

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received SEP 28 1984

date entered NOV 8 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Lincoln County Courthouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Sage and Garnet Streets not for publication

city, town Kemmerer vicinity of

state Wyoming code 056 county Lincoln code 023

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name County of Lincoln

street & number Sage and Garnet Streets

city, town Kemmerer vicinity of state Wyoming 83101

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County of Lincoln

street & number Sage and Garnet Streets

city, town Kemmerer state Wyoming 83101

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wyoming Recreation Commission has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983-84 federal state county local

depository for survey records Herschler Building

city, town Cheyenne state Wyoming 82002

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lincoln County Courthouse is one of the architectural landmarks within the town of Kemmerer, Wyoming. Constructed in 1925, the Salt Lake City architectural firm of Headlund and Watkins designed the building. Compared with other historic Wyoming courthouses, Lincoln County's structure is unique because of its distinctive neoclassical facade and unmarred physical integrity. The mixture of classical detailing, such as the dome and entablature, with the large brick parapet walls is an unusual combination of architectural elements. The courthouse complex occupies a full city block and is located in an area which is primarily residential. Only the courthouse building is included within the nomination's boundaries.

The exterior of the building consists of multicolored brick and poured concrete walls aligned in a modified cruciform plan. A new concrete extension attached to the back or west facade acts as a connector between the courthouse and a new office building. High raised basement walls constructed of poured concrete support the 1½-story structure. Dominant architectural features include the polygonal dome with the statue of justice and the large portico with six doric columns.

During the construction phase the poured concrete walls were formed to resemble unadorned large stone blocks stacked on top of each other. Six sets of paired double hung windows, one-light-over-one-light, punctuate the basement walls. A water-table that consists of two unadorned pieces of concrete delineates the division between the basement and first story. Two modern single glass doors, hidden from view, provide access to the basement from underneath the staircase. Entry to the building can also be made through double glass doors found in the middle of the basement walls on the north and south facades.

An elliptically shaped concrete wall centered in the middle of the facade below the staircase identifies the building. The handrail on the lower portion of the staircase is slightly curved to visually direct traffic to the main stairs. A moderately pitched staircase provides access to the main entry through three sets of double glass doors. Six Greek doric columns draw attention to the large portico and main entry. The portico actually juts out from the main facade and two of the columns are supported by square concrete piers; the portico does not extend across the entire primary facade. A modified doric entablature sits atop the doric columns. Although the architrave is plain, triglyphs and metopes ornament the frieze. An unusually fashioned metal cornice with a long row of connected anthemions ornaments the doric order. A stepped brick parapet wall with poured concrete caps decorates the upper portion of the courthouse. A square ornament in the middle of the parapet wall is currently empty but will hold Lincoln County's seal in the near future.

SEE ADDENDUM

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE ADDENDUM

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Kemmerer, WY

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	2	5	3	8	2	2	5	4	6	2	6	6	2	5
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE ADDENDUM

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Norma B. Williamson, Administrative Assistant, Board of Commissioners

organization Lincoln County date March 27, 1984

street & number Sage & Garnet Streets telephone (307) 877-9056

city or town Kemmerer state Wyoming

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Madeline, Deputy SHPO*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/27/84

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Beth Crosona date 11/8/84
for Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The main portion of the first story is dominated by poured windows and doors. The fenestration pattern on each facade is evenly spaced to reinforce the symmetrical appearance of the building. Each of the bays has a multicolored stained glass transom over the fixture and a molded concrete label surrounds each set of windows. The doric entablature continues to encircle the building although the cornice is plain. The parapet walls on the north and south parts of the cruciform plan are identical to the parapet wall on the east facade. One of the south facade windows has been removed and infilled with brick.

The roof is divided into several components: one dome, three slightly pitched deck-on-hip roofs, and mechanical ventilation systems. Ornamented stained glass skylights as part of the hipped roofs provide filtered sunlight to the chambers below. Elevated by poured concrete walls identical to the basement walls, the polygonal dome with asphalt shingles sits above the rest of the roof. A bronze statue of justice placed on a platform is the highest point of the building. During a recent rehabilitation, the upper portion of the first story, the attic, was converted to office space.

Some of the neoclassical elements found on the exterior of the building are also part of the interior's ornamentation. Fortunately a great deal of the original white oak moldings and doors have survived. An atrium defined by metal railings placed in an octagonal shape is open from the basement to the dome.

The Lincoln County Courthouse does not fit into a specific architectural category but has elements of Beaux-Arts Classicism and Neo Classical Revival styles.

