

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

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

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

For NPS use only  
received OCT 15 1984  
date entered

**1. Name** *Do not list before 11/14/84 - see letter Oct. 9.*

historic Orleans County Courthouse and Jail Complex

and/or common Orleans County Courthouse and Jail Complex

**2. Location**

street & number Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Newport N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Vermont code 50 county Orleans code 019

**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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 Orleans County c/o Connie Daigle, County Clerk

street & number Orleans County Courthouse

city, town Newport N/A vicinity of state Vermont

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Town Clerk's Office

street & number Town Hall, Main Street

city, town Newport state Vermont

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historic Sites and Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1970  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

city, town Montpelier state Vermont

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Orleans County Courthouse and Jail Complex, located near the end and at the highest point of Newport's Main Street, consists of three structures. The courthouse is a 2-story 3 x 9 bay, brick veneer, Queen Anne block, 47' x 90', with a steep slate hip roof and a two stage clock tower that rises 104 feet from a central 2½ story central entrance pavilion. Built in 1886, detail is influenced by the Richardsonian Romanesque style with the use of round arches, Syrian arch entry, string courses, and brick corbeling subtly finishing the sturdy, monumental form. Immediately behind the courthouse is a brick sheathed, cubical shaped, 2-story, hip roofed jail built in 1903 based on plans and specifications supplied by the Pauly Jail Company of St. Louis Missouri. Attached to its northwest corner is the plainly detailed, 2-story, gabled, woodframe jailhouse. Built with the original jail in 1886, it was retained and now serves as the County Sherriff's office. Descriptions of the three buildings are included below.

#### 1. Orleans County Courthouse, 1886

The courthouse's foundation is coursed, rough cut granite, the walls are common bond brick, and granite is used sparingly as highlight on window sills and on major window lintels. The entrance is located centrally on the pavilion. It is recessed behind a large brick Syrian arch that springs from low brick impost, suggested by brick string courses at the base of the arch. An intrusive steel and glass doorway in the rear plane of the archway seals the entry. The inner doorway features double leaf doors and a segmentally arched transom. Projecting brick string courses which meet the top of the arch form a belt course that runs around the entire building and separates the first and second floors. Above the belt course three 6/6 windows are recessed within an arcade of three round compound relieving arches. The sills and lintels are dressed cut granite set in the same recessed plane as the billet patterned brick tympanums. The relieving arches spring from brick lintel courses that also gird the entire block. The second story of the pavilion and main block is finished by a corbelled frieze and denticulated cornice. The pavilion is crowned by a pedimented gable roof. Within the butt-shingled tympanum there is a large 6/6 window with a bracketed hood which forms a jerkinhead roof within the larger gable peak.

The bellcast, slate shingled base of the clock tower rises from the pavilion gable, tapering to the arcaded first stage. Corner pilasters and an entablature with denticulated cornice and well delineated architrave frame the wooden first stage. An arcade of three round arch windows, springing from pilasters and capped by arcaded molding light each elevation. There is an abrupt transition to the reduced scale of the second stage. The corners are canted. Round louvered arches sit below the four clock faces with the front clock face circled with a border inscribed "Presented by S.W. Parker". Modest pilasters flank the clock faces. Consoles bracket the deep cornice of the crowning pediments which project from a pyramidal shaped roof.

Narrow double hung windows flanking the pavilion on each floor complete the front (north) facade. The relative height of the second floor windows mark that floor as the piano nobile. On the side elevations the fenestration focuses on the central portion of the second floor where an arcade of four double hung windows receive treatment identical to that of the three windows on the second floor of the pavilion on the front (north) elevation. Below these four windows sit four windows with dressed cut granite sills and splayed brick lintels. A pair of small windows are placed on each floor near the edges of the facade

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to fill out the fenestration.

Only the round arches of the central windows rise above the second floor lintel course.

