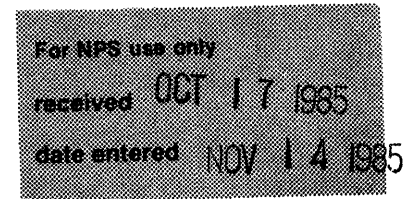


**United States Department of the Interior  
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NAME: Hettinger County Courthouse

LOCATION: 336 Pacific Street, Mott, North Dakota 38, Hettinger County 041

OWNER: Hettinger County, Mott, North Dakota

ACREAGE: less than one acre

VBD (LEGAL): The Hettinger county courthouse sits on an area enclosed by and including Lot 1 of Block 42 and lot 12 of Block 41 of the Townsite of Mott

UTM: Zone 13, Easting = 705460, Northing = 5138930; Mott South, N. Dak. Quad.

DESCRIPTION: The Hettinger County courthouse, sited on a hill in the Northwest portion of Mott, is a generally rectangular building of three stories, with an additional floor in a raised basement. Light Hebron faced brick and Kasota, Minnesota, limestone sheath the building's structural system of concrete block and tile. Windows and spandrels of equal width combine with the flat roof give all sides of the building a vertical emphasis. Each corner has a projecting two-story bay which gives the facade a stepped-up profile. Limestone framing around the outer bank of windows and entranceway windows also contributes to the design's verticality and complexity. On the building's interior a three-story shaft is formed by the void between the staircase and the central bank of windows on the front. Marble forms the exterior walls on the entry vestibule and main hall. The hallways on the other floors are finished with plaster. The third floor houses the jail. Rich wood paneling decorates the courtroom. The paneling and bar have horizontal overlays of various of woods.

On the site two small storage sheds and a fence have been added to the north side of the building. The courthouse exhibits a high degree of integrity.

SIGNIFICANCE: Date: 1934-1936

Architect: Ritterbush Brothers;  
Contractor: A.J. Weinberger.

The Hettinger county courthouse is historically significant as the storehouse for vital county records and as the site where local legal disputes have been settled. The construction was made possible through a PWA grant in 1934 after county residents narrowly passed a bond issue necessary to take advantage of the grant. The bond issue had failed at other elections in the two years before and even once in 1934. County opinion as registered in editorials suggest that earlier bond issues failed because voters disliked the escalated cost for the building which resulted from unnecessary (they felt) room provided by the new courthouse.

The courthouse also draws significance from its architectural design. The building possesses an outstanding degree of integrity in comparison with other Art Deco courthouses. A windshield survey of Mott shows the courthouse to be the outstanding structure of its style, both in terms of size and sophistication of design. It, along with the Stark County (Dickinson) courthouse, are the only two North Dakota courthouses with Deco styling west of the Missouri River.

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