

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUL 28 1987

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 Clallam County Courthouse
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 319 Lincoln Street not for publication
city, town Port Angeles vicinity
state Washington code 053 county Clallam code 009 zip code 98362

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>0</u> objects |
| | | | <u>0</u> Total |

Name of related multiple property listing:
n/a

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.

David A. Johnson Signature of certifying official 7/13/87 Date
Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
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 9/2/87

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)

Culture: museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals:

Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof tar

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The historic Clallam County Courthouse is located in the central business district of Port Angeles, Washington, surrounded by a small courthouse lawn. Constructed in 1914-1915, the building is a rectangular masonry structure which measures about 90 feet wide (across the front and rear facades) and 65 feet deep. In 1979, the courthouse was connected by an enclosed glass and steel corridor to a new noncontributing concrete courthouse built on a lot to the east.

The original courthouse building is a two story structure (with a raised basement and attic) resting on a concrete foundation and dominated by a central clock tower with cupola. The exterior of the structure reflects the Classical Revival idiom of the period and is faced in red brick laid in a stretcher bond pattern with cast stone trim.

A two story central pavilion, with pedimented parapet, projects from the face of the front (west) facade. The pavilion shelters a recessed entry bay framed by colossal fluted Ionic columns. Between the columns on the first story, a double leaf doorway with glazed panels provides entry to the structure. The doorway is crowned with a projecting stone entablature and framed with sidelights and console brackets. Above the doorway, recessed panels with decorative stone and brickwork separate the first and second stories. A large window bay at the second story features paired and single sash windows with wood frames and transom lights.

On either side of the projecting pavilion, the front facade is divided into recessed window bays and solid brick piers. The same pattern of bays and piers is disposed symmetrically across the side (five bays) and rear (six bays) elevations. In all instances, window openings include large wood sash windows divided by a single mullion beneath a transom. The windows are set in wood frames and have projecting sills. Beneath the first floor and second floor windows are decorative panels of brick with stone ornament.

The building is composed horizontally into a base, midsection (comprising the two main floors) and entablature. The divisions are articulated on the exterior by a stone stringcourse above the basement level and an ornamented frieze above the second story. The entablature is completed by a projecting cornice with block modillions. Above the cornice, a brick parapet hides the attic story.

The most dominant feature of the exterior design is the tall clock and bell tower. The tower rises behind the central pediment to a height of 82 feet above street level. The 16 by 16 foot brick pedestal is capped by a full entablature with frieze and bracketed cornice. Above the cornice is a domed wood cupola housing the bell. The cupola is supported by paired fluted Doric columns which project at the four corners and Palladian arched openings with Ionic columns.

The clock itself was made in 1880 by the Howard Tower Clock Company of Boston and was sent to Seattle in 1885 where it remained unclaimed until the architect of the courthouse secured it for installation in the new building. The clock faces are set behind frosted glass and measure 100 inches in diameter. The Roman numerals measure 15 inches tall, the

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minute hand is 46 and one-half inches long, and the hour hand is 31 and one-half inches long. Inside the cupola, the iron bell is four feet tall and weighs 2,000 pounds.

The main entry to the building is accessed by a concrete walk which rises 12 steps from the sidewalk to the lawn and 11 steps from the lawn to the front entry. The interior of the courthouse includes an entry vestibule and a large central hall faced with marble and decorative scagliola. The scagliola is about three-sixteenths of an inch thick, applied to the plaster walls. The central hall has a classical cornice molding and Ionic pilasters at the entries. Double curved stairs at either end of the hall lead to the second story. A courtroom on the second floor still retains original wood trim and furniture. The rooms on the second floor are organized around an open balcony (14 by 14 feet) which looks down on the first floor hall.

The second story is lighted by a skylight covered by a 12 by 12 foot art glass window. The 144 square foot panel of colored glass is held in patterns by zinc and lead comes and supported by steel cross bars installed at the time of construction. The center and border of the skylight has colored ornamental and floriated designs. In 1918, the skylight developed leaks and was boarded over. In 1976, the panel was cleaned and electrically lighted from above to show off its beauty. In 1979, following a grant from the State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, turnbuckles were installed to anchor the panel and a new skylight was constructed above the glass panel to restore natural illumination. A part of the historic jail is still located in the basement and is used for storage.

A state preservation grant in 1979 helped fund repairs to the parapet, the clock tower, the skylight, and other elements. At the same time, a new courthouse was constructed on the lot immediately to the rear of the structure. The new and old courthouses were connected by a glass and steel enclosed walkway which entered the old structure at the location of the original rear entry. The door and windows were removed from the rear exit but otherwise the structure was not damaged or altered to accommodate the new connection. Because the new courthouse is recessed from the old structure, it is not a serious visual intrusion when the courthouse is viewed from the primary facade. When viewed from the rear, the dark reflective glass of the breezeway mirrors the image of the historic building, providing a visual break between the new and old structures. The historic courthouse still functions and appears as a free standing structure. Because the new courthouse is physically connected to the historic structure, it is included in the nominated property and considered a noncontributing element.

