

Acreage: Less than one acre
Location: 1616 Eighth Street
City: Minden State: Nevada County: Douglas County

Current Owner: Douglas County
Address: 1616 Eighth Street, Minden, Nevada

Data Prepared by: Douglas County Planning Department Date: 1981
Address: Minden, Nevada

Property Information

Original Use: Courthouse
Present Use: Courthouse
Condition: Good
Architect: Frederick J. DeLongchamps
Builder: Friedhoff and Hoeffel
Construction/Modification Dates: 1915/1964, 1979
Building Type: Public
Style: Neo-Classical Revival

Physical Description:

The Douglas County Courthouse is a one-story, masonry structure designed in 1915 by Frederick J. DeLongchamps. The Neo-Classical style building was constructed as the Douglas County Courthouse and has served as such since its completion. Despite a south addition to the building (1964) and modification to the original windows (1979) the building retains its overall architectural integrity.

The courthouse is located on a landscaped site in Minden's residential district. The structure occupies a prominent location at the terminus of Esmeralda Avenue a street which becomes the town's main commercial artery at its opposite end.

The symmetrical, seven bay building is supported by a raised concrete foundation and rises to a flat roof banded by a low brick parapet terminating in a concrete cap course. A dentil cornice with full entablature is found beneath the parapet. Exterior wall planes are faced in beige brick laid in running band. Brick headers are used as decorative accents. A brick soldier course separates the basement from the first story.

The principal elevation (west) includes a central portico-in-anthis defined by Doric columns and reached by way of an open, concrete stair. Brick pilasters with simple capitals flank the building's portico. Building windows are one-light-over-two-light, fixed sash set in dark metal frames. These units replaced original, ten-light windows in 1979.

In 1964, a 6000 square foot addition was added to the south side of the building. This single story was designed by the Reno Architectural firm of Ferris, Erskine and Calef. The addition is compatible with the design of the courthouse and clearly distinguishable from the original building.

Statement of Significance (Criteria A, C)

The Douglas County Courthouse is an architecturally significant building representative of the work of Nevada Architect, Frederick J. DeLongchamps in the town of Minden. The structure is also significant for its historical associations with the political development of Douglas County and the establishment of Minden, Nevada. Please refer to the nomination cover form for a detailed discussion of DeLongchamps' work.

The Nevada Territorial Government created Douglas County in 1861. The county was named for Stephen Arnold Douglas, chairman of the U.S. Committee of Territories. Genoa, the oldest settlement in the territory was selected as the original county seat.

Through political maneuvering, the newly established town of Minden captured the county seat on January 1, 1916. The year before the county seat location was made official, DeLongchamps was commissioned to design the Minden Courthouse. Contractors Friedhoff and Hoeffel erected the building at a cost of \$25,000.00. The Minden courthouse was dedicated on the day the county seat was transferred.

Bibliography

Koontz, John, Secretary of State, Political History of Nevada: 1865 (Carson City, Nevada: State Printing Office, 1965).

Record-Courier, March 26, 1915, May 14, 1915, June 4, 1915, July 2, 1915, July 9, 1915, December 1915.

Thompson and West, History of Nevada with Selections and Biographical sketches of its Prominent Men and Pioneers (1881).

Boundary Descriptions

200' x 300' lot known as 1616 Eighth Street located at corner of Eighth Street and Esmeralda Avenue in Minden, Nevada. Douglas County Assessor's Map BK 25-190-52 (PARCEL)

Location of Legal Description: Douglas County Courthouse, 1616 Eighth Street, Minden, NV

Representation in Existing Surveys: The Architectural Heritage of Carson Valley, 1981, Local survey deposited with the Division of Historic Preservation & Archeology, Carson City, NV

UTM References: Zone 11 E 260540 N 4315280.