

PH 0505561

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 4 1977
DATE ENTERED FEB 8 1978

**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

Franklin County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1016 North Fourth Street

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Pasco

— VICINITY OF

Fifth - Thomas S. Foley

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Washington

CODE

53

COUNTY

Franklin

CODE

021

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

—DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

—AGRICULTURE

—MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

—PRIVATE

—UNOCCUPIED

—COMMERCIAL

—PARK

—STRUCTURE

—BOTH

—WORK IN PROGRESS

—EDUCATIONAL

—PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

—ENTERTAINMENT

—RELIGIOUS

—OBJECT

—IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

—SCIENTIFIC

—BEING CONSIDERED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

—INDUSTRIAL

—TRANSPORTATION

—NO

—MILITARY

—OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Franklin County

STREET & NUMBER

1016 North Fourth Street

CITY, TOWN

Pasco

— VICINITY OF

Washington

STATE

99301

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Franklin County Courthouse - Auditor's Office

STREET & NUMBER

1016 North Fourth Street

CITY, TOWN

Pasco,

STATE

Washington 99301

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Washington State Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1974

—FEDERAL STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Olympia

STATE

Washington 98504

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Franklin County Courthouse, a substantial brick building constructed in 1913, is a landmark in the southeastern part of the state. The two story structure is located in Block E of the Sylvester Park Addition of the City of Pasco; Section 29, Township 9 North, Range 30 East of the Willamette Meridian.

The courthouse is oriented to the east, facing the three block long Volunteer Park across Fourth Street. The grounds of the courthouse block are in lawn with flower beds. Several large maple trees provide shade at random locations. East of the courthouse, and separated from it by a parking lot, driveway and landscaping, is the City-County Public Service Building.

The Franklin County Courthouse was erected at a cost of \$82,000 by Seattle general contractors Misho - Grant, under the architectural direction of C. Lewis Wilson and Company of Seattle, Centralia and Chehalis. The building is markedly similar to the Pacific County Courthouse designed by the same architect several years before. Although the Franklin County Courthouse lacks the excellent setting of the Pacific County Building, the impact and sophistication of the design are about equal.

The building is probably best described as Second Renaissance Revival; it is a small building and owes much to the architect's own interpretation of the style. It is rectangular in plan, its two story height resting upon a daylight basement. The exterior is clad in grey-buff brick with details of light colored terra cotta. The roof, obscured by a high parapet, is of composition material and is crowned by a paneled dome on a polygonal drum. The exterior of the dome is surfaced with asbestos aluminum paint, the highly reflective coating making the courthouse even more conspicuous. (During World War II, the county was asked to remove the silver paint because of its potential aid to enemy pilots.) A hooded gable penetrates the dome exterior at each compass point. Lighting for the dome interior is provided through a clerestory in the drum.

The front or east facade features a portico extending slightly from the wall plane. The distyle entry is recessed behind Ionic columns and features a double leaf door -- pedimented, with sidelights -- fitted into a full arched opening. On either side of the entry are wide panels of rusticated brickwork; a tall, round arched window opening pierces each panel at the first floor level as does an oeil-de-boeuf at the second floor level. The openings are ornamented with a raised surround and terra cotta details. The entry is approached by a single flight of concrete stairs, flanked by cast-iron light standards with spherical globes.

The north and south portions of the main facade are each divided into two bays by slightly recessing the first and second story window spaces into the wall plane. All first story windows are set in round arched openings, again decorated with a raised brick surround and terra cotta keystones, ornamental voussoir, and impost blocks. The window itself is divided into lights by heavy muntins; the topmost horizontal muntin at the impost level is bent upward slightly.

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Second floor window openings are all rectangular. Each opening is fitted with a single double hung fixture with three lights in each sash; a tall narrow sash appears on each side of the central window. The window forms are repeated on all sides of the building. A heavily bracketed cornice with a prominent parapet caps the structure.

Like its Pacific County counterpart, the central rotunda interior is the most arresting space of the Franklin County Courthouse. The creme colored marble coupled with azure and gold accents provide a space that is at once comfortable and elegant. Floors are finished in white tile with a meander pattern in gray, black, and brown radiating from the center of the floor. A porcelain drinking fountain occupies the point of the intersection of the meander. A decorative arch appears above each of eight entrances or doorways and a cartouche with the letter "F" is fitted into each arch. Pendentives feature special lighting globes hung from brass cartouche. Illuminated by the drum clerestory, the cut glass dome is 36 feet in diameter and features the names of county towns within elaborate cartouches.

