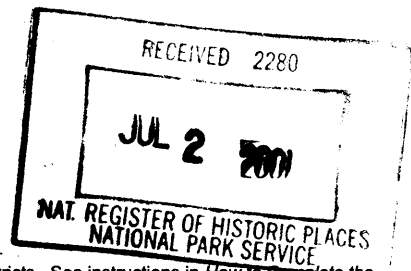


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places 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 Sandpoint Federal Building

other names/site number East Bonner County Library

2. Location

street & number 419 North Second Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Sandpoint N/A vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Bonner code 017 zip code 83864

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 Xmeets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide Xlocally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth Reid 25.6.01
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
KENNETH REID, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or 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 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:)

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Ben Keayser

Sandpoint Federal Building
Name of Property

Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho
City, County, and State

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	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: post office

GOVERNMENT: government office

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH

CENTURY REVIVALS:

Mission/Spanish Colonial

Revival

Italian Renaissance

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof CERAMIC TILE, ASPHALT

other TERRA COTTA

Narrative Description

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

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1928

Significant Dates

1928

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Lovell, W. D. (builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Bonner County Historical Society

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/1 5/3/3/5/4/0 5/3/4/6/9/8/5 B 1 11111 111111
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C 1 11111 111111 D 1 11111 111111

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots 10, 11, and 12, Block 14, Farmin's Addition to Sandpoint

 See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Boundary includes all the land historically associated with the building.

 See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy F. Renk
organization Flume Creek Historical Services date 10 March 2001
street & number 2385 Sunnyside Road telephone 208-263-7697
city or town Sandpoint state ID zip code 83864

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/or 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

name Jones/Bottjer Trust, Roger W. Jones, Trustee and Sherill Bottjer, Trustee
street & number 4 Royal St. George telephone 949-721-6838
city or town Newport Beach state CA zip code 92660

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 1

Sandpoint Federal Building
Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho

Summary. The 1928 Sandpoint Federal Building sits on a large corner lot, separated from other structures by a paved driveway, parking area, and narrow strip of lawn. It exhibits elements of both the Spanish Colonial Revival style and the Italian Renaissance Revival style, both somewhat uncommon in northern Idaho. While the building displays the massing and symmetry of the Italian Renaissance Revival style, the design details are recognizable as the Spanish Colonial Revival style, and this provides that strongest stylistic association. The extensive unglazed terra cotta ornamentation around the window and door openings is typical of this latter style and contrasts with the unplastered red brick walls. Other definitive elements include the arcaded windows, iron balconies, and red tile roof and tiled parapet wall. Set on a full basement, the building is two stories tall with a one-story lobby spanning much of the primary facade. A one-story sorting room extends to the rear of the building. The interior space remains essentially unaltered and the plaster walls, wooden trim, and flooring remain to convey the original design. The Federal Building retains high integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Description. Located on the corner of Second Avenue and Alder Street at the northern edge of the commercial district, the Sandpoint Federal Building has become a highly recognized landmark in town. The building is set high above Second Avenue on a large lot and is raised several feet above the buildings on surrounding lots. A paved driveway and parking area wraps around the building on the south and west sides. A grassy slope extends from the paved area down to the lot lines; another small lawn is located along the north side.

The two-story Federal Building is basically rectangular in plan, measuring 54 feet by 77 feet, with a one-story wing on the west side measuring 19 feet by 27 feet. It has a full raised basement, with concrete walls plastered with a rough stucco. Pairs of six-pane, wood-frame windows are set at intervals in the basement walls. The water table extends up to a terra cotta sill course. The walls use a matte-finish brick in variegated shades of red-brown, laid with an English bond of alternating rows of headers and stretchers. A brick soldier course delineates the division between the stories; diamond-shaped tiles punctuate this course in the pavilions. The primary roof is flat, surrounded by a tiled parapet.

