

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 14 1984

date entered SEP 13 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Chippewa County Courthouse

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number Court Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Sault Ste. Marie N/A vicinity of

state Michigan code 026 county Chippewa code 033

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Chippewa County Board of Commissioners

street & number Chippewa County Courthouse

city, town Sault Ste. Marie N/A vicinity of state Michigan 49783

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chippewa County Register of Deeds

street & number Chippewa County Courthouse

city, town Sault Ste. Marie state Michigan 49783

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Michigan State Survey Data has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979-1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Michigan History Division, Michigan Department of State

city, town Lansing state Michigan 48918

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 Chippewa County Courthouse occupies two blocks in central Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Designed by William Scott, a Detroit architect, the courthouse was built in 1877 at a cost of \$24,000 which included the construction of a jail at the rear of the site. The three-bay, two-story, symmetrically arranged building is constructed of local grey sandstone and reflects Second Empire styling. The front facade features a slightly projecting center pavillion with pediment. A two-tiered clock tower tops a curving mansard roof with domers. The grey sandstone walls are articulated by red sandstone quoins, belt courses and window hoods and sills. Secondary facades are similar, although less elaborately detailed. An addition designed by R. C. Sweat of Marquette was built in 1904. It is located to the south and rear of the original courthouse, to which it is sympathetic in scale, material and detailing. A smaller, less compatible addition was built in the 1930s. Other alterations have been the removal of the cast iron cresting from the original slate roof, which has been replaced by asphalt shingling, and the replacement of several original two-over-two windows with six-over-six-light windows. The interior of the original courthouse was modified at the time of the 1904 addition. A new stairway and entrance to the second-floor courtroom were created. The courtroom and central hallways best exhibit the original materials, which include pressed tin ceilings and stained hardwood floors, woodwork and wainscotting, some of which has been painted. The courthouse is in full use today for county government purposes, and has received civic interest in its maintenance and restoration.

The Chippewa County Courthouse is located in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, a city experiencing rapid growth in the late 1800s. The structure, built in 1877, occupies two city blocks in the Island District of Sault Ste. Marie, in an area of public buildings not far from the commercial center and residential districts. Three blocks to the north flows the St. Mary's River. The courthouse property is flat and includes a deep front lawn with mature trees. The rear of the property is occupied by a county jail.

The Chippewa County Courthouse reflects Second Empire styling and was one of the earliest commissions of William Scott, an English-born and trained Detroit architect. The structure rises two stories above a half-raised foundation and is constructed of grey Lake Superior sandstone, known locally as canal rock because it was excavated with the construction of the St. Mary's shipping canal. It is trimmed with red Lake Superior sandstone. The front facade faces north onto Maple Street, and is symmetrical about the center of the three bays. The central bay stands slightly projected, and is penetrated by a round-arched doorway, reached by a flight of red sandstone steps, and flanked by a set of paired windows. The entire front facade is marked by balanced fenestration and is articulated by horizontal banding and vertical groins of red sandstone. The basement windows have segmental-arch lintels and are topped by a continuous belt course at the first-floor line. The windows of the main level also feature segmental-arch hoods and are linked by partial belt courses at the sill and base of the lintels. The windows of the second courthouse level feature graceful round-arch hoods, and are linked by continuous belt courses at the sill and base of the lintel. Only on the front facade do the windows exhibit enframements of red sandstone.

The curving mansard roof rests on a heavy painted wood cornice, detailed with dentils and with brackets over the corner quoins. The front facade features a simple pediment, and above it a two-tiered clock tower which is the decorative highlight of the courthouse. Each of the four sides of the lower tier of the tower is composed of three round arched openings separated by four Corinthian pilasters reaching a detailed cornice. The center of these openings in the front facade frames a statue of Justice looking over the courthouse entrance. The upper tier of the tower is a convex curve mansard roof with four elliptical-arch broken pediments extending up from the cornice, and containing a round clock on each tower facade.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

DESCRIPTION - p.2

The east and west facades of the original courthouse are single bays with detailing similar to the main facade. Even the central pediment is repeated at a smaller scale with the low triangular domer windows of these two minor facades. The addition, designed by R. C. Sweat in 1904, masks the south elevation. However, it is apparent that this facade closely resembled the north facade. The addition, while more simple in form, duplicates the original window, cornice and roof detailing.

