

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 13 1987

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Benewah County Courthouse
other names/site number 001312

2. Location

street & number College Avenue and Seventh Street N/A ☐ not for publication
city, town St. Maries N/A ☐ vicinity
state Idaho code ID county Benewah code 009 zip code 83861

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

County Courthouses in Idaho

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Thomas J. Sheer 8/3/87
Signature of certifying official Date
Idaho State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:) _____

William B. Bushong 7/22/87

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

government/courthouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

government/courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/
Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls brick

roof unknownother terra cotta

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Benewah County Courthouse is a detached three-story public building on a raised basement story. The building has a rectangular plan. The front elevation of the building has five bays divided by terra cotta attached columns and brick pilasters. Each bay, in turn, is divided into three vertical sections by window units. The middle three bays are recessed, and the entrance is centered on the front elevation. The building has an ivory-colored pressed brick veneer on the street sides (north and east). The other two walls are red brick. The foundation is concrete; the roof is flat. Most windows are one-over-one double hung sash, set either singly or in groups of three. Upper stories on the three center bays of the front elevation contain a large bank of windows divided with diagonal muntins. Below these, the brick veneer is laid in a basketweave pattern. On the other bays, the area between first and second floors features a diamond pattern created by raised brick courses. The double front doors are single-pane. Above the doors is a transom with diagonal muntins. The entry surround is terra cotta with a bas relief rosette design. Above the door is a bracketed entablature. Topping the entire building is a denticulated terra cotta cornice.

The interior of the building retains a number of period features, including its plan; hardwood floors; brown, gray, and blue tiled wainscoting in the hallway; plaster walls; and door and window moldings.

Alterations to the building include the addition of some heating/cooling ducts on the interior. Otherwise, the building remains remarkably intact. The building's original fabric conveys the important characteristics of the Neoclassical style, and the building conveys a sense of the post-World War I period in which it was built.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

architecture

politics/government

Period of Significance

1924-1937

Significant Dates

1924

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

architect: Julius Zittel

builder: Meyers and Telender

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Benewah County Courthouse is significant under criterion "A" in the context of the development of county government in Idaho. The building is significant under criterion "C" in the context of the architecture of Idaho's county courthouses and as a local example of institutional architecture. The building retains its original monumental massing and all of its Neoclassical style features, including its brick veneer, terra cotta detailing, and five-bay front. The building's original fabric conveys the important characteristics of Neoclassical style, and the building conveys a sense of the post-World War period in which it was built.

Benewah County was established in 1915 by act of the Idaho legislature, and the county seat was located in St. Maries. Offices and records were housed in an old school building during the first years of county government but by 1923 the local paper was complaining that Benewah was the only county without a courthouse and jail. (However, that was not the case.) A campaign was launched to remedy the situation. The courthouse was planned for a site already owned by the county, and it was estimated that, because the county had surplus funds available, there would be no new tax burden to county citizens. In January 1924 a bond issue passed easily, raising funds for a courthouse and a school. Julius Zittel, a Spokane, Washington, architect, drew the plans for the new building and Meyers and Telender of Spokane were awarded the contract with a bid of \$87,990. Construction proceeded smoothly during the spring, summer, and fall, and by November 1924 the new courthouse was in use.

Like most of Idaho's county courthouses, the Madison courthouse is the most ambitious and stylistically elaborate architectural design in its locality and its region and deserves National Register listing on that basis as well as for its contribution to our understanding of the range of architectural designs used for courthouses in Idaho. It is one of the most architecturally intact courthouses extant in Idaho.

☐ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

St. Maries Gazette-Record: 29 November 1923; 13 December 1923; 20 December 1923;
3 January 1924; 10 January 1924, 17 January 1924; 24 January 1924;
21 February 1924; 27 March 1924; 11 September 1924; 6 November 1924;
20 November 1924; 5 February 1925.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

Architectural and Idaho Historic Sites
Inventory

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

A

1	1
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5	3	2	8	1	0
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5	2	4	0	0	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nomination includes the Benewah County Courthouse and the property on which it sits, lots 1,2,3, and 10, all in block 7, West Addition to St. Maries.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries are based upon the legally recorded block and lot parcels on which the courthouse is located.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jennifer Eastman Attebery and Nancy Renk, Architectural Historians

organization Idaho State Historical Society date 6/23/87

street & number 210 Main St. telephone (208) 334-3861

city or town Boise state Idaho zip code 83702



BENEWAH COUNTY COURTHOUSE

ST. MARIES, IDAHO

NANCY RENK

FEBRUARY 26, 1987

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VIEW FROM NORTHEAST

PHOTOGRAPH 1 OF 1