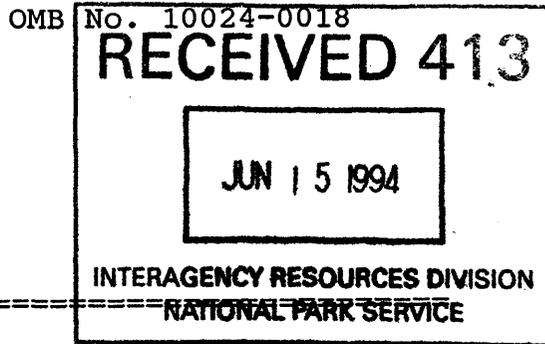


NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: Pocahontas County Courthouse and Jail

other name/site number: n/a

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: 900C Tenth Ave. not for publication: N/A

city/town: Marlinton vicinity: N/A

State:WV code:WV county:Pocahontas code:075 zip code:24954

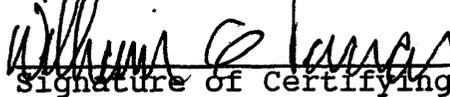
=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)



Signature of Certifying Official

6/2/94

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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

 Signature of Certifying Official Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
 4. National Park Service Certification
 =====

I, hereby certify that this 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):

=====
 Signature of the Keeper Entered in the Date
Edson H. Beall National Register 7-15-94
 =====

=====
 5. Classification
 =====

Ownership of Property: (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure
	<input type="checkbox"/> object

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITH PROPERTY
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2		TOTAL

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS	CURRENT FUNCTIONS
Government/ county courthouse & jail	Government/ county courthouse & jail

=====

7. Description

=====

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:
Late Victorian/Romanesque

MATERIALS

Foundation: Stone

Walls: Brick

Roof: Asphalt shingles

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

X 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.

X 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:

N/A A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

N/A B removed from its original location.

N/A C a birthplace or grave.

N/A D a cemetery.

N/A E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

N/A F a commemorative property.

N/A G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Architecture
Commerce
Exploration/settlement
Politics/government

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1894 - 1940

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1894, 1926

SIGNIFICANT PERSON
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Giesey, M.F. - Architect
Manley Manufacturing Company - Contractor
Gunther, Albert - Mason
Spitzer, G.C. - slater
Pauley Jail and Building Company - Contractor

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):

- n/a preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- n/a previously listed in the National Register
- n/a previously determined eligible by the National Register
- n/a designated a National Historic Landmark
- n/a recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- n/a recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

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

Name of Repository:
Pocahontas County County Commission
900C Tenth Avenue
Marlinton, WV 24954

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property: 1.7 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
 17. 579800. 4230170.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheets.)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheets.)

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Michael Gioulis, Historic Preservation Consultant

Organization: N/A

Date: March 1, 1994

Street & Number: 612 Main Street Telephone: (304) 765-5716

City or Town: Sutton State: WV ZIP: 26601

=====

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====

PROPERTY OWNER

=====

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Pocahontas County County Commission

Street & Number: 900C Tenth Ave. Telephone: (304) 799-4549

City or Town: Marlinton State: WV ZIP: 24954

=====

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

Pocahontas County Courthouse and Jail
Pocahontas County, WV

The Pocahontas County Courthouse is located in the town of Marlinton, in Pocahontas County West Virginia. It is located on a full city block situated on the southern edge of town centrally located east-west. The downtown commercial portion of Marlinton is located approximately six blocks to the north of the courthouse square. Surrounding the courthouse district are residential buildings dating from the early twentieth century.

The courthouse sits in the center of the courthouse square block. To the north is Tenth Street. To the south is Eleventh Street. Judge Street is to the east and Jury Street on the west. The terrain rises steeply to the south, so Eleventh Street is not actually improved and the effective southern boundaries are the hillside behind the square. The square is slightly higher in elevation than the remainder of the downtown and would overlook it if there weren't as many trees and buildings as currently. Early historic photographs show the courthouse distinct from the downtown.

The courthouse is in the center of the lot with the main entrance facing north. The jail is immediately behind the courthouse and there is parking on either side of the jail. In front of the courthouse is a wide lawn with large maple trees. There is a cannon on the north west corner of the lot. The north, east and west edges of the lot are delineated by shrubs.

The courthouse is a two-story, brick, Victorian Romanesque building. It has irregular massing with a central block that has a steep hip roof. On the front elevation there are two towers, one at each corner. The east tower is the taller and has a steep hip roof. Beneath the roof is a wide band of corbeled brick brackets. The shorter tower, on the west corner, also has a steep hip roof that is punctured by a hip roof dormer on the front elevation. The dormer has a pair of multi-paned round-headed windows.