The first floor of the courthouse, occupied by offices and vaults, is divided by a central hallway which spans the 1877 and 1904 sections of the building and leads to a wide staircase. The second-floor hallway terminates at the original south facade where double doors create the new (c. 1904) entrance to the courtroom. The judge's dias is located in front of a window and has a carved, stained, hardwood rail and apron. At either end of the bar is an Ionic column supporting the simple plaster and beam ceiling from which the original pressed tin has been removed. Pressed tin ceilings are extant on the first floor and second floor hallways. The courtroom is flanked by a typical complement of rooms: Judge's chamber with marble mantled fireplace, lawyers room, legal library, and jury deliberation room. In the small adjunct chambers, intact building fabric may be examined. The rooms have varnished mouldings and floors, early light fixtures, and radiators. Wainscoting, trim, and doors have intact graining and glazing in red and yellow tones. Beyond the introduction of some contemporary furnishings and the painting of some woodwork, the interior of the courthouse appears much as it did with the completion of the 1904 addition.

Both inside and out the Chippewa County Courthouse is a fine example of Second Empire styling. With the interest of the County Commission in its restoration and its continued use for county business, the Chippewa County Courthouse will remain a landmark structure for both the city of Sault Ste. Marie and Chippewa County.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1877, 1904 **Builder/Architect** William Scott of Detroit, architect
 R. C. Sweat of Marquette, architect
 (1904 addition)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The significance of the Chippewa County Courthouse stems from three sources. First, the building is one of the oldest courthouses in Michigan still serving in its original capacity. It represents the emergence of Sault Ste. Marie from a frontier outpost to a modern community. Thus, the courthouse is associated with events that made a contribution to the political growth and commercial development in Sault Ste. Marie and Chippewa County. Second, William Scott, an English-born Detroit architect, designed the Chippewa County Courthouse early in his notable career which included several civic and residential buildings across the state. A local architect, R. C. Sweat of Marquette, Michigan, designed the 1904 addition. Thus, the structure is associated with persons important to the artistic heritage of the Upper Peninsula and the State of Michigan. Finally, the courthouse is a well executed example of Second Empire styling. Thus it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a style significant to the architectural heritage of Chippewa County and the State of Michigan.

Much of the history of Chippewa County is the history of Sault Ste. Marie. The city, once a frontier outpost for Jesuit missionaries, fur traders and explorers, is the vital link between the rich resources of the Lake Superior region and the nation's industrial centers.

Lewis Cass, Territorial Governor of Michigan, established Michilimackinac County in 1818. The county included all of the Upper Peninsula and parts of the northern Lower Peninsula. Chippewa County was separated from Michilimackinac County in 1826, and Sault Ste. Marie has always been its seat of government. In 1853, with a population of nearly 2,000, the city's future was transformed; the \$1,000,000 St. Mary's Falls Ship Canal was completed and Great Lakes Shipping entered a new age. The new prosperity and rapidly increasing population lead to the incorporation of the village of Sault Ste. Marie in 1874. The courthouse, begun in 1877 and constructed of sandstone extracted from the bed of the town's second canal, represents the emergence of Sault Ste. Marie from a frontier outpost to a modern community.

The continued growth and prosperity of the county lead to an increased need for government offices. In 1904 an addition nearly doubling the size of the original courthouse was constructed in an architecturally compatible mode. At this time the original courthouse was modernized. The Chippewa County Courthouse has been in continuous use since its construction in 1877.

The courthouse is one of the most outstanding High Victorian courthouses remaining in Michigan. The career of its architect, William Scott of Detroit, however, is as yet not well documented. Among his commissions are the Jerome Croul (Croul-Palms) House of 1881 in Detroit, the Sprague House at 80 West Palmer in Detroit, and the 1885–89 Administration Building, Rotunda, and Cell Block B of the Marquette State House of Correction and Branch Prison (the latter done by William Scott and Company, which included Scott's sons John and Arthur).