Inside, a central corridor runs the length of the building, terminating in an enclosed stairway with windows. It divides the symmetrical plan. The clerk's office is on the immediate left. To the right, a single flight of stairs rises to the second floor. A row of cubicles opens directly onto the hall. Upstairs the District and Superior Courts meet in a large central courtroom that spans the width of the building. The four prominent windows of each side elevation light the courtroom. The judges' room and jury's room flank the back stairway behind the courtroom. Across the front of the building are the counsellor's room, a press room, the central hall and the old sheriff's room. Left to right, the press room, the central hall and the landing at the top of the stairs occupy the three bays of the central pavilion.

The hallways are paneled with heavily shellacked plywood paneling (added c.1930) above tongue and groove matchboard wainscotting, and retain their original floral-motif tin ceilings. The paneled doors throughout are original and have prominent ovolo molding surrounds, while entrances along the first floor corridor are topped by wide glazed transoms. The various offices and the courtroom are finished with plywood and acoustic tile suspended ceilings added in c.1960.

## 2. Orleans County Jail, 1903

Characterized by a plain, squat, cubical, hip roofed mass sheathed in brick, and symmetrical fenestration trimmed with rock-faced granite sills and lintels, the Orleans County Jail presents a solid and sturdy appearance indicative of its original and present function. Its trim wall surfaces rise 2 stories from a rusticated, rock-faced granite block foundation and watertable, punctuated by 4 x 3 bays of barred windows and terminated by an ornately corbeled cornice. The pyramidal shaped hip roof is covered with sheet metal and a circular, metal vent marks the roof's peak. Access to the jail is through a small wood frame gabled appendage on the west facade that also connects the building with the jailhouse to the west. There is a metal fire escape attached to the rear (south) facade.

## 3. Old Orleans County Jailhouse - Orleans County Sheriff's Office, 1886

The jailhouse, built with the courthouse and original jail on the site in 1886, is a 2-story, 3 x 2 bay gabled structure. Its clapboard wall surfaces are very plainly trimmed with a returning boxed cornice and frieze and corner boards. The widely spaced 2/2 sash, paired on the first story left, have board surrounds and louvered blinds and the front central entrance is protected by a gabled hood supported by metal pipe posts. Spanning a large portion of the rear facade is a shed roofed porch supported by turned posts and a square baluster rail. The jailhouse is connected, on the east facade, to the jail by a small, one-story, woodframe gabled wing.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

**Specific dates** 1886, 1903 **Builder/Architect** Lambert Packard

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Orleans County Courthouse and Jail Complex completes a cluster of monumental public buildings crowning Newport's Main Street. The structures embody Newport's late 19th/early 20th century prosperity and are some of the city's few remaining non-residential structures from the era. The courthouse, designed by well-known St. Johnsbury architect, Lambert Packard, was the primary influence on later Packard and architect-designed buildings in the city. The adjacent jail is an excellent example of a unique type of "mail order jail" that was assembled on the site in 1903.

The new Orleans County Courthouse, dedicated February 2, 1886, represented the completion of a decision by the County, made several years earlier, to move the Orleans County seat to Newport from the centrally located, but declining, rural agrarian hamlet of Irasburg. An article that ran that day in the Newport Express and Standard said, "It is an ornament to the village and the county, and we believe will be appreciated by all who have business in them... We venture the opinion, subject to contradiction if not correct, that there was never built anywhere so good a building for so little money." If the town's pride was somewhat ill concealed that day, it is understandable. Towering over Main Street was a new civic monument that seemed to legitimize Newport's claim to prominence. Newport was a boom town that had witnessed a flurry of business activity. The Connecticut and Passumpsic Rivers Railroad had fueled the tourist trade and nursed the burgeoning paper and lumbering industries. Now the county courthouse joined the extravagant residences, the posh French Second Empire tourist hotels and the prosperous commercial blocks already lining Main Street.

The pride expressed in the Express and Standard's dedication article reflects an immeasurable benefit of the new courthouse. Two other benefits, however, are more easily gauged. First of all, it was a seed for further development. The courthouse was the first of three major civic structures that came to locate on Main Street, near the intersection of 2nd Street. In 1896 work began on the Goodrich Memorial Library, a beautiful Queen Anne/Romanesque block across the street, and in 1904 the Renaissance Revival style Federal Building rose next door. Together, these three buildings formed a civic core that complemented the commercial core down Main Street. (Both structures are on the National Register.)

