

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 8/86)  
Utah Word Processor Format (02731)  
(Approved 10/87)

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name BOX ELDER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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

2. Location

street & number 1 North Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Brigham City N/A vicinity

state Utah code UT county Box Elder code 003 zip code 84302

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>    </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

No. of contributing resources  
previously listed in the  
National Register -0-

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Max Fe  
Signature of certifying official  
Utah State Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau

February 26, 1988  
Date

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official  
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

Entered in the  
National Register

- 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:)

Arthur Byers 4-7-88

Signature of the Keeper Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions  
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions  
(enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: courthouse

GOVERNMENT: courthouse

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials  
(enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

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foundation concrete

walls brick

stucco

roof metal

other stone

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The original Box Elder County Courthouse, constructed in 1857, was greatly expanded in 1910 with the addition on the front of a 2-story Neo-Classical section that became the principal facade. The 1910 addition is constructed of brick, sits on a raised basement, and is capped with a central domed clock tower. Few exterior changes have been made to the building over the past 77 years. Two small additions were built on the rear of the building c. 1960, but they do not significantly affect the building's integrity.

The original 1857 building became the rear wing of the courthouse with the completion of the addition on the front in 1910. That original building is two stories high with stuccoed adobe walls, a hip roof, and a rectangular form. Its original Federal style was altered during an 1887-1901 remodeling, when a large clock tower was added and the building took on Italianate stylistic features. All of that ornamentation was removed when the 1910 addition was constructed. Though the facade has been covered and the rear altered, the side elevations (north and south) retain their original fenestration of five evenly spaced windows on each floor.

The 1910 addition is clearly the dominant section of the building. It is rectangular, with its broad side facing the street. The focus of the symmetrical facade is the centered, projecting portico with four large, fluted columns. A broad granite stairway leads up to the building. The low-pitched hip roof is framed with a balustrade and capped with a central domed clock tower. Detailing on the tower, portico, and other parts of the building is all Neo-classically inspired.

The only exterior alterations of note are small additions on the rear. They include the small, two-story, flat-roofed section attached to the rear of the original building (c. 1960) and the one-story brick addition built along the north wall of the original building in 1960.

The interior of the building has been remodeled several times, though much of the 1910 section remains intact. The floor plan of that section not been altered substantially, and most of the original woodwork remains. The interior of the original 1857 section has been significantly altered.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:      nationally      statewide   X   locally

Applicable National Register Criteria   X   A      B   X   C      D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)      A      B      C      D      E      F      G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

  Architecture  

Period of Significance

  1857-1937  

Significant Dates

  1857  

  Government  

  1910  

                  

Cultural Affiliation

  N/A  

                  

                  

                  

Significant Person

  N/A  

Architect/Builder

  1857 section: unknown  

  1910 section: Funk, Andrew, &  

                  Wells, Carson  

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Constructed in 1857 and greatly enlarged in 1910, the Box Elder County Courthouse is historically significant as the center of government in Box Elder County for over 130 years. The building has housed virtually all departments of the county government, including the court and judge's chambers, commission chambers, offices of the clerk, recorder, assessor, and so forth. No other courthouse has ever been built in the county, therefore, this is the only building associated with the administration of Box Elder County governmental affairs. The building is also architecturally significant as the best example of the Neo-Classical Revival style in both Brigham City and Box Elder County. The significant stylistic features are confined only to the 1910 section of the building; the 1857 section is now the non-descript rear wing. The Neo-Classical Revival style was used in Utah primarily just for public and institutional buildings, such as schools, civic buildings, and churches. No other examples of the style have been identified in the Brigham City area.