The building has a rusticated stone raised basement level. The front elevation has a central projecting entrance pavilion with a broad arch over the entrance door. This has a smooth faced stone

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2

Pocahontas County Courthouse and Jail
Pocahontas County, WV

surround with a molded trim. Above the arch is a simple wood entablature supported by corbeled stones. Within the squinches of the arch are carved the construction date. "18" on the east squinch, "94" in the west. The arch and entablature are supported by squat doric columns of stone. Above the entrance door is a large round-headed fanlight with spoked, segmented panes. The entrance door has sidelights with wood panels on the lower portions.

On the first floor, windows in the front elevation are paired in the tower bays nine over nine, wood sash, with a six light transom. They have flat rusticated stone lintels and sills. Above each pair is a cartouche panel of stone. The east one has carved "POCAHONTAS"; the west one "COURT HOUSE". The windows in the second floor are tripled round-headed on the west bay and tripled flat-headed in the east. They are also nine over nine wood sash. The transoms in the east are nine light. In the west they are arched fanlights. Above the windows in the east tower, the taller one, are spandrel panels composed of molded brick in a checkerboard pattern. The tall tower has third floor round-headed windows and a porthole window above these.

The dormer in the short tower projects from the plane of the facade and is supported by corbeled brick brackets on the ends. There is a shallow corbeled cornice in this tower and the central block. All round-headed windows have rusticated stone arches above them that are connected to form an arcade band.

There is a monumental "u" stair leading up to the entrance.

The west and east sides have projecting gabled pavilions, each two bays wide. There is also a gable dormer in the roof on each of these elevations in the southern portion. The pavilions have paired windows, round-headed on the second floor and flat-headed on the first. They are nine over nine wood sash with either arched fanlight transoms or six panel flat head transoms. Surrounds and details are the same as on the front facade. There is also a stone belt course connecting the arches over the second

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 3

Pocahontas County Courthouse and Jail
Pocahontas County, WV

floor windows. The gable end is a closed pediment with a corbeled brick entablature. There fenestration in the pediment consists of two round-headed windows flanking a recessed brick round-headed panel. The windows have a fanlight. Windows in the basement level are multi-paned casement sash. The dormers have two narrow round-headed multi-paned sash. An interesting note in the design is that the architect consistently maintains the fenestration rhythms by inserting recessed brick panels (blind arches) in locations where windows are not possible. These occur in the east elevation above the two north windows, where the transoms are replaced with brick. This also occurs in the west elevation in the two north windows of the pavilion where the entire windows are replaced with recessed brick. The vaults for the various county offices are located behind these panels.

The 1976 addition to the courthouse consists of a one-story rear section that slightly wraps around the sides, covering the first floor south two bays. There is a two-story stair tower in the southern corner of the west pavilion. The addition is brick with stone belt coursing and a slight corbel. Windows are multi-paned sash. The addition is to the rear of the original building and consists of only one story. Its impact on the historic visual characteristics of the courthouse are minimal due to its siting and its overall scale. The historic courthouse dominates the square and looms over the addition.

The interior of the first floor of the courthouse consists of a central cross shaped corridor with stairs to the second floor in the intersection of the cross. County officials' rooms flank the corridor. The major extant feature of the interior is the vertical board hardwood wainscoting in all rooms. This is approximately forty six inches tall. The entrance doors to the vestibule are paired hardwood with two lower horizontal recessed panels and one upper glazed panel. Sidelights are similarly configured. The ceiling is a lay-in panel system. Floors are carpet.

Doors are hardwood, two-over-two-panels, with cast brass decora-

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 4

Pocahontas County Courthouse and Jail
Pocahontas County, WV

tive hardware. The escutcheon plates contain decorative geometric carvings. The jambs of the doors have hardwood panels as well. The trim around the doors and windows consists of a fluted trim with bullseye corner blocks at the heads and plinth blocks at the base. The major feature on the interior is the hardwood stair and balustrade in the main staircase. The newel posts are square with chamfered edges between the base and the top rail section. They have applied round bullseye ornaments in the panels. They also have a ball finial. The balustrade consists of turned baluster with square caps and bases that support an intermediate rail. This rail supports turned blocks that support the main rail. In the spandrel panels between floors there are recessed floating wood panels with bullseye corner accents.

The original vaults are extant as well as the iron doors and gates with their decorative stencil work. Within the offices, finishes are the same as the corridor.

The second floor consists of the court room with a surrounding corridor. The court room takes up the majority of the floor filling the north eastern portion of the building. It is fifty feet square. On the west and south of the court room is a corridor that leads to the jury room, deliberation room, library and a stair to the first floor. Finishes on the second floor are similar to the first. The doors and trim and woodwork are extant. The court room has been modified with a new judge's bench and jury box, but the main rail and the public seats are original. The seats are bent wood seats and backs with shared wood arms. The ends of each row have decoratively painted panels.

