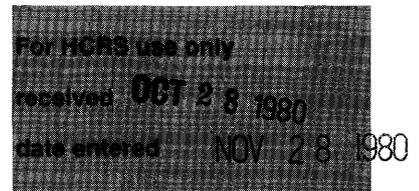


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



## 1. Name

historic Randolph County Courthouse and Jail

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Randolph Avenue and High Street        not for publication

city, town Elkins        vicinity of        congressional district

state West Virginia code 54 county Randolph code 083

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>      </u> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u>      </u> agriculture	<u>      </u> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>      </u> private	<u>      </u> unoccupied	<u>      </u> commercial	<u>      </u> park
<u>      </u> structure	<u>      </u> both	<u>      </u> work in progress	<u>      </u> educational	<u>      </u> private residence
<u>      </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>      </u> entertainment	<u>      </u> religious
<u>      </u> object	<u>      </u> in process	<u>      </u> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<u>      </u> scientific
	<u>      </u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<u>      </u> industrial	<u>      </u> transportation
		<u>      </u> no	<u>      </u> military	<u>      </u> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Randolph County Court

street & number Randolph Avenue and High Street

city, town Elkins        vicinity of        state West Virginia

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Randolph County Courthouse

street & number Randolph Avenue and High Street

city, town Elkins        vicinity of        state West Virginia

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title        has this property been determined eligible?        yes  no

date               federal        state        county        local

depository for survey records       

city, town               vicinity of        state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 Randolph County Courthouse (1902-04) at Elkins represents one of West Virginia's most important examples of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. The round-arched style adopted and revolutionized by Henry H. Richardson (1838-86) in the late 19th century was professionally interpreted in the Elkins building by architect J. Charles Fulton. Fulton's ideas, emphasizing attributes of strength, weight and mass, seem especially appropriate in the representation of force conveyed by the native rock-faced stone facing. Massing of the Randolph County Courthouse is similar to that of Fulton's Barbour County Courthouse; the major difference is evident, however, in tower and corner tourelle placement which in the Elkins building is the reverse of the arrangement at Philippi.

The Courthouse is a modified rectangle of masonry construction measuring 103 feet by 76 feet. Walls are backed with brick and faced in rock-faced stone with contrasting smooth and textured stone trim. Height of the building from ground to eaves is 60 feet. The tower flanking the gabled entrance pavilion is approximately 150 feet high.

Openings throughout are finished in contrasting stone trim. Especially ornate are the spandrels of the arched entrance portal filled with finely executed foliate-style carving. The gabled entrance pavilion is punctuated with tripartite, arched openings and smooth colonnettes. Belt courses and broad cornices corbeled and detailed with modillions add horizontal emphasis to the mass of the building. Transom bars of stone suggest ribbon-like qualities in the groupings of windows at the side elevations. Heading the windows of the tourelle at the west corner of the building are blind arches enriched with carved foliate relief. An engaged buttress rising to the level of the second floor left of entrance carries an above-life-size classical-style figure holding aloft the scales of justice.

Broad, red-tiled roof planes display another of the significant features of Richardsonian design. Ridges are capped with tiles and hip knobs.

A major interior space of the building is the octagonal main courtroom on the second floor. This chamber is reached by a large corridor measuring 14 by 41 feet. South of the seating area containing approximately 300 seats is the bench, elevated two feet above the floor, and separated from the audience by a railing.

The Randolph County Jail is a detached stone building of Romanesque manner standing at the corner of High Street and Court Street northeast of the courthouse, the larger companion building. Its principal feature is a massive conical-roofed corner tower. Gabled dormers pierce the roof planes on either side of the tower.

Both the Courthouse and jail retain high exterior architectural integrity. Minor alterations have been undertaken from time to time, though no additions have appeared to compromise the sense of space. Metal bar doors at the courthouse entrance represent a minor, recent alteration.

# 8. Significance

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

<b>Specific dates</b>	1902-04	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	J. Charles Fulton, architect J. P. Conn, builder
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**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Randolph County Courthouse and Jail are significant because they are the finest examples of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture in Randolph County, West Virginia's largest county, and because they represent two sensitively detailed and imposing public buildings designed by J. Charles Fulton, a prominent architect of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, whose reputation was highly regarded in northcentral West Virginia and southwestern Pennsylvania, in the early twentieth century. The companion buildings also are significant because they exemplify the evolutionary quality of an architectural mode - the Richardsonian Romanesque - that declined in importance at the national level by the turn-of-the-century but remained vital at regional levels.

