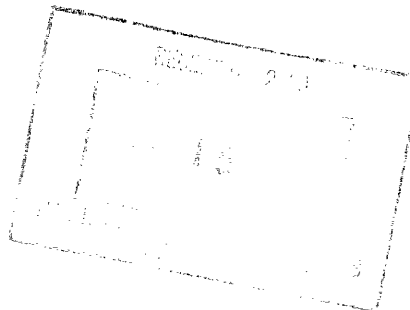


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Fallon City Hall

other names/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number 55 West Williams Avenue not for publication N/A

city or town Fallon vicinity N/A

state Nevada code NV county Churchill code 001 zip code 89406

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant     nationally     statewide X locally. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ronald McGinnis, NV SHPO  
Signature of certifying official/Title

7-14-04  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register     See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register     See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

[Signature]  
Signature of Keeper

Edson H. Beall  
Date of Action

10/27/04

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: GOVERNMENT Sub: City Hall

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: GOVERNMENT Sub: City Hall

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals/Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete  
roof Tile  
walls Brick  
other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheets.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1930-1954  
 Significant Dates 1930, 1931, 1954  
 Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A  
 Cultural Affiliation N/A  
 Architect/Builder Frederick DeLongchamps/Ernest Gevelhoff and T.J. Rees

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheets.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets). See continuation sheets.

**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

Name of repository: Churchill County Museum

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property 0.680 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>11</u>	<u>347170</u>	<u>4370740</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
2	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>4</u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

     See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Bernadette Francke, Historianorganization \_\_\_\_\_ date July 1, 2004street & number 5555 Rivers Edge Drive telephone 775-867-2586city or town Fallon state NV zip code 89406

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Fallonstreet & number 55 West Williams Avenue telephone \_\_\_\_\_city or town Fallon state Nevada zip code 89406

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

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**Fallon City Hall, Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada**

**7. Description**

The Spanish Colonial Revival-style Fallon City Hall, which opened for business in April 1931, sits prominently on the northwest corner of Williams and Carson Streets in Fallon, Nevada. The building, designed by architect Frederick DeLongchamps and built by contractors Ernest Gevelhoff and T.J. Rees, is located in Fallon's downtown commercial area, surrounded by buildings that vary in size, style, and construction date. A concrete walk surrounds the building on three sides. At the east side, the building adjoins a paved alley. Grass and shrub landscaping also surround the building on three sides. The original park area with a fountain and benches has been expanded on the south side of the building. A small monument designed by local architect Frank Woodliff III commemorates the events of September 11, 2001.

Fallon City Hall comprises 14,352 square feet and sits on a concrete foundation. The building is one-story in height, over a high basement. The walls are constructed of fired brick laid in stretcher courses. The roof line is hipped and gabled and is constructed of tapered, regularly-laid terra cotta tiles at a 6/12 pitch. The north elevation is the primary façade fronting Williams Street. A wall dormer defines the front entrance. The semi-circular arched, main entrance is reached by concrete steps with wrought-iron balustrades. A curvilinear keystone highlights the entrance. Flanking the entrance are the original ornate light fixtures. The wood double-door entry is recessed and topped by a multi-light, semi-circular, arched window.

The entrance on the south façade duplicates the design of the north entrance. The west entrance also matches the other two except it lacks the indented brick faux coping design. The windows are wood double-hung. Below the windows are metal details replicating a balcony railing. Handicap access was added along the west side of the south entrance creating a pleasing entrance to the building. Until a devastating earthquake hit Fallon on July 6, 1954, City Hall sported an impressive 50-foot tower. The damaged structure was taken down in August of that year and a 30-foot-high version was built with salvaged brick.