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Ferry, W. Hawkins, The Buildings of Detroit, A History. Detroit, Michigan: Wayne State University Press, 1968.
- Polk, R. L. Michigan State Gazetteer and Business Directory. Detroit, Michigan: R. L. Polk & Co., 1881.
- Sawyer, Alvah L. History of the Northern Peninsula. Chicago, Illinois: Lewis Publishing Co., 1911.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 2½ acres
 Quadrangle name Sault Ste. Marie Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6
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7	0	3	7	0	0
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5	1	5	2	6	0	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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 H

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Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property includes the two and one half acre Courthouse Block on which the Chippewa County Court House stands. It is bound on the north by Maple Street, on the south by Spruce Street, on east by Bingham Avenue, and on the west by Court Street in the Island District of the City of Sault Ste. Marie.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

Shelley Doman
 name/title Roger Pilon, Historic Preservation Planner
 Michigan History Division
 organization EUP Regional Planning and Development date
 208 N. Capitol 517/373-0510
 street & number 416 Ashmun telephone 906/625-1581
 Lansing 48918
 city or town Sault Ste. Marie state Michigan 49783

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Walter M. Bigelow*
 title Director, Michigan History Division date *July 25, 1984*

For NPS use only

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

Alvina Byer Entered in the National Register date *9-13-84*
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Chippewa County Courthouse
Chippewa County
MICHIGAN

Working No. AUG 14 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85
Date Due: 9-13-84 / 9-28-84
Action: ACCEPT 9-13-84
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input 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