Two full-height pavilions flank the tall, slightly recessed, one-story lobby on the east facade - a form that is strongly reminiscent of the Italian Renaissance Revival style. Each pavilion has a tall, arched opening with a recessed entry. The tall, double doors are wood, each with a carved panel beneath a window. A fan-light window tops each set of doors. These doors and fan-lights are replications of the original ones that had been replaced with metal frame doors. The entries are surrounded with extensive unglazed terra cotta decoration that continues up to surround the second-story facade windows, curving gracefully from two terra cotta pedestals up to the lintel. A slightly bowed iron railing connecting the pedestals gives the effect of a balcony. The terra cotta surrounds include an oval medallion above each entry and a simple cornice that divides the two stories. White tiles with diamonds are set in the upper walls of each pavilion for additional

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 2

Sandpoint Federal Building
Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho

decoration. The pavilions are topped with shallow hipped roofs clad in tiles.

The one-story lobby section contains five arcaded windows with arched wooden muntins and radiating panes. The brick arches contain terra cotta keystones and rest on brick pilasters with terra cotta capitals, each containing a gargoyle. Wooden panels fill the wall area below the window sills. A similar window is set in the side of each pavilion. The lobby section is topped with a simple terra cotta cornice that mirrors the one found above the entry doors. A decorative iron railing tops the section, giving the illusion that the flat roof is a terrace or balcony. The second-story wall behind this flat roof contains evenly spaced pairs of multi-paned windows.

The two main entrances on the facade are reached by wide flights of concrete steps with iron railings. The southern entry also has access via a ramp along the southern side. When the ramp was installed, probably in the late 1960s, the original entry steps were removed and replaced with a deck across the facade to provide access to both entry doors. During the current renovation project, the deck was removed and the earlier steps replicated.

The north and south elevations contain the pavilion sides, each with an elaborate round-arched window on the first story, similar to those on the facade. Set above this is a recessed pair of multipaned casement windows with terra cotta surround. The other windows are double-hung sash set both singly and in pairs. The first story contains nine-over-nine sash while the second story has six-over-six sash. All sills are terra cotta while the flat lintels are brick. The north side contains an additional entry at ground level, providing access to both the basement and upper floors.

The west wall contains windows similar to those found on the side walls. In addition, it has a one-story wing that projects from the center. This wing, originally a mail-sorting room, contains loading doors on the south wall that are sheltered by a projecting flat roof; the loading dock has been removed. Windows in the other walls of this wing are single, six-over-six sash, each with a simple rectangular terra cotta panel set in the wall above the lintel.

The interior has been recently renovated. The first story, originally a post office, was altered in the late 1960s when the building became a library. The counter separating the lobby from the work area was probably removed at that time. The space is now open, delineated primarily by a change in floor covering. The original marble tile floor in the post office lobby was removed, probably in the 1960s. The lobby area is covered with carpet now, but the marble baseboard and trim around the perimeter remain exposed. The rest of the floor, recently refinished, is the original maple. The lower walls originally had five foot tall wainscoting which was removed at some point; this has been replicated, based on both the original plans and a small section of the original that remained. The plaster walls and ceiling remain. The upstairs room configuration, wall finish, and flooring remain essentially unchanged. The basement rooms also remain as built. A unique feature of the building, not visible to the visitor, is a corridor with peep holes designed to allow postal inspectors to check on employees in the mail room; this remains intact.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 1

Sandpoint Federal Building
Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho

The Sandpoint Federal Building is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a local example of a nationally popular architectural style. The handsome Spanish Colonial Revival design is somewhat unusual for northern Idaho which may perhaps be attributed to the U.S. Treasury Department architect who would have been more familiar with national trends and less influenced by local and regional tastes. It served nearly forty years as a post office and more than thirty years as a public library, making the Federal Building a vital part of the Sandpoint community.

