

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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AUG 13 1987

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 Boundary County Courthouse  
other names/site number 001316

2. Location

street & number Kootenai Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Bonnars Ferry N/A vicinity  
state Idaho code ID county Boundary code 021 zip code 83805

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>1</u>	<u>        </u> objects
			<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.  
Thomas J. Green 8/13/87  
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:) \_\_\_\_\_  
[Signature] 9/22/87  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

government/courthouse

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

government/courthouse

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Modern movement/Art Deco

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls concrete

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roof unknownother has relief panels

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Boundary County Courthouse is a detached two-story public building on a raised basement story. Constructed of concrete, the building has a rectangular plan. The front elevation has five bays formed by a centered entrance with fluted concrete pilasters, flanked by triple or double sets of windows. The middle three bays are outset. Between the second and first story windows on the front exposure are several decorative panels. Those on the central three bays are bas relief scenes designed by Fletcher Martin. They depict logging, mining, and farming scenes. The panels on the outer two bays are fluted concrete matching the pilasters either side of the entry. The concrete steps up to this main entrance to the building have Art Deco style lamps set either side of the entry doors; there is a large multi-paned light above the entry. The roof is flat.

On the interior the courthouse has a large central hallway with offices opening off of it. The interior retains its gray-green and brown terrazzo floor, rough plaster walls, and simple wood door surrounds and stair bannisters.

Alterations to the building include the replacement of windows with metal-frame windows and replacement of the front doors with metal-frame doors. These replacements are compatible in materials. While the loss of original doors and windows has some effect on the building's integrity, the remaining original fabric and massing of the building conveys the important characteristics of the Art Deco style, and the building conveys a sense of the period in which it was built as a late WPA project.

**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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Politics/government  
Art

Period of Significance

1940

Significant Dates

1940

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

bas reliefs: Fletcher Martin

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

The Boundary County Courthouse is significant under criterion "A" in the context of the development of county government as supported by WPA and PWA monies throughout the Depression years. 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 massing and most of its Art Deco style features, including its concrete walls, decorative bas reliefs, and fenestration. The remaining original fabric conveys the important characteristics of Art Deco style, and the building conveys a sense of the period in which it was built as a late WPA project. The bas reliefs by Fletcher Martin are among only eight WPA public art projects identified in Idaho surveys.

Because the building is part of a finite and endangered group of resources associated with the WPA in Idaho and because it is associated with a relief program that had exceptional impact on the Idaho landscape and economy during the Depression years, the building is presented for nomination before it reaches the 50 year mark.

Boundary County received support from the WPA regional office in Portland, Oregon, for construction of a new courthouse after an initial NIRA grant of \$16,646 was rescinded. The courthouse was completed in 1940. As significant as the building itself is the set of three bas relief panels designed by Fletcher Martin, one of four WPA public art works identified in Idaho to date. Martin, a former resident of Emmett, Idaho, was based in Los Angeles before he succeeded Thomas Hart Benton as head of Kansas City Art Institute's department of painting and drawing. In Idaho, he designed the initial concept of Ada County Courthouse murals and the Kellogg Post Office murals. Neither project met with his satisfaction, and the Boundary County bas reliefs remain our best example of his Idaho work.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Mecklenburg, Virginia. The Public As Patron, University of Maryland: 1979 pp 88-89

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	5	0	5	8	0
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5	3	9	3	6	8	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 Boundary County Courthouse and the property on which it sits. Lots 1-11, including all in Block 1, Bonnerport First Addition, Bonners Ferry.

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**

name/title Jennifer Eastman Attebery and Nancy Renk

organization Idaho State Historical Society date June 23, 1987

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

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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Like most of Idaho's county courthouses, the Boundary courthouse is the most ambitious and stylistically elaborate architectural design of its era, in its locality and its region, and deserves National Register listing on that basis as well as for its contribution to our understanding of the range of architectural designs used for courthouses in Idaho.