

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received SEP 25 1986

date entered OCT 23 1986

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

1. Name

historic Jackson County Courthouse Number of contributing resources: 1

and/or common Same Number of non-contributing resources: 0

2. Location

street & number South Oakdale Avenue at 8th Street N/A not for publication

city, town Medford N/A vicinity of Fourth Congressional District

state Oregon code 41 county Jackson code 029

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Jackson County

street & number 8th Street and South Oakdale Avenue

city, town Medford N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97501

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jackson County Courthouse

street & number 8th Street and South Oakdale Avenue

city, town Medford state Oregon 97501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, 525 Trade Street SE

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Art Deco style Jackson County Courthouse, designed by John G. Link and constructed in 1932, occupies an irregularly shaped city block in Medford, Oregon. Facing in a northeasterly direction, the courthouse forms the northwest corner of Medford's civic center. The neighborhood to the west is primarily residential in character; to the north and south are a mixture of civic, commercial and residential structures. Medford's primary commercial district lies to the east and northeast. The three-story building with basement and attic is constructed of reinforced concrete with Indiana limestone exterior cladding and terra cotta ornament. The exterior of the main volume retains its integrity with little alteration. The interior public areas--the corridors, lobbies and vestibule--remain intact, but interior office spaces have been re-partitioned during the past forty years. An annex, designed by Ben Todd, and constructed in 1954, joins the southwest corner of the original courthouse and constitutes the greatest alteration to the original structure.

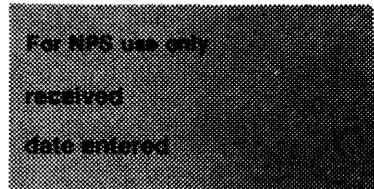
Located in Township 37 South, Range 2 West, Section 25, Willamette Meridian, Tax Lot 100 (Assessor's plat 37-2-25AD) the Jackson County Courthouse joins other important structures as part of Medford's civic square, which includes a Carnegie Library, (1911-1912), the Medford City Hall (1965-1966), the U. S. Federal Building (1966), the Jackson County Justice Center (1978), and the Jackson County Jail (1980-1981). The Medford city park lies east of the library. The courthouse is composed of two rectangular volumes and is L-shaped in plan. The courthouse is oriented in a northeasterly direction on an irregularly shaped block. The primary public entrance faces northeast and overlooks Oakdale Avenue. The property is bounded on the north by west Main Street, on the west by Laurel Street and on the south by Eighth Street.

The Jackson County Courthouse is constructed of steel beams and reinforced concrete and is faced with four-inch thick Bedford, Indiana limestone. Terra cotta, glazed to match the texture of the limestone, provides exterior detail. Granite for the building's base was quarried in Ashland, Oregon. The main volume of the building measures 197' 10" in its long axis by 75' 5". A three-story annex, which is joined at a right angle to the south end of the rear, or west elevation of the original rectangular structure, measures 101' 6" in length and 69' 6" in width. The entire building has a flat roof.

The facade reveals characteristics of the Stripped Classical/Art Deco style--flat roof with small parapet, large windows with metal sashes, steel and concrete frame with limestone and terra cotta covering, ornament in low relief and stylized sculptured figures. The center portion of the structure projects from the main wall plane. The central pavilion contains four bays which are defined by two projections of a single bay each. The north and south wings contain recessed portions of three bays each and a single-bay projection occurs at each end of the building. The alternating recesses and projections form a stepped roofline against the sky. Fenestration is arranged symmetrically. The large bronze-cased windows are composed of one horizontal light and two-light casement windows. Terra cotta, glazed to match the limestone exterior, is employed in the spandrels. Sills, door trim and a band under windows at the top of the first floor, are also composed of terra cotta. Additional terra cotta elements include

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the incised "Auditorium" and "Jackson County Courthouse" above facade entrances, and the American eagles on the central projections. Low-relief scalloped dentils extend across the facade at the roofline. Fluted pilasters with foliate capitals stand to each side of the main entry. The front steps are of Ashland granite. The main entry doors and the auditorium doors near the south end of the facade are metal. Bronze has been employed for grills and the roof gutters are copper. Wrought iron and bronze lamps are employed near entrances. Fenestration and decorative detailing follow the same pattern throughout the structure. The north end elevation has six bays. Metal exterior double doors provide entry on the north, south and rear elevations.

