

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received AUG 3 1990
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Cabell County Courthouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 5th Ave. and 8th St. N/A not for publication

city, town Huntington N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~ Fourth

state West Virginia code 54 county Cabell code 011

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Cabell County Commission

street & number Cabell County Courthouse

city, town Huntington N/A vicinity of state West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cabell County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Huntington state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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 _____ N/A _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Cabell County Courthouse is a 2-story Beaux Art Classical structure located on a park-like court square, one block large, which includes the courthouse, jail, and landscaped areas to the north and south.

The original central portion of the structure, constructed 1899-1901, is a square plan with short wings extending to the east and west. This is capped by a vertical dome and clock tower. As the tower rises above the building it is characterized by the same elements as the main segment, rusticated base with domed corner pavillions supporting a smooth faced coursed ashlar, pedimented and pilastered facade. Above the pediment sits the 4-sided clock with its segmented pediments over the faces and finally a standing seam copper dome capped by an arcaded cupola with finial.

The front facade is five bays wide with the center three recessed to form a second story balcony. These are topped by a central arched window flanked by roundells and support a pediment. The two corner bays form projecting pavillions with paired pilasters supporting a segmental pediment and corner dome. The main entrance is through a three bay arcade five steps above ground level. The first story and raised basement facade is rusticated Berea sandstone, above which is smooth coursed ashlar with paired pilasters with composite capitals supporting a wide frieze. Above the first story windows in the corner bays are elaborately carved cartouches.

The original east and west extensions are similarly detailed although less elaborate. They are three bays wide and characterized by a central projecting second story pavillion, supported by acanthus leaf consoles. This bay is composed of paired pilasters above the balcony supporting a pediment with platforms for statuary. Windows in the outer bays are arched. A balustrade tops the whole composition. Each wing had a central end entrance topped by a dome.

The floor plan is symmetrical with the main interior element being the two-story rotunda with a spiralling stair. The interior dome is plastered and divided into twelve segments by plastered ornamentation in a rope motif. There is a central oculus and each segment has a garland supporting torches. The floor is mosaic with an intersecting square pattern in the center. There is an ornamental iron balustrade around the second story balcony.

The west addition, 1924 and east addition, 1940, reflect the same detailing, of the original building although much simpler. They are each 6 bays wide with rusticated first story and raised basement levels with rectangular first story windows, arched basement openings and arched vertical second story windows divided vertically by recessed spandrel panels.

The end elevations are eleven bays wide with a projecting three-bay central arcaded entrance identical to the main entrance.

The primary courtroom is in the west addition and has been extensively remodeled. Two secondary courtrooms are in the east (1940) wing and are of the art

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Cabell County Courthouse, Cabell County, West Virginia

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Page

2

moderne style. They are wood paneled to the height of approximately 8 feet with plastered walls with panels above. These were meant probably for murals. The wood paneling is in wide horizontal bands of light and dark. The furniture is in the same style with the bench having a decorative band similar to frieze with triglyphs.

The jail was constructed at the time of the 1940 addition. It is rectangular, 5 stories, with a rusticated first level. It is three bays wide with the center bay having coupled windows and a projecting entrance. It is Art Deco in styling with a stepped and setback facade.

Landscaping is in the ordered, processional style of the Beaux-Arts with a central walk to the main entrance flanked by lawns and bordered by poplar trees. Elevation changes are accomplished with elaborately balustraded stairs.

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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
1899-1901	Gunn and Curtis, Architects
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)	
	James B. Stewart, Supervising Architect Robert L. Day, Architect, West Wing Frampton & Bowyers, Architects, East Wing Charles A. Moses, Builder Engstom and Winn, Builders, East Wing

The Cabell County Courthouse, located on the public square bounded by 4th and 5th Avenues and 7th and 8th Streets in Huntington, is significant as an outstanding example of turn-of-the-century Beaux-Arts Classicism in southwestern West Virginia,¹ as a representative example of the growth and evolution of the city of Huntington as a major urban transportation and industrial center,² and as an example of the work supervised by locally prominent architects James B. Stewart and Robert L. Day.³

EXPLANTORY NOTES

1. The only courthouse in this region of West Virginia that exemplifies the Beaux Arts Classical style of architecture, the Cabell County Courthouse incorporates all of the then-fashionable features of classical architecture that American students of the Beaux Art school were bringing back from Europe. Included in these features at the Cabell County Courthouse is a central domed tower, a pedimented central pavilion, paired composite pilasters, a rusticated base, a symmetrical plan with flanking wings, and a grand domed interior rotunda. The presence of carving in the composite capitals, acanthus-leaf consoles and bold cartouches are other stylistic elements present in the composition. Local influence in the design and structural character of the courthouse may be seen in the Victorian verticality of window openings, pavilions, the use of pressed metal in the pediment of the entrance, the drum of the dome, and in the dome itself. These materials were locally available, being widely distributed in the Ohio Valley.