One feature of the construction of the courthouse mentioned in the period newspaper accounts is the roof support structure. It consists of two Howe and one Queen truss. The addition consists of a corridor that is parallel with the back wall of the original courthouse. On the south side of this is a series of offices. Finishes are painted concrete block walls, vinyl tile floors, and lay-in panel ceilings.

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 5

Pocahontas County Courthouse and Jail
Pocahontas County, WV

The basement has similar finishes. One major feature in the basement is the original flues and chimney breast from the original heating system. This provided hot air and returned "foul" air in the building's first design. The grates for most of the outlets in the first and second floor are extant.

The jail is a two-story brick building in simple Romanesque Style. It has a hip roof with a front gable portion in the west half. There is a corbeled brick cornice and band at the top. windows are simple one-over-one wood sash with flat rough-faced stone lintels and sills. There is also a rusticated stone raised basement. The front elevation, to the north, consists of two blocks with three bays each. The gable bay has a partial returned cornice. It also has three round-headed slender windows in the attic.

The 1926 addition consists of a brick two-story shallow hip roofed ell projecting on the eastern side. This also has a corbeled brick bracketed cornice. Windows are also one-over-one sash covered with steel bars. There is a chain link fence surrounding the jail portion of the building.

The interior of the original portion has painted plaster walls and ceilings and wood floors. It also has decorative wood trim around the windows and doors.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources

The total of contributing resources is 2. This count includes the courthouse and the jailer's residence/jail. The jailer's residence is the older unit of the jail, dating to the period of construction of the courthouse. The jail, dating to 1926, is referred to in county court records as an "addition" to the earlier building (see Drawing No. 1 Of 2). For purposes of the resource count, the jailer's residence/jail is counted as 1 contributing resource. The courthouse annex, a new structure, is attached to the rear of the original 1894 courthouse. It is a large structure but it does not obtrude upon the visual integrity of the courthouse because it stands at the rear of the original building's mass.

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

Page 1

Pocahontas County Courthouse and Jail
Pocahontas County, WV

The Pocahontas County Courthouse is significant under Criterion A for its association with the settlement and development of Marlinton; for its association with the development of Pocahontas County and the commerce of the region through the railroad; and for its position as the seat of County government. Pocahontas County Courthouse is significant under Criterion C as a good example in Pocahontas County of the Victorian Romanesque Style of architecture; as one of the largest and most significant architectural structures in the county; and for its association with M.F. Giesey, noted architect of Wheeling, West Virginia.

The Pocahontas County Courthouse is significant for its association with the settlement and development of the town of Marlinton. Prior to the construction of the Courthouse, the town did not even exist. Stephen Sewell and Jacob Marlin came to Marlins Bottom in 1749. This was the first established settlement in the area. Fort Greenbrier stood near where the current courthouse now is. The county was formed in 1821. The population of the county in 1800 was 153 families. Most of the settlement at that time was in the county and the main town, which started as a trading station and developed into the first county seat, was Huntersville.

In 1890 John T. McGraw purchased land in Marlin's Bottom where only five families lived. The name was changed to Marlinton in 1885 reportedly by Mrs. Jane B. Skyles. The town was laid out in 1891 and advertised as the "place where a town would be built". The population of the town at that time was 100 persons. By 1900 the population had increased to only 171. It was after this period that the town boomed.

The settlement and establishment of Marlinton is closely related to the development of the railroad and timber industry in the region. Without the railroad, Marlinton would not have existed. For many years prior to the town there were numerous attempts to bring rail travel to the Greenbrier Valley. Contributing to this and the establishment of the town were a number of prominent West Virginia industrialists of the period. These include Johnson M.

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 2

Pocahontas County Courthouse and Jail
Pocahontas County, WV

Camden, Henry Gassaway Davis, Stephen B. Elkins, and John T. McGraw.

Camden was born in 1828 and became significant in the oil industry in West Virginia in the 1850's, associating with the Standard Oil Company of John D. Rockefeller.

H.G. Davis was a native of Maryland and became active in the development of the railroad in northern West Virginia and western Maryland. He was also in the West Virginia Legislature and the US Senate, 1871-83. He was instrumental as well in the settlement and development of many towns and regions of West Virginia, including Elkins, Davis, Thomas, and Gassaway.

Elkins was the son-in-law of Davis and joined in the coal and railroad business. He was a US Senator, 1895-1911.

John McGraw, the youngest member of the group, was born in Grafton, Virginia in 1856. He was the one most actively involved in Marlinton's future. He was an active Democrat and a lawyer. He was nominated for Congress but he was never elected.

