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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration FormNATIONAL
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 Cassia County Courthouse
other names/site number 000946

2. Location

street & number 15th Street and Overland Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Burley N/A vicinity
state Idaho code ID county Cassia code 031 zip code 83318

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 IdahoNumber 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.

Signature of certifying official

Date

Idaho State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureauIn 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:) _____

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)

Modern Movement/

Art Deco

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof unknown

other terra cotta

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Cassia County Courthouse is a detached, rectangular public building. The building has an inset central entry bay that is three stories tall. Either side of this tower-like section is a three-bay two-story wing. The entire building sits on a raised basement story. The concrete structure of the building is veneered with red brick laid in common bond. The foundation is concrete; the roof is flat. Cream-colored terra cotta cast with foliate and geometric designs decorates many parts of the building: the tops of outset brick pilasters that demark the vertical bays, a capping course that runs the full perimeter of the building, the entry surround, and two inset panels above the entrance. The uppermost of these panels carries the legend "Cassia County" in a pale aqua glaze. The second panel has a bold geometric bas relief in the same color. The bas relief terra cotta around the doorway itself has a wingspread eagle and the date "1939 A.D." Brickwork is used decoratively throughout the building. A basketweave bond surrounds the terra cotta panels on the entry bay. Outset soldier rows form lintels above the windows. In several of the window bays, the area between second and first story windows is filled with a pattern of alternating outset stretcher rows. Either side of the entry are Art Deco lamps. The tower-like entry bay, with its terra cotta panels, and the use of round windows in the second and sixth bays of the front elevation place the building in the Art Deco style popular locally and used for several southeast and south central Idaho public buildings.

All but one of the round windows have been replaced with metal sash windows. Also, replacing the original entry doors are double metal-frame doors. While the loss of original windows and doors has some effect on the building's integrity, the remaining original fabric conveys the important characteristics of the Art Deco style, and the building conveys a sense of the period in which it was built as a part of the WPA in Idaho.

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

architecture

politics/government

Period of Significance

1939

Significant Dates

1939

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

architect: Burton E. Morse

builder: C. W. Watkins

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

The Cassia County Courthouse is significant under criterion "A" in the context of the development of county government as supported by WPA and PWA monies throughout the Depression years. 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 most of its Art Deco style features, including its brick veneer, terra cotta detailing, and seven-bay front. The remaining original fabric conveys the important characteristics of Art Deco style, and the building conveys a sense of the period in which it was built as a WPA project.

Because the building is part of a finite and endangered group of resources associated with the WPA in Idaho and because it is associated with a relief program that had exceptional impact on the Idaho landscape and economy during the Depression years, the building is presented for nomination before it reaches the 50 year mark.

Cassia County received substantial support for construction of its new courthouse in 1938, when the WPA regional office in Portland, Oregon, allotted a \$53,182 grant toward construction of a courthouse estimated to cost \$118,182. Burton E. Morse, Twin Falls architect, was hired in June, 1938, to design the building, replacing a Mr. Fisher of Idaho Falls. The building permit was filed in December, 1938, and construction was completed in the fall of 1939. Boise contractor C.W. Watkins was general contractor for construction.

The new courthouse provided much-needed space for county offices and benefitted the city of Burley by freeing space in the city hall, where the county had leased office space for twenty years. Organized in 1879, Cassia County is one of Idaho's early counties, but the 1939 building was its first monumental courthouse building

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Burley Bulletin 28 September 1939 and 16 November 1939.

☐ See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Idaho Architectural and Historic
Sites Inventory

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

A

1	2	2	7	0	7	2	0	4	7	1	2	7	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nomination includes the Cassia County Courthouse and the property on which it sits, lots 1,2,3, and 4, all in block 153, Burley Townsite.

☐ 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

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

providing adequate facilities for county business. Previous to 1919, when the county seat was moved to Burley, county offices were housed in a frame building at Albion. The 1939 building provided room for the county agent's office, the WPA sewing room, the public assistance office, regular county offices and records vaults, courtrooms, judges' offices, the sheriff's office, and the county jail.

Like most of Idaho's county courthouses, the Cassia courthouse is among the most ambitious and stylistically elaborate architectural designs 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.



Cassia County Courthouse

Burley, Idaho

photograph by Jennifer Eastman Attebery

November 10, 1986

negative on file at Idaho state
Historical Society

view from SW

photograph 1 of 2



Cassia County Courthouse

Burley, Idaho

photograph by Jennifer
Eastman Attebery

November 10, 1986

negative on file at Idaho
State Historical Society

view from W

photograph 2 of 2