

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Soda Springs City Hall

other names/site number Soda Springs City Police Station

2. Location

street & number 109 South Main Street

n/a not for publication

city or town Soda Springs

n/a vicinity

state Idaho

code ID

county Caribou

code 29

zip code 83276

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide Xlocally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

John R. Hill
Signature of certifying official

24 Mar 93
Date

John R. Hill, Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

X 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:)

Patrick W. Andrews
Signature of Keeper

5/14/93
Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
☐ private	☒ building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
☒ public-local	☐ district	<u>1</u>	☐ buildings
☐ public-State	☐ site	☐	☐ sites
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure	☐	☐ structures
	☐ object	☐	☐ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

Cat: GOVERNMENT Sub: City Hall

Current Functions (Enter categories

from instructions.)

Cat: GOVERNMENT Sub: Correctional Facility/police station

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Boom Town

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation Stone: lava rock

walls Stone: lava rock

roof Metal

other Pressed metal

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Property Name Soda Springs City HallCounty and State Caribou County, IdahoPage 3**8. Statement of Significance**

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1902 - 1943

Significant Dates

1902Politics/Government

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Sam Gagon

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- ☐ 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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.25 acres

UTM References

1 1/2 4/5/0/6/3/0 4/7/2/2/6/6/0
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / /

4 / / / / / / / / / /

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Craig M. Call

organization _____

date February 13, 1993

street & number P.O. Box 7486, 802 W. Bannock

telephone (208) 344-8383

city or town Boise

state Idaho zip code 83707

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____

telephone _____

city or town _____

state _____

zip code _____

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County and State Caribou County, Idaho

The old Soda Springs City Hall is located in Soda Springs (1986 pop. 3770) in the southeast corner of Idaho. The structure is situated on the northwest corner of a ten acre city square. The only other buildings on the square are the 1919 Caribou County Court House, the Soda Springs City Library (1961) and a bank building (1978). These buildings are all located on the west side of the square, fronting on Main Street (formerly Dillon Street) in an area that is relatively stable as a small town commercial streetscape two blocks in length. Large trees dominate the west side of the town square for its entire length. Grass is planted around and between the buildings for a depth of approximately 100 feet east from the west side of the square. The City Hall lot is further distinguished by several memorial markers and artifacts, including a salvaged steam engine and anti-aircraft guns relocated from a World War II naval vessel. The rear of the property is graveled and used for parking for functions carried on in the park area of the town square.

The building faces west, with its narrow side to the front, where a single entrance door flanked with a window on each side is located. The west facade is capped with a stepped "boomtown" false front above the first level. The main level is elevated above grade some three feet, so the entrance is approached by way of a concrete porch of later vintage than the building. Walls and foundation are made of random rubble lava rock, or basalt. In the process of finishing the mortar, the mason created a beaded joint that suggests a more even and square joint than the rustic materials would otherwise have permitted. Since the mortar is a soft lime variety, much of this beading has been worn off by weathering. Windows are double-hung wooden units, with one single light in each sash, and headed by segmental brick arches over the top of each opening, both at the main level and basement. A lava rock belt course, capped with cement to simulate finished stone, defines the location of the main floor level.

Other than the black rock, the distinguishing feature of the building is the stepped "boomtown" front of the west facade. This false front covers the end of the gabled roof and is capped with wooden moldings in a simple cornice. The face of the false front is pressed metal, molded to replicate rock-faced stone with even, square jointing. Sometime in recent years a vestibule was created by building a plywood enclosure within the entrance arch and replacing the original door with two doors in sequence as an air lock.

The roof of the building is now metal; originally wooden shingles were used. In 1950 a brick addition was made to the east end of the original building, housing a two-bay fire and ambulance station. The second level housed a library. A second addition was made to this first addition in 1978, which provided more fire apparatus space and paramedic facilities. At this time the functions of City Hall moved to a newer building and the old City Hall became the community police station. An awning was also added to the south side of the original building and first addition about the time of the second addition. It is large enough to park several police vehicles underneath and is of metal frame construction with a corrugated metal roof.

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All of the additions are lower in profile than the original building and made of distinctive materials that clearly distinguish them as alterations.

The original ground level floor plan included a large room for clerical functions, a small inner office for the city clerk, a vault, and a city council conference room. This basic plan has not changed, although the interior wall surfaces have all been covered with plywood paneling. The current floor surfaces are wall-to-wall carpet and the ceiling is a suspended acoustical tile.

In the southwest corner of the main level access has been opened up to the basement with a newer metal circular stairway. The basement was originally used as the police office and jail and is now used for secondary clerical work, utility areas, and temporary jail. The floors and walls are concrete, with a plaster ceiling. A unique feature of the basement is a metal holding cell made from steel strapping salvaged from the original cell enclosures used in the first jail configuration dating to the 1902 construction.

The basement is divided with a masonry wall; access to the inner area is through a steel door, also appearing to be original to the building.

A second exit from the basement is provided with a concrete stairway that is enclosed with a wooden frame extension to the south side of the building. This entrance is described as an original feature of the building from the earliest memories of those interviewed.

Apart from the building's additions to the east and the addition of the awning to the south, the 1902 appearance and design of the original structure has changed very little.

