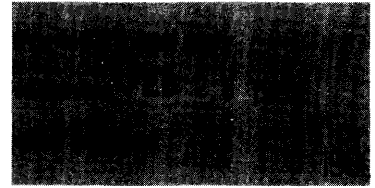


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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



1. Name

historic Cascade County Courthouse

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 415 Second Ave. North

___ not for publication

city, town Great Falls

___ vicinity of

congressional district Eastern

state Montana

code

30

county

Cascade

code 013

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Cascade County

street & number 415 Second Ave. North

city, town Great Falls

___ vicinity of

state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk & Records Office, Cascade County Courthouse

street & number 415 Second Ave. North

city, town Great Falls

state Montana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Inventory of Historic Sites

has this property been determined eligible? yes ___ no

date 1975 Compendium

___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Office

city, town Helena

state Montana

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Cascade County Courthouse occupies the full city block between 2nd and 3rd Avenues North with 4th Street bordering on the west and 5th Street on the east. Constructed of grey sand-stone quarried six miles southwest of Great Falls, the structure sits almost centrally on its 320 foot by 350 foot site. The main entrance faces south with the building facing east and west 150 feet and 110 feet north and south.

The site gently slopes from the building, amply landscaped with trees and lawn, and bordered on all sides by sidewalk and tree-lined boulevards.

The height of the building from the ground to the top of the main cornice is 45 feet 6 inches, and above the main structure is a copper-domed tower surmounted by a Statue of Justice, the top of which is 135 feet above grade.

Labeled by the architect as being pure French Renaissance with slight modifications, the building stands as a pleasing monument to county government.

Each side of the building displays large entrances with the main entrance having a series of stairs leading to a marble columned portico.

The interior of the building remains mostly unaltered except for dropped, acoustical tiled ceilings covering updated mechanical and electrical systems, aluminum doors at all entrances, and wood paneling in some offices throughout the building.

The floors at the rotunda are the original mosaic tile. Four marble niches are located at the second level rotunda piers. Beveled glass windows light the handsome stair which features an ornate, iron balustrade and marble treads.

The opening at the apex of the inner dome reveals the inside of the taller dome which is painted to represent the blue sky with such skill as to give the effect of great height and distance.

The columns lining the rotunda are of Tennessee marble and the craftsmen's skill is displayed in the beautiful mouldings and detailing throughout the structure.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Erected 1901-03 **Builder/Architect** Architects: H.N. Black &

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Frank Longstaff
Builders: Lease & Richards

The Cascade County Courthouse is significant under Criteria A and C of the Criteria for Evaluation. The Cascade County Courthouse is a prominent architectural monument to local government in the City of Great Falls and Cascade County. The building is an example of what the architects, H.N. Black and Frank Longstaff, labeled as pure French Renaissance with slight modifications. The Courthouse is the site of much local and county history after the turn of the century.

It was more than thirty years after the first white man settled within the boundaries of what is now Cascade County and two years before Montana was admitted to statehood when the people of Great Falls began to seek the creation of the county of Cascade, with Great Falls as the county seat. On September 13, 1887, Governor Preston H. Leslie approved the Bill which provided for the segregation of portions of Choteau, Meagher, and Lewis and Clark Counties to become Cascade County effective at 12:01 am on the third Monday, the 7th of December in 1887.

Having out-grown the first courthouse and county offices at the Grand Hotel building located at Central Avenue and 5th Street and moving later to offices at 1st Ave North and 3rd Street, the voters of Cascade County authorized issuance of \$20,000.00 to purchase the entire block of 2nd and 3rd Avenues North between 4th and 5th Streets North as a site for a new courthouse building. On October 28, 1891, a deed was filed in the County Clerk's Office conveying Block 253 from the Great Falls Water Power and Townsite Company, of which Paris Gibson, the founder of Great Falls, was vice president, to Cascade County for the sum of \$20,000.00.

A petition was submitted to the Cascade County Commissioners on September 5, 1900 asking them to bring to a vote before the residents of Cascade County whether or not there should be issued bonds in the amount of \$120,000.00 for the purpose of building, furnishing and equipping a new Cascade County Courthouse. An affirmative vote of 4,577 to 272 was given on November 6, 1900, and the sale of the bonds soon followed.

Then, on July 10, 1901 a contract for construction of the courthouse for a bid of \$180,523. was signed by the Board of County Commissioners. The contractors were Lease and Richards, Lease being a former Great Falls Mayor.

The corner stone was laid on November 9, 1901 and two years after the contract was signed, on July 4, 1903, the building was completed and dedicated with a final cost of \$300,000.00.

Thousands of persons visited the new Cascade County Courthouse on its dedication day, among them C.M. Russell and his wife Nancy, famous "cowboy artist" of Montana.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Great Falls Tribune, July 5, 1903 pp7,8
 The Great Falls Tribune, November 10, 1901 p7

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 2.57 acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Northwest Great Falls, Mt. Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	2	4	77	45	0	5	2	61	4	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing					

B

Zone		Easting				Northing					

C

Zone		Easting				Northing					

D

Zone		Easting				Northing					

E

Zone		Easting				Northing					

F

Zone		Easting				Northing					

G

Zone		Easting				Northing					

H

Zone		Easting				Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

All of Block 253, Original Townsite, Great Falls, Montana
 NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 12 T.20N. R.3E.

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

state	None	code	county	code
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state		code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Philip M. Faccenda, Architect

organization

date October 4, 1979

street & number 313 2nd Street North

telephone (406) 453-6023

city or town Great Falls

state Montana

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

[Handwritten Signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5/21/80

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register of Historic Places.

[Handwritten Signature]
 Keeper of the National Register

date 4/16/80

Attest: William H. Brubaker

date 4/15/80

Chief of Registration