
6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

government/courthouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

government/courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Modern movement/Art Deco

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation granitewalls brick

roof unknownother terra cotta

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Jerome County Courthouse is a detached two-story public building on a raised basement story. The original rectangular plan of the building has been modified with the addition of a compatible 1975 stucco and brick addition to the south wall of the building. The front elevation of the building has five bays with a centered entrance. The building's structural framework of reinforced concrete is veneered with red brick laid in common bond. The foundation is tooled granite; the roof is flat. Windows are multi-light steel sash with an operable inner sash. Cream-colored terra cotta cast with foliate designs decorates many parts of the building: fluted pillars framing the entrance, the attic story frieze, window sills and lintels, and planters either side of the front steps. The entrance, surrounded with geometric and foliate terra cotta pillars successively set back, places the building in the Art Deco style popular locally and used for several southeast and south central Idaho public buildings.

The interior of the building retains a number of period features, including its plan, green and buff-colored terrazzo floors, plaster walls with egg and dart ceiling molding, tiled stairway wall, second-story skylights, and Art Deco light fixtures. The plan is based on a central hallway perpendicular to the front wall, leading to a rear hallway running the length of the building. The stairway leads to the second story from the central hallway.

Alterations to the building include a side addition that is compatible in style and that leaves the original structure clearly discernible. Five windows on the north half of the rear wall have been replaced with single-pane windows. Also, replacing the original entry doors are double metal-frame doors, set in the original molded wood frame. While the loss of original doors and windows has some effect on the building's integrity, the remaining original fabric conveys the important characteristics of the Art Deco style, and the building conveys a sense of the period in which it was built as a part of the WPA in Idaho.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

architecture
politics/government

Period of Significance

1938-1939

Significant Dates

1938-1939

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architects: Sundberg and Sundberg

Builder: Paul R. Kartzke

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Jerome County Courthouse is significant under criterion "A" in the context of the development of county government as supported by WPA and PWA monies throughout the Depression years. The building is significant under criterion "C" in the context of the architecture of Idaho's county courthouses and as a local example of institutional architecture. The building retains its original monumental massing and most of its Art Deco style features, including its brick veneer, terra cotta detailing, five-bay front, and most of its steel sash windows. The remaining original fabric conveys the important characteristics of Art Deco style, and the building conveys a sense of the period in which it was built as a WPA project.

Because the building is part of a finite and endangered group of resources associated with the WPA in Idaho and because it is associated with a relief program that had exceptional impact on the Idaho landscape and economy during the Depression years, the building is presented for nomination before it reaches the 50 year mark.

Jerome County received substantial support for construction of its new courthouse in 1938, when the WPA regional office in Portland, Oregon, allotted a \$39,150 grant toward construction of a courthouse estimated to cost \$87,000. According to the county's application to the WPA, dated May 25, 1938, the county had already passed a bond election and had cash in hand to begin construction. Architects Sundberg and Sundberg of Idaho Falls were chosen to design the courthouse, and a Jerome builder, Paul R. Kartzke, was low bidder for the construction contract. The courthouse was completed in the fall of 1939. The county benefitted from numerous other WPA and PWA projects, including construction of the Jerome sewers, highway and city street work, and city irrigation system work.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Jerome) North Side News. 27 October 1938, p. 1; 2 March 1939, p. 1;
15 June 1939, p. 1.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

Idaho Architectural and Historic Sites Inventory

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than 1 acre

UTM References

A

1	1
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7	0	3	2	9	0
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4	7	3	3	2	4	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nomination includes the Jerome County Courthouse and the property on which it sits, lots 5-16, block 57, Jerome townsite.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries are based upon the legally recorded block and lot parcels on which the courthouse is located.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jennifer Eastman Attebery, Architectural Historian
 organization Idaho State Historical Society date June 23, 1987
 street & number 210 Main telephone (208) 334-3861
 city or town Boise state ID zip code 83702

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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The Jerome courthouse is one of three nearly-identical courthouses designed by Sundberg and Sundberg for 1938 WPA projects, and it is the best-preserved of the three. The other two, Jefferson and Oneida county courthouses, have similar two-story massing, interior plans, and five-bay fronts with elaborate terra cotta entries. Like most of Idaho's county courthouses, the Jerome courthouse is the most ambitious and stylistically elaborate architectural design in its locality and its region and deserves National Register listing on that basis as well as for its contribution to our understanding of the range of architectural designs used for courthouses in Idaho.