The roofline, fenestration, and decorative details remain consistent on the west, or rear elevation of the main volume. The courthouse annex joins the main volume on the south end of the west elevation. The rectangular annex of 1954 is three stories high, built of reinforced concrete, and has a flat roof. Bands of metal siding extend across on the north and south elevations. The west end of the annex has no metal siding. Single-light windows with transoms extend across the length of the building at each story. Metal brise-soleil are applied across the width of the window bands at each floor level.

The perimeter of the irregularly shaped block is bounded by cement sidewalks. The grounds consist of lawn to the east, north and south of the courthouse. A major portion of the grounds on the west elevation is devoted to parking. Oak, elm, maple, sweet gum, and birch trees grace the property. Many of the trees were part of the original landscape plan created in 1932. A grandiflora magnolia was planted between 1910 and 1920 when Washington School stood on the site. Cement walks lead from Oakdale Avenue to the main door of the courthouse, and from Eighth Street to the south entrance. A sundial, installed in 1923 in memory of a much-loved teacher, remains on the northwest corner of the property.¹

The public areas on the courthouse interior are elegantly finished. The second, or main floor of the courthouse, is reached by a sixteen-step stairway of Alaskan marble. This floor originally held offices of the county clerk, county court, tax collector, assessor and treasurer. Several of these offices remain. Dark and light marble paneling extends approximately eight feet up the walls of the lobby area. All hall floors are composed of terrazzo tile. A cornice extends over the entrance and is finished with dentil trim. Dentils and small egg-and-dart trim complete the coffered ceiling. Large console brackets are incorporated under larger panels in the main lobby. Original wrought iron light fixtures illuminate the second floor. The double leaf main entry doors are wood with large glass lights. Cast iron newels, iron balusters and a wooden hand rail comprise the main entry stairway. The first floor has one full marble wall which surrounds the record storage vault. Marble baseboard runs along the halls. The floor on this level is also composed of terrazzo tile. Cornice molding with dentils and egg-and-dart trim extends around the ceiling.

The third floor is reached by a two-flight dog-leg stair composed of Alaskan

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marble. The marble extends about eight feet high on the walls of the landing and the terrazzo tile floor is continued on this level. Marble wainscoting and door reveals are employed on this floor as on the second floor. Bronze heater vents are regularly placed. The third story courtroom remains intact. Mahogany paneling covers the walls and a plaster cornice with dentil trim and coved molding join the walls and ceiling. The ceiling cornice is trimmed with dentils and egg-and-dart molding. The ceiling surface is acoustical tile. The basement level contains the boiler room, storage vault and fuel storage spaces. The former jail, located on the fourth, or attic level of the courthouse, has been abandoned. Remodeling and various attempts at modernization have altered that interior space.

The annex interior walls and floor are concrete. The floor is covered with linoleum and the ceiling with acoustical tile. Straight single flight stairs lead to the upper levels. Interior doors are composed of birch.

The public portions of the Jackson County Courthouse, the vestibules, hallways and the third floor courtroom, are the most elaborately treated areas. The non-public areas, office interiors and the jail, have received alterations through the years. Work spaces have been repartitioned to accommodate growth. Ceilings have been lowered in some offices and one small spiral staircase which stood near the first commissioner's office has been removed.

The annex, which was completed in 1954 from plans by Ben Todd of the office of R. J. Keeney, local architect, is the most substantial alteration to the building, but it is not seen from the front of the courthouse. Overall, the main volume retains its original appearance and is in excellent condition. The quality and unaltered state of the principal facade, as well as the integrity of interior public spaces, allows the resource to fully convey its historic period of significance. The original volume remains discrete and distinguishable from its later addition.