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

Chippewa County Courthouse
Chippewa County
MADISON

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Chippewa County Court House

Court Street

Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa County, Michigan

Photo: Roger J. Pilon

Date: February 1982

Neg.: Michigan History Division
Lansing, MI 48918

Camera facing SW

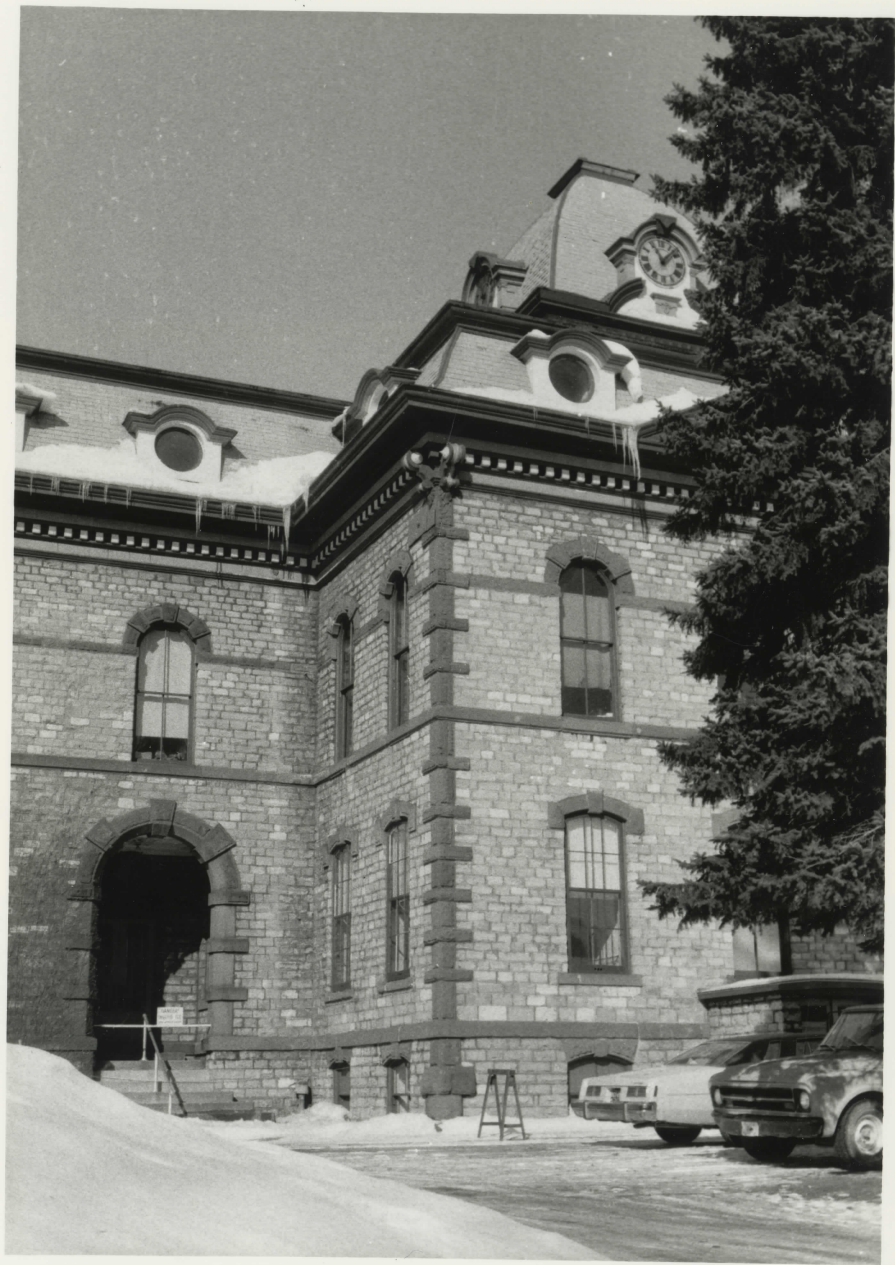
Photo # 1 of 13



Chippewa County Court House
Court Street
Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa County, MI
Photo: Roger J. Pilon
Date: February 1982
Neg.: Michigan History Division
Lansing, MI 48918
Camera facing WSW
Photo #2 of 13



Chippewa County Court House
Court Street
Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa County, MI
Photo: Roger J. Pilon
Date: February 1982
Neg.: Michigan History Division
Lansing, MI 48918
Camera facing WSW
Photo #3 of 13



Chippewa County Court House
Court Street
Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa County, MI
Photo: Roger J. Pilon
Date: February 1982
Neg.: Michigan History Division
Lansing, MI 48918
Camera facing NE
Photo #4 of 13



Chippewa County Court House
Court Street
Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa County, MI
Photo: Roger J. Pilon
Date: February 1982
Neg.: Michigan History Division
Lansing, MI 48918
Camera facing S
Photo #5 of 13



Chippewa County Court House
Court Street
Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa County, MI
Photo: Roger J. Pilon
Date: February 1982
Neg.: Michigan History Division
Lansing, MI 48918
Camera facing S towards rear
Photo #6 of 13



Chippewa County Court House
Court Street
Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa County, MI
Photo: Roger J. Pilon
Date: February 1982
Neg.: Michigan History Division
Lansing, MI 48918
Camera facing N towards Bench, Bar and
Jury Box
Photo #7 of 13



