

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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received APR 11 1985

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# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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street & number 203 Twelfth Avenue South N/A not for publication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	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Surveys

title Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Idaho State Historical Society

city, town Boise state Idaho

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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### 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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Nampa City Hall  
Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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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.



## 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

A 

1	1	5	3	5	5	0	0	4	8	2	4	8	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

**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  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

*Mel 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

**Entered in the  
National Register**

date 5-9-85

*J. Melores Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration