

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received APR 11 1985

date entered MAY 9 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections**1. Name**

historic Nampa City Hall

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 203 Twelfth Avenue South

N/A not for publication

city, town Nampa N/A vicinity of

state Idaho code 016 county Canyon code 027

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☒ public	☐ occupied	☐ agriculture
☒ building(s)	☐ private	☒ unoccupied	☐ commercial
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment
☐ object	N/A in process	☐ yes: restricted	☒ government
	N/A being considered	☒ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial
		☐ no	☐ military
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☐ private residence
			☐ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Nampa

street & number City Hall, 411 Third Street South

city, town Nampa N/A vicinity of state Idaho 83651

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Canyon County Courthouse

street & number 1115 Albany

city, town Caldwell state Idaho 83605

6. Representation in Existing Surveystitle Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1982 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Idaho State Historical Society

city, town Boise state Idaho

7. Description

Condition☐ excellent☐ good☒ fair☐ deteriorated☐ ruins☐ unexposed**Check one**☒ unaltered☐ altered**Check one**☒ original site☐ moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Nampa City Hall is a two-story brick building with a raised basement story. Designed in a style that uses the classical language of the Second Renaissance Revival, the city hall is rectangular in plan with an outset central bay on the front elevation. The building's two stories are differentiated by their fenestration. On the first story large keystone round arches demark five bays on the front elevation and three on each end wall. The end-wall bays are additionally separated by raised brick piers. Within each round-arched opening are two one-over-one-light double-hung sash windows and a fanlight. On the second story there are two double-hung sash windows, nine-over-one-light, in each bay. The basement story, which has raised brick courses suggestive of rustication, has shorter one-over-one-light windows with flat raised brick relieving arches. The city hall has a flat roof hidden behind a fictive attic story. Below the attic is a denticulated cornice.

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National Park Service**

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Nampa City Hall
Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

The Nampa City Hall is located in the city's commercial core, close but not contiguous to the Nampa Historic District, the Oregon Short Line Railway depot, and the Farmers and Merchants Bank (all previous National Register listings). Founded in 1886 as an Oregon Short Line station, Nampa became a regional shipping point in southwest Idaho when the Idaho Central Railway line, backed by Boston capitalists and the Oregon Short Line, built a line from Nampa to nearby Boise, the territorial capital. Nampa shared in the surrounding region's expansion through Boise Valley irrigation projects during the 1880's and through the early twentieth century. Between 1900 and 1910 the valley's population tripled, providing new opportunities for merchants in towns like Nampa, which was located close to the United States Reclamation Service's major irrigation project in the region.

The Nampa City Hall was planned and built during the major rebuilding effort in downtown Nampa that followed a large fire July 3, 1909. The rebuilding effort coincided with a period of economic expansion, population expansion, and consequent expansion of city services. The building was designed by Wayland and Fennell, Boise architects who designed many other major institutional, commercial, and residential buildings in southwest Idaho. The quasi-Colonial character of the Nampa City Hall is similar to the firm's Idaho Statesman building in Boise, built the same year as the Nampa City Hall. In September 1909 the contract for construction of the city hall was let to Rhinehardt, Newton, & Murphy, fulfilling on of the aims of the bond for the building, that local labor should be supported by the project. The building was completed in October 1910. It provided city officials with office and records space and included room for a basement jail. For the first time city functions were adequately housed, and under one roof. Previously, officials had been scattered in rooms in their own businesses and rooms rented at various locations. One city clerk operated from the Palace Livery Barn, for example. Expansion of city services during the second decade of the twentieth century included an improved fire fighting system, a matter of much public concern after the 1909 fire.

Because Renaissance and Colonial motifs were popular for institutional buildings throughout the state and the nation in this period, Wayland and Fennell's design has many fellows. In its local context the building is the city's most fully developed example of Renaissance/Colonial detailing, as expressed in its three-tiered fenestration; its cornice and attic and raised basement stories; and its keystoned arches and raised brick courses. Commercial buildings in the Nampa Historic District, built in the same period, use many of these motifs in a more fragmentary and modest way. The city hall's one rival for monumentality, the Farmers and Merchants Bank, is a clearly Neo-classical building.

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/
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☐ 1800-1899	☒ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☒ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1910

Builder/Architect

Wayland and Fennell, architects
Reinhardt, Newton and Murphy, contractors

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Nampa City Hall is architecturally significant as the city's finest example of the early twentieth century Renaissance/Colonial use of classical detailing in brick or stone architecture. Erected during the city's major rebuilding efforts of 1909 and 1910, the building was outstanding among its contemporaries, most of which drew on the motifs of the Second Renaissance, Romanesque Revival, and Neo-classical Revival styles. The building is a physical reminder, too, of the economic boom that Nampa underwent in the period bracketing its construction--a prosperous period in which the city was able to expand its services to the public. The erection of the new city hall in 1910, funded by a \$30,000 bond issue was evidence of both a public need and public support for expanded services, better file storage, and better office space for city officials. The formal Wayland and Fennel design was proudly described as "one of the finest municipal buildings in the state" (Nampa Leader Herald, 25 October 1910, p. 1), a building of serviceability and elegance that represented to its townspeople Nampa's coming of age.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Nampa Leader Herald. 25 October, 1910, p.1.

Nampa Leader Herald. 28 September 1909, p.1.

Bird, Annie Laurie. My Home Town. (Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Printers, 1968), pp. 230-235.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Nampa

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UTM References

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nomination includes the Nampa City Hall and the property on which it sits, lots 25 and 27 in block 33 of the Nampa Original Townsite.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jennifer Eastman Attebery, State Architectural Historian

organization Idaho State Historical Society

date March 18, 1985

street & number 610 North Julia Davis Drive

telephone (208) 334-3861

city or town Boise

state Idaho 83702-7695

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

Made Wells

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 2 April 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

[Signature]
Entered in the
National Register

date 5-9-85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Nampa City Hall
203 Twelfth Avenue South
Nampa, Canyon County, Idaho

Photograph by Susanne Lichtenstein
1982

Negative on file at Idaho State Historical Society
Boise, Idaho

View from south

Photograph 1 of 1