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PHO 689637

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED NOV 7 1978

DATE ENTERED

**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

Mountrail County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Stanley

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

North Dakota

VICINITY OF

CODE

38

COUNTY

Mountrail

CODE

061

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mountrail County

STREET & NUMBER

Mountrail County Courthouse, Post Office Box 160

CITY, TOWN

Stanley

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Dakota 58784

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mountrail County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 160

CITY, TOWN

Stanley

STATE

North Dakota 58784

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

North Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of North Dakota
Liberty Memorial Building

CITY, TOWN

Bismarck

STATE

North Dakota 58505

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 Mountrail County Courthouse is a 2-story brick structure surmounted by an octagonal, galvanized-iron roofed dome with grille-covered apertures on its face, hooded oculi at the cardinal points, and a finial at the apex. The walls of the raised basement are faced with Hebron (North Dakota) iron spot brown pressed brick # 400, while those of the upper floors are Hebron iron spot gray # 500. Kettle River stone trim includes base, water table, sills and lintels, and caps of the brick pilasters which define the windows. The latter, further emphasized by stone and brick panels between the first and second stories, are now filled with glass blocks which replaced the earlier 1 over 1, double-hung sash. The original fire-proof front doors covered with 16-ounce copper have also been replaced, and an art glass transom has been removed from the large window above the entrance. Window and doors are framed by a stone architrave enriched with festoons and keystone. Sheltering the entrance is a giant portico with a pair of Doric-type stone columns coupled to brick columns, together supporting a frieze carved with the legend Mountrail County Courthouse. A dentiled, modillioned cornice outlines a pediment which is backed by a shaped gable topped with an antefix. The projection of the facade portico is repeated in gabled pavilions centered on the remaining elevations, with the overall design further unified by the continuation of the cornice around the parapet roof of the entire building.

The finish of the courthouse includes terrazzo floors, paneled doors with cornice headings, and a divided staircase with marble treads and ornamental iron balustrade. The highlight of the interior, however, is the rotunda rising the height of the two main floors. Four wall standards in the form of brass torches supporting glass globes provide auxiliary light for the rotunda, supplemented by a chandelier suspended from the leaded art glass skylight. The latter, covered with insulation for the dual purpose of conserving heat and preventing damage should hail break the outer windows of the dome, can no longer be appreciated in its original brilliance. Stock ornamental plaster elements in the rotunda include cornices with dentils and rosettes; soffits of the four arches overlooking the second-floor gallery; Corinthian capitals atop the second-floor pilasters; and the ribs which separate the painted panels in the dome ceiling. The panels, also plaster, depict yellow and red roses, daisies, lilacs, and sunflowers. The shafts of both the first and second-floor pilasters are painted in a marbelized pattern.

Like the rotunda, the courtroom on the second floor is an ornate space, an effect chiefly derived from the treatment of the 16-foot ceiling. False plaster beams on consoles separate panels painted in iridescent green and gold with symbols representing Law (stone tablets), Wisdom (owl and open book), Justice and Mercy (scales of justice), and Interpretation of Law (herald's staff). Brass chandeliers fitted with five globes each have been coated with copper paint to eliminate the need for polishing. Above a wainscoting of marbelized plaster are tiles attached to the walls to improve acoustics. The original furnishings of the courtroom include wooden armchairs, jury box, lawyer's railing, and a paneled judge's bench carved with pilasters, thus repeating the classical theme prevalent throughout the building. The basement, containing sheriff's office, ten jail cells, and public restrooms, has concrete floors and plaster ceilings and walls, with the latter in some areas covered with plywood paneling.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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The grounds of the courthouse are planted in grass, trees, and shrubbery, with a driveway on the east and a driveway and parking lot at the rear (west). Also in back is a small concrete block building housing an auxiliary power plant for emergency use.

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/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

| | | | |
|----------------|------|-------------------|--|
| SPECIFIC DATES | 1914 | BUILDER/ARCHITECT | Buechner and Orth (Architects) Carl Bartleson (Builder) |
|----------------|------|-------------------|--|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mountrail County Courthouse was constructed in 1914 as the county's first permanent governmental headquarters and has so served ever since. The building is architecturally significant as one of a series of North Dakota courthouses designed by the firm of Buechner and Orth of St. Paul, Minnesota, in the Academic Revival style, all of which are notable for their dimensions and detailing.

In 1873 the predecessor of the present Mountrail County (originally spelled Mountraille) was created by the legislature of Dakota Territory in what is now northwestern North Dakota. The size of the county was decreased by a boundary change in 1885, and its configuration was again altered in 1909. That year political opponents of the county challenged its right to existence in a case brought before the North Dakota State Supreme Court, but the latter held that Mountrail County was indeed a legally created entity. Organization of county government followed, and Stanley was designated the county seat in 1910.

The town had been platted in 1902 by George W. Wilson (1858-1935), former publisher of the Ward County Reporter in Minot, on land to which he held scrip. In Stanley he built the Wilson Hotel, established a telephone exchange, and served as justice of the peace, public administrator of Mountrail County, and the city's first school board president. In 1910 Wilson offered the county a half block of land in Stanley as a courthouse site, but the location ultimately chosen was donated by B.W. Taylor, local banker and realtor. With the intent of influencing growth of the city northward (a trend which actually did not develop for another half century), Taylor gave the county a half block on Main Street north of the Great Northern railroad tracks, in addition to costs of condemnation proceedings to secure the adjoining half block by eminent domain.