Footnotes

- 1 Medford Mail Tribune, May 2, 1923. The Julia Fielder sundial was dedicated in memory of Julia Cheetham Fielder, "a friend to all children." She taught for twenty years in Medford and died July 15, 1922.

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Medford's economy strengthened -- aided particularly by the development of dependable orchard irrigation systems.

By 1925 the courthouse in Jacksonville was overflowing: eight out of fourteen county offices were housed in rented facilities, several of them located in Medford. (4) The Jackson County Bar Association, the Ashland and Medford Chambers of Commerce and other community groups supported a proposal to move the Jackson County Courthouse to Medford. Medford agreed, subject to a vote of the people, to furnish a free permanent site for the courthouse if the citizenry would vote to change the county seat to Medford. The city also agreed to provide suitable temporary quarters for county offices until a courthouse could be constructed. In November 1926 voters approved the courthouse move 4,751 to 1,820. (5) In 1927 Medford kept part of its agreement and provided space for county employees in a new structure located at Fifth Street and Central Avenue. (6) In December, 1927 the county offices moved into Medford. (7)

For the next two years several locations were considered for construction of the new courthouse. The Washington School site on Oakdale between Main and 8th Streets was selected after several alternatives had been considered. This site was especially desirable for its relatively high elevation. Announcing plans for the new building, the Medford Mail Tribune reported:

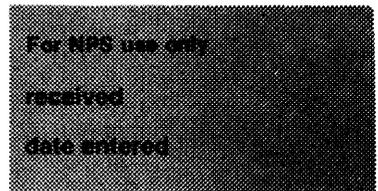
. . . one of the features of the structure will be that it will have no basement, which will be eliminated in keeping with the latest ideas of leading architects in all parts of the nation. The building will all be above ground and a pumping system to pump out possible flood waters will therefore never be necessary. (8)

Sentiment in Medford seems to be generally favorable to the county court's action. County residents are also generally pleased. The location of the building is just as much a question with the entire county as with Medford and they favor supporting the county court's selection. (9)

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The Medford Mail Tribune supported the site selection and stated in one editorial that to keep the county seat in Jacksonville would encourage crime in Jackson County. The editor reasoned that the Pacific Highway was the center of crime since the auto was "the criminal's best friend." As the chief responsibility for curtailing crime lay with the sheriff, to have the sheriff situated in Jacksonville gave criminals a head start. (10)

The choice of the Washington School site for the new courthouse perpetuated years of public use of that property. The site had served as the location of the city's first public school in 1884. This building was moved to West Tenth Street in 1891. The replacement school burned down in 1895 and in 1896 a new brick school was erected and named Washington School. (After this building's destruction the new Washington School was built at Peach and Dakota Streets in 1931.) The courthouse site has now been in public use for over 100 years. (11)

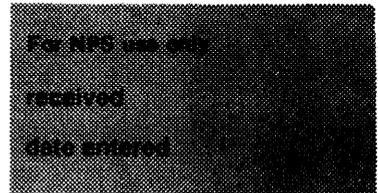
In March, 1930 the results of a planning study, initiated by the Medford city officials, were published in the local paper. That month, Jacob L. Crane, cited in the Mail Tribune as a "nationally known consulting planning engineer of Chicago," spoke to a large gathering of citizens at the Hotel Medford. He stated:

If Medford is to have a civic center it should be located in the region of the city park and it would include the new county court, city hall, Greater Medford Club headquarters, chamber of commerce building, library, auditorium and possibly two or more lodge buildings. (12)

Mr. Crane approved the selection of the Washington School grounds as the courthouse site and suggested that the planned building face Oakdale Avenue. Crane recommended eventually locating a city hall on Eighth Street facing the park. (13) Both the courthouse and city hall stand today on the locations recommended by Mr. Crane. In the 1940's the Reverend D.E. Millard, associated with the Christian Church in Medford, established a chapel south of the courthouse. The chapel was razed for the civic square project in the 1960's. The Jackson County

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Justice Building (1978), and the Jackson County Jail (1980-1981), today stand south of the Jackson County Courthouse. The efforts of Medford's leading citizens to determine an orderly pattern of development for the civic center area is evident in plans which have unfolded over a fifty year period.