Chippewa County Court House

Court Street

Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa County, MI

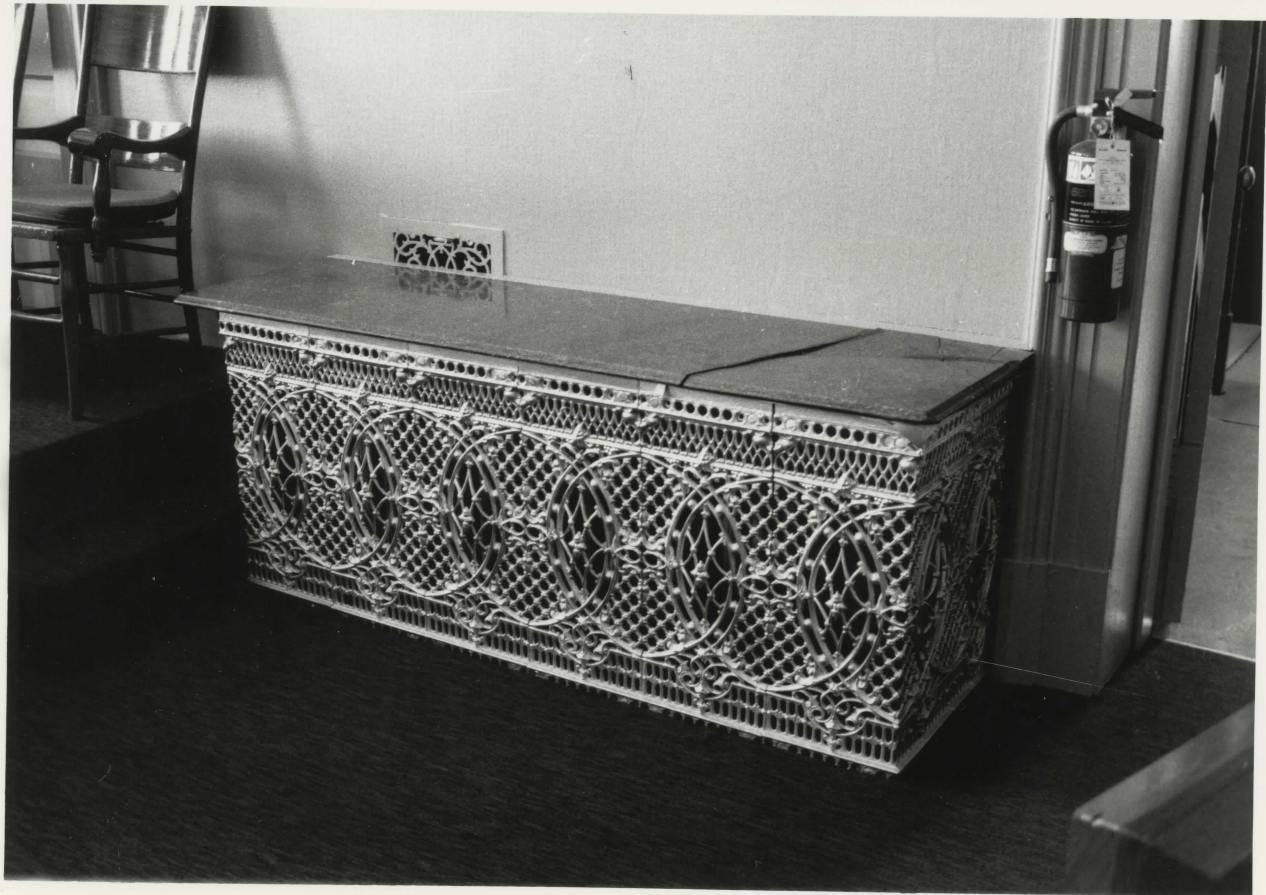
Photo: Roger J. Pilon

Date: February 1982

Neg.: Michigan History Division
Lansing, MI 48918

Camera facing NW towards Bench, Bar and
Jury Selection Area

Photo #8 of 13



Chippewa County Court House
Court Street
Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa County, MI
Photo: Roger J. Pilon
Date: February 1982
Neg.: Michigan History Division
Lansing, MI 48918
Camera facing W (View of Steam Heat
Radiator and Grill work)
Photo #9 of 13



CIRCUIT JUDGE

ATTORNEY'S ROOM

Chippewa County Court House
Court Street
Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa County, MI
Photo: Roger J. Pilon
Date: February 1982
Neg.: Michigan History Division
Lansing, MI 48918
Camera facing NW towards Circuit Judge's
Office and Law Library
Photo #10 of 13



Chippewa County Court House
Court Street
Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa County, MI
Photo: Roger J. Pilon
Date: February 1982
Neg.: Michigan History Division
Lansing, MI 48918
Camera facing ENE
Photo #11 of 13

