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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 Elmore County Courthouse  
other names/site number 002456

2. Location

street & number 150 South Fourth East N/A  not for publication  
city, town Mountain Home N/A  vicinity  
state Idaho code ID county Elmore code 039 zip code 83647

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>0</u> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State            | <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | _____                               | _____ sites        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal          | <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | _____                               | _____ structures   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | _____                               | _____ objects      |
|  |   | <u>1</u>                            | <u>0</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. Green Signature of certifying official Date 8/3/87

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. William B. Bushong 9/22/87

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

government/courthouse

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

government/courthouse

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th century  
revivals/classical revival

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone/sandstonewalls stone/sandstone

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roof metalother 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

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The Elmore County Courthouse is a detached two-story public building on a raised basement story. The rectangular building has had no additions. Its front elevation has three principal divisions consisting of two windows, a central entrance flanked by two windows, and two windows. The building has an ashlar veneer of Boise sandstone. On the rear wall, the stone has a rough finish and is laid in random coursing. The foundation is rusticated sandstone. The roof, obscured by an attic wall, has a shallow pitch and is covered with standing seam metal roofing. Outset stone pilasters separate the vertical bays of the building. These have simple molded capitals at the frieze. On the frieze, "Elmore County" is incised in Roman lettering. Surrounding the main entrance is a slightly outset entablature with brackets and a centered cartouche. The at-grade entrance on the northwest exposure has a similar entablature. The original windows are intact, but are obscured from view behind aluminum-frame exterior storms. All windows are one-over-one-light double-hung sash. Second story windows have outset keystoned flat arches. The building's single-pane panel doors appear to be original. Above the double entry doors is a three-light transom. On the interior, the building has a number of intact original features. The central entry has a small foyer between the outer and inner double doors. All of the moldings, doors, transoms, and tiled floor are intact in this area. A high-ceilinged central hallway leads from the entry to a northwest-northeast hall in the rear half of the building. At either end of the rear hall is a wide staircase to the second floor. In the hallways the original plaster walls and wood trim are intact, including the stair railings, newell posts, and door surrounds and transoms. The building is designed in the monumental, formally symmetrical Neoclassical style popular during the period for public architecture.

Alterations to the building are very minor. They include the addition of a metal railing on the front steps and the addition of exterior storm windows that appear to have been applied without damaging the original fabric of the building. The original fabric of the building conveys the important characteristics of the Neoclassical style, and the building conveys a sense of the period in which it was built to provide space for county business.

See continuation sheet

**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 N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

architecture  
politics/government

Period of Significance

1916-1937

Significant Dates

1916

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

architect: Wayland and Fennel

builder: C. E. Johnson

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

The Elmore County Courthouse is significant under criterion "A" in the context of the development of county government in the state and locally. 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 monumental massing and all of its Neoclassical style features, including its ashlar sandstone veneer, ornamental stone detailing, and three-bay front. The building is the least altered of Idaho's Neoclassical style courthouses. It also is the purest expression of Neoclassicism as found in Idaho courthouses. The building's original fabric conveys the important characteristics of Neoclassical style, and the building conveys a sense of the period in which it was built in order to provide adequate space for county business.

Elmore County was created by the Idaho legislature in 1889 in response to lobbying by the residents of southern Alturas County, which was quite remote--a two-day train ride--from the county seat at Hailey. The county seat was originally located at Rocky Bar, where gold mining was still active, but the seat was moved in 1891 to Mountain Home, a railroad town on the Oregon Short Line. County offices were first located in rentals and later in a schoolhouse. In 1915 the county received popular support for construction of a courthouse with a \$35,000 bond election. The Elmore County Courthouse was completed in 1916, and in November of that year county offices were able to move to space designed for their use. The design by Wayland and Fennel of Boise was built by contractor C. E. Johnson. Like most courthouses in Idaho, the building represents the most elaborate and monumental architectural design of its era in its community.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Mountain Home Republican. 1 April 1916, p. 1; 21 October 1916, p. 1;  
25 November 1916, p. 1.

Ransel, Sandy, and Charles Durand. Crossroads; A History of the Elmore  
County Area. Mountain Home: Elmore County Historical Research Team,  
1985, pp. 39-40.

See continuation sheet

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Zone Easting Northing

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nomination includes the Elmore County Courthouse and the property on which it sits, lots 1-18 inclusive, all in block 16, Mountain Home Townsite.

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**

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organization Idaho State Historical Society date June 23, 1987  
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city or town Boise state Idaho zip code 83702