Camden and Davis became allies after the Civil War and participated in each others affairs. Davis had purchased land in Pocahontas County in 1881 and traveled through on the way to White Sulphur Springs. Accompanying him was Camden and four others and they traversed the proposed route of Davis' West Virginia Central and Pittsburgh Railroad. His intention was to connect to the C&O at White Sulphur Springs allowing an outlet to the eastern market for central Pocahontas and Greenbrier Valley goods and raw materials. Camden was also interested in Pocahontas County and acquired acreage in Pocahontas and surrounding counties between 1881 and 1889. He also needed a railroad to his central West Virginia holdings connecting to the C&O.

McGraw had begun acquiring holdings in the Greenbrier Valley in 1883. By 1905 he had amassed 145,000 acres in Pocahontas County alone. All of this land was not valuable without rail connec-

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 3

Pocahontas County Courthouse and Jail
Pocahontas County, WV

tions. He was perhaps the most diligent of the group. He also had the most to lose. He worked at encouraging Camden and Davis in their efforts to connect with the C&O.

Both Camden and Davis had previously considered Marlinton as a logical location for the connections to the C&O. Camden corresponded with C&O president ME Ingalls in 1890. In 1891 they reached an agreement that the connection of the lines would probably be at Marlinton. It was this development that spurred McGraw on to develop Marlin's Bottom. He visited the area in 1890 and purchased it in 1891. The Pocahontas Development Corporation was incorporated in September 26, 1891. Its purpose was to promote the development of a town at Marlinton. McGraw deeded to the corporation 640 acres for the town. The incorporators were John T. McGraw, J.N. Camden, Jacob W. Marshall, Francis M. Durbin, George M. Whitescarver, HG Davis, A.B. Fleming (Governor of WV), John E. Sands, J. Ed Watson, William A. Ohley, J.M. Hartley, John Blackshere, and T. Moore Jackson. Davis and Camden were "non-investors" and were provided stock for their names. Davis withdrew in 1892.

One of the key promotional activities of the Company, to insure the success of Marlinton, was to secure the relocation of the county seat from Huntersville to Marlinton. This would establish the town as a significant location in the county. Towards this end, they offered \$5,000.00 for the construction of a new courthouse at Marlinton if the people of the county would relocate the seat. They subsequently also paid for and provided the temporary courthouse during the construction years. This commitment of dollars indicates the significance that the Company placed on the construction of the courthouse.

The Company also published a plat of the town dated December 1, 1891, which included the courthouse site. In addition to the construction assistance they donated the site to the county. Also delineated on the map are a number of railroad lines entering town and their connections. Industrial sites along railroad sidings for mills and tanneries are indicated. The voters appro-

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 4

Pocahontas County Courthouse and Jail
Pocahontas County, WV

ved the relocation on December 8, 1891. The controversy with Huntersville did not die immediately, and a second vote was authorized in 1894. This also was successful. Newspaper reports of the day state "It would take more money and whiskey to get it (the court house) back to Huntersville than it did to move it to Marlinton."

In June 1892, 191 lots were drawn and assigned in the town.

Unfortunately, the railroad was slow to come. One of the major factors in the delays probably can be attributed to the financial panic of 1893 and the prior downturn of the economy. None of the major players was willing to commit to such an intensive development at this time period. McGraw appeared to be doomed. He continued to keep Davis informed of his activities. He meanwhile formed an investment with a group of New York investors in a timber company, the Rochester Boom and Lumber Co. The United States Leather Company also entered the picture in 1895 increasing the pressure for a railroad into Marlinton. McGraw and Davis reached a tentative agreement in 1895, modified in 1896. Unfortunately, Davis again lost interest in the project.

At this point, McGraw began to communicate directly with the C&O. Finally, in 1897 the Greenbrier Railway Company was chartered by the State of West Virginia. Also in 1897, the name of the Rochester Boom and Lumber Company was changed to the Greenbrier River Lumber Company. Large tracts of land were deeded to the company, many which had been owned by McGraw. These provided capital for the development of the company and assured the railroad of an investment in Marlinton. Added to this incentive was the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company, which eventually located at Covington, Virginia, but required the raw materials from the Greenbrier Valley. Survey crews began the route survey in 1897. Construction contracts were let for the road in 1899. News media of the day reported that McGraw was instrumental in securing the alignment into Marlinton instead of a second proposed route by offering to provide the rights-of-way at no cost to the railroad.

The first official train came to Marlinton on October 26, 1900.

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 5

Pocahontas County Courthouse and Jail
Pocahontas County, WV

There was a wild celebration which included barbecue, polo, tournaments, a football game, and, of course, speeches. McGraw's dream had finally come true.