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Mountain men were among the first white visitors to the area that is now Lincoln County, but these men were transients with little interest in settling down in western Wyoming. Thousands of other people, bound for Oregon and California, passed through Lincoln County between 1840 and 1870 along the overland trails that criss-crossed the area. However, not many whites settled there until the 1870's when a few hardy souls began to ranch along the tributaries of the Green River.

These earliest settlers came to Lincoln County to ranch. Cokeville's founder, John W. Stoner, for example, appeared in the area in 1878, and began cattle ranching, store-keeping, and town building. Construction of the Oregon Short Line soon after, sparked Cokeville's growth and its increasing importance as a shipping point for local stock. Most area ranches began with cattle and gradually moved into sheep raising. While Stoner was settling Cokeville, Mormons from Utah were founding Afton in Star Valley, also in 1878. Ranching, dairy farming, and lumbering provided the economic foundation for development of that corner of the future county. Simultaneously, settlers began ranching operations throughout the Green River Valley and other sections of the county.

It was development of coal in the Frontier, Kemmerer, and Diamondville locales, however, that really ignited economic growth in Lincoln County. The Diamond Coal and Coke Company opened its first mine in 1894 and eventually began operations at other mines, including Glencoe and Oakley. In the meantime, Patrick J. Quealy started to purchase land in the Hamsfork area around 1894. He was interested in cattle, but his primary objective was coal. Quealy, who possessed valuable experience in coal mining and quite a reputation as a minerals specialist, lacked capital. Consequently, he convinced Mahlon S. Kemmerer, a steel industry magnate from Pennsylvania, to invest in Lincoln County coal. Their partnership led to the creation of the Kemmerer Coal Company which shipped its first coal out of Kemmerer in October, 1897.

From that point on, the fortunes of what became southern Lincoln County were tied to the coal industry. Gradually, other minerals attracted investors' capital. In 1908 the LaBarge Oil Field began drilling oil. And the gas and phosphate industries eventually developed. However, coal remained the premier mineral industry.

The relationship between economic development and the organization and reorganization of county government is clear. When Congress created Wyoming Territory in 1868, it also divided the territory into four counties. Western Wyoming became Carter County. The following year, the territorial legislature divided Carter County into Uinta and Sweetwater Counties. Present-day Lincoln County was part of Uinta County at that time, and the Uinta County Courthouse served as a repository of area records.

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One decade into the twentieth century, after experiencing a period of accelerated economic development, citizens from Kemmerer and other points north began to agitate for separation from Uinta County. They did so to the dismay of those living in the remainder of the county. Nevertheless, on June 13, 1911, the people of northern Uinta County voted to divide and to make Kemmerer the county seat of a new county. On January 1, 1913, Lincoln County, the only county in the state named for a president, came into existence. Its boundaries included everything from the present Uinta County line to Yellowstone Park. Teton and Sublette Counties were later carved out of Lincoln County and in 1920 the county's present boundaries were established.

By 1924, the three-man county commission, which met monthly, began to express the need for a permanent governmental facility. In January, 1924, the Kemmerer Republican reported that the board of commissioners was considering a bond issue as a means of financing the construction of a county courthouse. In the following months these plans took shape and a bond issue of \$100,000 was issued to fund the project. Headlund and Watkins, a Salt Lake City, Utah, architectural firm, was hired to design the building, and in April, 1924, they presented sketches of proposed buildings to the board of commissioners and a large group of interested citizens. According to the Republican, the less elaborate plan was selected. The rejected drawing had featured domes and minarets. There is no public record of opposition to the project, and the bond issue passed easily in August. During the following year, the Courthouse was constructed and opened for business.

Since 1925, coal mining, ranching and railroading have remained the most significant enterprises in southwest Wyoming. National recessions and depressions have taken their toll on the economy of Lincoln County. But for the most part, the economic activities of the earliest white settlers have prevailed. In 1977, minerals were responsible for 27% of the assessed valuation of Lincoln County. Coal made up 74% of that valuation and 20% of the county's total valuation. To be sure, ranching, oil, gas and phosphate have also played significant roles in the county's economy since 1925, but the Kemmerer Coal Company, FMC Corporation, and Rocky Mountain Energy's coal developments have remained prominent features of the county's economy through its more recent history. The construction of the substantial, impressive Lincoln County Courthouse in 1925 serves as testimony to the citizenry's faith in their region's economic promise, through coal and other products, and pride in their local government.

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This nomination includes the courthouse building located on all of Block 44 in the second addition to the original town of Kemmerer. The courthouse occupies the center of the block with traditional landscaping surrounding it, there are no other buildings included in the nomination or on the block. Thus the boundaries are well defined by sidewalks and curbs paralleling Sage, Lovett, Topaz and Beech streets.