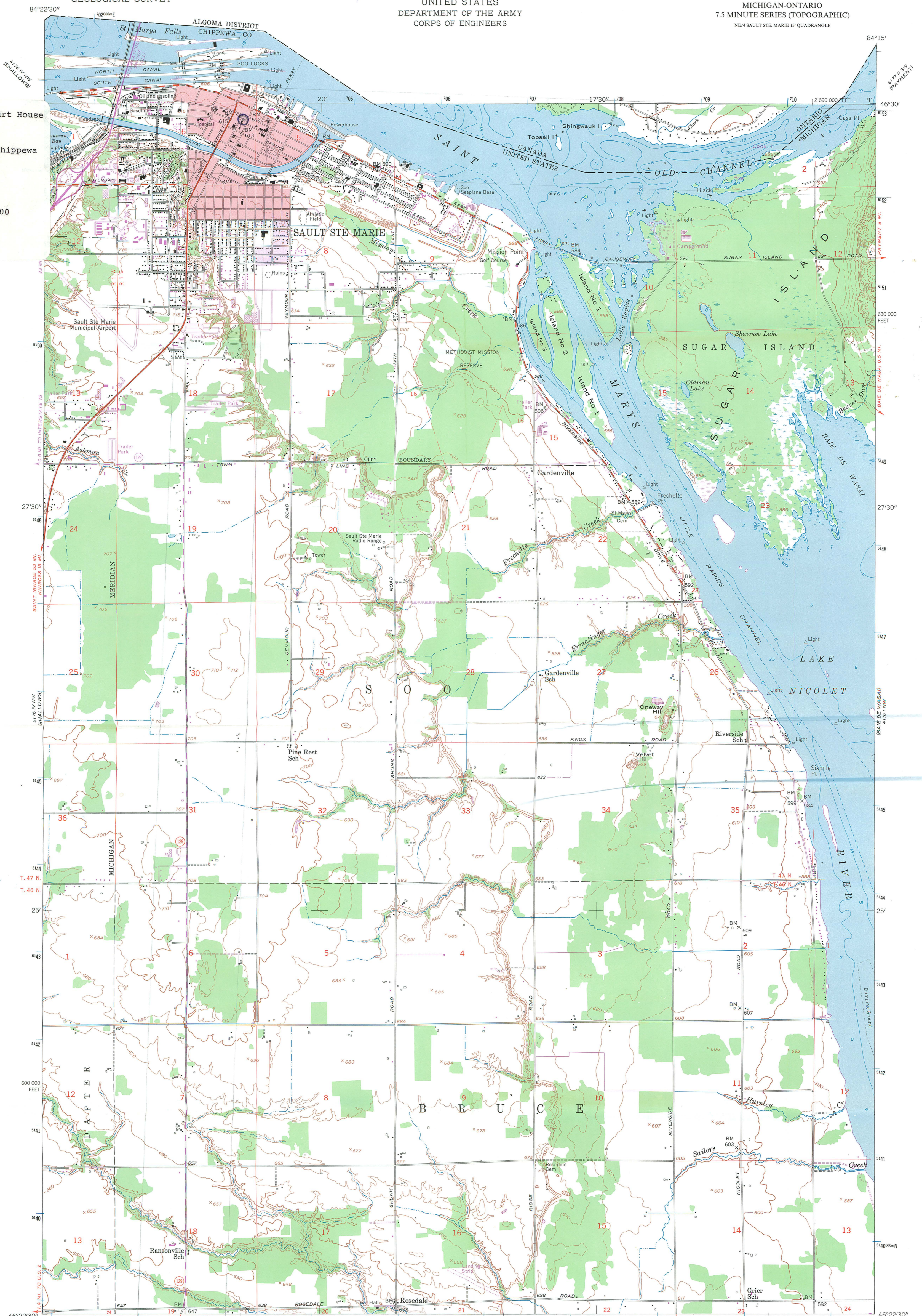


Chippewa County Court House
Court Street
Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa County, MI
Photo: Roger J. Pilon
Date: February 1982
Neg.: Michigan History Division
Lansing, MI 48918
Camera facing N toward Court House rear
entrance
Photo #12 of 13