Integrity

Fallon City Hall retains a high degree of all of the seven aspects of integrity. The exterior remains mostly intact with only minor modifications. The fire department garage doors on the west elevation were bricked in using identical brick. The siren/hose tower was lowered 20 feet after cracks in the wall beneath the tower roof were noticed as a result of the 1954 earthquake. The fire department moved to another location after the earthquake. On the east elevation, two

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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**Fallon City Hall, Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada**

**7. Description, continued**

windows were set in existing doors, a third door was bricked in (the door's outline is discernible), and two windows have been covered with metal sheeting. The east corner wall of the south elevation was brought forward even with the gable end of the south elevation. The interior has had limited remodeling, with many distinctive features remaining intact. The original tile floor running the entire length of the central hallway remains a notable feature within the building.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Fallon City Hall is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its role in local political and government history, and under Criterion C, both as a rare example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style in Fallon and as a work of a master, pre-eminent architect Frederick DeLongchamps. The building has remained in use as a city hall since its construction in 1931. This distinction may give the building added status in comparison to other Nevada city hall buildings.

**Criterion A**

Fallon, Nevada grew at the intersection of two well-traveled roads in the Lahontan Valley. Local residents knew the intersection as Jim's Town. Mike Fallon's ranch and a small store run by Jim Richards were nearby. Mike Fallon and his wife Eliza had settled there in 1896. They established a post office on their ranch the same year. With the passage of the Reclamation Act of 1902, Mike Fallon sold his ranch to Warren W. Williams. Williams subdivided the property and sold lots. Williams named the east-west street after his native state of Maine. He named the north-south road after himself and other streets in his subdivision he named after his friends. The intersection of Maine and Williams is the core of city and county government. The county courthouse stands on the northwest corner, with the jail next door. Nearly opposite the county buildings is Fallon City Hall.

When Nevada became a territory in 1861, the area that includes present-day Churchill County was part of Lyon County. With statehood in 1864, Churchill County gained independent status and the county seat was located in La Plata, a mining town east of Fallon. The county seat was moved to Stillwater in 1868 after mining declined in La Plata. The Reclamation Act signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt on June 17 1902, established a federal irrigation system

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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**Fallon City Hall, Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada**

**8. Significance, continued**

financed by the sale of public lands.<sup>1</sup> The goal of the Act was to promote agricultural settlement in the arid West. The Newlands Irrigation Project in Churchill County was the first project under the Act and it changed the appearance and development of Churchill County on a grand scale.

The Reclamation Act of 1902 provided funds to build the Truckee Canal, bringing water from the Truckee River to the Lahontan Valley, and to dam the Carson River, allowing for storage and release of irrigation water. These activities shifted Churchill County's focus and Fallon was designated the county seat in January, 1904 after the Neo-classical wood-framed courthouse was constructed in 1903.<sup>2</sup> The Reclamation Act of 1902 and subsequent agriculture, as well as transportation relating to mining, fueled economic development in the region leading to the incorporation of the City of Fallon in 1907. That same year, the City purchased a building near the southeast corner of Williams Avenue and Center Street to serve as city hall. The building, which originally housed a printing press, remained standing until the completion of the existing city hall in 1931 (*Fallon Standard* April 1, 1931).

By 1931, agriculture defined the region's industry. The Great Depression and a severe drought caused prices to drop in the farming and ranching industry, but residents prevailed, some changing farm specialties to survive in business, others working in nearby mines. During the period, road building companies were the largest employers, as Fallon was on the Lincoln Highway and road construction was in full swing, as was the construction of businesses to serve the anticipated automobile tourists. The construction industry was "probably the most influential depression-fighting institution in Churchill County" (Townley 1998:67).

Discussions about the need for a new city hall had been going on for several years before its actual construction. With the rapid growth of the city and its rising importance as an agricultural center, the need for a larger building was apparent to city fathers. In May of 1928, the city council discussed the need for additional space for the fire department. Prominent citizens Carl Dodge, G.W. Likes, and C. L. Benadum appeared before the council suggesting a new city hall should be considered as well. The local newspaper interviewed numerous citizens on the matter

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<sup>1</sup> Various elements of the Newlands Irrigation Project have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

<sup>2</sup> The Churchill County Courthouse was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 23, 1992. The Churchill County Jail building, next door to the courthouse, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 9, 2002.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section 8 Page 4

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**Fallon City Hall, Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada**

**8. Significance, continued**

and the majority was in favor of a new city hall (*Fallon Eagle* May 5, 1928). Prominent Reno architect, Frederick J. DeLongchamps drew plans for the building in May 1929. They were accepted by the City Council and the bid was let soon thereafter. A.A. Mustard of Fallon was the low bidder at \$58,800; just under the \$58,888 bid of Taber & Thompson (*Fallon Eagle* July 30 1930).

