873 to serve as a temporary courthouse until a more permanent structure could be financed and built.

Need for a new county courthouse became evident by 1880 as the temporary structure was becoming too small to accommodate county business and it was found to have no room to store records properly. While financial and contractual arrangements were being made the county offices were moved into the top two floors of the "Opera House" which had just been built in November of 1882.

Again the Jefferson county's administration had outgrown its rented office by 1885. Proposals for a new court house were undertaken in 1887 and in 1889 the issue was voted upon and bonds were drawn up and sold in the amount of \$60,000.

In August, 1890 plans submitted by J. C. Holland, a Topeka, Kansas Architect, were adopted, and construction of the new court house was completed in 1892.

The Jefferson County Court House is representative of that period when architects were very frivolous and fickle in their searches for eclectic solutions in architecture. This in turn shows very evidently in the conglomerations of styles, textures, materials, and forms which became united in many of the buildings of this era we call the victorian period, 1880 - early 1900's. The court house of this period many times gave the architect the chance to practice these eclectic borrowing techniques to their fullest. This all was done in lue of the grandiose effect, which it was assured of achieving. These early court houses also played on public pride and were built partially as a projection of the prosperity of these newly formed county seats. Many times the selection of the county seat involved serious feuds between the towns aspiring toward the same end.

This public building is significant because it is one of few which has remained unaltered and yet functional through its many years of use. Its distinct architectural character gives it a prominent position in an architectural review of Nebraska court houses.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

MA Thesis by Stanford, Fred Hall for the University of Nebraska.
Files, Nebraska State Historical Society.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		97° 10' 49"	40° 08' 08"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Persijs Kolberg, Curator of Historic Sites

ORGANIZATION: Nebraska State Historical Society DATE: April 11, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 1500 "R" Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Martin E. Knitt

Title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

Date _____

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Photo by Joni Gilkerson, NSHS, Feb 1987 (8702/15:10)

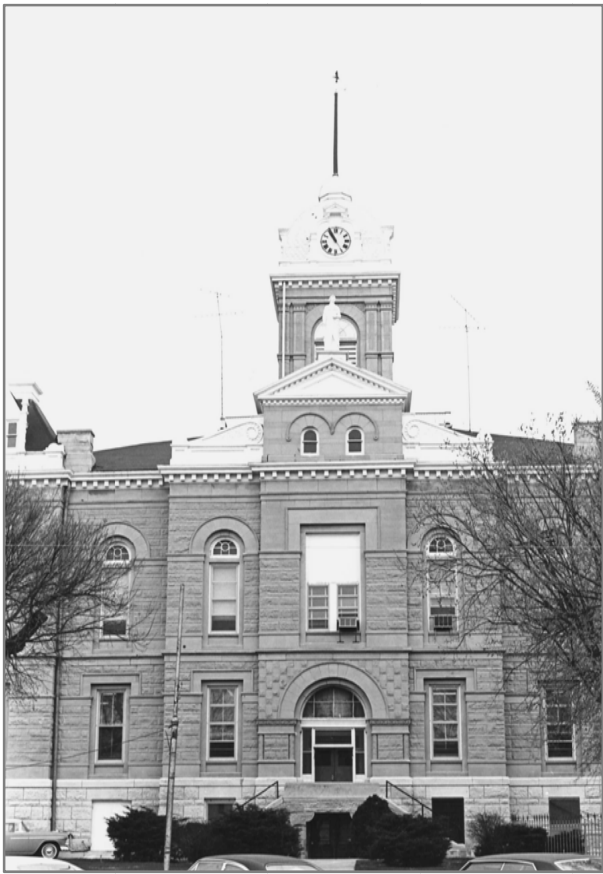


Photo by Jim Potter, NSHS, April 1972 (H673.5-457)

Photo by Jim Potter, NSHS, April 1972 (H673.5-454)



Photo by Jim Potter, NSHS, April 1972 (H673.5-453)

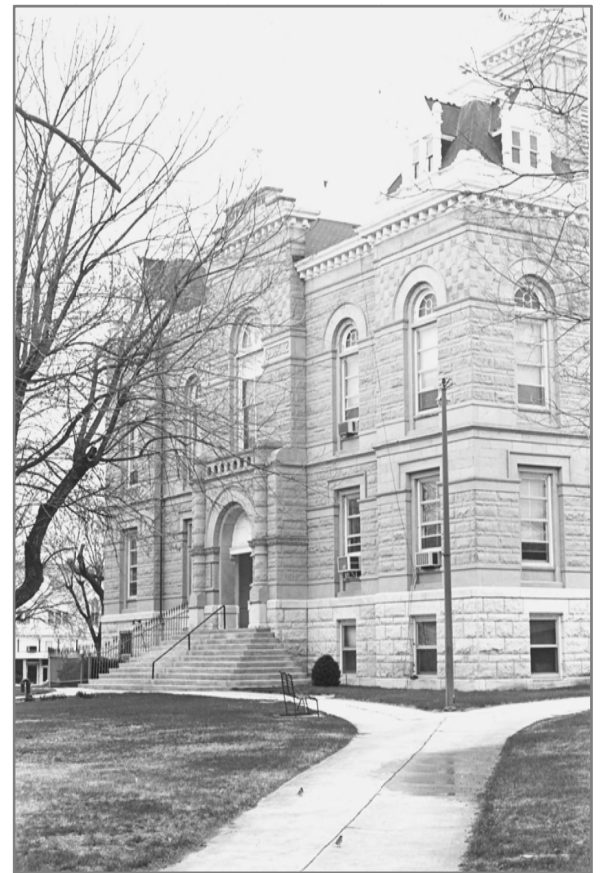


Photo by Jim Potter, NSHS, April 1972 (H673.5-456)