

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: REMOVAL

PROPERTY NAME: Merrick County Courthouse

MULTIPLE NAME: County Courthouses of Nebraska MPS

STATE & COUNTY: NEBRASKA, Merrick

DATE RECEIVED: 11/15/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/01/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89002211

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 1/2/2014 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Remove from NR
Large, new addition mimicking the original Design,
Combined with older, unsympathetic changes diminish
integrity severely
Remove

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER [Signature] _____

DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 1/2/2014 _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October 28, 2013

Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service – National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Keeper:

In September 2000, the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO) presented the *Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office Guidelines for Removing Properties from the National Register of Historic Places* to the Nebraska Historic Preservation Board. The Board subsequently adopted these guidelines.

The Merrick County Courthouse (MK02-003), a National Register listed property located in Merrick County, Nebraska, underwent renovations in 2006. The renovation of the property has been negotiated through the Section 106 process, and it has been confirmed that the alterations and additions to the courthouse are not in accordance with commonly accepted preservation standards of the National Park Service. The qualities that caused this property to be listed in the National Register have been destroyed. As documented in 36 CFR 60.15 (a) (1), loss of integrity supplies grounds for removing properties from the National Register.

Merrick County Courthouse (MK02-003)

Built in 1911-1912, the Merrick County Courthouse was a good, largely unaltered example of the Property Type, County Citadel. Identifying features include the rectangular shape, centered entrance, costly materials, distinctive ornamentation, Classical Revival stylistic influence, fireproof vaults, and impression of a government building representing modernity, simplicity, strength, and prosperity. The property is an early example of the ten courthouses Nebraska architect William F Gernandt designed in an unusually productive period, between 1910 and 1923. The courthouse was a good example of public architecture in the community and did contain good examples of design features and facilities distinctive to its design and use as a courthouse.

Current Physical Description

The Merrick County Courthouse was renovated in 2006. These renovations included a large, three-story addition to the building's most prominent and distinguished façade, among the finest of any Nebraska courthouse. This addition resulted in the covering and removal of highly detailed and significant materials. The additions are not compatible with the massing, scale, size, and architectural character of the existing building. On September 13, 2013, the NeSHPO presented this information to the Nebraska Historic Preservation Board and recommended removal of the Merrick County Courthouse from the National Register. The Board unanimously approved this recommendation.

Please remove the Merrick County Courthouse (NeHBS MK02-003) from the National Register of Historic Places, pursuant to 36 CFR 60.15 (a) (1). You may direct any questions regarding the removal of this property to Jill Dolberg, 402-471-4773. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Robert Puschendorf".

L. Robert Puschendorf
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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