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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 18 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 Power County Courthouse
other names/site number 000531

2. Location

street & number Bannock Avenue not for publication
city, town American Falls vicinity
state Idaho code ID county Power code 077 zip code 83211

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> objects
			<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.

Ronald J. Allen 8-10-87
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. *William B. Bushong* 9/22/87
 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)

Late 19th and 20th Century

Revivals/Classical Revival

Late 19th and Early 20th Century

American Movements/Prairie School

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof unknown

other concrete

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Power County Courthouse is a detached two-story public building that is sited at the end of a boulevard running through the American Falls park. The original L-shaped plan of the building has been modified with compatible side and rear additions. The original front elevation has five bays with a centered entrance. Attached to the north wall of the building, an addition adds a sixth bay to the front elevation. It is set back a few feet from the plane of the front wall. The building has a dark red-brown pressed brick veneer. The roof is flat. The concrete cornice, capping course, window sills and lintels, and inset entrance surround are painted white. Concrete capitals and dropped corner ornament mark the outset brick pilasters at the building's corners. Decorative brickwork includes soldier and rowlock courses above the concrete watercourse and below the cornice. While the building is basically a monumental, formally symmetrical Neoclassical style courthouse, the horizontal lines and contrasting bands of light and dark created by these features suggest the Prairie style locally popular during the period for domestic architecture.

Alterations to the building include side and rear additions that are compatible in style and that leave the original structure clearly discernible. All but the windows above the entrance to the building (which are four-over-one double hung sash flanking a fixed one-light window with transom) are recent and compatible replacement one-over-one metal sash. 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 Neoclassical and Prairie style, and the building conveys a sense of the period in which it was built as a part of the development of the new American Falls townsite.

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

1925 - 1937

Significant Dates

1925

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect: C. A. Sundberg

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

The Power County Courthouse is significant under criterion "A" in the context of the development of county government in the state and locally and for its association with the development of American Falls as a part of an important Reclamation Act project. 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 Neoclassical/Prairie style features, including its brick veneer, concrete detailing, and five-bay front. The remaining original fabric conveys the important characteristics of Neoclassical and Prairie style, and the building conveys a sense of the period in which it was built as a part of the development of the new American Falls townsite.

Power County was created by the 1913 Idaho legislature as one of several Reclamation-era counties to form along the Snake River. However, the county did not acquire a courthouse until plans for construction of the American Falls Dam and Reservoir forced the relocation of the city of American Falls to benchland south of the planned reservoir. The Power County Courthouse was completed in December, 1925, as part of the planned reconstruction of American Falls, which was soon to be flooded under the American Falls Reservoir. Construction of the American Falls Dam and Reservoir was an \$8.5 million project with Federal sponsorship under the Reclamation Act. The project, completed in 1927, was designed to create storage for 1.7 million acre-feet of water for irrigated agriculture in Power and surrounding counties. In anticipation of county growth after completion of the dam and reservoir, a \$30,000 bond issue was passed to construct a modern courthouse building on a \$2500 site in Reclamation Addition donated to the county by the Federal government. Architect of the building was C.A. Sundberg of Rexburg, who eventually moved his office to Idaho Falls and was responsible for the design of three WPA-era courthouses. Unlike those later Art Deco style buildings, the Power County design evokes the Neoclassical forms popular for institutional buildings during the first three decades of the twentieth century. The building also suggests the Prairie style, which was regionally popular in southeast Idaho for domestic buildings and for occasional institutional designs. It ^{and the Teton County Courthouse are} is the only courthouse in Idaho to draw upon that style. Like most courthouses in Idaho, the building represents the most elaborate and monumental architectural design in its community. See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

American Falls Press. 30 April 1925, p. 1; 7 May 1925, p. 1; and 26 March 1925, p. 1; 4 February 1926, p. 1.
(Boise) Idaho Sunday Statesman. 1 February 1925, section 3, p. 1.
Beal, Merrill D. and Merle W. Wells. History of Idaho. N.Y.: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1959. Vol. II, pp. 164-169.