Background History:

Sandpoint waited a long time for its federal building. Congress passed an omnibus public buildings appropriations bill in 1913 that included \$70,000 for a new post office in the Idaho panhandle town. Within a couple of months, the Treasury Department accepted bids on possible sites, but it did not make a final selection until 1916 when it chose three lots at the corner of Second Avenue and Alder Street. L. D. Farmin, who had initially owned much of the Sandpoint townsite, had offered these lots for \$4,000 in 1913.¹

Following this selection, the project lay dormant for ten years. High prices during World War I were followed by a weak economy during the recession of the early 1920s, leaving the federal government without sufficient funds for most public works projects. The economy recovered, however, and the project revived late in 1926 with a call for bids on a building measuring approximately 76 feet by 79 feet. George Griffiths Construction Company of St. Louis, Missouri, was awarded the contract in December 1926, with its bid of \$76,500. Apparently the price exceeded the appropriation and the Treasury Department issued new specifications in late January 1927. These cut the building to 54 feet by 77 feet, with a one-story rear wing measuring 19 feet by 27 feet. The major reduction in size necessitated new bids from contractors. This time, the contract was awarded to W. D. Lovell of Minneapolis for his bid of \$73,300.²

Construction began in April 1927 under the supervision of H. W. Sedvert. Poor weather in the spring caused some delays, but the pace of work soon picked up. Wall construction with brick and terra cotta was completed by mid-August, and roof construction with steel beams quickly followed. The brick came from the kilns at Clayton, Washington, near Spokane. Lumber used in the building came from Humbird Lumber Company, a local mill. Crowds of people flocked to see the new Sandpoint Federal Building when it opened for the public in March 1928, with more than 1,000 people in the first hour alone.³

The initial occupants of the new federal building included the post office on the main floor; the U. S. Forest Service on much of the second floor; and the Internal Revenue Service, civil service, and military recruiter in the basement. In addition, the post office had offices and a "swing" room in the south wing of the second floor which provided an area for carriers and other postal employees to rest; it also included a shower room for carriers. The comparable room in the north wing served as the office of the Forest Service supervisor. Following completion of a new post office in 1967, the East Bonner County Library moved into the old post office. It remained there until the opening of the new library building in April, 2000. The building stood vacant until its sale to the current owner later that year. Renovation has been ongoing for much of 2000 and early 2001.⁴

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 2

Sandpoint Federal Building
Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho

The Spanish Colonial Revival Style:

The Spanish Colonial Revival Style's popularity began in 1915 when the California-Pacific Exposition opened in San Diego to inaugurate and commemorate the opening of the Panama Canal. One of the highlights of the exposition was the California Pavilion which was designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style by architect Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue. The style drew on the unique colonial heritage of the southwestern region of the United States, just as the colonial styles were being revived in the eastern portion of the country. While examples of the style can be seen throughout the U.S., its greatest application was seen in the West, where it was especially popular in southern California.⁵ The style, popular between 1915 and 1940, is characterized by brick or stucco walls; shallow pitched, red-tile hipped roofs; arcaded porches; iron window grilles and balconies; highlighted window surrounds; and sometimes a curvilinear parapet.

The Spanish Colonial Revival Style is easily recognized in the Sandpoint Federal Building. It has many of the hallmarks of the style, including: hipped, shallow-pitched, red tile roof, iron window balconets, an enclosed arcaded porch, brick walls, and highlighted window surrounds. Although the symmetrical form with slightly projecting side wings is more reminiscent of the Renaissance Revival style, the building's Spanish Colonial Revival detailing dominates the stylistic definition.

Aside from the uncommon style, the Federal Building stands out from other Sandpoint buildings in its extensive use of exterior decorative detail. Most of the other buildings in the commercial district date from the first two decades of the twentieth century and are constructed in the simpler commercial style common to the era. The buildings are all brick, with simple brick or cast stone trim. A few have metal cornices, but most are brick. The Federal Building, designed by a national architect, provides contrast with its extensive unglazed terra cotta decoration, elaborate arched windows, pilaster capitals with gargoyles, and tile roof. It is locally significant as an excellent example of an important period architectural style.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 3

Sandpoint Federal Building
Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho

Endnotes:

1. "\$70,000 Post Office," *Pend d'Oreille Review*, 21 February 1913, 1:3; "Method of Purchase," *Pend d'Oreille Review*, 21 March 1913, 1:5-6; "Post Office Site Bids Opened," *Pend d'Oreille Review*, 18 April 1913, 1:5; "Selecting the Post Office Site," *Pend d'Oreille Review*, 27 March 1914, 4:3; "Site For Federal Building Selected," *Pend d'Oreille Review*, 18 February 1916, 1:3-4.
2. "To Build Post Office," *Pend d'Oreille Review*, 25 November 1926, 1:5; "Contract For P.O. Building," *Pend d'Oreille Review*, 16 December 1926, 1:3; "New Call For Bids For Sandpoint Post Office," *Pend d'Oreille Review*, 27 January 1927, 1:5; "Contract Awarded March 5 For New Federal Building," *Pend d'Oreille Review*, 17 March 1927, 1:1.
3. "Start Construction Post Office Building," *Pend d'Oreille Review*, 14 April 1927, 1:2; "Will Pour Concrete [for] New Building Monday," *Pend d'Oreille Review*, 2 June 1927, 1:5; "New Buildings Are Progressing," *Pend d'Oreille Review*, 11 August 1927, 1:3; "Over 1,000 People View \$80,000 Federal Building In First Hour," *Pend d'Oreille Review*, 15 March 1928, 1:6-7.
4. "New Federal Building Nearly Completed," *Pend d'Oreille Review*, 9 February 1928, 1:4-5; "Over 1,000 People View \$80,000 Federal Building In First Hour," *Pend d'Oreille Review*, 15 March 1928, 1:6-7.
5. Rachel Carley, *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture*, (New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1994), p.196.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 9 Page 1

Sandpoint Federal Building
Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Carley, Rachel. The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1994.
- “\$70,000 Post Office,” *Pend d’Oreille Review*, 21 February 1913, 1:3
“Method of Purchase,” *Pend d’Oreille Review*, 21 March 1913, 1:5-6
“Post Office Site Bids Opened,” *Pend d’Oreille Review*, 18 April 1913, 1:5
“Selecting the Post Office Site,” *Pend d’Oreille Review*, 27 March 1914, 4:3
“Site For Federal Building Selected,” *Pend d’Oreille Review*, 18 February 1916, 1:3-4
“To Build Post Office,” *Pend d’Oreille Review*, 25 November 1926, 1:5
“Contract For P.O. Building,” *Pend d’Oreille Review*, 16 December 1926, 1:3
“New Call For Bids For Sandpoint Post Office,” *Pend d’Oreille Review*, 27 January 1927, 1:5
“Contract Awarded March 5 For New Federal Building,” *Pend d’Oreille Review*, 17 March 1927, 1:1
“Start Construction Post Office Building,” *Pend d’Oreille Review*, 14 April 1927, 1:2
“Will Pour Concrete [for] New Building Monday,” *Pend d’Oreille Review*, 2 June 1927, 1:5
“Will Start Laying Brick for Building,” *Pend d’Oreille Review*, 23 June 1927, 1:6
“New Buildings Are Progressing,” *Pend d’Oreille Review*, 11 August 1927, 1:3
“Federal Building Progressing,” *Pend d’Oreille Review*, 29 September 1927, 1:2-3
“New Federal Building Nearly Completed,” *Pend d’Oreille Review*, 9 February 1928, 1:4-5
“Over 1,000 People View \$80,000 Federal Building In First Hour,” *Pend d’Oreille Review*, 15 March 1928, 1:6-7

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section No. Photos Page 1

Sandpoint Federal Building
Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Sandpoint Federal Building
Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho
Photographs taken by Nancy Renk, Flume Creek Historical Services
Photographs taken, February, 2001
Original negatives on file at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

Photo #1 of 3: Sandpoint Federal Building looking northwest

Photo #2 of 3: Sandpoint Federal Building looking west

Photo #3 of 3: Entrance detail looking northeast