The courthouse has been little altered over the years. In 1971, two earlier additions were removed to make way for a new City-County Public Service Building on the west of the existing building. The resulting new construction is restrained and its use of compatible finish material allows the historic structure to remain the unobscured center of attention. At the same time the new building was being erected, the historic structure was altered somewhat by lowered ceilings, the expansion of the basement, replacement of the electrical wiring, and the installation of new heating and air conditioning equipment. However, these modifications have not hampered the historical integrity of the building.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES

1912 - 1913

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

C. Lewis Wilson Company,

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Franklin County Courthouse, constructed in 1913, is the principal historic governmental edifice in Franklin County and represents the ambitious outlook held by the population of the county seat at the time of the building's erection.

Franklin County is located in the southeastern part of the state at the confluence of the Snake and Columbia Rivers. It was formed in 1883 by separating the territory from Whitman County, to the east. An initial courthouse was constructed in 1884 at the county seat of Ainsworth, a small community on the western bank of the Snake. Ainsworth was the terminus of the Wallula branch of the Northern Pacific Railway and enjoyed a rapid growth because of the development of the railroad. With the progress of the railroad to the west, the population of the town gradually waned and in 1898, most of the town plat was absorbed by the construction of a railroad bridge across the Snake River.

In 1885, the territorial legislature transferred the county seat from Ainsworth to Pasco. The small courthouse and jail were relocated to a new site and in 1889, a second courthouse was built. It was a simple building and located on East Lewis Street near the depot.

The Chamber of Congress pressed hard for a new, more sumptuous, facility in 1911. The town had grown westward and away from the 1889 building. The Chamber may have been inspired also by the recent construction of the Pacific County Courthouse and the grand impression it gave the county seat of South Bend. In any case, a group selected by the Chamber approached the County Commissioners with a proposal to build a new courthouse. The group was persuasive and the Commissioners agreed to the plan, provided a site could be provided at no expense to the county. Pasco merchants acquired a site away from the center of town, a desolate "sand blow" frequented by herds of wild horses. The Commission selected C. Lewis Wilson, architect of the Pacific County Courthouse, for the design and awarded the contract to general contractors Misho - Grant of Seattle. Little is known of Lewis beyond his involvement with the two courthouses. Frank S. Misho was a minor figure in the construction trade and spent only a short time in Seattle. His involvement in other projects is not known.

The new courthouse was dedicated in 1913, Governor Ernest Lister providing the keynote address. The governor was given a splendid welcome with appropriate ceremonies and festivities although the exuberance of the occasion was somewhat compromised by the fiery end of the Villard Hotel on the morning of the dedication. The courthouse

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Franklin Flyer, January 1972, Volume 4 No. 4;
 Franklin Flyer, July 1972, Volume 5 No. 2;
 Pasco Express, April 25, 1913;

Contractor's specifications (Misho and Grant Construction Company of Seattle) on file in the Franklin County Auditor's office in Franklin County Courthouse.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one.

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	1
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3	3	8	5	0	0
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5	1	2	2	3	1	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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D

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block E of Sylvester Park Addition of the City of Pasco.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Based on information supplied by:
 Mrs. Geneva Newell

ORGANIZATION Franklin County Historical Society

DATE
 March 19, 1977

STREET & NUMBER
 P.O. Box 1033

TELEPHONE
 (509) 547-6328

CITY OR TOWN
 Pasco

STATE
 Washington 99301

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 *Geneva M. Newell*

TITLE Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE September 27, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION <i>W. Stewart</i>	DATE <i>2-8-78</i> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: <i>Shirley A. ...</i> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <i>2-2-78</i>

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served the county well until World War II when an expanding population, brought in by the establishment of an air base, pressed the available space to the utmost. The Commissioners allowed the federal government to establish a local office of the Internal Revenue Service and for five years, thousands of Benton and Franklin County residents and other thousands from the Pasco Air Base lined the rotunda during the income tax filing period. Following the departure of the federal government offices, the county filled the space with an expansion of the Extension Service; subsequent expansion led to changes in the allocation of office space in the 1950's. A sheriff's building was added to the structure not long after it was built and in the 1940's, a one story annex was added to the sheriff's building. Both of these structures were removed in 1971 to make way for the new City-County Public Service Building.

The Franklin County Courthouse remains a superbly styled example of courthouse architecture and indicative of Wilson's attention to detail on the interior as well as the exterior. The formality and elegance of the structure are still impressive in the basically rural area.