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

Acreeage of property less than one

UTM References

A

1	2
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3	4	8	7	8	0
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4	7	3	8	1	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 Power County Courthouse and the property on which it sits, lot 3, block 49 of the Reclamation Addition to American Falls, excepting that portion of lot 3 beginning at the NE corner of lot 3, thence westerly on the line between lots 3 and 4, 50 feet; thence southwesterly parallel with the alley 80 feet; thence northeasterly 80 feet to the point of beginning. See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

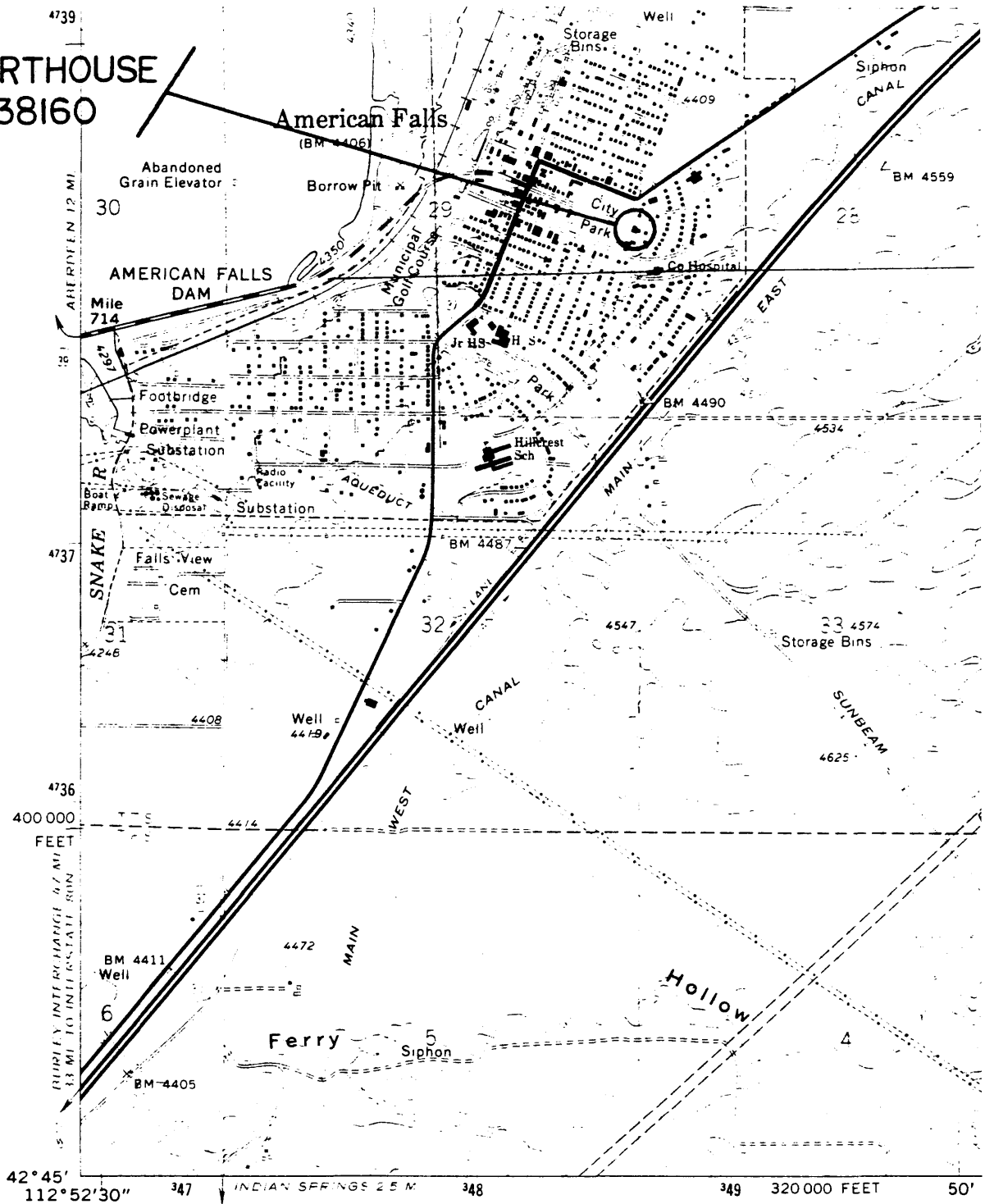
The boundaries are based upon the legally recorded block and lot parcels on which the courthouse is located.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jennifer Eastman Attebery, Architectural Historian
organization Idaho State Historical Society date June 23, 1987
street & number 210 Main telephone (208) 334-3861
city or town Boise state Idaho zip code 83702

POWER CO. COURTHOUSE
12-348780-4738160



(NEELEY)
3469 III NW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971

Underwater contours by U. S. Bureau of Reclamation

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Idaho coordinate system, east zone (transverse Mercator)

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 12, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



GN



1°14'
22 MILS

17°
302 MILS

UTM GRID AND 1971 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



- COURT HOUSE -

Bower County Courthouse

American Falls, Idaho

photograph by Jennifer Eastman Attebery

November 10, 1986

negative on file at Idaho State Historical Society

view from W

photograph 1 of 1