In June, 1930 the local paper announced that the court was in the process of studying other courthouses of the state, and was "endeavoring to profit by their mistakes." (14) The next month the court articulated their architectural wishes:

The County Court in its consideration of the courthouse, is striving to eradicate all "gingerbread" effects and have straight lines predominate in the lines of the courthouse. They disapprove of "offsets" and bay windows. They want the structure to possess straight line simplicity. (15)

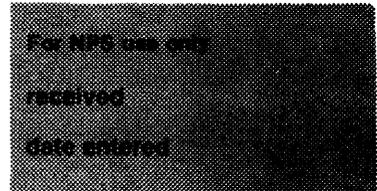
By the second week in January, 1931, five architects or representatives of firms, came to Medford to discuss drawings with the court. The applicants included J.G. Link, formerly of Montana, Frank C. Clark of Medford, Bennett and Bennett, Tourtellotte and Hummell, and F.C. Freeman, all of Portland. Conferences were held over a two day period.

In March, 1931 the city of Medford announced plans to purchase the Washington School site from the school district for \$23,000, fulfilling their promise furnish the county free ground. The bond election to approve purchase of the site was held May 1, 1931 and carried by a large margin. The school district agreed to raze the old building as soon as the term ended. (16)

After the bond election passed, the city announced the selection of an architect. J.G. Link was chosen to execute the \$265,000 job and was introduced to the public as an experienced architect with many courthouses and public buildings to his credit. L.B. Humphreys of Medford, a former California-Oregon Power Company engineer, was named supervisor and inspector. Mr. Link's tentative plans called for a four story structure to be constructed of reinforced concrete and faced with buff pressed brick and terra cotta trim. The foundation was to be composed

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of Ashland granite.

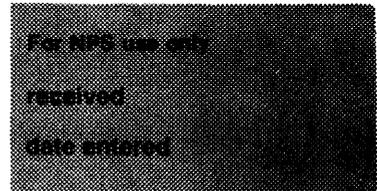
John G. Link, a native of Germany was born May 13, 1870 to Casper and Josephine Link. John Link studied architecture at the Royal Academy of Industries at Landau for six years and graduated in 1886. He immigrated to the United States in 1887 and settled at Denver, Colorado where he worked as an architectural draftsman until 1893. He moved to St. Louis, Missouri and opened an office in 1895. Ill health intervened and he moved to Butte, Montana in 1896. Mr. Link formed a partnership with W.E. Donovan under the firm name of Link and Donovan for four years. From 1900 to 1905 he worked with Joseph Carter and then formed the firm of Link and Haire with Charles S. Haire. This firm eventually was considered Montana's leading architectural concern. Buildings for which Mr. Link is credited include the Montana State Capitol addition, the Montana Building for the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904, and the Silver Bow County Courthouse. (18) After working sixty years in this country, John Link died on January 7, 1954. His obituary announced that he had served as president of the Montana Board of Architectural Examiners, was a member of the AIA and Montana Architectural Association and that he was the oldest practicing architect in Montana at the time of his death. (19)

Although most of Washington School was down by mid-June, 1931, construction did not begin on the new courthouse until February 20, 1932 after county officials had thoroughly researched other Oregon courthouses. County Judge Alex Sparrow, enthusiastic spokesman for the new building, died accidentally January 24, 1932, on an inspection trip in Klamath Falls, Oregon. By March, 1932 construction was well-underway. In May, limestone, which replaced the planned exterior brick, was complete to the second story and in July papers were transferred from the temporary courthouse to the new building.