Secondly, the courthouse commission brought to town the architect Lambert Packard. Packard, long retained by the Fairbanks family of St. Johnsbury, was building a reputation for his Romanesque style buildings in St. Johnsbury and northern Vermont and New Hampshire. His buildings, marked by heavy, substantial masonry and a liberal sprinkling of round arches, show the influence of Boston's Henry Hobson Richardson.

The courthouse shows the imprint of Packard's hand. In massing and fenestration it owes a considerable debt to his own St. Johnsbury Graded School on Summer Street, built three years earlier. In that building (no longer extant), a three bay central pavilion projected

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Court House at Newport Vermont, Newspaper clippings compiled by John McNab Currier 1886.
2. Newport Express & Standard - Dedication article, February 2, 1886, February 13, 1903, p.8.
3. Newport Daily Express - October 22, 1963.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 1/4 acre

Quadrangle name Memphremagog

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

A	1 8	7 2 0 1 0 0	4 9 7 9 3 5 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification:** The nominated property is contiguous with the Main Street lot owned by Orleans County (formerly the lot of Mr. L. Robinson) which is 106' x 264' and is described in the deed located in Book 17, Page 13 of the Newport Town Land Records. The Courthouse is centered on the lot with the jail and jailhouse to the rear. (Cont'd)

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

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

## 11. Form Prepared By

**name/title** Scott Merrill - Field Architectural Historian, Gina Campoli - Architectural Historian  
Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

**organization** Preservation **date** August 6, 1982 - revised August, 1984

**street & number** Pavilion Building **telephone** 802-828-3226

**city or town** Montpelier **state** Vermont

## 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.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Eric Silvester*

**title** Director Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

**date** 9/28/84

For NPS use only

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

*John Delores Byers*  
 Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
 National Register

**date** 11-23-84

Attest:

**date**

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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forward from a symmetrical five bay facade. A large, low round arch sprang over a recessed entry. Belt courses girded the entire block to divide the floors and visually strap the central pavilion to the main block. On the side elevations five double hung windows sat recessed beneath relieving arches. All of these same details and compositional preferences are evident in the Orleans County Courthouse. The first stage of the clock tower anticipates the bell tower Packard later designed for his Lisbon, N.H. public school of 1901. The second stage of the tower, however, is underscaled, as though the design of a different hand. The clock itself was given by a local merchant, Samuel W. Parker, in 1897 as a tribute to himself. This suggests that the tower was left uncompleted for some years.

Packard's influence on Newport's Main Street did not end with the courthouse commission. In 1888, he designed the Lane & Davis block, a 2½ story frame commercial block. As on the courthouse, three round arch windows huddled in the center of a five bay facade and, as the Summer Street school, the spring course was also a string course. In 1892 he returned to design the Lane Block Opera House on a tight lot in the commercial district. The round arch entry, the overscaled relieving arches and the lively corbeled brickwork are his personal signature. The Goodrich Library, designed by William Storey, though its massing is more aggressively Queen Anne, shows Packard's preference for the dark, recessed round arch entry, brick corbeling and paneling, and the use of a string course to tie together disparate elements.

Lambert Packard also designed a jail located immediately behind the Courthouse. The slate covered structure was constructed and dedicated with the Courthouse in 1886, but was deemed inadequate by 1903. The County contracted with the Pauly Jail Company of St. Louis, Missouri and with \$15,000 appropriated from the legislature, built the present structure. The "mail order" jail came ready to be assembled on the site of Packard's jail which was moved back and eventually sold. The original jailhouse, built to house the jailer, was retained and attached to the new jail. The old jail is no longer extant.

The architecture resulting from Newport's civic role as county seat has proven more enduring than her commercial structures. The town's nineteenth century Main Street was gutted by fire and waning fortune and replaced with 20th century infill. The grand hotels are also gone. As these monuments of the glory years disappear, the importance of those remaining increases. The Orleans County Courthouse and Jail Complex is a monument to Newport's civic status and, together with the Goodrich Memorial Library and the Federal Building, form the core of old Newport.

