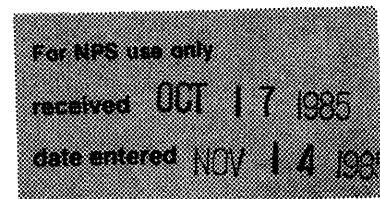


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Item number Various Page 29

NAME: Logan County Courthouse

LOCATION: 301 Broadway, Napoleon, North Dakota 38, Logan County 047

OWNER: Logan County, Napoleon, North Dakota

ACREAGE: Less than one acre.

VBD(LEGAL): Lots 13-24, Block 35, Original Townsite Plat

UTM: Zone 14, Easting = 441045, Northing = 5150040; McKenna Lake North, N. Dak. Quad.

DESCRIPTION: The Logan County Courthouse sits at the eastern edge of Napoleon's business district. The building's nearly symmetrical front (west) facade is capped by a hipped roof. Several details on the exterior are grounded in the popular Federalist revival styling of the 1920's: porticoed entrances with sidelights, keystones over the windows, corner quoins, and limestone trim at floor divisions. A small shed-roofed 8' x 14' jail entrance projects from the south side near the southeast corner. Two non-significant frame storage sheds are located at the rear, between the driveway and the building, and a centennial memorial sits north of the building. The building has two window types: a 12-over-1 double hung wood sash and a 4-over-4 double hung sash. A variation to this pattern is seen in front and rear facade windows which have an additional transom of 2-3 lights across.

The courthouse has had an active history of expansion and maintenance related alterations. The original block of the building, 26' x 32' was built in 1921. Today it appears as one of three bays on the front elevation, and its original rear line is seen as quoins in what is presently the middle of the south wall. In 1924 a large L-shaped addition was affixed to the rear of the original block. The composite resulted in a U-shaped plan with a copy of the original front on the entry facade of the addition, and an intervening courtyard space. A curvilinear parapet a Spanish colonial revival motif, sits on top of the facades. During the 1924 addition a hipped roof with steeple and front crossing gable capped the rear (east) portion of the building. The 1937 addition filled in the court yard space between the front facades with a slightly projecting bay. In 1978 further changes occurred. The 1924 roof, obscured by the 1937 addition, was replaced with a hipped roof which now shelters the entire building. This caused the removal of the parapet. In 1983 windows on the second floor of the rear elevation were replaced with 1-over-2 metal frame windows with an opaque metal transom, and the 2-3 pane transom of the other windows on the front and rear facades were covered over with an insulating material.

SIGNIFICANCE: Date: 1921, 1924

Architect: Van Horn-Ritterbush
Contractor: E.A. Moline

The architecture of the Logan County Courthouse is significant because it illustrates the historic trend of expansion of the services performed by county government. The building derives its historical significance from its use by the court, and from its role in protecting vital county records.

Upon construction in 1921, the 26' x 32' building began to serve the county as a court facility and an adjunct to the existing wood-frame courthouse several blocks away.

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Continuation sheet

Item number Various

Page 30

Transfer to the district court from Ellendale to Napoleon in 1924 necessitated additional office space as dictated by the State Supreme Court. Further need for office space and the availability of WPA grant money gave rise to the infill addition in 1937.

The integrity of the 1937 design has suffered in the 1981 renovations, but the simplification of the new hipped roof is consistent within stylistic parameters. The loss of the Spanish revival parapets has also given the building greater consistency with Federalist revival features. The courthouse is one of two in the state to represent the style.

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