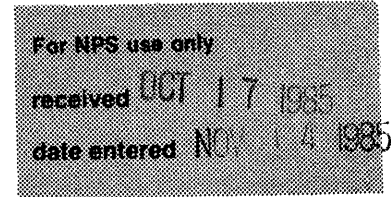


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NAME: Burke County Courthouse

LOCATION: Main Street, bounded northeast by Soo Street and southwest by Roosevelt Avenue, Bowbells, North Dakota 38, Burke County 013

OWNER: Burke County, Bowbells, North Dakota

ACREAGE: 2.065 Acres

VRD (LEGAL): Lots 1-15 and 23-25, Block 40, Original Townsite Plat

UTM: Zone 13, Easting = 702075, Northing = 5408750; Bowbells, N. Dak. Quad.

DESCRIPTION: Buildings from the American Federalist period, sometimes referred to as "Adamesque", provide design inspiration for the Burke County courthouse. Sandstone window sills, projecting entry bay, segmental arched door hood, and the inconspicuousness of the flat roof are elements of the style seen in the structure. Brick bonding scores the building at the entry bay, the base, and at the corners, through the use of recessed headers at every sixth course. The reinforced concrete and tile structure retains its original double-hung windows with 6-over-6 and 9-over-9 lights. Decorative stone at the cornice line, at the lintel level of the main floor, and at the base, divide the building into three vertical parts.

Interior plaster is finished to resemble large blocks. The second-floor offices congregate around a central lobby, so that business is conducted over a counter rather than in rooms. The original porcelain water fountains, now non-functional, have been left in the hall.

Alterations to the building include a 1979 rear addition and the courtroom ceiling which was dropped six feet at about the same time. The aluminum frame front doors, also non-original, were installed at an undetermined date. The addition is well hidden, and so does not interfere with the building's feeling.

SIGNIFICANCE: Date: 1928

Architect: Toltz, King, Day

Contractor: Olson and Orheim

The Burke County courthouse is significant for its role in the history of county affairs and for its architecture. As a courthouse, it has served the county as the central location for county records and county offices and as a site for local trials.

Architecturally it has several features which contribute to its significance. It is one of three North Dakota courthouses (with Ward and Barnes Counties) designed by the St. Paul firm of Toltz, King, and Day. It is unusual among buildings of its age in that it has kept its original window configuration. The lobby arrangement of its interior marks a departure from the segregated-office plan of other courthouses, yet did not influence later design throughout the state. Its exterior styling suggests the declining influence of Classical and Federalist periods of architectural history as sources of inspiration for design at the late 1920's. Compare this with the Barnes and Ward county courthouses.

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