On August 7, 1932, The Medford Mail Tribune announced that the dedication of the new courthouse would take place on September 1, 1932. Five thousand people attended the ceremony. Speeches were given by local orator, Irving Vining, and by Rufus C. Homan who represented governor Julius Meier. The County Court spoke last and thanked John G. Link, architect, and L.H. Hoffman, contractor. The speaker directed his final congratulations

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to the citizens of Jackson County who "supported this, your new courthouse." (17)

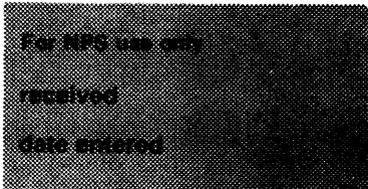
The Jackson County Courthouse is significant for its association with the development of Medford and Jackson County and retains the historic character established in the 1930's. The theme of governmental development in Jackson County between 1880 and 1932 is distinctly represented by this building which resulted when the county seat was moved from Jacksonville to Medford. The location of the courthouse at Medford encouraged Jacksonville's decline and Medford's growth as the primary Jackson County community. The building clearly indicates the economic and social changes which occurred during that period and retains essential physical features that it possessed at the time of significant association.

The Jackson County Courthouse is closely associated with sixty years of community planning in Medford. As a primary building in the civic center plan, the courthouse is the second oldest structure in that center. The Carnegie Library, located directly across Oakdale Avenue, was constructed in 1911-1912. In the areas of law and politics/ government, the courthouse is significant as the site of critical legal and governmental events in Jackson County.

Six months after the dedication of the new courthouse years of turmoil culminated in crisis. Early Depression years of uncertainty and despair let political intrigue find fertile ground. Older businessmen, political officials and the established press, found themselves bitterly criticized by a group officially known as the Good Government Congress. Llewellyn Banks, an orchardist, was founder and honorary president of the Congress. He began a newspaper, the Medford Daily News, to broadcast his discontent. Banks recklessly accused local citizens, officials and organizations of wrongs and regularly used his paper to further his malicious political and personal goals. In February, 1933, an estimated 10,000 ballots were stolen from the new courthouse vault to prevent a recount for the election of Jackson County sheriff. Several confrontations took place in the new courthouse between regular county officials and the Good Government Congress. Llewellyn Banks and his supporters were suspected of stealing the ballots. On March 16, 1933 Constable George Pres-

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cott was killed by Llewellyn Banks when he went to the Banks home to serve a paper. Banks was tried, convicted and sent to prison where he eventually died. The Good Government Congress quickly faded into oblivion. The years of turmoil culminating in the Banks-Prescott incident, covered by Robert Ruhl and the Medford Mail Tribune, won the paper a Pulitzer Prize in 1934. (22)

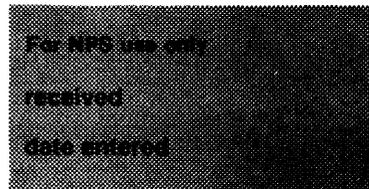
The significance of the Jackson County Courthouse in the area of architecture is established by association with prominent northwest architect John G. Link, and as a unique example of Art Deco style architecture in Medford and Jackson County. The structure embodies the distinct characteristics of the style including a stepped facade, stylized figure sculpture, octagonal lamps, metal casement windows, and window spandrels. At the time of construction the courthouse was the largest governmental structure to be built in the county.

The Jackson County Courthouse retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The building remains in its original prominent location and retains its historic relationship with the surrounding area. The civic center, of which the courthouse was an important early part, has developed through the years as buildings have been added to the complex.

The style, form, proportion, scale and ornament of the courthouse retain their original elements. The exterior has received virtually no alteration and thus retains its architectural integrity. Although the setting of the courthouse has developed during the past fifty years, the relationship of the courthouse with nearby early resources remains the same, including the Carnegie Library, the Medford Hotel, and the City Park. Newer structures have completed the civic center plan.

The materials employed in the Jackson County Courthouse retain their integrity. The use of Ashland granite for the base and steps of the building expresses the county community which supported the construction of the courthouse. The resource's workmanship reveals various craftsmen's skills. These skills are particularly evident in the application of the the limestone and glazed terra cotta decorative elements. On the interior the marble, wrought and cast iron work further demonstrates workmen's abilities. The courthouse conveys the feeling and the

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sense of its historic period through its unaltered demonstration of the Art Deco style. The Jackson County Courthouse remains the place where critical events and significant daily activities shaped the history of Jackson County, its communities and its neighbors. The Jackson County Courthouse remains today, as it was in concept, a central and dramatic symbol of the area it serves.

