

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only

received DEC 19 1979

date entered FEB 22 1980

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

1. Name

historic Barbour County Courthouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Court Square not for publication

city, town Philippi vicinity of congressional district Second

state West Virginia code 54 county Barbour code 001

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Barbour County Commission

street & number Barbour County Courthouse

city, town Philippi vicinity of state West Virginia 26416

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Barbour County Commission

street & number Barbour County Courthouse, Court Square

city, town Philippi state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Barbour County Courthouse stands in the center of a tree-shaded public square (lot no. 49) circumscribed by Main Street to the southwest, Church Street to the northwest, Walnut Street to the northeast, and Court Street to the southeast. The building fronts upon Main Street at the heart of Philippi, county seat of Barbour, in north-central West Virginia.

Architect J. Charles Fulton of Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, was employed by the Barbour County Court in 1901 to produce plans for a new Courthouse. After several delays Fulton's design personifying the then fashionable Romanesque Revival mode was realized in a monumental public building whose construction and completion transpired during the years 1903-05.

The Barbour County Courthouse is a modified rectangle of solid masonry construction measuring approximately 95 feet across the front and 60 feet along the sides. (The floors are concrete reinforced with iron.) An unusual sense of weight and mass is evident in this two-and-one-half story structure set upon a raised basement and dominated by a colossal offset tower and by additional prominences in the form of steeply pitched wall dormers and an octagonal turret. Paramount in the artistry of architect, mason, and stonecarver evident in the building's finish is the magnificent coursed quarry-faced ashlar of striated Cleveland Sandstone. The solid masonry walls appointed in this stone, though described as having a brown coloration, display a pinkish cast unique in major public buildings of West Virginia.

Arcuated openings, dominated by the massive portal, are highlighted by smooth stone voussoirs. The second and third level windows of the front elevation are tripartite in design and feature smooth shaft colonettes. Flat-headed window openings of the first story contain stained glass transoms and smooth stone transom bars. Stained glass is elsewhere seen in the transoms of the arched tripartite windows. Additional detail of elegance, though of a more durable character, is apparent in the delicate foliate relief of the portal spandrels and flanking column capitals.

The four-story tower of the Barbour County Courthouse is richly decorated with stone details and symbols of strength. The battered base of the tower supports three levels, each articulated with a smooth stone stringcourse. The open belfry is crowned by a pyramidal roof whose chamfered corners terminate at the cornice level in short spires. A stringcourse below the cornice carries above the chamfered corners of the belfry superstructure four gargoyle-like projections. While smooth and tapering, these ornaments may well be sculptor's blocks (bossage)

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RECEIVED	DEC 19 1973
DATE ENTERED	FEB 22 1980

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that have never received a stonecarver's chisel. Identical projections may also be seen above the center bay of the Church Street elevation.

Wooden purlined trusses support the large hipped roof sheathed in red pantiles. (The pantile roof of the tower, however, appears to be an actual or simulated copper sheeting.) An octagonal turret above its demi-octagonal base projects from the south corner of the structure. A major wall dormer with smooth stone coping pierces each roof plane on all but the rear elevation. The rear elevation is singular nevertheless for the skylighted demi-octagonal pavilion that shelters an interior domed space above the courtroom, the major and most ornate space within the Barbour County Courthouse.

The interior of the courthouse is of simple plan and lacks elaborate ornamentation. Reached through an elevated vestibule and fanlighted, bevel and stain-glassed double doorway (the doors have been replaced with metal-bar types.), the central hallway running right and left leads to stairways providing access to the second floor and its principal chamber, the courtroom. Though plain, the major corridors feature tile-covered floors bordered with a Greek fret motif. Cast metal stair rails are also refinements of note.

An octagon, the courtroom is a grand space, unfortunately altered with a drop ceiling that hides a stained glass dome. (The dome has dominant gold hues.) The judge's dais faces the auditorium behind an arcaded rail and is flanked by smooth columns with enriched capitals. These paired columns are found at four opposite points in the courtroom.

Exterior alterations are minor and no additions have appeared to spoil the building's sense of space. The rear steps and entrance may have been altered at some earlier time, and the front double doors have been replaced with metal-bar/glass models.