Progress on city hall was slowed by a proposed electricity rate increase that consumed the attention of the city council for the better part of a year. The city brought a case before the State Public Service Commission against Nevada Valleys Power Company, which provided power for the city. The case was dismissed when Sierra Pacific Power Company bought Nevada Valleys Power Company and agreed to a better rate than the city had paid under its old contract. The threat of the city having to construct its own power company would have siphoned off bond funds planned for the construction of city hall (*Fallon Eagle* July 30, 1930).

Once the electricity issue was settled, the city council refocused on the new city hall. However, E. Gevelhoff of Consumers Supply Company of Fallon caused another delay when he threatened an injunction. Gevelhoff maintained that he could save the city \$8,000 on building material and that he should be allowed to bid on the project. A.A. Mustard of course disagreed, as did the others who had initially bid on the job. Architect F.J. DeLongchamps told the city council he did not believe Gevelhoff could promise such savings (*Fallon Eagle* September 20, 1930).

Gevelhoff was asked to provide written confirmation of his figures. He appeared at the next city council meeting without the requested materials, but he pled his case nevertheless. County clerk G.W. Likes noted that Gevelhoff should have bid on the job when first announced and that Gevelhoff would have an unfair advantage because he knew the amount to bid against (*Fallon Eagle*, September 20, 1930). Likes's was a minority opinion, however, as a week later the city council passed a motion to call for new bids on the construction of the city hall. Gevelhoff and his partner T.J. Rees were successful bidders at \$55,398. Other bidders were Walker-Boudwin Company of Reno, Ballard and Kennedy of Reno, Anderson and McShea from Winnemucca, W.C. McCuddin of Fallon, and Schuler and McDonald from Oakland, California (*Fallon Eagle* October 11, 1930).



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**Fallon City Hall, Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada**

**8. Significance, continued**

By the time the city hall project was ready to begin, the country had entered a period of extreme economic depression, which followed the stock market crash of October 1929. To cover the cost of construction, the city advertised a \$70,000 bond sale, with the bids to be opened at the August 26, 1930 city council meeting. The maximum rate was fixed at five percent and the bonds were issued in denominations of \$500. The first \$3,500 worth of bonds were redeemable on July 1, 1932, and \$3,500 worth annually thereafter until maturity. The newspaper noted that the bond market "justifies the belief that good bids on the bonds will be forthcoming and that the money will, therefore soon be available to start the work, an outcome much hoped for as an aid to unemployment" (*Fallon Eagle*, July 26, 1930). Employment opportunities were vital to the community, and the successful sale of bonds during a national economic depression is indicative of Fallon's civic pride and community confidence.

The existing city hall needed to be removed from the site before construction on the new building could begin. The city donated the old building to the local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW), which planned to remodel it for use as a clubhouse. The building was moved to a lot on the corner of South Maine Street and East Stillwater Avenue, which the VFW Ladies Auxiliary had acquired for it (*Fallon Eagle*). The old city hall building continues to serve the VFW today.

By October 18, 1930, concrete was poured for the basement and foundation of the new city hall. Before construction proceeded, the builder requested a change in the type of brick to be used. It is not known what prompted the change from the original Salt Lake brick (although it was no doubt related to cost), but the architect approved the use of Sacramento face brick for all outside walls. He selected a chocolate-colored mortar because of the "beautiful appearance the combination made" (*Fallon Eagle* November 1, 1930).

