

PH0500208

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
 RECEIVED
 DATE ENTERED
 JUL 5 1977
 FEB 23 1978

**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 Lincoln County Courthouse
 AND/OR COMMON Pioche Courthouse/Old Lincoln County Courthouse

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER (No number)
 Alternate Highway 93, Lacour Street NOT FOR PUBLICATION
 CITY, TOWN Pioche CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Nevada
 STATE Nevada VICINITY OF Nevada
 CODE COUNTY CODE
 32 Lincoln 017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Lincoln County, Nevada
 STREET & NUMBER NA
 CITY, TOWN Pioche VICINITY OF Nevada
 STATE Nevada

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Lincoln County Courthouse
 STREET & NUMBER NA
 CITY, TOWN Pioche STATE Nevada

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Nevada Historical Sites - Mordy and McCaughey
 DATE 1968 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Western Studies Center, Desert Research Institute, UNR
 CITY, TOWN Stead Campus STATE Nevada
 Reno Nevada

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The structure has been recently restored, after sitting empty since 1938. Much structural stabilization went into strengthening walls, floors, and stairs; windows were replaced, lathwork and plastering redone, bricks were repointed and the trim painted; a modern heating system has been installed, and wiring brought up to code without damage to the historical integrity of the building. To date, this is Nevada's best restoration project, funded almost completely with Economic Development Authority funds. All of the restoration work was done through force account, supervised by the County.

It is the County's intention that the building be occupied, in part, by the State Park System, and opened to the public for historic interpretation.

Title to the Courthouse remains with Lincoln County.

GENERAL STATEMENT

The Pioche (Lincoln County) Courthouse occupies a hill site enabling the adjacent jail to be reached via a door from the Courthouse's second floor. The structure faces north-east. Plan is rectangular, approximately 40 x 60 feet, with the long axis facing northeast.

The jail sits to the rear (south) of the Courthouse, and is attached by a covered walkway. To the east of the cell block is a brick and stone paved patio which may be reached either by ascending brick/stone steps from the street level or by exiting from the rear of the Courthouse.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Foundation: unknown.

Walls: front facade is brick laid in common bond which turns corners to key-in to stone rubble walls/brick forms quoin pattern, but is flush with stone. Front facade is divided into three recessed panels or bays which rise from stone water table course to brick string course.

Windows: lug sills of single brick course; no detailing of brick or wood at window sides in front/heads are radiating brick voussoirs/side windows feature surround of brick set flush with stone walls, radiating brick voussoirs at head. All windows are rectangular (vertical), double-hung and employ sash with lites in 6/6 arrangements.

Doors: first level entry (north) door features a semi-circular fan window with 6 lites/entry is double doors set back from plane of wall/on either side of entry, approximately 8" from door jam is a separate,

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The contract for the construction of the Lincoln County Courthouse, at Pioche, was awarded on August 26, 1871, and the structure was completed the following year. Its significance lies in the fact that for the next 66 years, it served the people of the southeastern corner of Nevada as a courthouse, jail, repository for records, seat of county government, and as a center for local and regional political activity.

Prior to the establishment of Pioche as the county seat of Lincoln County in 1871, this isolated area had been noted as much for its lawlessness as for the productivity of its mines. After 1871, county government became more effective, and the area was no longer a haven for rowdies, outlaws, and lawbreakers.

The Courthouse itself is of some note because of the manner in which its construction was financed. The original contract for the structure called for an expenditure of no more than \$26,000, yet the final cost to the taxpayers was something over \$800,000. The original contract was broken and the structure was completed by piecework at a much higher figure than originally anticipated. Bonds were issued in the amount of \$75,000 and considerable amounts of county script put out in lieu of hard cash. Although much of the script was issued to take care of other county obligations, it somehow came to be charged to the "Courthouse Debt," so-called. Lincoln County's inadequate tax assessment system and the decline in mining in the mid-1870's led to problems in redeeming the bonds and the script. Small payments were made on the bond interest periodically, but they did not keep pace and nothing was paid on the principal. Lincoln County tried to repudiate the debt in the 1880's, but lost several lawsuits over the issue.

In 1907, the State Legislature worked out a plan to refund the debt at 65% of the outstanding obligation, part of which was taken over by Clark County when it was carved out of the southern half of Lincoln County two years later.

The debt, principal and interest, was finally paid off in 1938, the same year the courthouse was abandoned and county offices relocated elsewhere in Pioche.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

James W. Hulse, Lincoln County, Nevada: 1864-1909, History of a Mining Region, Reno, Nevada: University of Nevada Press, 1971, pp. 68-78.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>11</u>	<u>723950</u>	<u>4201100</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lincoln County Recorder's office lists old courthouse located on Block 35 (no lot number). Building faces Lacour Street, while McCannon Street borders rear of property.

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

Phillip I. Earl, Curator of Exhibits, Nevada Historical Society AND

ORGANIZATION

Robert Fink

DATE

Nevada State Park System

May 10, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

201 South Fall Street

TELEPHONE

(702) 885-4370

CITY OR TOWN

Carson City

STATE

Nevada

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

John L. Medley

TITLE

Administrator

DATE

June 8, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

W. H. Murty
Charles A. ...

DATE

2-23-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

2-22-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

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Architectural Description (cont.)

fixed, vertical side light with lug sill and round heads. Second floor door opens to balcony/porch roof/door is similar to first level entry except fan lite is segmental and not semi-circular.

Porch: access to porch is via four stone risers to water table course (fifth riser)/no columns support projecting overhead balcony and railing.

Parapet: above string course, a brick dentil range supports a projecting false cornice of brick.

Roof: low hipped composition roof behind parapet.

BRIEF INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

Interior condition is good, having been recently restored with EDA funds. The courtroom is restored with judge's bench and audience seating.

Room Arrangement: central hall with rooms on either side; rooms join with interior doors. Stairway against east wall of hall leads to second level. Courtroom is on second floor at rear of building/axis of courtroom aligns with short axis of building (southeast-northwest). Wood plank floors.