

RECEIVED

AUG 18 1987

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Washington County Courthouse
other names/site number 001009

2. Location

street & number East Court Street N/A not for publication
city, town Weiser N/A vicinity
state Idaho code ID county Washington code 097 zip code 83672

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> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<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. Allen Signature of certifying official 8-10-87 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] Signature of the Keeper 9/28/87 Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

government/courthouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

government/courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Modern movement/Moderne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls concrete

roof unknown

other paint and sand veneer

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Washington County Courthouse is a detached two-story public building constructed of concrete with a veneer of mixed paint and sand. The building has a long, rectangular plan with the horizontal massing of the Moderne style. The front (north) elevation has nine bays formed by a centered entrance flanked by four window bays on either side. The concrete steps up to this main entrance to the building have lamps set either side of the entry doors; there are small vertical windows either side of the entry and a band of three vertical second-story windows above the entry. The east elevation has a centered entrance with three window bays to the north and two to the south. The west elevation has a centered entrance with two window bays either side of it. The rear elevation has twelve window bays. The roof is flat.

Alterations to the building include the replacement of first-floor windows with aluminum-frame single panes and replacement of the north doors with aluminum-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 Moderne 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

Period of Significance

1939-1940

Significant Dates

1939-1940

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect: Tourtellotte and Hummel

Builder: J. F. Ulmer

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

The Washington 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 Moderne style features, including its concrete walls, original second-story windows, and fenestration. The remaining original fabric conveys the important characteristics of Moderne style, and the building conveys a sense of the period in which it was built as a late WPA project.

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.

Washington County received support from the WPA regional office in Portland, Oregon, for construction of a new courthouse after the Washington County Courthouse was destroyed by fire in February, 1938. The WPA provided labor for construction of the new building, and the county provided materials. Architects Tourtellotte and Hummel of Boise were chosen to design the courthouse, and a Boise builder, J. F. Ulmer, directed WPA laborers in its construction. The courthouse was completed in the fall of 1939 and dedicated December 1. However, the final part of the project, a sprayed veneer of paint and fine sand, was not applied until the next spring.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Weiser Signal 30 November 1939, p. 2; 7 December 1939, p. 1;
26 October 1939, p. 1

The Weiser American 21 March 1940, p. 1; 30 May 1940, p. 3.

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	1
---	---	---

5	0	1	2	7	8	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

4	8	9	9	1	4	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

D

--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nomination includes the Washington County Courthouse and the property on which it sits, lots 1-12, block 4, Pleasants Second Subdivision, Weiser.

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, Architectural Historian

organization Idaho State Historical Society date June 23, 1987

street & number 210 Main telephone (208) 334-3861

city or town Boise state Idaho zip code 83702

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

The Washington courthouse is one of four courthouses designed by Tourtellotte and Hummel for WPA projects during 1936-1939. Although all of their WPA courthouse designs draw upon the Art Deco and Moderne styles, each of the four buildings has a distinct character. The Washington County building is the most recent and plainest of the four; in it, the streamlined, horizontal Moderne style is uppermost. Like most of Idaho's county courthouses, the Washington 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.