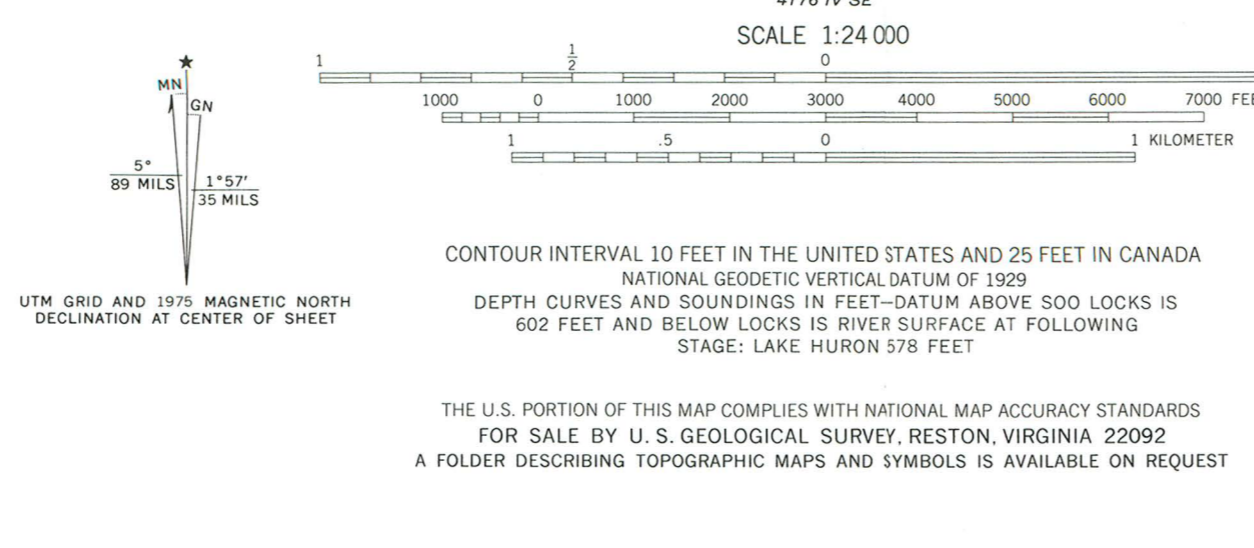


Chippewa County Court House
Court Street
Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa County, MI
Photo: Roger J. Pilon
Date: February 1982
Neg.: Michigan History Division
Lansing, MI 48918
Camera facing WSW
Photo #13 of 13

Chippewa County Court House
Court Street
Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa
County
Michigan
UTM Reference:
16/ 703700 / 5152600



Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
Control by USC&GS, USCE, U. S. Lake Survey
and International Boundary Commission
U. S. topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric
methods. Aerial photographs taken 1950. Field check 1951
Canadian topography from Army Survey Establishment, RCE,
dated 1954
Hydrography compiled from U. S. Lake Survey charts 62 and
63 (1955)
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Michigan coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 16, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION 1952

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt

U. S. Route State Route
Interstate Route

SAULT STE. MARIE SOUTH, MICH.-ONT.
NE/4 SAULT STE. MARIE 15' QUADRANGLE
N4622.5-W8415/7.5

1951
PHOTOREVISED 1975
AMS 4176 IV NE-SERIES V862

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey
from aerial photographs taken 1975. This information
not field checked. Canadian portion not revised
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD H. AUSTIN

SECRETARY OF STATE



LANSING

MICHIGAN 48918

MICHIGAN HISTORY DIVISION

ADMINISTRATION, PUBLICATIONS RESEARCH, AND HISTORIC SITES

208 N. Capitol Avenue
517 — 373-0510

STATE ARCHIVES

3405 N. Logan Street
517 — 373-0512

MICHIGAN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

208 N. Capitol Avenue
517 — 373-3559

July 16, 1984

Ms. Carol D. Shull, Supervisory Historian
National Register of Historic Places Branch
Interagency Resource Management Division
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed are National Register of Historic Places nomination materials for the Chippewa County Courthouse in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. I certify that the intent-to-nominate notification requirements have been fulfilled. This property is being submitted for listing in the National Register. All notarized statements of objection and written comments concerning this property submitted to us prior to the submission of this nomination to you are enclosed.

Please direct all questions concerning this nomination to Kathryn B. Eckert, Historic Sites Research Unit Supervisor (517/373-0510).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Martha M. Bigelow".

Martha M. Bigelow, Director
Michigan History Division
and
State Historic Preservation Officer

MMB:ROC:j1
enclosure