

10 Most Endangered Historic Places

Preservation Alliance of Minnesota ❖ www.mnpreservation.org

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The Todd County Courthouse is one of only a dozen historic courthouses in Minnesota that were built before 1890. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places for both its architectural and historical significance, this unusual, tan-brick, Romanesque Revival style building sits on a prominent, hilltop site in Long Prairie, the county seat. The courthouse has added importance due to the stone retaining wall, war monument, and street-level entrance constructed in 1938 during the Works Progress Administration project.

The courthouse building was vacated in 2006 and is now used only for storage. Although the historic courthouse is appreciated by Long Prairie residents,

the county Board of Commissioners has decided to put the preservation of the building to a county-wide vote in November. Preservation advocates, including the Todd County Historical Society, fear that incorrect information or fear of tax implications will thwart their efforts to see the courthouse renovated.

Luckily, the stalwart building has a few things in its favor; the structure is solid, according to a recent condition assessment, and rehabilitation costs might not be as expensive as feared. Hopefully, supporters will be able to spread the word about the preservation value of the historic courthouse and save it from a dire fate.

LONG PRAIRIE

Action Steps

1. Read the results of the rehabilitation cost analysis study when it is available. <http://www.co.todd.mn.us/>
2. Speak out in favor of preserving the courthouse throughout Todd County.
3. Contact the Todd County Board of Commissioners and administration and voice your support for courthouse restoration.
4. Assist the Todd County Historical Society with a public advocacy campaign for courthouse preservation.
5. Make a financial contribution to the Todd County Historical Society to fund yard signs, public information notices, and other advocacy efforts.
<http://www.co.todd.mn.us/TODDCOUNTY/culturalres0006.asp#INLINK005>



Todd County Courthouse