

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

AUG 13 1987

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Franklin County Courthouse  
other names/site number 000641

2. Location

street & number 39 West Oneida N/A  not for publication  
city, town Preston N/A  vicinity  
state Idaho code ID county Franklin code 041 zip code 83263

3. Classification

|  |   |                                     |                          |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ownership of Property                            | Category of Property                            | Number of Resources within Property |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> private                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Contributing                        | Noncontributing          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <u>1</u>                            | <u>      </u> buildings  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State            | <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <u>      </u>                       | <u>      </u> sites      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal          | <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <u>      </u>                       | <u>      </u> structures |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <u>1</u>                            | <u>      </u> objects    |
|  |   |                                     | <u>      </u> Total      |

Name of related multiple property listing: County Courthouses in Idaho  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Konrad J. DeLeon Signature of certifying official 8/3/87 Date  
Idaho State Historical Society State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

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:) \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper 9/27/87 Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

government/courthouse

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

government/courthouse

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement/Art Deco

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls concrete

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roof unknownother 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Franklin County Courthouse is a detached public building on a raised basement story. The building has a rectangular plan. In its setting--the rural village of Preston (population 3951)--the three-story building is tall, massive, and monumental. The building is constructed of concrete with a thin veneer of white paint and sand. The front elevation has eleven bays formed by a centered entrance flanked by five window bays on either side. The corner bays are wider than the other window bays, and their windows are set behind concrete grillwork. Concrete steps form a grand approach to the building, rising from both sides to a large landing, where a wide set of steps rise to the single front door. Windows are multi-light industrial steel sash with two hinged movable sections. They are separated by fluted, outset, concrete pilasters. The inset third story of the building has several round windows. The foundation is concrete; the roof is flat.

On the interior the building retains its plan, with a lateral hallway and a curved, double stairway leading up to the second floor. Interior walls are plaster, sectioned with strips of wood molding; ceilings are plaster with inset coving; and woodwork is oak finished with a pale varnish.

Alterations to the building include the replacement of the entry door with a metal-frame single-pane door. This replacement is compatible in materials. The metal railing on the entry landing may be a recent feature. While the loss of an original door has some effect on the building's integrity, the remaining original fabric and massing of the building conveys the important characteristics of the Art Deco style, and the building conveys a sense of the period in which it was built as a WPA project.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

architecture  
politics/government

Period of Significance

1939

Significant Dates

1939

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

~~architects: Hyrum C. Pope, W. F. Thomas  
builder: Isakson and Morrin~~

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Franklin County Courthouse is significant under criterion "A" in the context of the development of county government as supported by WPA and PWA monies throughout the Depression years. The building is significant under criterion "C" in the context of the architecture of Idaho's county courthouses and as a local example of institutional architecture. The building retains its original massing and most of its Art Deco style features, including its massing, concrete walls, original windows, and several interior features. The remaining original fabric conveys the important characteristics of Art Deco style, and the building conveys a sense of the period in which it was built as a WPA project. Among Idaho's WPA courthouses, the Franklin county building is our least altered example.

Because the building is part of a finite and endangered group of resources associated with the WPA in Idaho and because it is associated with a relief program that had exceptional impact on the Idaho landscape and economy during the Depression years, the building is presented for nomination before it reaches the 50 year mark.

Franklin County received support from the WPA regional office in Portland, Oregon, for construction of its first courthouse in a grant allotted in 1938. The initial grant for \$45,000 and an additional \$15,750 allotment were matched with county funding to build the \$135,000 building. Franklin County, formed in 1913, was quartered in the Larson Block, a commercial block in Preston, and later in the Greaves Building, which was enlarged for county use. The availability of WPA monies provided an opportunity for this small, rural county to plan an adequate building specifically for the county and community needs. As completed, the building provided space for a social hall, agricultural offices, county offices, courtroom facilities, and a jail. Salt Lake City architect Hyrum C. Pope designed the building but died during the period it was under construction. W.F. Thomas,

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Preston) Franklin County Citizen. 30 August 1939, p. 8, and 4 October 1939.

Hart, Newell, ed. Hometown Album; A Pictorial History of Franklin County, Idaho.  
Preston: Cache Valley Newsletter Publishing Co., 1973.

See continuation sheet

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- 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:**

Idaho Architectural and Historic Sites Inventory

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property \_\_\_\_\_ less than one \_\_\_\_\_

**UTM References**

A 

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| 4 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 8 | 0 |
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Zone      Easting      Northing

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Zone      Easting      Northing

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nomination includes the Franklin County Courthouse and the property on which it sits, Tax 20, block 171, Preston.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries are based upon the legally recorded block and lot parcels on which the courthouse is located.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jennifer Eastman Attebery, State Architectural Historian

organization Idaho State Historical Society date June 23, 1987

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city or town Boise state Idaho zip code 83702

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

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of the same firm, continued supervision of the project. O.E. Millard of Logan, Utah, was the original contractor for the building but turned the project over to Isakson and Morrin, Ogden, Utah, in February 1939. The courthouse was completed in October 1939.

The Franklin courthouse is one of several WPA courthouses built during 1936-1940. The building is one of three that is plainer than most Art Deco and therefore suggestive of the streamlined Moderne style. The others are Washington County Courthouse and Boundary County Courthouse. Like most of Idaho's county courthouses, the Franklin courthouse is the most ambitious and stylistically elaborate architectural design of its era, in its locality and its region, and deserves National Register listing on that basis as well as for its contribution to our understanding of the range of architectural designs used for courthouses in Idaho.