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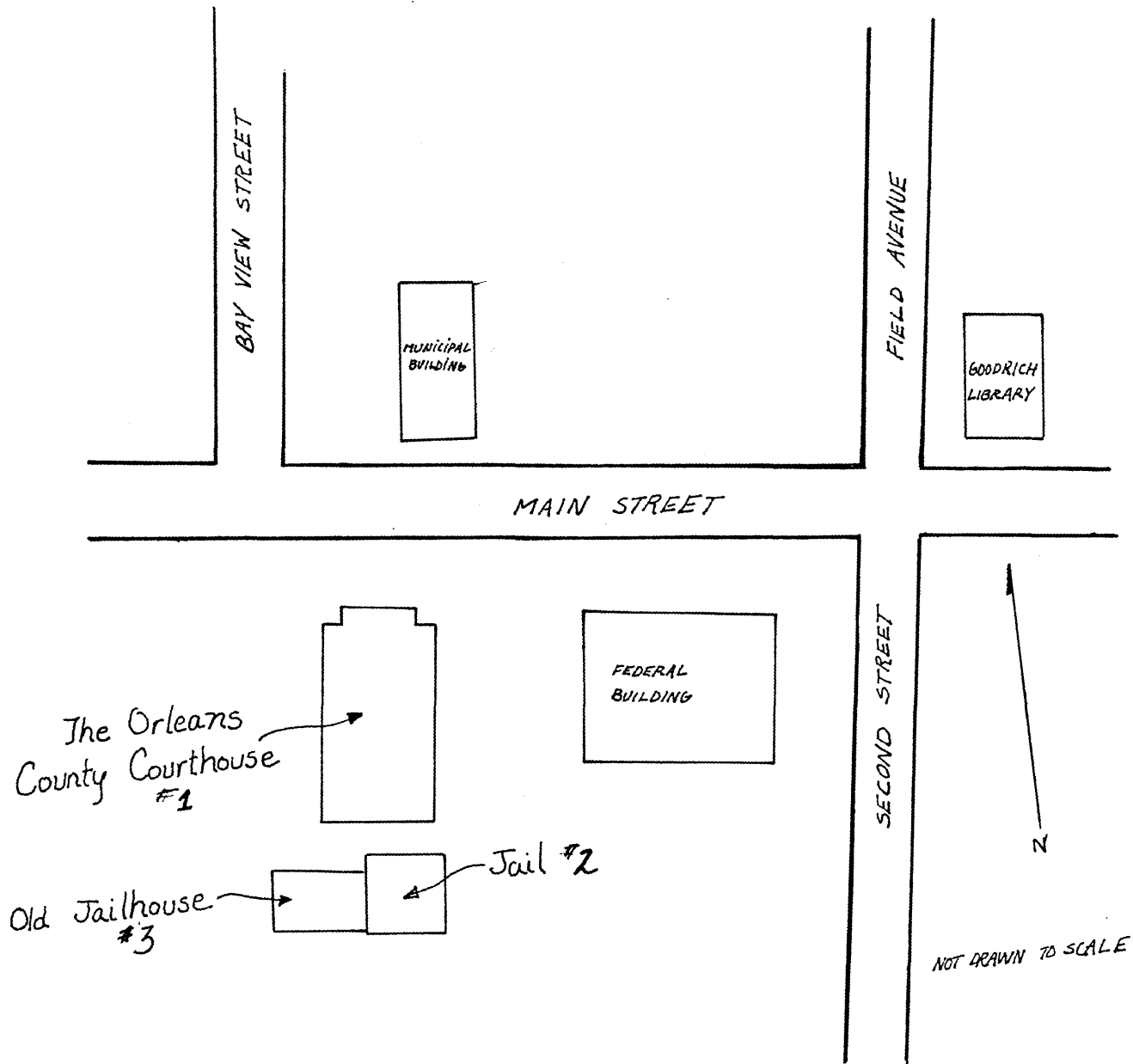
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Verbal Boundary Description and Justification (Continued)

The nominated property is the original courthouse and jail complex lot,  
and is sufficient to enclose and protect the nominated buildings.



The Orleans County Courthouse and Jail Complex