Following the removal of the county seat from Beverly to Elkins (named for Stephen B. Elkins, U.S. Senator) in 1898, the county court of Randolph ordered a new courthouse. Randolph County, formed in 1787 and named for a distinguished Virginia jurist and statesman, Edmund Jennings Randolph, desired an edifice befitting the status of the county, largest in land area in West Virginia. After plans had been submitted to and approved by the building committee comprised of Oliver Wilmoth, Leland Kittle, and W.E. Baker, construction was begun in April 1902. Total cost of the building, including heating, plumbing, wiring, and furnishings, amounted to about \$200,000.00. The Randolph Enterprise of December 23, 1903, referred to the courthouse as "one of the most handsome, substantial and conveniently arranged and furnished Temples of Justice in the State of West Virginia". The growth of Elkins in this period, influenced by the residence of political and industrial giants Stephen B. Elkins and Henry Gassaway Davis, among others, demanded a distinguished public building appropriate to the rising fortunes of a new city. It is little wonder then that Beverly lost her position as county seat, despite service as the seat of justice in Randolph County for 111 years.

Attention of the architect to proportion and balance of vertical units in the design of the Randolph County Courthouse is noteworthy. The off-centered tower rises from a battered base to integrate handsomely with the hipped roof, though the tower rises to a precipitous height. Its height would be ungainly were it not for the adjacent steep gable of the entrance pavilion which reduces the monumentality of the tower. Balancing these units is a conical-roofed tower at the west corner. By emphasizing the cornice of this unit through corbeling, the conical roof is diminished and subordinate to the principal tower. The same feature of corbeling in the tower, aided by corner buttresses, allows for a soaring quality of the roof above the open belfry. Outlining the various openings, and demarkating the levels of the structure, are voussoirs, balustrades, cornices, belt courses, colonnettes, blind arches, transom bars, and quoins in light, contrasting stone trim.

J. Charles Fulton (1856-1924) a native of Buena Vista, Pennsylvania, entered the architectural profession about 1888 following several years of experience as a carpenter, builder, and contractor. He studied architecture under his uncle, Humphrey Fulton of Irwin, Pennsylvania, before establishing an office in Uniontown. Fulton's West Virginia commissions, in addition to the Barbour and Doddridge County courthouses, include the Methodist Protes-

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bosworth, A.S. A History of Randolph County, West Virginia. Parsons, West Virginia: McClain Printing Co., 1975 (reprint of 1916 addition).  
Nelson's Biographical Dictionary and Historical Reference Book of Fayette County, Pennsylvania. Uniontown, Pa.: J.Meyers, 1920, p. 591.

# 10. Geographical Data

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Acreege of nominated property 1 acre  
 Quadrangle name Elkins, West Virginia

**UTM NOT VERIFIED** UTM angle scale 1:24,000

**UMT References**

A	<u>17</u>	<u>600300</u>	<u>4308640</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

The Randolph County Courthouse and Jail occupy a city lot measuring 160' x 270'. The parcel is bounded by Randolph Street on the S.W., High Street on the S.E. and Court Street on the N.E.

**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 Rodney S. Collins, arhictectural historian  
 organization W.V. Dept. of Culture & History date July 9, 1980  
 street & number The Cultural Center, Capitol Complex telephone 304/348-0244  
 city or town Charleston state West Virginia

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Clarence M. Mora*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date October 6, 1980

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*John W. Ray, Jr.*  
 Keeper of the National Register

date 11/25/80

Attest:  
 Chief of Registration

date

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED	

Randolph County Courthouse and Jail, Randolph County, West Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

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tant Church at Fairmont and several outstanding public and business buildings in Morgantown. Fulton's services were much in demand in northcentral West Virginia before professional architects of this region established themselves in the first decade of twentieth century.

Neo-Romanesque Revival buildings in the Richardsonian manner are not common in West Virginia. Perhaps no more than two dozen examples exist. Of these, only a dozen or so are noteworthy. The style appears in West Virginia as late as 1924, though its use was never seriously considered as the Beaux Arts and Neo-Classical revivals came to dominate public taste in the state after the turn-of-the-century. The Randolph County Courthouse is, therefore, a valuable landmark whose architectural quality is enhanced as the years move by.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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NOV 28 1980

Randolph County Courthouse and Jail, Randolph County, West Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE

2

Bibliography

"Randolph County's Handsome Court House as it Will Appear When Completed".  
Randolph Enterprise. December 23, 1903, p. 1.