

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED SEP 30 1975

DATE ENTERED DEC 6 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC



Old Snohomish County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Wetmore Avenue, between Wall St. and Pacific Ave. NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Everett

VICINITY OF

#2 - Honorable Lloyd Meeds

STATE

Washington

CODE

53

COUNTY

Snohomish

CODE

061

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Snohomish County

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Snohomish County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Everett

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Washington 98201**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Snohomish County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Everett

STATE  
Washington 98201**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Washington State Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1974

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Washington State Parks &amp; Recreation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Olympia

STATE  
Washington 98504

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 Old Snohomish County Courthouse, designed by the firm of Siebrand and Heide in the Mission Style in 1910, was constructed on the foundation of a predecessor building which had been destroyed by fire in 1909. The building continues to house local government functions. It was remodeled internally in 1966-1967 as a later phase in the development of a multi-million dollar county administrative complex surrounding the site on two adjoining blocks at the center of downtown Everett.

Now joined at its north end to a modern five-story annex, the building of 1910-1911 is nonetheless discrete and impressive on its elevated site at the crown of a sloping plateau which falls off somewhat steeply to the east. The clock tower of the Mission Style building and the new multi-storied accessory structures neighboring it are major landmarks in the downtown core and may be seen for some distance along principal approaches to the city.

The Old Courthouse is located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 30, T29N, R5E, of the Willamette Meridian. It is situated on the southerly half of Block 716 of the Plat of Everett. The building is oriented on its site to the west; it is set back from Wetmore Avenue and is several feet above street grade. It is approached by terraced steps through a forecourt bounded by a retaining wall. In the 1960's the forecourt was landscaped with Kinnickinnick and other low-maintenance ground cover, flowering shrubs and several small ornamental fruit trees. Elms on either corner of the site date from earlier landscaping developments.

The building plan is rectangular. Including a two-bay, or 30-foot extension of the south end initiated in 1952, the facade and rear wall measure 124' 3". The north and south end walls measure 118' 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The two-story building has a concrete foundation, brick and hollow tile walls with stucco exterior finish. Prior to modifications of the south end in 1952, the facade was perfectly symmetrical, and its formal organization is still essentially dominant.

The water table, or base course at the foot of the wall, appears initially to have been further differentiated by contrasting color achieved through paint or tinted stucco. In keeping with conventions of the Mission Style, the pale buff surface, or wall plane is devoid of sculptural ornament, although it is not without pictorial relief, and it provides a foil for the sharply contrasting color of red roofing tile. At the center of the facade is the square clock tower which rises flush with the front wall a considerable height above the roof ridge. It is topped by a belfry, smaller in plan, which in turn is terminated by an octagonal drum of graduated size and a stucco dome painted gold. Through small, tripartite arcades on each face, the belfry gives access to a deck formed by the main tower. Centered in each deck railing of the tower is a tile covered eave carried by brackets. Below these, clock faces are centered in the tower walls without sculptural surrounds of any kind. Eaves of the hipped, tile-covered roof overhang the wall on either side of the tower and are carried by wooden brackets extending from a shallow applied frieze. At the second story level three bays of round arched windows extend as arcades on either side of the tower. Wood mullions and transom bars frame glazing throughout these arched openings. A tripartite window in the tower face at this level is divided by round columns with square cushion blocks. Below it, a balcony with wooden railings with bulbous turnings is carried by massive, paired

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consoles. The line created by the deck level of the central balcony is extended along the wall on either side by short bracketed eaves with raked sections which taper off to the first story level. The central three bays of the first story are bold round-arched windows. These large arched openings correspond to the three arches of the entry loggia of the predecessor Chateausque courthouse of 1897-1898 which, coincidentally, had also been designed by A. F. Heide. Originally, the center arch in the Mission Style building was a portal, and it was reached directly by concrete steps. In the remodeling of 1966-1967, the portal was converted to a window opening like those which flank it, and the west entry was shifted to the two-story glass-enclosed reception corridor linking the Old Courthouse to its modern annex. A pavillion effect is created at either end of the facade by tripartite window openings at first and second story levels and, above them, false gables with stepped and curvilinear outlines which are a hallmark of the Mission Style. Among the many details which give the effect of color by creating dark shadow in the light surface plane, are lunettes recessed in round-arched niches which decorate the gable tympanae.

When the Old Courthouse was completed in 1911, it was linked on the north end by a single story stuccoed corridor with false curvilinear gable to a two-story annex which had been built in 1908 to adjoin the predecessor courthouse. Because the annex survived the courthouse fire of 1909 intact, it was retained and superficially remodeled in the Mission Style. A detached county jail, also given nominal Mission Style surface treatment, completed facilities on the north end of the site. A courtyard lay behind the one-story enclosure connecting the courthouse and its annex. The north wall facing onto this courtyard featured a pair of polygonal bays surmounted by turrets with pyramidal bracketed tile roofs. Having contained lavatories of the jurors' lounge adjacent to the courtroom at the second story level, these bays were removed in preparation for new construction in the 1960's, as were the old annex and the jail.

