

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Washington
COUNTY:	Spokane
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JAN 21 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Spokane County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
West 1116 Broadway

CITY OR TOWN:  
Spokane

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
#5 - Honorable Thomas S. Foley

STATE: Washington CODE: 53 COUNTY: Spokane CODE: 063

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

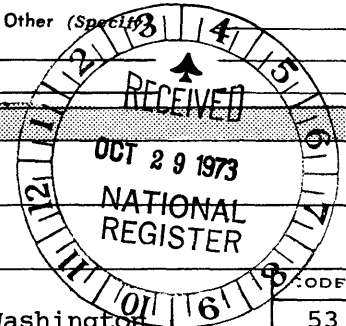
OWNER'S NAME:  
Spokane County

STREET AND NUMBER:  
West 1116 Broadway

CITY OR TOWN:  
Spokane

STATE:  
Washington

CODE:  
53



**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Spokane County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
West 1116 Broadway

CITY OR TOWN:  
Spokane

STATE:  
Washington

CODE:  
53

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Spokane Metropolitan Area Transportation Study;  
Spokane Historical & Cultural Site Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY:  
October, 1970

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Spokane City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:  
N. 211 Wall Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Spokane

STATE:  
Washington

CODE:  
53

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Washington

COUNTY: Spokane

ENTRY NUMBER: JAN 21 1974

DATE: JAN 21 1974

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Designed in the French Renaissance style, the Spokane County Courthouse is a symmetrical "H" shaped building with a central square tower. The "H" portion of the courthouse, exclusive of the tower, stands three stories high and has attics and high Mansard style roofs.

The central tower, which rises above a semi-circular arched entryway, has arcading continuing up from the third-story windows. This arcading terminates in ogee decoration above which sit balustrades covering balconies and recessed windows. These balconies and windows are in turn capped by cornices. Located above each cornice are dormer windows framed on either side by spires that cap the turreted corners of the tower. The top is terminated by a steep-pitched Mansard-style roof and a flagpole.

The wings of the building's "H" have spired towers on the corners. All windows are symmetrically spaced, grouped one above the other and capped on the third story by a semi-circular arch. The first-story openings and windows are flat, simple, non-recessed elements above which a heavy, ogee molding extends around the building. The second and third story windows are framed on either side by one-story Corinthian pilasters and framed on top and bottom by a continuous molding strip. On the corner towers, a decorated entablature separates the third story and attic. Above this entablature are dormer windows. The entire building is banded by a decorated, boxed cornice; and the spires and roof corners are ornamented with finials. Located at the center of the wings are building outsets, which enclose entryways into the courthouse.

The courthouse was built in the years 1894-95, by David B. Fotheringham. The building's design was the result of an 1893 architecture competition won by 29-year old W.A. Ritchie, a local designer. Ritchie had previously worked on public buildings in Seattle, Bellingham, Port Townsend, and Olympia. Later, he designed many fine homes in the Spokane area. Interestingly, Ritchie's only formal training consisted of a correspondence course conducted by the Superintendent of Architecture of the United States Treasury. The French Renaissance style used by Ritchie in designing the courthouse resembles two 16th Century Renaissance Chateaus: the Chateau De Chambord (1519), in the Loire District of France; and the Chateau d'Azay le Rideau (1518), built on an island in the Loire River.

In the construction, Fotheringham used dry-press brick and shale in the French tradition of masonry. This dry-press brick, developed by the Washington Brick and Lime Company, was some of the first ever made in the area and was superior in quality and cheaper than any shipped from the East.

The exterior of the courthouse remains almost the same as when first built; the only changes have been the removal of stone steps to the

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Washington	
COUNTY	
Spokane	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 21 1974

(Number all entries)

#7 - Description  
Spokane County Courthouse

entrances, and the filling in of earth around the outside of the building. In 1953, a small addition was added to the northwest corner of the courthouse. Many features of this addition are similar to the original courthouse building including the type of brick used, but there are differences too. The windows, for example, are not of the same style.

Much remodeling has occurred on the interior. Today, the courthouse remains in use and is in excellent condition.



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1895**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

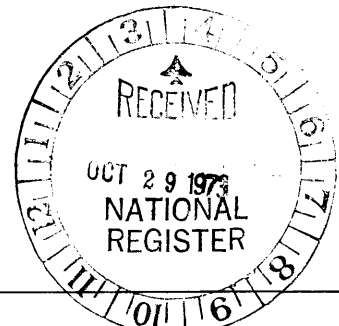
The Spokane County Courthouse is a fine example of French Renaissance Architecture and is unique to the Pacific Northwest Region. Adhering to the revival of the Classic Orders for decoration, detail, and some structural aspects, the courthouse exemplifies the characteristics of the Renaissance style. The plan is arranged with special regard for symmetry; walls are constructed of masonry materials, and sightlines are characterized by horizontal cornices and balustrades. Doors and windows have unrecessed jambs and are finished with a classical, moulded architrave. Openings are placed with regard to symmetry, grouped one above the other, and are often spanned by semicircular arches. Towers are used sparingly, but are usually symmetrically placed in groups of two. The roofs are high and steeply pitched.

W.A. Ritchie, the Spokane architect, whose design for the courthouse won an architectural contest in 1893, was strongly influenced by the rising popularity of the Renaissance style and the Ecole Des Beaux-Arts in Paris. At this time, many American buildings were being designed and constructed according to the teachings of the Beaux-Arts School and the Great Periods of the Past. This influence was perhaps best exemplified at the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893. The classical buildings and formal layout of the exposition did much to reinforce the popularity of Beaux-Arts teachings.

The Spokane County Courthouse is considered by many to be one of the two most beautiful county courthouses in the West. The building has been occupied continuously for eighty years. The brick used in the construction was some of the first dry-press brick ever manufactured in the area. Previously, such brick had to be shipped from the East.

Ritchie's regard for proportion and detail allowed the creation of a strong, elegant building in the finest French Renaissance tradition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Connor, Harriet J. "'Castle' is Priceless," Spokane Daily Chronicle,  
March 18, 1966.

Fletcher, Sir Banister. A History of Architecture. New York:  
Charles Scribner's Sons, 1961, Seventeenth Edition.

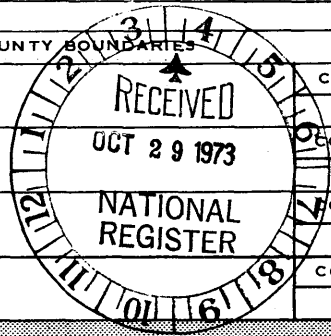
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		47° 39' 53"	117° 25' 40"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11/46788  
5278950  
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Greg Hranac, Historic Preservation Specialist

ORGANIZATION: Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission DATE: June 29, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
P.O. Box 1128

CITY OR TOWN: Olympia STATE: Washington CODE: 53

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Charles H. Odegaard  
Charles H. Odegaard

Title: Director - Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission

Date: October 18, 1973

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

W. R. Mouterson  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 1/21/74

ATTEST:  
Ronald M. Heenberg  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 1/18/74