

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Elko County Courthouse

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 571 Idaho Street  not for publication

city or town Elko  vicinity

state Nevada code NV county Elko code 007 zip code 89801

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ronald M. Jara 8/12/92  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Nevada Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Autumn Rose

9/23/92

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
one	none	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
one	none	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government/Courthouse

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government/Courthouse

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/

Classical Revival

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stone

\_\_\_\_\_

roof not visible

other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1911

**Significant Dates**

1911

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

William Weeks

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Elko County Courthouse



**United States Department of the Interior  
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The Elko County Courthouse is a two-story, Neo-Classical style building constructed in 1911 according to designs by William H. Weeks and erected by the Sellman Brothers construction company of Fallon, Nevada. The building remains in use as the county courthouse and retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

The Elko County Courthouse, which faces southeast, is located on the main thoroughfare, Idaho Street, and is surrounded by various commercial buildings. The county property on which this building is located contains no other buildings. A three-story, brick addition was added to the rear of the Courthouse within years after construction of the Courthouse. This addition served as the jail for several decades and now houses Juvenile Detention offices. The addition, which is not visible from the front of the building, is joined to the historic Courthouse with a two-story, enclosed walkway.

The nine-bay symmetrical building is supported by a raised masonry foundation. The brick walls rise to a flat roof accentuated by a shallow central dome. The roof line of the building is marked by a cornice with a full entablature supporting an ornate balustrade. The principal elevation of the building incorporated a monumental pedimented portico supported by four Tuscan-form columns with stylized Doric capitals. The buildings' corners are accentuated by coursed terra cotta quoins. The buildings' windows, now two-lite slider sashes, are enframed by elaborated terra cotta surrounds with projected key blocks.

The interior of the building has a center hall plan flanked by offices. Access to the second story courtroom is by way of a central stair. The building, carefully maintained by the county, retains most of its interior finishes. The exterior yellow brick walls have been painted; Elko County plans to remove the paint layers in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standard for Rehabilitation in 1993.

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The Elko County Courthouse is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A for its association with the historical development of Elko County and the City of Elko and under criteria C for its significant architecture. The Courthouse has continuously housed the county's government since 1911. The ornate, Neo-Classical public structure is one of the most substantial buildings in Elko County and serves as a visual focus for the City of Elko.

Elko County was created by the Nevada State Legislature on March 5, 1869. Elko, an important stopping point on the transcontinental railroad, was named the county seat. Elko served as a midpoint between Salt Lake City and Reno. As the focus for cattle ranching in northern Nevada, Elko was an important shipping and supply center, furnishing local ranchers with access to national markets. In addition, Elko was an ideal location for fattening cattle from other regions as they were shipped by rail to the major national stock yards: cattle could not be allowed to remain in small railcars for too long or their condition would deteriorate. Local ranchers supplied the Elko rail stop with hay for this purpose.

Immediately after the creation of the county, the County Commissioners pursued the construction of Elko's first courthouse. The simple, but elegant Greek Revival structure served the county from 1869 to 1910 when it was demolished to make way for its successor.

Shortly after the turn of the century, local leaders called for the erection of a new, larger courthouse which would better symbolize the county as a modern, growing and prosperous region. They retained William Weeks to design a large structure and then paid the Sellman Brothers of Fallon, Nevada approximately \$150,000 to construct it.

Based on the courthouse design, Weeks appears to have been a talented designer, well versed in classical design and contemporary architectural trends. Little, however, survives to document the architect's background or buildings.

Although local leaders anticipated the need for the structure's replacement with a still larger courthouse within twenty years, the 1911 Elko County Courthouse continued to serve the county. It remains as one of the most imposing buildings in Elko and it is also the community's best example of Neo-Classical architecture. The building, which dominates the center of Elko, is a well designed governmental structure reflecting the county's goal of becoming a progressive regional center for the Great Basin.

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Angel, Myron F., History of Nevada with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of its Prominent Men and Pioneers (Oakland, CA: Thompson and West, 1881; reprint by Berkeley: Howell-North, 1958)

Adkins, Richard D.; Ronald M. James and Richard A. Bernstein. "Nevada Architects and Builders," from William G. White and Ronald M. James, eds., Nevada Comprehensive Preservation Plan (Carson City, Nevada: Division of Historic Preservation, 1991, Second edition)

Aldrich, Ethel, "Elko County's First Courthouse," Northeastern Nevada Society Quarterly 7:3 (Winter 1977)

Patterson, Edna B., Louise A. Ulph, and Victor Goodwin, Nevada's Northeastern Frontier (Sparks, Nevada: Western Printing and Publishing, 1969)

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The APN is 01-263003

The boundaries encompass the property historically associated with this building.