

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 Benewah County Courthouse  
other names/site number 001312

2. Location

street & number College Avenue and Seventh Street N/A  not for publication  
city, town St. Maries N/A  vicinity  
state Idaho code ID county Benewah code 009 zip code 83861

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.  
Thomas J. Greco 8/3/87  
Signature of certifying official 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. William B. Bushong 7/22/87  
 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 of the Keeper 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)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/  
Classical Revival  

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls brick  

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roof unknownother terra cotta  

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Benewah County Courthouse is a detached three-story public building on a raised basement story. The building has a rectangular plan. The front elevation of the building has five bays divided by terra cotta attached columns and brick pilasters. Each bay, in turn, is divided into three vertical sections by window units. The middle three bays are recessed, and the entrance is centered on the front elevation. The building has an ivory-colored pressed brick veneer on the street sides (north and east). The other two walls are red brick. The foundation is concrete; the roof is flat. Most windows are one-over-one double hung sash, set either singly or in groups of three. Upper stories on the three center bays of the front elevation contain a large bank of windows divided with diagonal muntins. Below these, the brick veneer is laid in a basketweave pattern. On the other bays, the area between first and second floors features a diamond pattern created by raised brick courses. The double front doors are single-pane. Above the doors is a transom with diagonal muntins. The entry surround is terra cotta with a bas relief rosette design. Above the door is a bracketed entablature. Topping the entire building is a denticulated terra cotta cornice.

The interior of the building retains a number of period features, including its plan; hardwood floors; brown, gray, and blue tiled wainscoting in the hallway; plaster walls; and door and window moldings.

Alterations to the building include the addition of some heating/cooling ducts on the interior. Otherwise, the building remains remarkably intact. The building's original fabric conveys the important characteristics of the Neoclassical style, and the building conveys a sense of the post-World War I period in which it was built.

**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 N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

architecture  
politics/government

Period of Significance

1924-1937

Significant Dates

1924

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

architect: Julius Zittel

builder: Meyers and Telender

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

The Benewah County Courthouse is significant under criterion "A" in the context of the development of county government in Idaho. 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 monumental massing and all of its Neoclassical style features, including its brick veneer, terra cotta detailing, and five-bay front. The building's original fabric conveys the important characteristics of Neoclassical style, and the building conveys a sense of the post-World War period in which it was built.

Benewah County was established in 1915 by act of the Idaho legislature, and the county seat was located in St. Maries. Offices and records were housed in an old school building during the first years of county government but by 1923 the local paper was complaining that Benewah was the only county without a courthouse and jail. (However, that was not the case.) A campaign was launched to remedy the situation. The courthouse was planned for a site already owned by the county, and it was estimated that, because the county had surplus funds available, there would be no new tax burden to county citizens. In January 1924 a bond issue passed easily, raising funds for a courthouse and a school. Julius Zittel, a Spokane, Washington, architect, drew the plans for the new building and Meyers and Telender of Spokane were awarded the contract with a bid of \$87,990. Construction proceeded smoothly during the spring, summer, and fall, and by November 1924 the new courthouse was in use.

Like most of Idaho's county courthouses, the Madison courthouse is the most ambitious and stylistically elaborate architectural design 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. It is one of the most architecturally intact courthouses extant in Idaho.