Under Criterion A, the Pocahontas County Courthouse is significant for its participation in this establishment and settlement of the town and the coming of the railroad. It was a major item offered to the railroads and industry to lure them to the county.

The county quickly began to grow following the establishment of Marlinton and the railroad. The timber industry contributed the most to this development. The population of the county in 1900 was 8,572. In 1910 this jumped to 14,740 and in 1920 15,002. The jump between 1900 and 1910 is the fifth largest county increase in the state for that decade. Correspondingly, Marlinton's population jumped as well. In 1900 it was 171; in 1910, 1,045; and in 1920, 1,177. The first newspaper in Marlinton was the Pocahontas Times which relocated from Huntersville. It was established in 1882. Telephone lines to adjacent communities were installed in 1896. By 1899 there were 2 banks in Marlinton, the Bank of Marlinton and the Pocahontas Bank. The town was incorporated in 1900.

Marlinton quickly became a center for the new trade in lumber in Pocahontas County. A tannery located in Marlinton in 1903 by the US Leather Company. Another located in Frank in 1904. This was due to the availability of bark from the mills for the tanning process. Other lumber related industries quickly came to the region. The railroad also provided goods for the farmers and residents of the area, as well as transportation for their goods out. For the fiscal year ending June 1903, 191,677 tons of freight were transported on the Greenbrier Division. That grew to 245,591 in 1904; 293,225 in 1905; and 378,926 in 1906. In each of these years, Cass, the nearby lumber mill, was the big source, as would be expected. But the second largest shipping center in the county was Marlinton.

Business continued into the second decade of the twentieth cen-

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

Page 6

Pocahontas County Courthouse and Jail
Pocahontas County, WV

ture. Marlinton was again near the top of the list in tonnage. The 1920's saw a slight decline overall in rail travel due to the increase in truck traffic. Marlinton however continued to play an important role. The Greenbrier Division was still busy due to its position as a through route for the Western Maryland Railroad. Marlinton was an important interchange point. In 1920 a turn table was installed at Marlinton, indicating its prominence as an interchange. Trains picked up coal and water at the yards in Marlinton. Ongoing improvements continued with track and bridge construction on the lines during the end of the third decade. Finally, the tannery closed in 1930, and the depression brought a slowdown to the industry. The tannery was purchased in 1940 and the war effort brought some increase due to shipments of war materials and coal, but the heyday of the Greenbrier Division was over.

Under Criterion C, the courthouse is significant in the county as a good example of the Victorian Romanesque Style of architecture. It contains many of the elements of that style. This style of architecture is a derivative of the Romanesque Revival Styles of the period and therefore has many characteristics in common. There are round-headed arches over the windows and doors; a large steep roof that is an architectural element in itself; a raised loggia level; rusticated stone foundation and decorative surrounds of the windows and doors; corbeled brick brackets at the cornice; and arcade effect of multiple windows on the upper levels. All of these are common features of the style. The particular elements that make it a Victorian Romanesque building, are the delicate effect of the multi-paned windows; the slender tall ratio of the windows; the tower roofs; and the interplay of smooth facade brick adjacent to rusticated basement level and rusticated stone surrounds for the fenestration.

Under Criterion C, it is significant as one of the largest buildings in the county. The county is a rural sparsely populated one in east-central West Virginia. Marlinton is the only large town in the county and contains all of the major buildings. There are a number of large two and three story masonry historic banks and

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 7

Pocahontas County Courthouse and Jail
Pocahontas County, WV

commercial buildings in the downtown, but none have the mass and setting of the courthouse. The courthouse is located apart from the downtown in a pastoral courthouse square. A historic resource survey conducted in 1986 recommended this listing. In that initial list of recommendations, the courthouse is the only large architectural building identified.

Under Criterion C, the courthouse is also significant for its association with prominent Wheeling, West Virginia architect, M.F. Giesey.

The courthouse was originally advertised for bids in March of 1892 when the court reviewed plans developed by Manley Manufacturing Co. of Dalton, Georgia. Full specifications were to be prepared by May 17 1892. The Clerk of the Court, S.L. Brown, was authorized to advertise for bids for construction until January 4th, 1893. This order was rescinded in November and advertised again for a March 1893 opening, allowing two years for completion. On March 9, 1893, it was determined that the plans were not sufficiently complete for accurate bidding and architects M.F. Giesey, H. Read Jr. and J.W. Yost were contacted to: review the plans of Manly; provide an opinion in writing as to their completeness; provide an opinion on the appropriateness of an oak floor versus a "fireproof" floor; and provide additional details etc. as necessary to bid the job. The architect who could respond the quickest was to receive the commission. An interesting inclusion in this list is Joseph Warren Yost, who was located in Columbus, Ohio, and was a prominent architect of courthouse structures in the region. He is credited with many courthouses in Ohio as well as the one in nearby Marion County, West Virginia, 1897.