The city held the cornerstone ceremony on November 8, 1930. The *Fallon Eagle* headline announced: "Hundreds Greet Speakers at City Hall Ceremony." City Attorney Eli Cann presided as master of ceremonies and Nevada governor Fred D. Balzar formally dedicated Fallon's new city hall. Other speakers included Mayor J.N. Tedford, I. H. Kent, Dr. J.C. Ferrel, county commissioner, U.S. Senator Tasker Oddie, and Judge Clark J. Guild. In his speech, I.H. Kent traced the development of Fallon. The newspaper printed the entire text of his speech.

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**Fallon City Hall, Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada**

**8. Significance, continued**

By March 1931, the *Fallon Eagle* noted the near completion of the building. They reported that the jail equipment would be installed by the end of the month and that the fire department's garage doors were now automatic. "When the new motor was installed with the siren in the city hall tower . . . the old motor was pressed into service to supply the power for a contrivance that throws the doors wide as the alarm is sounded, so that everything is in readiness when the fire fighters arrive to man the truck." The building was completed in early April with the official opening ceremony held on Saturday, April 8, 1931. A crowd of 180 attended the hour-and-a-half-long program. The newspaper reported: "All women visitors were presented with carnations pinned on in the spacious corridor near the entrances. Miss Lola Maupin, daughter of Councilman E.J. Maupin, and Miss Grace Etcheverry, assistant to the city clerk, assisted the mayor and members of the city council in receiving guests." Fallon officials were proud of the new building. Speeches throughout the program hailed the building as representing Fallon's growth and success as a city (*Fallon Eagle* November 8, 1930).

The total cost of construction came to \$68,212.28. Contractors Gevelhoff and Rees were paid \$58,535.30. Armanko Office Supply Company was paid \$846.00 for steel cabinets and opera chairs. Leo L. Likes installed and furnished lightening fixtures for a cost of \$265.83. Rucker Fuller Furniture Co. through Frazzini Furniture Company was paid \$2,537.50. Frazzini Furniture also received \$314.60 for shades, chairs for fire department, and overhauling and placing opera chairs. Architect F.J. DeLonchamps' fees were \$2,465.90. Dinuba Steel Corporation provided the steel jail cells for \$1,877.00, Marshall Newell Supply Co. was paid \$270.00 for the tablet at the building entrance, building inspectors A.A. Mustard and L.W. Crehore were paid \$923.75, and L. W. Crehore was paid \$176.40 for the purchase and installation of six lights at the building entrances (*Fallon Eagle* April 4, 1931). In addition, the Civil Works Administration, one of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal programs, employed several workers to apply a coat of stucco to the foundation of the new city hall (*Fallon Eagle*, December 23, 1931).

Fallon City Hall's importance as a symbol of local government and community development continued over the subsequent decades. In the years following the construction of the building, Fallon experienced continued growth. The Lincoln Highway, renamed U.S. Highway 50, continued to bring automobile travelers through town. World War II brought a major change to the region. In 1942, the Civil Aviation Administration and the Army Air Corps began construction of four airfields in the Nevada desert to repel an expected Japanese attack on the

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**Fallon City Hall, Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada**

**8. Significance, continued**

west coast. Fallon was one of the selected sites, and in 1943, the Navy chose the Fallon air field as a training facility for pilots. The desert environment allowed a realistic environment to use all the tactics and weapons being developed for the war effort. Following the war, servicemen from the base, with help from the G.I. Bill, bought homes in the area, expanding the population and the local economy. The early 1950s were also years of promise and growth in Fallon. Farmers in the Newlands Project were doing well, the national minimum wage had been raised in 1949 (and would be raised again in 1955), and the Fallon N.A.S. was recommissioned in 1951 in response to the escalating Korean conflict. A J.C. Penney department store was opened downtown (date) and the City of Fallon was well-established as an important center of commerce in the agricultural center of Nevada (Department of Labor 2004; Department of the Navy 2004).

**Criterion C**

*The Work of a Master—Frederick DeLongchamps*

Frederick DeLongchamps is considered to be Nevada's pre-eminent architect. DeLongchamps was not only prolific and artistic, but over the course of his 58-year career (1907-1965), he demonstrated a phenomenal level of proficiency in the full range of architectural styles that were popular during those years. The breadth of his talent can be demonstrated through a comparison of his first major commission, the Washoe County Courthouse, to one much later in his career. The 1910 courthouse is soundly classical, following all the rules of scale, massing, and decoration. In contrast, Reno's Union Federal Savings and Loan building<sup>3</sup> of 1959 is competitive with the works of modernist architects with international reputations (Harmon 2002).