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The old Soda Springs City Hall is worthy of listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The structure is historically significant as it is the only extant building associated with the early village government of one of Idaho's oldest cities, and which housed the civic offices for three quarters of a century. Architecturally, it is one of the few remaining examples of a vernacular style using lava rock, an abundant local building material. It is also one of the few remaining buildings with a boomtown false front, although this was once a prevalent feature of Soda Springs' commercial streetscape.

Soda Springs was founded by a splinter group from the Mormon settlements in Utah in 1863 and is one of the three or four oldest cities in Idaho. In 1870 a new townsite was platted as a function of the coming of Mormon settlers sent to the area to establish a commercial corridor from Utah north to the mines and agricultural resources in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Dillon Street (now Main Street) became the main north/south thoroughfare. Early commercial activities centered on Dillon and Second South streets, placing the town square on the main intersection in town.

City government was not organized officially until the village of Soda Springs was recognized in 1896. Prior to that time, local Mormon leaders served informally as arbiters of justice and order through the church hierarchy. Records indicate little official activity took place, and in 1902 another official organization was effected. Within a few weeks of the reorganization a committee of the village council was appointed to find or build a suitable town hall.

According to village minutes, construction on the town hall was underway in May of 1902. Insurance was bound on the building in July, and payment of \$160.00 was approved August 23 for the "contract on City Hall and additional work" to local builder Sam Gagon.

From 1902 until 1978 the City of Soda Springs conducted all of its civic business in the old City Hall, including the police functions which were performed in the basement where a jail was located. During the 1920s city minutes indicate the basement was leased to the publishers of the Idaho Chieftain, a newspaper, which was printed there. Additions were made to allow for fire, ambulance, and library functions as local growth warranted. In 1978 the city offices were moved to the former Largilliere Bank at Second South and Main streets and the old City Hall became the current police station.

Architecturally the building is significant as the finest, if not the oldest, example in southeast Idaho of a random rubble lava rock structure being used as a government office. The use of lava rock was common only in areas where skilled masons were available to make a sufficiently formal structure from a very coarse and rustic material. Although the black basalt is common in lava flows throughout southern Idaho, it was not common for it to be used in such a formal building as the city hall. Thus, it represents a vernacular building material peculiar to Idaho and a building use peculiar to Soda Springs.

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Also significant is the commercial-style false-front gable on the principal facade. Stores and hotels in Soda Springs commonly featured false fronts, but this particular style used in civic buildings is quite rare. The pressed metal face of the false front is also uniquely preserved, and represents a sample of a building material now only remaining in one other extant building in the community. The Odd Fellows Hall, a worthy National Register nominee in its own right, is a two story building with a commercial store front on the main level, and an assembly room on the second floor. Its false front, though not stepped in the manner of the City Hall, is also sheathed in pressed metal. The entire facade is, in fact, covered with pressed metal. Originally located on the southeast corner of Main and Second South streets, the building was moved in 1941 and now stands at 49 West Center Street.

Recent alterations do not significantly detract from the building's integrity: the original design and appearance of the city hall are very clear. There are no other buildings in the community that relate to the organization of its village government or better convey its role as one of Idaho's oldest settlements. The old City Hall, the Court House, and the Enders Hotel are the only buildings on Main Street that have not been modernized in the last several decades, making this one of the few reminders of the city's historic origins. The Soda Springs City Hall serves today as city hall and law enforcement offices, and has been the center of all local government activities from 1902 through the National Register benchmark of 1943.

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Attebury, Jennifer Eastman. *Building Idaho*. Moscow, ID: University of Idaho Press, 1991.

Minutes, Village Council of Soda Springs, in possession of City Clerk of Soda Springs, City, Hall, Soda Springs, Idaho.

Bybee, Faunda. *Now and Then - "A Picture Book of Caribou County, Idaho."* Soda Springs, Idaho 1977.

Title Records in possession of Caribou County Recorder, Soda Springs, Idaho.

Title Records in possession of Caribou Land and Title, Soda Springs, Idaho.

TOSOIBA - "Sparkling Waters," Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Camp Meads. Soda Springs, Idaho 1958.

Sanborn Maps of Soda Springs dated 1927 in the possession of the City of Soda Springs. Maps show all buildings located in the central portion of the town as of that date and identify uses and type of construction.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Commencing at the Northwest corner of Lot 5, Block 27, Soda Springs City Plat; then East along the line of said Lot 5 197 feet; thence South along the line of said lot 276 feet; thence West 197 feet; thence North along the line of said lot 276 feet to the point of beginning.

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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Includes the lot on the town square actually occupied by the city hall and its adjoining park grounds extending south to the Caribou County Court House and does not include the balance of the town square which has no historic structures or landscape features.



Soda Springs City Hall (1902)

109 South Main Street

Soda Springs Idaho 83276

Craig M. Call, Photographer

August 12, 1992

Negative in possession of photographer

Po Box 7486 Boise ID 83707

(208) 344-8383

View of Subject West elevation

Camera facing North East



Soda Springs City Hall (1902)
109 South Main Street
Soda Springs, ID 83276

Craig M. Call, Photographer
August 12, 1992

Negative in Possession of photographer
PO Box 7486 Boise, ID 83707
(208) 344-8383

View of North and West elevations
Camera facing South East