Giesey was apparently selected as the architect, for his name appears on the drawings alongside the Manley Manufacturing company. It seems as though the drawings are a combination of both of their work. An interesting note at this time is that Giesey began to advertise in the local newspaper, even though his office was located in Wheeling. The drawings also indicate a change in the

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 8

Pocahontas County Courthouse and Jail
Pocahontas County, WV

scale and massing of the main tower, possibly attributable to Giesey's involvement.

On July 12, 1893, Manley was selected as the contractor. Construction proceeded through the year with Giesey appointed to supervise the construction. Subcontractors on the job included Albert Gunther for the stonework; Peck-Williamson Heating and Ventilating Co., also listed as Bennett and Peck; G.C. Spitzer, slater. The cost of the building is not identified in courthouse records, but the March 7, 1893 entry directing the clerk to advertise for bids identifies the payment schedule as \$2,000 upon completion of the foundation; \$8,000.00 upon completion of half of the structure; and the remainder upon completion. The levy for the courthouse is listed as \$15, 917.26. With the Pocahontas Development Company's \$5,000.00, this works out about right. This would indicate that they contributed one third to one quarter of the cost of the courthouse. This is a major contribution. During construction the Pocahontas Development Company also provided a temporary courthouse for the county.

The jail and courthouse were insured in March of 1895. The furnishings were installed soon thereafter. The architect was not present at an August 8, 1895 inspection meeting and his last report indicated that the courthouse was not satisfactorily completed. Therefore the court decided to accept the buildings pending settlement of a \$1000.00 retainer of Manley's money when both the contractor and the architect could be present. There was also a dispute between Manley and Gunther, Peck Williamson and Spitzer, so the court withheld an additional \$3,107.59.

During the winter of 1895-1896, the heater was found to be insufficient to heat the building and Manley was instructed, in no uncertain terms, to repair it. Finally, in July 1896 Manley was paid his balance due, and in January 1897 a final amount of \$356.83 was distributed by the court to settle accounts with workers and subcontractors.

The jail was added to in 1925 when the Pauley Jail and Building

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 9

Pocahontas County Courthouse and Jail
Pocahontas County, WV

Co. was ordered to prepare plans and specifications for a new jail and jailer's residence. In April 1926, the project was amended to a new jail and repair of the existing jailer's residence. Bids were received in May and Pauley was the successful bidder for the furnishings, while D.W. Williams was the successful general contractor. This followed a negotiating period where the jail was shortened by five feet, four windows were removed from the project, and plumbing for four cells was removed.

The maple trees on the lawn of the courthouse were installed in 1913, when the court graded the lawn and installed the trees.

Contemporary newspaper accounts of the new jail and courthouse are extensive in their praise. They mention that there is no wood to decay in the jail and "there will be no expensive repairs or renewals needed for generations to follow." There was a separation of races in the cells and there was a water reservoir tank above each cell for drinking and flushing the "iron hopper closet placed in each cell and connected by scientifically trapped pipes and sewer" which provided "immediate removal of excrement and removes the greatest objection to former jails."

In summary, the Pocahontas County Courthouse is significant under Criterion A for its association with the settlement, establishment and development of the town of Marlinton, which did not exist until the courthouse was relocated here. The courthouse was used by the Pocahontas Development Company as a plum for luring industry to the town. The courthouse is significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of the county, through the location and development of the railroad in Marlinton. It is significant under Criterion A as the location for conducting county government business. The Pocahontas County Courthouse is significant under Criterion C as a good example of the Victorian Romanesque Style of architecture, as the largest public building in the county, and for its association with prominent West Virginia Architect M. F. Giesey.

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 1

Pocahontas County Courthouse and Jail
Pocahontas County, WV

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Blueprints, 8 sheets, Giesey, M.F., Architect, undated:

- first floor plan
- second floor plan
- plan of roof
- framing plan of roof
- rear elevation
- front elevation
- side elevation
- cross section

Callahan, James Morton, History of West Virginia, Old and New, American Historical Society Inc. Chicago and NY, 1923

Callahan, James Morton, Semi-Centennial History of West Virginia, Semi-Centennial Commission, 1913

Comstock, Jim. West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia. Jim Comstock, Richwood, WV, 1976.

