

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 9 1986
DATE ENTERED	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Pershing County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

400 Main Street

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lovelock

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

Nevada-at-Large

STATE

Nevada

CODE

32

COUNTY

Pershing

CODE

027

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

Pershing County, Nevada, a political subdivision of the State of Nevada

STREET & NUMBER

400 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Lovelock

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Nevada 89419

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pershing County Recorder

STREET & NUMBER

400 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Lovelock

STATE

Nevada 89419

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	Minor	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pershing County Courthouse is a monumental scale, Neoclassical style, public building designed by noted Nevada architect, Frederic J. DeLongchamps. The building, which was constructed between June 1920 and June 1921, was erected as a result of an act of the Nevada State Legislature subdividing a new State county from pre-existing Humboldt County. This new political unit was named Pershing County in honor of World War I hero, General "Blackjack" Pershing. The structure has been in continuous use as the Pershing County Courthouse since its construction. Despite minor alterations to the building, the Courthouse retains its overall architectural integrity.

The Pershing County Courthouse is located in the agricultural community of Lovelock, Nevada. The structure occupies a prominent site at the terminus of the town's main commercial artery. The building's landscaped site is defined by rolling lawn and mature shade trees and serves as a community park.

The one-and-one-half story Courthouse includes an unusual hexagram plan — unique to public building design in the State. The entrance to the building is defined by a slightly projecting, rectangular entry incorporating a full pedimented portico in the Ionic Order. This portico is clad in terra cotta. The portico cornice is extended to band the remainder of the building. The brick masonry structure is supported by a raised basement and terminates in a shallow domed roof. The building's raised basement is delineated from the first story by a molded water table. Building windows are one-light-over-one-light, sash en-framed by simple wooden surrounds. First story windows are slightly recessed. First story bay divisions are marked by shallow Doric Order pilasters.

The interior of the building includes a central, circular courtroom which retains its original fixtures and original suspended canvas ceiling. The acoustical design for the courtroom provides single focal sound. The majority of the structure's interior detailing survives intact.

Alterations to the building's original design include the addition of brick facing to the open stairs on the principal elevation and the installation of compatible fire doors leading from the building's entry hall. Neither alteration affects the overall design integrity of the building.

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 checked="" 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 1920, 1921

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Howard S. Williams of San Francisco/
Frederic J. DeLongchamps

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Criteria A & C

The Pershing County Courthouse is an architecturally and historically significant Neo-classical style building designed by prominent Nevada architect, Frederic J. DeLongchamps in 1920-21. During the course of his career (1906-1965), DeLongchamps was responsible for the designs of over 500 buildings, the majority of which were constructed in his native state, Nevada. Though primarily noted for his monumental, Neoclassical designs, DeLongchamps' work also includes period revival and moderne designs. The significance of DeLongchamps' work to the architectural development of the state has been assessed by surveys of Reno, Sparks, and Douglas County, and recognized by the Nevada Historical Society, the University of Nevada-Reno Special Collections Department, the Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, and the American Institute of Architects.

Originally part of Humboldt County, Pershing County was established by the Nevada State Legislature in 1919 in response to petitions by the residents of the town of Lovelock. Soon after 1900, sentiment grew among Lovelock residents that Humboldt County resources were inequitably focused in the county seat of Winnemucca (established 1873). Agitation for transferring the county seat escalated in 1918 following a July 20th fire which destroyed part of the existing County Courthouse. Lovelock residents contended that any new courthouse financed by their tax dollars should be constructed in Lovelock. Lovelock took its case to the Nevada State Legislature in 1919. Amidst considerable lobbying, political maneuvering, and accusations of betrayal, the Legislature approved the creation of a new county on March 18, 1919, with Lovelock as its seat. It was named after then-popular General "Blackjack" Pershing.

As Pershing County preceded with its organization, Humboldt County to the north began the task of replacing its burnt courthouse. Humboldt County officials enlisted the services of Frederic J. DeLongchamps, Supervising Architect for the State of Nevada, to design the Winnemucca Courthouse. The resulting building, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983, is a monumental, Neoclassical design utilizing a Beaux-Arts organizational scheme.

Shortly after DeLongchamps received the Humboldt County commission, newly formed Pershing County retained his services for the design of the Pershing County Courthouse. The Lovelock courthouse, dedicated on June 20, 1921, draws inspiration from the Roman Pantheon in its modified circular plan and shallow central dome. Though similar to the Humboldt County Courthouse in materials and design approach, the Pershing County Courthouse presents a distinctive solution to a modest public architectural program. The rotunda form, unique in its application in Nevada, also reflects Pershing County's desire to establish its own political identity and independence from its northern neighbor, Humboldt County.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

University of Nevada-Reno, Special Collections (DeLongchamp's files)
 Pershing County Library (Pershing County file)
 Minutes of Pershing County Commissioners, 03/27/19; 04/07/19; 09/05/19.
Lovelock Review-Miner, 12/12/19; 03/26/20; 05/07/20; 06/21/21; 09/14/23.
Heritage Herald, May/June 1983, "Reno's Premier Architect" by Robert A. Nylen
 Stanley W. Paher, Significant County Seat Controversies in the State of Nevada
 (University of Nevada-Reno; Thesis for Master of Arts, January 1969).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,1	37,200,0	4,444,500	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Commencing at the Southeast (SE) corner of the Southeast Quarter (SE $\frac{1}{4}$) of the Northeast Quarter (NE $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Twenty-seven (Sec. 27) in Township Twenty-seven North (T.27, N.), Range Thirty-one East (R. 31, E.) and running thence North (N) on the line between Sections Twenty-six (S.26) and Twenty-seven (S.27) in said Township a distance of Three Hundred Thirty Feet (330), thence westerly a distance of Three Hundred Thirty (330) Feet, ^{thence South 330 Feet} thence due East (E) along the dividing line between the Northeast Quarter (NE $\frac{1}{4}$) and the Southeast Quarter (SE $\frac{1}{4}$) of said Section Twenty-seven (Sec. 27) a distance of Three Hundred Thirty (330) Feet, to the place of commencement.

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

Revised by Ronald M. James, Historian, and Kathryn M. Kuranda, Architectural Historian, Division of Historic Preservation & Archeology

NAME / TITLE

Richard A. Wagner, District Attorney, and Cyndy Arnold, Secretary
 ORGANIZATION
Pershing County District Attorney's Office
 STREET & NUMBER
400 Main Street
 CITY OR TOWN
Lovelock
 DATE
08/01/85
 TELEPHONE
(702) 273-2028
 STATE
Nevada 89419

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 Ronald M. James, Deputy
 TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 4/2/86

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>Linda McClelland</u>	DATE <u>5/13/86</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	
ATTEST	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	