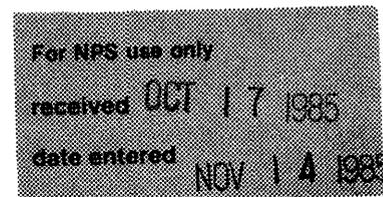


**United States Department of the Interior
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NAME: Barnes County Courthouse
LOCATION: 491 Second Avenue NW, Valley City, ND 38, Barnes County 003
OWNER: Barnes County, Valley City, ND
ACREAGE: 3.10 Acres
VBD: Block 6 Original townsite of Valley City
UTM: Zone 14, Easting = 575750, Northing = 5197335; Valley City West, N. Dak. Quad.

DESCRIPTION: The Barnes County Courthouse is a large three-story edifice with a basement, a brick and tile structural system, and Indiana limestone facing. The 125' x 82' structure conveys its neo-classical style as evident from the use of four columns over the entry, a balustrade above the cornice, a three part horizontal composition, corner pilasters, and cleanly lined fenestration. The columns are of the Doric Order and the frieze has the inscription "BUILT FOR THE PEOPLE OF BARNES COUNTY TO PERPETUATE ORDER AND JUSTICE". Below, on the architrave, a medallion is spaced on the architrave above each capital and below the frieze. An urn sits between the swan's neck hood over the door.

The building has an interior three-story atrium surrounded by walls faced in Italian marble. The stairways are trimmed in Belgian marble, have marble steps, a bronze gridded balustrade and railing with decorative rosettes. Atop the atrium are three skylights and a geometric design on the frame.

The major loss of integrity comes at the windows, which were replaced with glass block. The original windows had metal sashes.

SIGNIFICANCE: Date: 1925-26 Architect: Toltz, King, Day
Contractors: Butler Brothers

The Barnes County Courthouse has a local significance which stems from its role in county government. It has provided space for official county documents and offices. Local disputes, too, have been mitigated there.

The building is a significant architectural resource within the state. It is one of three distinctive county buildings in North Dakota (the others Ward and Burke counties) which were designed by the Minneapolis, Minnesota, firm Toltz, King, and Day. The arrangement of interior space resembles that in the Ward County courthouse; both buildings take advantage of the effect of an atrium and skylight. These features are not used in other North Dakota courthouses after 1920. They recall the rotunda and stained glass dome of earlier courthouses, particularly those designed by Beuchner and Orth. The Barnes County Courthouse contrasts with Ward County's in two ways. The appearance of the former in 1925 reveals that neoclassical styles still had a popularity among prominent architects. The Burke and Ward County Courthouses, appearing in 1928 and 1929 respectively, show an abandonment of classical motifs in favor of Art Deco effects within the Toltz, King, and Day firm. Because all three buildings come from a single source, their stylistic evolution aids in constructing a chronology of stylistic evolution during the period from 1920-1940. The survey revealed that design changes reflected in the work of Toltz, King, and Day were

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paralleled by changes adopted by designers of other North Dakota courthouses during the late-1920's and early 1930's. This continuum of change makes all three of their courthouses significant in architectural history.

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