

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0683655 9.6.

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 6 1978

DATE ENTERED NOV 14 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

NAME

HISTORIC Murray Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Murray

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Idaho

CODE

16

COUNTY

Shoshone

CODE

79

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED
☒ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Shoshone County

STREET & NUMBER

Shoshone County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Wallace

VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Shoshone County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Wallace

STATE

Idaho

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
☐ EXCELLENT	☐ DETERIORATED	☒ UNALTERED	☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ GOOD	☐ RUINS	☐ ALTERED	☐ MOVED DATE _____
☒ FAIR	☐ UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Murray Courthouse is a two-story, clapboard building with a gable roof. This modest rectangular shaped building is enhanced by such Italianate details as pedimented frames encasing the facade's second story openings and a bracketed cornice between the first and second story.

The first story store front imitates the then-popular cast iron in wood. The second story doorway suggest that a balcony once extended from the second floor. This was removed prior to 1900.

All windows are 2x2 double hung sash, set in frames. Only the front windows are pedimented. Two side doorways have been boarded up.

The roof is of corrugated galvanized iron. There is small one-story board and batten addition to the rear, and a brick vault on the east side where county records were kept.

The principal alteration to the structure is the removal of the front porch.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☐ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☒ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Murray Courthouse is significant as a good example of frontier mining architecture of the 1880's. Its frame construction and gable roof, pitched to shed the snow, is typical of north Idaho's mining town architecture. The use of Italianate motifs on a public building is also typical of the time and place.

The building is one of only four good examples of 1880's construction remaining in Murray, one of the state's most important historic mining towns. It is one of the last surviving courthouses dating from Idaho's territorial period, but due to its condition is in danger of collapse unless a restoration project is begun in the immediate future. The county is concerned about this building and desires to preserve it as a landmark of the early mining years of the Coeur d'Alene region.

Murray, the oldest surviving city in the Coeur d'Alene mining region, was laid out on January 22, 1884, on three creek claims, only months after news of A. B. Prichard's discovery of gold was made public, which precipitated the fall of 1883 gold rush.

The town grew rapidly and in 1885 wrested the Shoshone county seat from Pierce, the mining center of the 1860's. The courthouse was built in the summer of 1885. In 1898 the county seat was moved to Wallace, the major shipping point in the more important lead-silver region of the Coeur d'Alenes. In the Murray courthouse many of the major mine claims disputes were settled including the famous Bunker Hill Jakcass case, which determined the ownership rights to the Bunker Hill mines, one of the world's largest lead-silver mines.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of North Idaho, Western Historical Publishing Company, 1903

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 1 5 8 5 9 7 5 5 2 7 5 2 7 5
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
D
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This nomination includes the courthouse and the land it stands on.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Don Hibbard Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

16 August 1978

STREET & NUMBER

610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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

Marta Wells

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

16 August 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *William Belovich*

DATE

11/14/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

Nov 7, 1978

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



COURT HOUSE
Food *Tavern* BEVERAGES
1883
PEPSI

COURTHOUSE
TAVERN

Murray Courthouse
Murray, Idaho
Photographer Arthur Hart
1978
Idaho State Historical
Society
View of front and side
from the southwest
Sites Survey File

SEP 6 1978

NOV 4 1978