The county courthouse was begun in 1855 or 1856<sup>1</sup> as the first public building in the area. Vaughn Nielson in The History of Box Elder Stake stated that the rock walls for the basement story were all laid by the fall of 1856. After these basement walls were laid up and windows and doors installed, the structure was covered with a temporary roof, and the building was utilized for meetings and drama during the winter of 1856.<sup>2</sup>

In 1857, two stories of adobe brick were built upon this foundation, but before the walls were finished, a strong wind partially blew them down. These walls were

  X   See continuation sheet

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then rebuilt and the building was completed before the end of 1857. Lorenzo Snow, the leader of the community, stated that "by the fall of 1857 they had built the second and much better court house, the upper story of which was 45 x 65, while the original basement room was 22 x 45." He says the roofing of the new structure was fastened with wooden pins.<sup>3</sup>

The cost to construct this building came from donations or labor tithing provided by the townspeople, the vast majority of whom were members of the LDS or Mormon church. The men of the area were asked to spend one tenth of their time working, or were required to supply materials for the workers.<sup>4</sup> Among those who labored on the building were George F. Hamson Sr. who donated ten thousand adobes, William Wrighton, D.M. Burbanks and Peter Baird did carpentry work, Lars Stranquist did rock masonry work, and Joshua Holland did plastering work.<sup>5</sup>

As the only public building for a time, it had many uses: a church, a school, a dance hall, and a theater.<sup>6</sup> Before the community was divided into wards (ecclesiastical boundaries) and separate churches were built, the people of the entire community met in the large upstairs room of the building for church services. It was the largest hall in town and had a gallery built into the entire west end of it with a choir loft under the gallery. A stage was located at the east end of the room and a table was placed on this stage which served as a pulpit during church meetings. When stage entertainment was held, public and church officials sat with their wives in the choir loft. After the town's division into wards, the Fourth Ward continued to hold church services in the courthouse. They met in the down-stairs east room until 1880.<sup>7</sup>

School was taught in the downstairs east room of the building as late as 1880<sup>8</sup> and theatrical productions were staged first in the basement, where the scenery was painted directly onto the walls, and later in the large hall upstairs where religious and social functions took place.<sup>9</sup>

County and city government meetings were also held in the early courthouse. Brigham City was incorporated in 1867, and meetings with the mayor and city council at first took place quarterly, then by 1894 bi-monthly sessions were held.<sup>10</sup>

By the early 1870's there was a large bell which hung in the tower (on the roof)<sup>11</sup> of the courthouse which signaled work time, lunch time, and quitting time with the Brigham City Co-operative enterprises. It also was a fire bell. Late in 1892, the old bell cracked and was replaced by a borrowed one. This one also cracked when it was rung too long celebrating Utah's Statehood day on January 4, 1896.<sup>12</sup> A town clock was procured in April 1887 for \$433.<sup>15,13</sup> and during this year the building was remodeled with a clock tower added plus Italianate detailing on the building.<sup>14</sup> Around the turn of the century, the top floor of the courthouse was being used for the district courtroom, assessor's office, commissioner's chambers, sheriff's office and judge's chamber.<sup>15</sup>

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In January 1910 a major addition to the front (west end) of the original adobe structure was planned by the county commissioners. Local architects Funk and Wells designed this Neo-Classical style addition,<sup>16</sup> which included four large pillars and a larger clock tower in which the 1887 clock would be placed.<sup>17</sup> S.A. Sackett was accepted to do the construction with the low bid of \$67,521.00.<sup>18</sup>

By the spring of 1910, the new addition was well underway.<sup>19</sup> It took a year and one-half to complete, and on November 14, 1911, county and district officials moved into the new wing.<sup>20</sup> The Box Elder News of Thursday, November 9, 1911 gives a detailed description of the building and its interior arrangement.

Few changes have been made to the building since its completion. A new clock was purchased for the clock tower in 1950,<sup>21</sup> and in 1960 a small addition was constructed on the northeast part of the building, which was the original adobe part. The architect was Don Frandsen and the contractor was Wayne A. Jensen. This new addition provided more office space for the assessor and treasurer plus additional office space in the basement.<sup>22</sup> The board of education quarters on the top floor was also remodeled at that time - a section of the corridor was partitioned off for office spaces.<sup>23</sup> The Daughters of Utah Pioneer's relic hall that had been located in the several rooms at the top floor from 1928 until the 1940's became more visible when it was put behind a glass partition in the hallway of the basement in 1948.<sup>24</sup> Those exhibits were moved to the city museum-gallery in 1978 when the hallway was narrowed to accommodate an elevator for handicapped access.<sup>25</sup> The board of education also moved out of the courthouse in March of 1977 when it acquired an old church building for its offices at 230 West 200 South.<sup>26</sup>

Today, the Box Elder County Courthouse remains the vital government building that has marked it from the beginning. The recorder's offices, clerk's offices, district courtroom and judicial chambers have all remained in their same locations since the 1910 addition to the building.

