

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 13 1987

National 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 Jefferson County Courthouse
other names/site number 002218

2. Location

street & number 134 North Clark N/A not for publication
city, town Rigby N/A vicinity
state Idaho code ID county Jefferson code 051 zip code 83442

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

Idaho State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

8/3/87In 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

8/27/87

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 Jefferson County Courthouse is a detached two-story public building on a raised basement story. The original T-shaped plan of the building has been modified with the addition of one-story side and rear additions. The original front elevation of the building has five bays with a centered, outset and stepped up entrance. The building is veneered with dark brown to light tan brick laid in common bond with no headers. Brick colors are laid to create a mottled appearance. The foundation is concrete; the roof is flat. Windows are multi-light steel sash with an operable inner sash. Cream, blue, and orange terra cotta cast with foliate designs decorates many parts of the building: the entry surround, the capping course, window sills, and a panel with the incised legend "Courthouse" at the top of the outset entry bay. Below the terra cotta capping course is a row of brick headers. A soldier string course runs above the second story windows and above each first story window to form lintels. Original Art Deco lamps are intact either side of the entrance. The building's highly decorative entry design places the building in the Art Deco style popular locally and used for several southeast and south central Idaho public buildings.

The interior of the building retains a number of period features, including its entry vestibule, where the original inner doors and transom are intact; plaster walls; large scale ceiling molding; and tiled stairway to the second floor. The plan is based on a central hallway perpendicular to the front wall, leading to a rear hallway running the length of the building. The stairway leads to the second story from the central hallway.

Alterations to the building include a one-story addition that distorts the original massing but leaves the original structure clearly discernible. Four windows on the lower story of the front wall have been replaced with two-light metal-frame windows. Also, replacing the original entry doors are double metal-frame doors. While the loss of original doors and windows 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

1938

Significant Dates

1938

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

architect: Sundberg and Sundberg

builder: Johnson J. Mickelsen

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

The Jefferson 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 most of its Art Deco style features, including its brick veneer, terra cotta detailing, five-bay front, and most of its steel sash windows. 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.

Jefferson County was one of several Idaho counties that was able to replace an early courthouse with more adequate space by taking advantage of funding available through the WPA. Jefferson County applied with the WPA regional office in Portland, Oregon, for a \$21,273 grant toward construction of a courthouse estimated to cost \$47,273. The grant allotment was amended in October 1938 to provide \$25,054 toward a \$55,673 project. The building replaced a small, one-story frame building that had been used by the county since 1914, one year after the county was formed. The frame building and the lease on its site had been provided by the city of Rigby. The new building, designed by Sundberg and Sundberg of nearby Idaho Falls, was completed in the fall of 1938. Johnson J. Mickelsen of Logan, Utah, was contractor.

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Rigby Star. 20 October 1938, p. 1; 27 October 1938, p. 1;
27 April 1939, p. 5.

Adams, Willard. 100 Years of Jefferson County. n.d.

☐ 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	4	2	6	6	0	0	4	8	3	5	7	7	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nomination includes the Jefferson County Courthouse and the property on which it sits, block 5 in Mathias Addition, Rigby.

☐ 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, State Architectural Historian

organization Idaho State Historical Society date June 23, 1987

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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

The Jefferson courthouse is one of three nearly-identical courthouses designed by Sundberg and Sundberg for 1938 WPA projects, and it is the best-preserved of the three. The other two, Jerome and Oneida county courthouses, have similar two-story massing, interior plans, and five-bay fronts with elaborate terra cotta entries. Like most of Idaho's county courthouses, the Jefferson 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.



Jefferson County Courthouse

Rigby, Idaho

photograph by Jennifer Eastman
Attebery

March 10, 1987

negative on file at Idaho

State Historical Society.

view from NW

photograph 1 of 1