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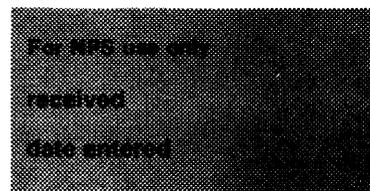
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1. Gail E.H. Evans. A Walk Through Time. Seattle: National Park Service, n.d. In 1858-1859 a two story wood-frame building was constructed on the site of the later courthouse by Jacksonville's Masonic Lodge and was shared with county officials for many years.
2. "Population of Oregon Cities and Counties and Metropolitan Areas, 1850-1957," (Oregon State University: Bureau of Municipal Research and Service, Information Bulletin No. 106.) p.4
3. Ibid.
4. Peggy Ann Hutchinson, "Valley Divided Over Moving County Seat," Medford Mail Tribune, "Our Valley," February 28, 1985, p.8
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid. This building, designed by architect Frank C. Clark, has been demolished. The space now exists as a parking lot across Central Avenue from the Elks Lodge.
7. Medford Mail Tribune, August 31, 1932.
8. Medford Mail Tribune, February 23, 1930
9. Ibid.
10. Medford Mail Tribune, 1926.
11. Scott Clay, interview October 3, 1985
12. Medford Mail Tribune, March 3, 1930
13. Ibid. Today the courthouse faces Oakdale Avenue. In 1965-1966 the Medford City Hall was erected on West Eighth Street in the location suggested by Mr. Crane.
14. Medford Mail Tribune, June 11, 1930.

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15. Ibid., December 3, 1930.

16. Ibid., May 2, 1931

17. Ibid., May 28, 1931.

18. Helen Fitzgerald Sanders, History of Montana. Volume III, Chicago, New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1913, pp. 1560-1561.

19. Great Falls Tribune (Montana) January 7, 1954.

Jon Hayt, "Architectural Drawings Held by the Montana Historical Society Library", Montana Historical Society, 1980.

J.G. Link, Architectural Drawings, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana.

"Guide to the Link and Haire Archival Records," Montana Historical Society, 1982.

James R. McDonald, "Historic Structure Report, Montana State Capital Building," 1981.

Examples of his work may be found in many states including Missouri, Kansas, North Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. In addition to the those mentioned above, Mr. Link executed many other major buildings. Among them are: the Montana State College Building at Bozeman, Montana, the Billings Library and City Hall, the Butte Masonic Temple, the Montana Power Company Building, Silver Bow County Hospital, Lewis and Clark County Courthouse, Missoula County Courthouse, Tillamook County Courthouse in Oregon, and the Laramie County Courthouse in Wyoming.

20. Medford Mail Tribune, August 7, 1932

21. Ibid., September 1, 1932.

22. Kay Atwood, Blossoms and Branches, A Gathering of Rogue Valley Orchard Memories, Ashland, Oregon: Kay Atwood, 1980, pp. 49-50.

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 checked="" 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"/> 1990–	<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 1932 **Builder/Architect** John G. Link, original architect
Ben Todd, architect of the addition

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Jackson County Courthouse occupies a prominent full-block site at the west end of Library Park in the heart of Medford, Oregon. One of several distinctive public buildings in the Modernistic, or Stripped Classical vein erected in Oregon county seats in the 1930s, the Jackson County Courthouse is characterized by vertical massing of its central pavilion, generous fenestration, and a taut, limestone exterior surface having Art Deco ornament and restrained sculptural relief in matching glazed terra cotta. The 197 x 75-foot building of reinforced concrete construction is three stories in height atop a basement and has a partial attic story set back from the main wall plane on either side of the central core. Completed and opened for use in 1932, it was designed by John G. Link (1870-1954), a German-born architect who maintained a long and prosperous practice centered in Butte, Montana from 1896 onward. Its boldness of scale, Classical spirit and the quality of various fittings and finishes throughout make it the most monumental building in Medford apart from the United States Post Office and Courthouse. It meets National Register criterion "c" as the outstanding example, locally, of Stripped Classical/Art Deco architecture. It is also significant as the stately, modern judicial and administrative headquarters of Jackson County, for its planning and construction followed closely the formal transfer of county government from Jacksonville to Medford in 1927. The building represents an achievement transcending the contemporary economic depression and political intrigues, and it is the nucleus from which more recent public buildings have evolved to complete the cluster of civic architecture which so distinguishes downtown Medford.

