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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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.

1. Name of Property

historic name Adams County Courthouse
other names/site number 001206

2. Location

street & number Michigan Street N/A not for publication
city, town Council N/A vicinity
state Idaho code ID county Adams code 003 zip code 83702

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number 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> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: County Courthouses in Idaho
Number 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 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. See continuation sheet.

Ronald J. Swan 8/3/87
Signature of certifying official Date

Idaho State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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:)

William B. Bushong 9/22/87
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

government/courthouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

government/courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/
Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls brick

roof metalother concrete

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Adams County Courthouse is a detached two and one-half story public building on a raised basement story. Sited on a rise above Council's downtown core, the courthouse achieves a monumental aspect even with its small size. The building's L-shaped plan, with its main entrance centered at the inside corner of the L, is unique among Idaho courthouses. There are no additions to the original block. The front elevation of the building has three window bays either side of the centered entrance. The building is constructed with dark red brick. The roof is hipped, covered with metal roofing. The exposed eaves have a decorative scalloped treatment. The foundation is concrete. Windows are one-over-one-light double-hung sash except in the entry and the dormer above it. The entry has four-over-one-light double-hung sash windows either side of the doors, and the dormer has a round-arched window. Double doors in the entry have single fixed panes. The entry surround features Tuscan columns supporting a curved pediment. Brick relieving arches and lozenge-shaped concrete insets ornament the building. On the interior, original plaster walls with exposed beams and Craftsman style woodwork are intact.

The building has few alterations. A fire escape has been added to the north side of the building, and on the rear the stairs and porch have been moved. The original fabric of the building conveys the important characteristics of the Colonial Revival style, and the building conveys a sense of the period in which it was built by Adams County to replace the small frame building it had used previously.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

architecture
politics/government

Period of Significance

1915-1937

Significant Dates

1915

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

The Adams County Courthouse is significant under criterion "A" in the context of the development of county government in the state and locally. The building is significant under criterion "C" in the context of the architecture of Idaho's county courthouses and as a local example of institutional architecture. The building retains its original monumental massing and most of its Colonial Revival style features, including its brick walls, brick and concrete detailing, and unique plan. The building is nearly intact, and its original fabric conveys the important characteristics of Colonial Revival style. The building also conveys a sense of the period in which it was built by Adams County.

Adams County was created by the 1911 Idaho legislature to serve the growing population of northern Washington County, which was remote from the county seat of Weiser. Council won a subsequent county seat election over Meadows and Fruitvale. A frame, one-story, double-pen house was used for county offices beginning in 1912. By 1914 there was a definite need for larger quarters for office space and proper records storage. A bond election of \$25,000 was held to support construction of the building, which was completed in 1915. The courthouse continues to serve as the center for county politics, government, and legal proceedings.

Like most courthouses in Idaho, the building is the most elaborate and monumental architectural design in its community. It is one of only two Idaho courthouse designs to suggest the Colonial Revival. The second, built in 1926 for Kootenai County, is a less plain version with large, arched windows that place it in the Georgian mode. The Adams County building is a good example of a vernacular, probably contractor-designed interpretation of the (appropriately enough) Adamsian tradition.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Council Leader 8 May 1914, p. 1; 22 May 1914, p. 1; 30 October 1914, p. 1.
Sanborn Map Company. Council maps, 1914 and 1922.
Swarts, Orvil D. There Was A Council Tree; A Short Early History of Council Valley. Council: Meadowlark Press, 1976.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Idaho Architectural and Historic Sites Inventory

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

A

1	1
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5	4	5	0	4	0
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4	9	5	2	8	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nomination includes the Adams County Courthouse and the property on which it sits, lots 4,5,6, and 7, all in block 2, Council Townsite.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries are based upon the legally recorded block and lot parcels on which the courthouse is located.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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organization Idaho State Historical Society date 6/23/87
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city or town Boise state Idaho zip code 83702