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)

government
architecture

Period of Significance

1914 - 1936

Significant Dates

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

Francis Grant, architect
Sound Construction, builder

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

Built in 1914-15 in a distinctive Classical Revival Style, the Clallam County Courthouse is historically significant for its close association with the growth of local government and architecturally significant as an outstanding example of monumental civic architecture from the early 20th century. The building was the first structure built to serve as a courthouse after the county seat was moved to Port Angeles in 1890 and continued to served in that capacity for the next six decades. Reflecting the civic prominence of the structure, the building is distinguished on the exterior by a monumental pedimented pavilion and soaring clock tower and on the interior by scagliola-lined public spaces lighted by an art glass skylight. The property is among the county's finest examples of monumental architecture in the classical tradition, equalled in scale and ornament only by the Federal Building and the Masonic Temple.

Historical Background: Clallam County is located on the northern Olympic Peninsula in the far northwestern corner of Washington State. Topographically, the county includes nearly 130 miles of shoreline (along both the Pacific Ocean and the Strait of Juan de Fuca) as well as the rugged Olympic Mountains. Climatically, the county ranges from a dry belt near Sequim, in the rain shadow of the Olympics, to rain-soaked forests in the Olympics. In terms of land use, the county is divided between a largely agricultural eastern zone and a forested western side, with the county seat--Port Angeles--an important port city and the home of government, finance, and industry.

Previous to white American settlement, Clallam County was inhabited by Klallam, Makah, Ozette, and Quileute Indians. Initial white settlement began in the 1850s, limited mostly to the shoreline and low foothills. The county was officially organized by the first Washington territorial legislature, which created Clallam County from the western portions of Jefferson County in 1854. Six years later, the first election in the county placed the seat of government at the newly platted townsite of New Dungeness. Elliot Cline, who had platted the site, donated land for a courthouse and jail and subscriptions were issued to pay for construction of a courthouse.

The seat of government--and the county's principal settlement--remained at New Dungeness until the 1880s when the Puget Sound Cooperative Colony arrived in Port Angeles in 1887. In 1890, county voters were asked to select a new county seat. Port Angeles won overwhelmingly, despite objections from residents of New Dungeness. But, although the city of Port Angeles offered the county a site and building, no new courthouse was built. Instead, the county records and courts moved among a series of ill-equipped buildings.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Clallam County Auditor's Records, Volumes 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, and 16; 1914-1963.
Fish, Harriet, and Sharon Howe, "Clallam County: A Brief History Including Its Courthouse and Towns," Clallam County Historical Society, Port Angeles, 1986.
Henson, Jack, "History of Clallam County Courthouses," Port Angeles Evening News, August 1, 1952.
Lauridsen, G.M., and A.A. Smith, The Story of Port Angeles and Clallam County, Washington, Seattle, 1937.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one

UTM References

A 1 0 4 6 7 8 6 0 5 3 2 9 0 6 0
Zone Easting Northing

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

D _____

U.S.G.S. Quad: Port Angeles, WA
Quad Scale: 1:24,000

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

South 335 feet of east 220 feet of Lot 26 E Sub Lots and Blocks, Town of Port Angeles, Washington. This parcel includes both the old courthouse and the attached new courthouse.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the historic courthouse and courthouse lawn. The new courthouse does not contribute to the significance of the property, but is included in the nominated parcel because it is physically connected to the historic structure. See item 7 for description.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Glen Edmonson (edited by Leonard Garfield, OAHP)
organization Clallam Co. Heritage Advisory Board date November 1986 (rev. May 1987)
street & number 174 Pinnell Road telephone 206/683-8963
city or town Sequim state WA zip code 98382

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In November 1890, the courthouse records were removed from New Dungeness to the Nelson Block on West Front Street, a commercial building in downtown Port Angeles. The following year, the courthouse was moved to the ground floor of the Greenleaf Hotel at Second and Valley Streets. In 1892, the hotel burned and the county offices were again moved, this time to the McInness Building in the 100 block of East Front Street (no longer extant). The same year the county purchased the Catholic Church on Lincoln Street (no longer extant) and that building remained the seat of government until construction of the nominated building was begun in 1914. When the county decided to build a new permanent structure on a lot donated by the city next door to the church, the courthouse moved to its last temporary location in the old Central School building on Front Street.

Construction of the new courthouse started on August 1, 1914 and the cornerstone was laid at a ceremony officiated by the Masonic Lodge on October 16. The county retained Francis Grant as architect and Sound Construction Company as the contractor, with O.T. Webber serving as superintendent. H.B. Scott directed preparation of the scagliola. The clock in the tower was installed by Joseph Mayer and Brothers and the Stewart Iron Works built the jail in the basement. On June 14, 1915, the Elks Naval Lodge officiated at the official opening ceremony for the new courthouse.

The courthouse was the tallest building in the city at the time of completion and was the finest example of Classical Revival architecture in the city. For the next 67 years, the structure served as the official place of county business, judicial proceedings, storage of records, and the site of important public meetings. In 1979, the county purchased a lot east of the historic building and constructed a new \$10 million, 115,000 square foot complex connected to the old structure by a glass enclosed walkway. At the same time, the old courthouse was rehabilitated (with the assistance of a grant administered by the State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation) and converted into the home of the Clallam County Historical Museum. Although the two courthouses are connected by an enclosed walkway, the historic building clearly retains integrity of form, fabric, and detail, and reflects the monumental character that it possessed when first constructed.