Harris John T., West Virginia Legislative Hand Book and Manual and Official Register, Tribune Printing Company, Charleston, West Virginia, 1919

Harris John T., West Virginia Legislative Hand Book and Manual and Official Register, Tribune Printing Company, Charleston, West Virginia, 1917

Harris John T., West Virginia Legislative Hand Book and Manual and Official Register, Tribune Printing Company, Charleston, West Virginia, 1923

McNeel, William Price, The Durbin Route - The Greenbrier Division of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, Pictorial Histories Publishing Company, Charleston, West Virginia, 1985

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 2

Pocahontas County Courthouse and Jail
Pocahontas County, WV

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Pocahontas County Courthouse, County Commission records, County
Court order books

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 1

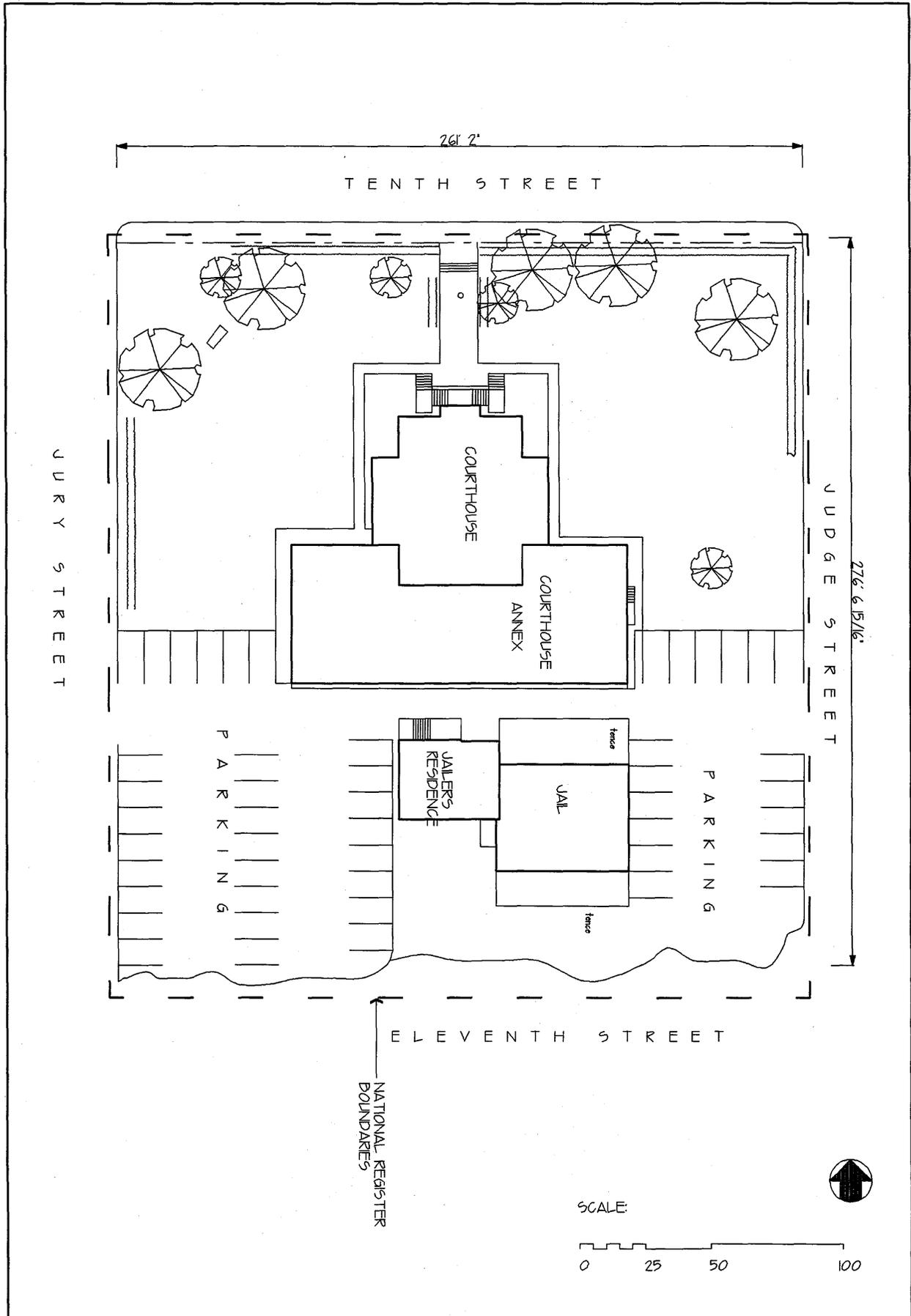
Pocahontas County Courthouse and Jail
Pocahontas County, WV

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The area nominated consists of the entire block bounded by tenth Street on the north, Eleventh Street on the South, Judge Street on the east and Jury Street on the west as indicated on the attached sketch labeled "SITE PLAN - POCAHONTAS COUNTY COURTHOUSE - MARLINTON, WEST VIRGINIA' dated February, 1994.