2. Cabell County was formed, as a county of Virginia, in 1809 and named for Virginia Governor William H. Cabell (1805-08). The town of Guyandotte served as the first county seat until 1814 when the county seat was moved to the town of Barboursville. The county seat remained at Barboursville (excepting an 18-month period during the Civil War) for 73 years, until the transfer of the county seat to the new city of Huntington in 1887.

The choice of Huntington as the county seat of Cabell County was reflective of its newly assumed role as the dominant urban and transportation center of the region. The city had been laid out in the course of two years (1871-1873) to serve as the terminus for Collis P. Huntington's C&O Railroad. The city of Huntington sprang into existence in a very short period of time, and the first buildings to be constructed were railroad related structures. Due to the presence of the railroad, Huntington experienced a period of rapid growth, soon outdistancing other communities in the area.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. A Centennial History of Huntington, West Virginia 1871-1971, Doris C. Miller.
2. Huntington Through Seventy Five Years, George S. Wallace.
3. Cabell County Courthouses 1809-1940, George S. Wallace.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3.5 acres

Quadrangle name Huntington, Ohio-West Virginia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	7	3	7	3	7	4	0	4	2	5	3	1	6	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 site is bordered on the east by 8th Street, west by 7th Street, north by 4th Avenue and south by 5th Avenue.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rodney S. Collins, Director,
Michael Pauley, Historian & Michael Gioulis, Historical Architect

organization Historic Preservation Unit
Department of Culture and History date _____

street & number The Cultural Center
Capitol Complex telephone 304/ 348-0240

city or town Charleston state West Virginia 25305

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

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 16, 1982

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

9/2/82

for Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Cabell County Courthouse, Cabell County, West Virginia
Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page 2

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

In 1880, Huntington's population was less than 2,000, by 1890 the population stood at over 10,000. In the decade of the 1880's, Huntington had acquired a water company, paved sidewalks, telephone system, electric lights, an electric street car line, and natural gas service. It seemed only natural, then, that such a thriving and growing city should be the seat of the county's government.

In 1892 the County Commission purchased Lot #90, the present courthouse square, but plans for construction were halted by the Panic of 1893. Plans for a new courthouse were submitted in 1895 by Gunn and Curtis, architects, of Kansas City, Missouri. The contractor for the work was Charles A. Moses of Chicago, Illinois, whose bid for the building was \$95,000. Although the foundation was laid in 1896, actual construction did not begin until the Summer of 1899. The courthouse was completed on December 4, 1901. The first Circuit Court to meet in the new courthouse met on December 26, of that year.

As Huntington and Cabell County continued to grow, two wings were added to meet the increased needs of county government. The west wing, designed by Robert L. Day, was completed in 1924. The east wing, designed by Frampton and Bowyers, architects, was completed in 1940 and constructed by Engstrom and Wynn of Wheeling (who were later to do restoration work on West Virginia Independence Hall). The east wing construction was accompanied by the construction of a jail and some interior remodeling and partially financed by the Works Progress Administration. Both wings are architecturally compatible to the main unit.

3. James B. Stewart, the supervising architect on the courthouse, was a locally prominent architect who participated in the great boom years of Huntington. Architect of a number of prominent commercial buildings and fine residences, Stewart came to the forefront of architectural activity in his supervising role at the Cabell County Courthouse. Within a year of the courthouse's completion, in 1902, Stewart was chosen to design the new Carnegie Public Library (entered on the National Register of Historic Places, April 3, 1980) in Huntington, which is a masterpiece of Beaux Art Classicism.

Robert L. Day, who designed the west wing of the Cabell County Courthouse in 1923-24, was another prominent Huntington architect associated with the Courthouse. Day is remembered in Huntington for a large number of important buildings which he designed.