The interior of the Old Courthouse was extensively revised as a result of the reallocation of office space throughout the expanded complex. Most of the finish is modern, but original trim is still in evidence in the first story stairhall, where black and white marble borders, baseboards, pilasters and stairway are intact.

Today, the Old Courthouse houses School District offices, County Mental Health Services, the District Court Probation Officer and the Public Defender on the first floor; the County Clerk and Prosecuting Attorney on the second floor. Other county government functions are divided among the five-story Courthouse Addition, or annex; the Agriculture Building and the Administration Building. These latter two, along with a parking structure, occupy Block 715 to the east, which is now connected to the original courthouse site by a plaza developed in a vacated segment of Rockefeller Avenue.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

907

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 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 1910-1911

BUILDER/ARCHITECTS Siebrand (Carl) and Heide (August F)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Snohomish County Courthouse of 1910-1911 by Siebrand and Heide is significant to the City of Everett as an important public building project which climaxed a decade of economic resurgence marked by harbor improvement, industrial expansion and construction activity. The building is significant to the State of Washington as the seat of administration of one of its political subdivisions. Moreover, the Old Courthouse is an unusual and first rate example of Mission Style architecture in Western Washington. The Mission Style was seen occasionally in private residences at the height of its fashion in the Seattle area around 1910, but it scarcely typified regional architecture west of the Cascades. Like those of a number of 19th and early 20th century courthouses elsewhere in the Northwest, the building's facilities have been expanded in recent years to meet increased demands, but with as much deference to the original construction as circumstances permitted. The Old Courthouse is the more remarkable because it has been successfully integrated into a modern county government acropolis compassing two city blocks and a vacated street.

Major alterations and remodelings of the Old Courthouse were carried out in 1952 and in 1966-1967 under the supervision of Seattle architectural and engineering firms Decker, Christenson and Kitchin; and Harmon, Pray and Detrich, respectively.

Everett was not the county's first seat of government. Snohomish County was formed by a Legislative Act of January 14, 1861, which designated Mukilteo the county seat. Six months later, county residents voted to move the seat to Snohomish, a small but bustling shipping community several miles up the Snohomish River, which debouches into Puget Sound above the peninsula which eventually would become the Everett townsite. County business was conducted in Snohomish office buildings, fraternal halls and, ultimately, in a specially constructed courthouse for thirty-six years. Finally, in 1897, Everett business interests succeeded in a campaign to shift the county seat to Everett. The Everett Land Company donated lots on Block 716, the present site, and the corporation's architect, August F. Heide, drew plans for a commodious, three-story brick and stone courthouse in the Chateausque Style. With assurances of Everett Land Company backing, County Commissioners entered into a construction contract, and the building was opened for use on February 1, 1898. In 1908 the facilities were enlarged by a two-story brick annex on the north end. Sparks from a fire which originated in a carriage and wheel factory directly across from the site on Wetmore Avenue spread to the courthouse roof on August 2, 1909, and in the ensuing destruction the annex was all that could be saved. County government functioned in the annex until a new building was erected upon the foundations of the old.

Records of the County Commissioners show that August F. Heide was again selected to draw plans for a courthouse building. As he was at this time practicing in Seattle

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

An Illustrated History of Skagit and Snohomish Counties: Their People, Their Commerce and Their Resources... (Interstate Publishing Co., 1906), 897-898. Heide biog. no.

Hume, M., compiler, Seattle Architecturally (Seattle: Bebb and Mendel, Saunders and Lawton, and DeNeuf and Heide, 1902).

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,0	5,5,9	3,0,0	5,3	1,3	8,8,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING						
C							D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Elisabeth Walton Potter, Historic Preservation Specialist

ORGANIZATION Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
 Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

DATE June 1975

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 1128

TELEPHONE (206) 753-4117

CITY OR TOWN Olympia

STATE Washington 98504

# 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

*Auth M. Shulink*

TITLE State Conservator

DATE September 15, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

*[Signature]*

DATE 12/6/95

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE DEC 3 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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in partnership with Carl Siebrand, the firm name was cited in the proceedings. While the original plans apparently are no longer extant to confirm it, it seems likely that Heide exercised the major influence over the design. He had been the architect of the predecessor building and was the firm member who had ties to Everett extending over eighteen years. On March 2, 1910 the County Auditor was instructed to call for bids for construction according to plans and specifications "on file at the office of the County Engineer" and "also, at the office of Siebrand and Heide, 496-497 Arcade Annex, Seattle." The low bid of Seattle contractors Olson and Mellen was accepted. The project was not finished by the specified completion date of November 1, 1910, but it was sufficiently complete to shelter the first meeting of a newly-elected Board of County Commissioners in January, 1911. The building was subsequently finished and furnished.