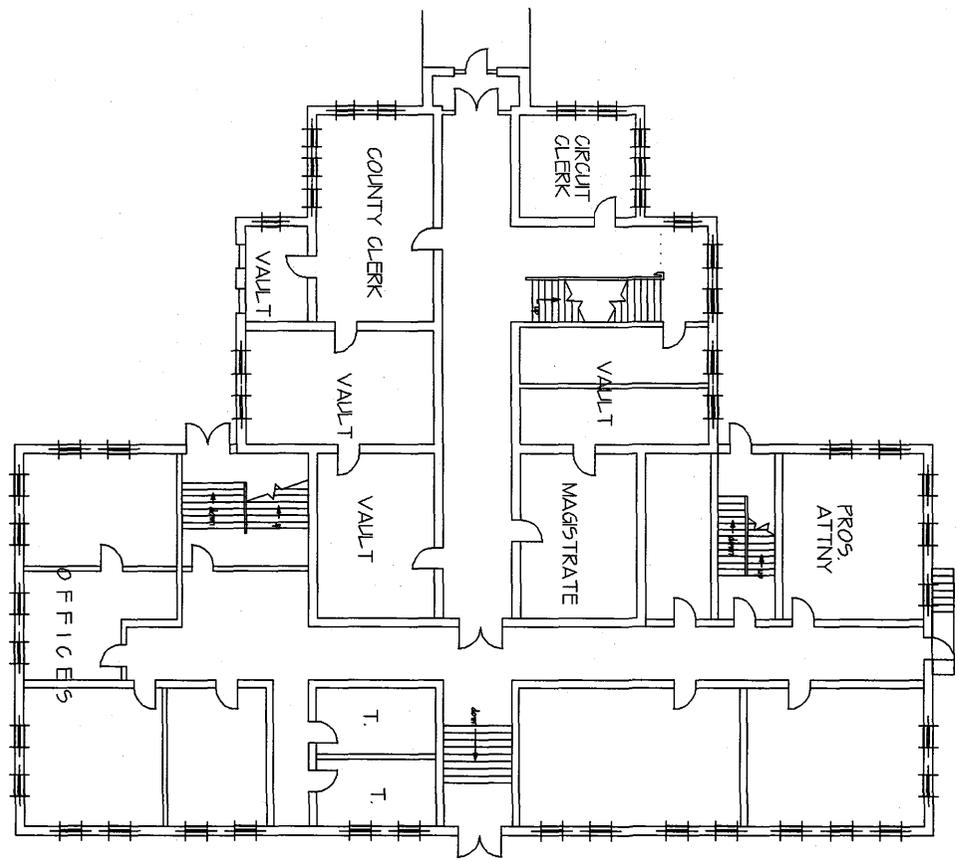
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated area consists of the original courthouse square, which is still the courthouse square.

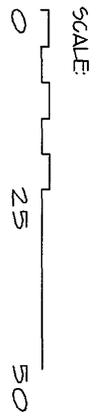
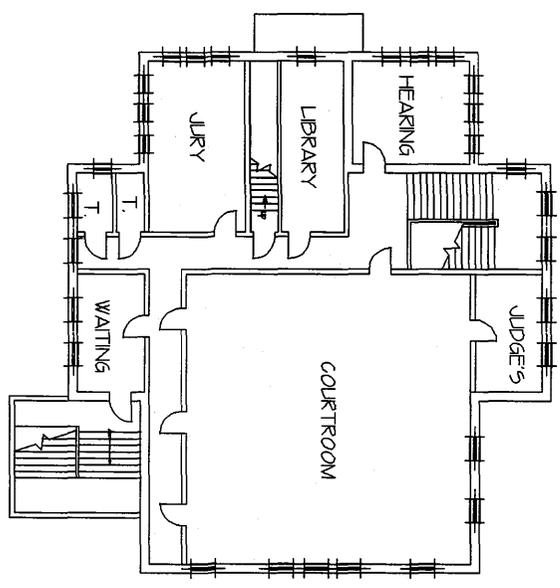


DWG. NO. 1 of 2	<p align="center"> SITE PLAN POCAHONTAS COUNTY COURTHOUSE MARLINTON, WEST VIRGINIA </p>	MICHAEL GIOULIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTANT 612 MAIN STREET SUTTON, WV 26601 304 765-5716	REV. DATE FEB. 1994
--------------------	--	---	------------------------

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



DWG. NO. 1 of 2

POCAHONTAS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
MARLINTON, WEST VIRGINIA

MICHAEL GIOULIS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
CONSULTANT
612 MAIN STREET
SUTTON, WV 26001
304 765-5716

REV.

DATE
FEB. 1994