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1. Lydia Walker Forsgren, History of Box Elder County (Brigham City: Daughters of the Utah Pioneers publication, 1937), p. 366.  
Olive H. Kotter et al., Brigham City to 1900, Through the Years (Brigham City: Eighth Ward Publication, 1953), p. 9.
  2. Vaughn J. Nielson, The History of Box Elder Stake, (Brigham City: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1977), pp. 14 and 15.
  3. Ibid. p. 15.
  4. Ibid. p. 14.

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5. Forsgren, p. 366.
6. Nielson, p. 14.
7. Mary Nichols et al., Brigham City to 1900, Through the Years (Brigham City: Eighth Ward Publication, 1953), p. 3.
8. Ibid. p. 3.
9. Forsgren, p. 168.
10. No author, Yesterday, Today (Brigham City: Brigham City Corporation, 1969), p. 2.
11. The 1884 Sanborn-Perris map shows no tower on the courthouse at this time. Also, an early photograph from the Alma Compton collection shows the courthouse without a tower, but the roof does have a bell on the top of it.
12. Olive H. Kotter et al. p. 12.
13. Ibid.
14. Frederick M. Huchel, Brigham City, Utah Historic Tour: Utah Statehood Day-85th Anniversary Jan. 4, 1982 (Brigham City: Brigham City Museum-Gallery, 1982), p. 6.
15. The Box Elder News, "New Court House Now Occupied", November 9, 1911, p. 3.
16. The Box Elder News, "Notice For Bids", Thursday, January 27, 1910, p. 1.
17. The Box Elder News, "New Light Rules", Thursday, December 2, 1909, p. 1.
18. The Box Elder News, "Will Erect New Court House", February 10, 1910, p. 1.
19. The Box Elder News, "Improvements", Thursday, May 26, 1910, p.1.
20. The Box Elder Journal, "County Officers Occupy New Court House", Thursday, November 16, 1911, p. 1.
21. Box Elder News, "County Court House Gets A New Ticker", Wednesday, September 13, 1950, p. 1.
22. Box Elder Journal, "Apparent Low Bid Is \$41,065 On County Courthouse Work", Thursday, January 7, 1960, p. 1.  
Box Elder Journal, "Work Hits Mid-Point In Courthouse Project", Thursday, March 31, 1960, p. 1.  
Box Elder News, "Building Job Sees Shifts in Courthouse", Tuesday, January 19, 1960, p. 1.
23. Box Elder Journal, "Brigham City Boasts Number of New Businesses, Buildings", Thursday, September 8, 1960, p. 10.
24. K.B. Olsen, December 1, 1987.  
Forsgren, p. 366.
25. Telephone interview with Beth Tingey, December 16, 1987.
26. Telephone interview with David Morrell, December 7, 1987.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Box Elder Journal, 1911, 1960.

Box Elder News, 1909-1960.

Forsgren, Lydia Waler. History of Box Elder County. Brigham City, Utah: Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1937.

Kotter, Olive H., et al. Brigham City to 1900: Through the Years. Brigham City, Utah: Brigham City LDS Eighth Ward, 1953.

Nielsen, Vaughn J. The History of Box Elder Stake. Brigham City, Utah: LDS Church, 1977.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

\_\_\_\_ 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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 1.2 acres

UTM References

A 1/2 4/1/5/3/6/0 4/5/9/5/7/1/0  
Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / / / /

D / / / / / / / / / / / /

\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point 26 feet N of the NW corner of Lot 6, Block 13, Plat A, Brigham City Survey, said point being the SW corner of a concrete retaining wall; thence N 162 feet, E 330 feet, S 162 feet, and W 330 feet to beginning. (tax no. 03-121-0001)

\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the property upon which the courthouse sits but excludes other adjacent buildings which are not associated with the historic functions of the courthouse.

\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Larry Douglass/Director

organization Brigham City Museum-Gallery

date February 1988

street & number P.O. Box 583

telephone (801) 723-6769

city or town Brigham City

state Utah zip code 84302



BOX ELDER COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
BRIGHAM CITY, UTAH

Not Drawn to Scale

N ←