The first decade of the 20th century was a period of renewed hopes for Everett commercial interests. The town recuperated from an economic slump, and the holdings of the Everett Land Company were transferred to a new corporation sponsored by James Jerome Hill, who had pushed his Great Northern Railroad from Lake Superior to Puget Sound, where it first reached tidewater at Everett. As a barometer of local ambitions, an attempt was made to have Everett declared the State Capital in 1901. Lumber was the city's major export. Despite government improvements made over several years, Everett's harbor proved inadequate to make it the hoped-for port of international importance. Nevertheless, Everett figured in foreign and coastwide shipping. It was against this optimistic economic background that the second courthouse in Everett was carried out in an up-to-date style and in conformance with "latest approved modern construction" practices.

The Mission Style building did not prove functionally inappropriate despite the fact that the climate of the Washington coast is considerably wetter than that of California, which was the spawning ground of both mission prototype and period revival. The clay roofing tiles of the courthouse are believed to have been specially ordered from a California manufactory. The overlapping tiles are weather tight except under severe storm conditions. The building's style, based upon the 18th century Spanish adobe missions of California, was a fashionable choice, though it is not known that Heide practiced in the style prior to the second courthouse project. Either Heide or his partner, Siebrand, may have been aware of the Mission Style through published sources as early as the 1890's, but it is likely that the revival mode had a more immediate impact upon Heide as a result of his involvement in the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland, Oregon in 1905. He designed the Washington State Building for the Fair. Official Fair buildings were based upon a design theme which the Fair's Board of Architects described as a "free renaissance of the Spanish type" which seemed to be appropriate in view of the earliest explorations off the Oregon coast by Spanish navigators. In the prominent European Exhibits Building which was in the near vicinity of Heide's building for Washington State, Mission Style forms were used. Two other principal theme buildings were akin to the later, more baroque, Spanish Colonial Revival. Immediately to the north of the Washington Building was the California State Building with its cruciform plan in which each of the four fronts was a replica of one of the state's principal Spanish missions. Heide's own work, which

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occupied a choice site in this grouping, was a traditional academic exercise like most of the other state buildings. His effort did not go unadmired, however, for as an adaptation of the Erechtheum making use of grand Ionic peristyles, or colonnades, his temple properly dominated its elevated setting. By 1910, Heide's professional associates in Seattle, if not he himself, were occasionally designing residences in the Mission Style.

August F. Heide (1862-ca. 1943) was born in Alton, Illinois, the third of seven children of Henry and Hermina Heide, natives of Germany. He was educated in Alton public schools until, at the age of seventeen, he began the study of architecture as an apprentice. Afterwards, in Chicago, he is said to have taken instruction in architecture from "private teachers" for four or five years. Heide left for Los Angeles, California in 1886 and spent three years with an architectural firm there, filling positions of foreman in the detail department and superintendent of construction. In 1889 he departed California for Tacoma, Washington, where he spent the next three years in independent practice. During this time he worked on the Tacoma Theatre. In 1892 Heide was attracted by the building boom in Everett, and he became the Everett Land Company's select architect for major commissions. Heide was chosen to prepare plans for the Washington State Building to be erected at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis in 1904 as well as the Washington Building at the Lewis and Clark Fair in Portland. Between 1901 and 1906 he joined in partnership with Seattle architect Emil deNeuf, with whom he collaborated on designs for an office building for J. D. Lowman and the Post-Intelligencer Building for John Erikson. Among Seattle residences executed by the firm were the Shingle Style residence of E. F. Blaine and the Colonial Revival residence of M. D. Ballard. During this time the partners maintained professional listings in the Everett and Seattle directories simultaneously. By the time of his short-lived association with Carl Siebrand, 1910-1911, Heide seems to have divided his time somewhat sporadically between Seattle and Everett.

Carl Siebrand (1868-1938), a native of Germany, immigrated to the United States as a youth of nineteen following instruction at the Technical College of Buxtehude and the Institute of Technology at Stuttgart. Upon his arrival in this country he worked for a few years as a draftsman for the noted Boston firm of Peabody and Stearns. He was attracted to Seattle by the building activity which followed from the great fire of 1889. He practiced in Seattle for nearly forty years, was a charter member of the Washington State Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and counted among his important works the Northern Life Building in which he established his office.

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Interview, April 22, 1975: Robert E. Osbun, Snohomish County Building and Property Manager.

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Withey, Henry F., and Withey, Elsie Rathburn, eds., Biographical Dictionary of American Architects, Deceased (Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1967), 554. Siebrand.