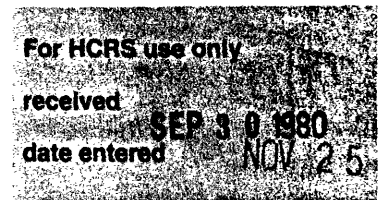


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Richland County Courthouse, Wahpeton (1912)

Constructed of Bedford limestone over a basement of rusticated Kettle River sandstone, this building features paired fluted Corinthian columns supporting a limestone entablature and pediment on the front facade and a tall tower and dome. Walls rise through stone cornices to crenelated parapets. The limestone tower has rectangular windows on each of the eight sides, separated by pairs of columns that support full entablatures and antefix. The metal-covered dome has bull's-eye windows at the four cardinal directions and is capped with a belvedere and ball finial. Fenestration is simple three-pane rectangular windows with flat lentil surrounds. Original ornate lamp posts remain on the arms of the front entry stair, and there have been no alterations of the exterior of the building.

The interior features well-preserved murals, and illuminated skylight in the rotunda. Floors on all three levels and stairs are white marble and terrazzo. The courtroom has a richly decorated coffered ceiling with acoustical tile in the recesses, and fine stencil work in a band below the ceiling on each wall. Hall entrances on the second floor have large ancones, and the ceiling above the second floor landing has decorative plaster work. Other than the courtroom ceiling, the interior has had no major alterations.

Pembina County Courthouse, Cavalier (1912)

The Pembina County Courthouse is the only Buechner and Orth courthouse to not have a central dome, which was replaced with statuary overlooking the front entrance. The building is constructed of yellow Hebron brick with Bealford limestone basement, wall frieze, and cornices. The hooded door surround of the main entrance is also of limestone, and has rosettes along the sides and lentil and a carved tympanum. Although there is no dome, the building has a functioning rotunda skylight and the attendant murals and stencil treatments. The vaulted skylight springs from interior pilasters at the level of the second story ceiling. Wainscoting, stairs, and staircase are marble, and all floors are terrazzo.

A two-story brick sheriff's residence and jail stands to the southeast of the courthouse. This building is a virtual reproduction of other jail/sheriff's residences in association with other Buechner and Orth Courthouses, including hipped and flat roofs, hipped roof dormers, front and side porches, monumental smokestack and dentiled cornices.

Grand Forks County Courthouse, Grand Forks (1913-14)

The largest and most expensive of the Buechner and Orth courthouses, the Grand Forks County Courthouse is a richly decorated white limestone structure in a modified Classical Revival style, topped with a massive cast iron dome. Unlike all other Buechner and Orth

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courthouses, this building maintains a basic rectangular symmetry without projecting central pavilions. The front facade features four pairs of engaged Corinthian columns rising from the string line of the raised basement through the second floor. The large frieze and cornice are further supported by two pilasters on each end flanking the columns. Above the cornice on each elevation is an attic parapet with the date 1913 inscribed, coffering in rectangular patterns, and a garland above each of the pilasters. Side facades are identical, except that there are only two sets of columns.

The rear facade was identical to the front facade, but a two-story limestone law enforcement center has been constructed on the west side and connected to the courthouse with a two-story stairwell. The addition was not unsympathetic to the older structure when built, but window openings in the addition have been closed in and therefore no longer resemble the courthouse apertures. The addition features dark red marble veneer and fluted pilasters on the front or west facade.

Fenestration in the courthouse is deeply recessed rectangular bays with a narrow double-hung window on either side of a wider window. Basement windows are paired, one-over-one, and occur in the same lateral sequence as the bays in the upper two floors. Bays on the first floor have round pediment hoods supported by consoles, except the end bays which have a single wide console supporting a geometric form with garlands and guttae. Second story window bays have flat radiating arches with a console at center, except the end bays which have a leaf pattern garland around the surround head and a central console. Double doors on each facade have the same treatment as third story end bays and a hood including massive balustrade.

The focal point of the exterior is the massive cast iron dome seated on a round limestone tower. The intricate cornice of the tower is supported by fluted pilasters with scroll feet, between which are rectangular windows. The cornice is topped with large antefix connected visually by swags. The dome is comprised of linear panels painted black. Atop the dome is an escarped pedestal ringed by a crown, and carrying a statue of Justice.

The interior is also somewhat different from other Buechner and Orth courthouses, most importantly because the "basement" level is a full story above ground level. The rotunda area of this level is not open to the skylight above, but the halls have blue marble wainscoting and terrazzo floors. The rotunda of the upper two floors feature a functional art glass skylight, plaster pilasters, festoons, and murals within the tympanums of the four arches forming the skylight vault. Second story ceilings are coffered and richly molded, and are supported by pilasters with full entablatures, cartouches, and patera ornamentation. Throughout the interior is fine oak woodwork; lavatories are finished in marble. The upper two stories have terrazzo floors and white and pink marble wainscoting.