In 1912 bonds for \$50,000 for construction of the courthouse were issued, and the county commissioners traveled to southeastern North Dakota to inspect the Sargent County Courthouse at Forman, designed by Buechner and Orth. Deciding that the Mountrail County Courthouse would be as nearly like it as possible, the commissioners retained Buechner and Orth to prepare plans and specifications, and the general contract was awarded to Carl Bartleson of Minot for \$49,660. Diebold Safe and Lock Company provided all vault doors, metal shutters, and jail doors and window guards for \$2,125, and the bid for plumbing, heating, ventilation, and electrical work went to A.E. Champlin and Thomas Nasen of Fargo for \$11,339.58.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Maddox, Dawn. Personal inspection, April 27, 1977.
 Reep, Gertrude. "Building of Court House Was 'Trying' Time for Young County."
Mountrail County Promoter, June 30, 1976, p. 10.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.06 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 5 |
| ZONE | | | | EASTING | | | | NORTHING | | | | | | |

B

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--|--|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ZONE | | | | EASTING | | | | NORTHING | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 2, Courthouse Addition. From map of Stanley, N.D., revised by LJH 7-14-72.

Conveyed via tele. call to Lou Hafermehl, SHPO, KTP 12-14-78

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

Dawn Maddox, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of North Dakota

DATE

March 31, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Liberty Memorial Building

TELEPHONE

701-224-2666

CITY OR TOWN

Bismarck

STATE

North Dakota 58505

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

James E. Sherry

TITLE

N.D. State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

May 2, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles A. Brown

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

12-22-78

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

William H. Brachman 12-17-78

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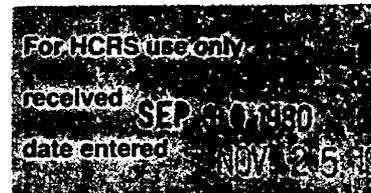
The cornerstone was laid on May 30, 1914, in ceremonies conducted by the Masonic lodges of White Earth, Plaza, and Stanley, with a parade from downtown to the courthouse. At the dedication on July 14, 1915, speakers were Governor L.B. Hanna and United States Senator A.J. Gronna (who as district judge was later to preside over many sessions in the courtroom of the courthouse). H.J. Linde, a county resident who had settled in Plaza before Mountrail County was officially organized and who became a state senator, also spoke in his capacity as state attorney general. The day's festivities included music by the Ross Farmers' Band and the Lunds Valley Farmers' Band, ball games, races, a tug-of-war between residents of the north and south sides of the county, and dancing until 4:00 A.M. - all under the auspices of the county commissioners.

Four months prior to the dedication, on March 10, 1915, the various county officials had moved from their downtown locations to the new structure. Today it is occupied by the county judge, auditor, register of deeds, director of tax equalization, superintendent of schools, sheriff, public health nurse, and state attorney.

The future integrity of the Mountrail County Courthouse is in potential jeopardy from two sources, one of which is the proposed widening of U.S. Highway 2 and the construction of an underpass in front of the building. Its setting would consequently be impaired by the destruction of trees and the carving out of a parking lot from a portion of the grounds, since the present east parking lot would be sacrificed to the widening of the highway. The second threat to the 20,000-square foot courthouse is a proposed 18,400-square foot addition of cast-in-place concrete construction with brick and glass panel walls, attached to the south elevation of the existing building and visible in a facade view.

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

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



Continuation sheet

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Mountrail County Courthouse, Stanley (1914)

Following the rich design of the Grand Forks County Courthouse, Buechner and Orth returned to their traditional courthouse design. The Mountrail County Courthouse is a rather frugal application of that design in iron spot gray Hebron brick over iron spot brown Hebron brick. Kettle River stone trim includes base, water table, sills and lintels, and caps of the brick pilasters which define the windows. Sheltering the entrance is the usual portico with single Doric columns and flanking brick pilasters. A dentiled, modillioned metal cornice outlines a pediment which is backed by a shaped gable topped with an antefix. The octagonal brick and wood tower has three grilled opertures on each face, and is surmounted by a galvanized-iron dome with bull's-eye windows at the cardinal points and a ball finial. Original one-over-one windows have been replaced with glass block and smaller sashes. The original copper-covered front doors have been replaced, and an art-glass transom has been removed from the window above the front entrance.

Interior finish includes terrazzo floors, paneled doors with cornice headings, and a divided staircase with marble treads and ornamental iron balustrade. Within the rotunda, four wall standards in the form of brass torches supporting glass globes provide auxillary light, supplemented by a chandelier suspended from the leaded art glass skylight. The skylight has been covered for protection and heat conservation. The second floor courtroom features coffered ceiling with panels painted in iridescent green and gold with symbols representing Law, Wisdom, Justice and Mercy, and Interpretation of Law. Above a wainscoting of marbelized plaster are tiles attached to walls to improve acoustics. The original furnishings of the courtroom include wooden armchairs, jury box, lawyers railing, and a paneled judge's station with carved pilasters that continue the classical theme of the building. The Mountrail County Courthouse was listed on the National Register on December 22, 1978.

Divide County Courthouse, Crosby (1917)

This courthouse is located at one end of the main street of Crosby, the only Buechner and Orth courthouse located on the main street of the county seat. The building is constructed of red brick with white limestone water line, base, pilaster caps and window sills and lintels. The front facade has the usual dentiled pediment and frieze supported by single Composite Order columns and flanking brick pilasters. The tall dome tower has a round aperture at each of the cardinal points and four-over-four rectangular windows on other faces. The surface facing the main street holds a working clock in the round aperture, but all other round apertures are closed with plywood. The dome itself has bull's-eye windows on the cardinal points, paneled vaulting and a ball finial. The front entry is a non-original aluminum door surrounded by clear glass sidelites in original wooden frame. Above a diamond shaped ornament, the second floor window is a large clear light surrounded by narrow clear lights and a stained glass transom.