Most alterations have occurred in the interior. The original ceilings and lights are hidden by drop ceilings and fluorescent lights, a factor consealing stained glass transoms of exterior windows from view. The most unfortunate result of this "modernizing" process is the damage to the scale and decorative ambience of the courtroom whose stained glass dome and high ceiling are presently hidden from view. These alterations, however, have not damaged the building beyond the point of restoration.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history

Specific dates 1901; 1903-05 **Builder/Architect** J. Charles Fulton, Architect
 J. P. Conn, Contractor

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Barbour County Courthouse is significant because it is an especially good example of the Romanesque Revival style perfected by architect Henry H. Richardson (1838-1886) in late nineteenth century America. The monumental building is the major focal point in the city of Philippi, county seat of Barbour, and dominates the courthouse square, the only public green space in the downtown commercial area. Architectural value of the building is further stressed by reason of its being the only major stone building in Barbour County and the only public building designed in the Romanesque style. Though historical incidents or events of national or state importance are not associated with this building, its local historical significance is measured by the daily activities of recording deeds, probating wills, assessing property values, collecting taxes, and enforcing the laws that have affected the lives of the people of Philippi and Barbour County for three-quarters of a century. The Barbour County Courthouse is significant therefore as a storehouse of information on the history of the county's socio-economic development.

Barbour County was formed from the territories of Harrison, Lewis, and Randolph counties by an act of the Virginia General Assembly in 1843. It was named for Phillip P. Barbour, a distinguished politician and jurist, and a member of a noted Virginia family. A plat of land then after called the Courthouse Square was deeded to the new county and a Greek Revival style courthouse ordered. It stood until the turn-of-the-century when requirements of space and economy necessitated its removal for replacement. The open space around the newly planned building was retained, however, insuring the evolution of the town center around the county's chief symbol of government.

Architect J. Charles Fulton of Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, was hired by the county court to prepare plans for the new courthouse. His drawings and specifications were not apparently applied to the project by contractor J. P. Conn until 1903 because delays, in part a result of a petition requesting the removal of the county seat to Belington, impaired the operations of the county court.

J. Charles Fulton was an architect of local significance who filled a professional need in the region of southwestern Pennsylvania and north-central West Virginia. The West Virginia cities of Morgantown, Fairmont, and Clarksburg were only beginning to attract resident professional architects and their activity did not become well established before the end of the first decade of the twentieth century. Fulton's talent, therefore, commanded attention in this area as evidenced by his commission to design the Randolph County Courthouse built at Elkins in 1902-04.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hardesty's West Virginia Counties. Vol. 4, Richwood, W. Va. : Jim Comstock, 1973, pp. 205-06.
 Order Book 6, County Court of Barbour County, W. Va. June, 1901 to August 25, 1905. pp. 238, 241, 266, 305-06, 340-41, 349, 461, 498, 561, 584, 591, 622, 625.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 1 acre

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Philippi, W. Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The Barbour County Courthouse is located on the Courthouse Square (lot no. 49) surrounded by Main St., Walnut St., and Court St. Both the square and the building are included in the nominated area. Church Street

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rodney S. Collins, Architectural Historian
Historic Preservation Unit
 organization W. Va. Dept. of Culture & History date October 15, 1979
Science & Cultural Center
 street & number Capitol Complex telephone (304) 348-0244
 city or town Charleston state West Virginia

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Clarence Morrow*
 title State Historic Preservation Officer
Preservation Unit, Dept. of Culture & History date December 10, 1979

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Sally G. Olden date 2/22/80
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *W. Ray Luce* date 2/21/80
 Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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The prominent quarry-face stone--a striated, Cleveland Sandstone ashlar with brown to pink coloration--is a significant local use of an element of Romanesque architecture popularized by H. H. Richardson. Occasional carved foliate patterns in spandrels and column capitals provide ornamentation, yet the broad walls with their transomed ribbon windows and heavy towers emphasize mass over detail. The Barbour County Courthouse is significant as an interpretation of an architectural style--the Romanesque Revival, a mode then declining in popularity at the national level--evolving and still vital at regional levels.