DeLongchamps's talents are especially remarkable when one learns that the man had no academic training in architecture, but rather held a degree in mining engineering from the University of Nevada in Reno. He came by a solid understanding of construction and architecture, however, from his father, Felix Delongchant, a builder of note in Nevada. After

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<sup>3</sup> The UFSL Building at 195 S. Sierra Street, which has served as a county office building for years, was demolished in 2002. The UFSL has been compared to the U.S. Embassy in Pakistan designed by Richard Neutra and Robert Alexander in 1958. The USFL employs brise-soleil, first employed in modern architecture in 1933 by Le Corbusier on the Maison Locative Ponsik in Algiers.

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Fallon City Hall, Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada

**8. Significance, continued**

college graduation, DeLongchamps embarked on a mining career, but a lung ailment cut short that goal. Following a brief stint as a draftsman with the U.S. Surveyor's Office in Reno, DeLongchamps made his way to San Francisco after the April 1906 earthquake, where he apprenticed with an architecture firm and was exposed to the formality of the *École des Beaux Arts*. One can assume that his natural appreciation for structural stability (miners tend to want to prevent entire mountains from falling in on them) was reinforced by his post-earthquake experience. All of DeLongchamps buildings exhibited exceptional engineering and structural soundness. His designs also demonstrated a fondness for brick and stone, no doubt influenced by the extensive fire damage he would have witnessed in San Francisco, as many buildings managed to withstand the quake only to be destroyed over the following days by fire (Harmon 2002).

In 1907, DeLongchamps returned to Reno and entered into a partnership with Ira W. Tesch, a former colleague at the U.S. Surveyor's Office. This firm won commissions for some 30 building between 1907 and 1909. DeLongchamps's first solo commission was the Washoe County Courthouse (1910), which he won as the result of a design competition in 1909. Over the next ten years, DeLongchamps designed 103 buildings, including the Nevada buildings at the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco and the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego. In keeping with the goals of exposition designers, DeLongchamps employed the Classical Revival style for the Panama-Pacific Exposition and Spanish Colonial Revival at the Panama-California Exposition. He was awarded a silver medal by the Board of Consulting Architects of the Panama-Pacific Exposition for "having planned a structure that far surpasses those of many states." He was also one of eight finalists in the San Francisco Civic Center competition (Kuranda 1986).

DeLongchamps's expertise and importance was recognized by the State of Nevada in 1919, when the state legislature appropriated \$520,000.00 for a capital building program and authorized the appointment of a Supervising Architect. DeLongchamps was appointed State Architect by State Engineer Scrugham. The position was abolished after two years, but reinstated in 1923, with DeLongchamps winning reappointment. He held the position until 1926, when the position was abolished again.<sup>4</sup> As State Architect, DeLongchamps was responsible for a number of

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<sup>4</sup> The position was never reinstated, making DeLongchamps Nevada's first and only State Architect.

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Fallon City Hall, Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada

**8. Significance, continued**

government buildings, including the Nevada Industrial School in Elko (1919), the Nevada State Hospital, Sparks (1920), the Heroes Memorial Building in Carson City (1920), the Nevada State Building in Reno (1926) (Kuranda 1986).

By 1914, Frederick DeLongchamps's solo architectural firm was a going concern. His commissions ranged from residences, schools, churches, government buildings, and commercial buildings, to a mausoleum. His first Fallon commission came that year. It was for the Oats Park School, which DeLongchamps rendered in red brick in a Period Revival design.<sup>4</sup> DeLongchamps's style palette of the time drew from a variety of Period Revival styles, Classical Revival, bungalows, and a single American Foursquare. Between 1914 and 1930, DeLongchamps completed eight other buildings in Fallon. All but one were commercial buildings. The single residence was a 1919 Prairie-style ranch house for R.L. Douglass, a prominent Fallon citizen. The commercial buildings reflected Classical Revival, "commercial," and Mediterranean Revival styles. Over the course of the next two decades, DeLongchamps designed another 12 buildings in Fallon (DeLongchamps var.).