In 1883-1884 the arrival of the Oregon and California Railroad meant the development of a new town in Jackson County. Jacksonville, which had served as county seat since 1852, was challenged when the roadbed was routed approximately five miles to the east. Medford sprang up beside the tracks, composed at first of saloons, rooming houses, mercantile establishments, hotels and new residences. Many business owners deserted Jacksonville and established themselves in the booming new town. Most lawyers and county officials, however, stayed in Jacksonville to remain near the courthouse, a fine brick structure erected in 1883-1884.¹ Jacksonville remained small while Medford's population quickly expanded. In 1890 Medford had 967 residents and by 1900 the citizens numbered 1,790.² In 1891 the Rogue River Valley Railway was constructed between Jacksonville and Medford to provide convenient transportation for the increasing number of citizens who travelled between the towns to conduct legal and economic business.

Between 1900 and 1910 Medford and the surrounding area grew rapidly. The population in 1910 reached 8,840, and many residents were involved in the flourishing orchard industry.³ Hotels, a Carnegie Library, a city park, several schools and churches were constructed during the first twelve years of the century. After an economic slump between 1915 and 1920,

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Atwood, Kay. Blossoms and Branches, A Gathering of Rogue Valley Orchard Memories.
Ashland, Oregon: Kay Atwood, 1980
- Evans, Gail E. H. A Walk Through Time. Seattle: National Park Service, n.d.
(see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Medford, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A

1	10	5	110	1	15	10	4	6	8	9	4	5	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 The Jackson County Courthouse is located in Township 37 South, Range 2 West, Section 25, Willamette Meridian, Medford, Jackson County, Oregon. It occupies Tax Lot 100, which comprises one city block. Jackson County Assessor's Map Reference No. 37-2-25AD.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kay Atwood

organization (for) Southern Oregon Historical Society date December 2, 1985

street & number PO Box 480 telephone (503) 899-8147

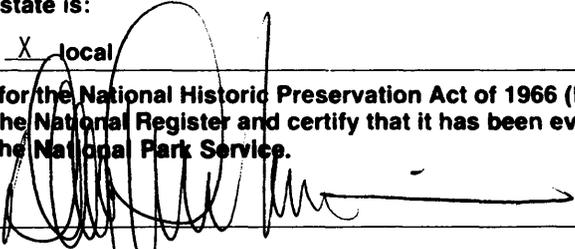
city or town Jacksonville state Oregon 97530

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 

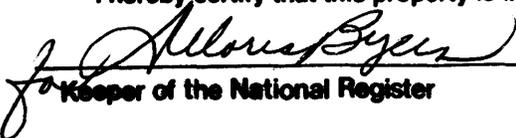
title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date September 18, 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 10-23-86


Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet JACKSON COUNTY
COURTHOUSE Item number 9 Page 1

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Great Falls Tribune (Great Falls, Montana) January 7, 1954.

"Guide to the Link and Haire Archival Records," Helena, Montana, Montana Historical Society, 1982.

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Hutchinson, Peggy Ann. "Valley divided Over Moving County Seat," Medford Mail Tribune, "Our Valley," February 28, 1985.

"J.G. Link, Architectural Drawings, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana," Helena, Montana: Montana Historical Society, n.d.

Medford Mail Tribune, 1926, February 23, 1930; March 3, 1930; June 11, 1930; December 3, 1930; May 2, 1931, May 28, 1931, August 7, August 31, 1932; September 1, 1932.

McDonald, James R. "Historic Structure Report, Montana State Capitol Building," Helena, Montana: Montana Historical Society, 1981.

"Population of Oregon Cities and Counties and Metropolitan areas, 1850-1957," (Oregon State University: Bureau of Municipal Research and Service, Information Bulletin No. 106.)

Sanders, Helen Fitzgerald. History of Montana, Volume III. Chicago, New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1913.

37 2w 25 AD

37 2W 25AD

6th STREET

W. MAIN STREET

ST (Formerly: 7th STREET)

MAIN STREET

STREET

HWY. 258 west

8700 JACKSON

ADDITION

STREET

STREET

SOUTH

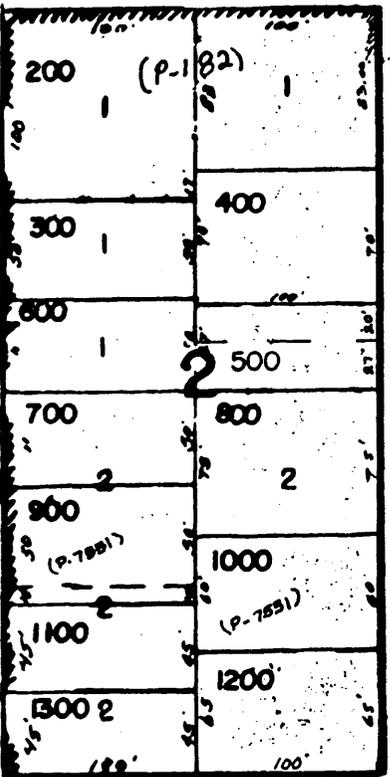
JACKSON

COUNTY

COURTHOUSE

ANNEX

"M" STREET



WEST

8th

3500

(P-2009)

GALLOWAYS

MISTLETOE

JACKSON COUNTY JAIL

2700

(P-98)
(P-113)

(P-2021) (P-761)

JACKSON COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER

(P-611)

KING STREET

(Formerly "K" STREET)

(P-181)

(P-611)

VAC. LAUREL ST 77-12508 (Formerly: "L" STREET)

4600

4700

4800

49

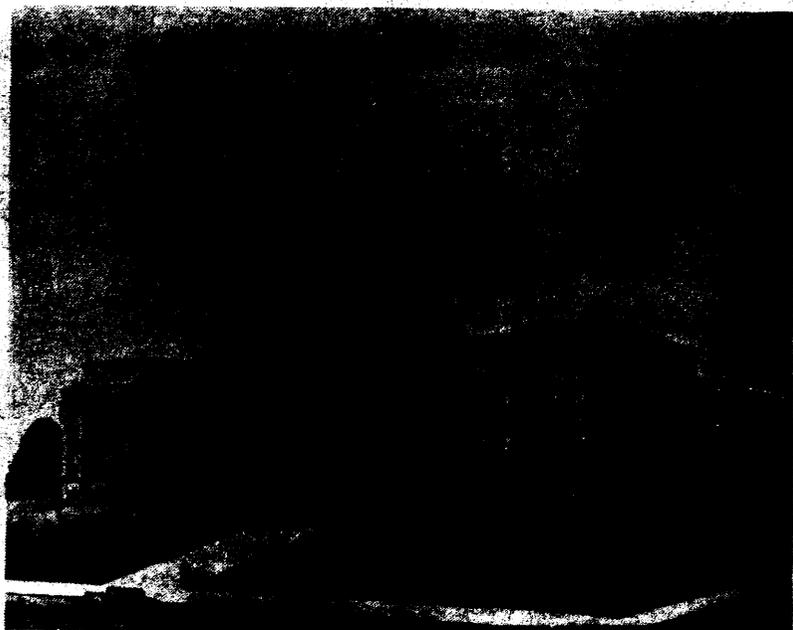


Photo from Virginia Bailey

J.G. Link's first plan called for a tower;
it was deleted from later plans. (MMT photograph)