DeLongchamps, both alone and in a later partnership, was Nevada's most successful architect, if indeed success can be correlated with sheer volume of work. During his career, DeLongchamps produced architectural drawings for more than 500 buildings. His success can be more accurately gauged through the value communities with DeLongchamps's buildings place on them today.<sup>5</sup>

*Spanish Colonial Revival Architectural Style*

DeLongchamps's success with Spanish Colonial Revival style at the 1915 Panama-California Exposition suggests an affinity for and level of competence in the style. There are several styles deriving from Spanish Colonial precedents, including Mission, Spanish Eclectic, and Spanish Colonial Revival. Adding to the confusion are several Italian styles with similar features. Fallon City Hall has been described as Romanesque and Mediterranean Revival. For the purpose of this nomination, City Hall is being classified as Spanish Colonial Revival for the following reasons.

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<sup>5</sup> A number of DeLongchamps buildings in Reno, Carson City, and Minden are listed in the National Register under a thematic nomination (listed August 6, 1986).

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**Fallon City Hall, Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada**

**8. Significance, continued**

The Romanesque period is too early to have influenced Frederick DeLongchamps, and no other Romanesque example can be found in his substantial body of work. The use of Mediterranean Revival, a rather generic yet popular term, implies an Italian Renaissance association, which is not apparent in the architectural details of City Hall.

Spanish Colonial Revival architecture, which held broad appeal from 1915 to about 1940, was promoted at the 1915 Panama-California Exposition in San Diego. Exposition designer, Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, who had authored a study of Spanish Colonial architecture, wanted to go beyond the earlier Mission style in order to emphasize the full range of Spanish precedents throughout Latin America (McAlester and McAlester 1990:418). Inspired by the wide publicity given the exposition, the Spanish Colonial Revival style was embraced by fashionable architects and it experienced broad appeal, which it sustained into the 1940s when it rapidly passed from favor (McAlester and McAlester 1990:418).

Spanish Colonial Revival was a popular Period Revival type found in Nevada residential neighborhoods prior to World War II. Many of the public buildings in the style (and its predecessors) were DeLongchamps commissions, including the Nevada-California-Oregon Railroad Depot in Reno (1910), and the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church (1931), Mary Lee Nichols School (1917), and the Washoe County Library Branch (1931) in Sparks, all of which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Summary**

The Fallon City Hall represents the growth and development of a community that established itself as a result of a national irrigation program aimed at making the arid far West more productive and open to settlement. The building's architectural style further reflects the recognition of the importance of the role Spanish colonists played in the early settlement of the West. Lastly, the Fallon City Hall is a commission of master architect Frederick DeLongchamps and an excellent example of his work with public buildings and especially his proficiency in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. For these reasons, the Fallon City Hall should be included in the National Register of Historic Places.

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Boundary Description**

The National Register boundary of the Fallon City Hall includes the 0.680-acre parcel identified as Assessor's Parcel Number 001-534-07, Fallon, Churchill County.

**Boundary Justification**

Resource boundaries includes all land commonly associated with the lot identified as Churchill County, Nevada APN 001-534-07.

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**Fallon City Hall, Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada**

**Photographs**

Property Name: Fallon City Hall

Property Location: 55 West Williams Street  
Fallon, Churchill County  
Nevada

Photographer: Bernadette Francke

Date of Photographs: June 2004

Location of Negatives: State Historic Preservation Office  
100 N. Stewart Street  
Carson City, Nevada

Photograph 1: Fallon City Hall  
Front (north) elevation, facing south

Photograph 2: Fallon City Hall  
West elevation, facing southeast

Photograph 3: Fallon City Hall  
East elevation, facing southwest

Photograph 4: Fallon City Hall  
Rear (south) elevation, facing north