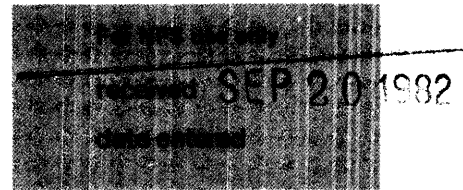


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Belgrade City Hall and Jail

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number Broadway at Northern Pacific Blvd., Boulevard N/A not for publication

city, town Belgrade N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~

state Montana code 030 county Gallatin code 031

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	<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
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Belgrade

street & number

city, town Belgrade N/A vicinity of state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Gallatin County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Bozeman state Montana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 Belgrade City Hall is a multiple purpose municipal building which has at one time or another housed the following services: City Hall, police and fire station, jail, court, library, post office, community hall/basketball court, and theatre. Today, city offices and senior citizen's headquarters occupy the first story while the community hall is located above. The community hall which occupies the entire second floor level consists of an auditorium with a stage, dressing rooms, a balcony and a room off the stair landing which was formerly the city library.

In form, it is a rectangular, two story, semi-detached, brick municipal structure with a flat roof. On the exterior facade, glazed, earth-red facing brick is used, laid in common bond with headers every seventh course. Sills on the street elevation are of cut Columbus, Montana sandstone. Prism glass, placed above large plate glass windows on the street level, is used for backlighting the municipal offices. Pressed galvanized iron is used on the ceiling of the community hall entrance vestibule. On the side and back walls, common brick is laid in an identical manner as its facade, but with an obvious contrast in quality, color, and texture with the facade brick. Sills on the north side elevation and rear are of brick. The "town lock-up" and vault is functionally expressed on the lower northeast corner, with concrete quoined into the brickwork. While appearing to be of a later build, the original 1912 blueprints detail this concrete section of the wall for the lock-up.

Stylistically, the building is a late example of castellated Gothic rendered in the western vernacular. The major stylistic features are limited to the corbelled-out brick along the cornice line and a stepped parapet of chimney-like features that break the skyline. Once a popular style in Montana from c. 1880s until the early teens of the twentieth century, relatively few unaltered examples remain. The Belgrade City Hall has undergone minimal stylistic change. Ironically, the major alterations have taken place on the adjoining 1902 bank building which in 1912 was used as a stylistic template for a young Bozeman architect, Fred Willson to follow. (see appendix) Hence, the Belgrade City Hall originally was an addition onto the Belgrade Bank structure which housed the town newspaper and telegraph line. Not only was the town hall stylistically dependent upon the 1902 bank building, but structurally and programatically dependent as well; the two buildings abutted one another and shared many services as well. The southernmost division of the City Hall serves as a lobby and ticket office for the auditorium and the vestibule serves as an entry to the firehall as well. Further, interaction between the firehall and the lobby division includes location of the three-story hoseroom in the rear corner, accessed from the firehall; common use of the toilet (which connects to the firehall as well as to the ticket office) in turn opens to the bank building. Possible sharing of facilities and services is suggested by this wall opening between the city hall and the bank, which boasted a telegraph office at the time the city hall was built. The basement level housed boilers for the city hall and the bank as well. Toward the front of the building, and extending to beneath the sidewalk, coal storage and ashpits were located.

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Conceptually, the Belgrade City Hall is a brick version of the western wooden false front tradition, which on occasion shared cornice lines with adjoining buildings for extended grandeur, and used more pretentious materials on the street facade, while ignoring the more functional and unadorned rear or side walls. The fact that the "false" parapet steps down from the facade and that there is a change from facing brick to common brick on the party walls reinforces the false front concept. Further, the Belgrade City Hall reflects the nonselfconscious attitude common to western vernacular architecture; not only in the use of the castellated Gothic style--popular nationally around the 1840's and 1850's and used tenaciously in Gallatin County until the early 20th Century -- but the architect of the Belgrade City Hall, who was Columbia University and Ecole des Beaux Arts trained, thought nothing of abdicating his own design concept for the slavish mimicry of the ten year old Belgrade Bank. On the original 1912 specifications, architect Fred Willson remarked that the cornice brick work was to be "carried out same as 'old' buildings." This gesture and Willson's reliance upon catalogue items of pressed metal ceilings and prism glass, (which could now be shipped directly to Belgrade on the 1912 Milwaukee Railroad spur) indicate that attitudes of "expediency" motivated the design of this structure. This structure, then, is a significant expression of western vernacular castellated Gothic, the motivations behind such forms, and the work of Fred Willson prior to developing his own style. In a sense, Willson's work is part of the builder's tradition at this point rather than being informed by progressive architectural trends nationally.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1912 **Builder/Architect** Fred Willson

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

Designed by the prominent Bozeman architect, Fred F. Willson, the Belgrade City Hall and Jail is significant as a late example of western commercial, castellated Gothic architecture and as a reflection of the growing prosperity and maturity of the town of Belgrade, Montana.

Belgrade developed in the early 1890's as a railroad town consisting mostly of wooden buildings. The town was incorporated in 1906 - which became one of the first signs of its economic and political independence from neighboring Bozeman. Many brick buildings had been erected by that date and the need for a structure to house the new local governmental offices, the fire station, courthouse, local post office and the local sheriff became obvious. The city hall was built in 1912 and like an envelope, it wraps those functions as well as the local utility company within one building. Being one of among approximately 6 brick structures at the time of its construction, the Belgrade City Hall reflected signs of stability, permanence and a belief in the future prosperity of that community over the less substantial frame fronts, of the past. In older established Bozeman (1864), the City Hall (1889) included a grand opera house designed by Vreeland and Kemna of limestone. In young Belgrade, the City Hall second floor recreation space was impressed into duty to serve as a playhouse, a movie theatre, a highschool basketball court, and the site of Friday night dances.

As the Belgrade City Hall was one of Fred Willson's earliest commissions in the Gallatin Valley, it is important as a taper for evaluating and chronicling his stylistic evolution. The Belgrade City Hall along with the Bozeman Jail (also done in 1912 by Willson) are castellated Gothic, the only major examples of this style in the Gallatin Valley. Also, it is through observing these earliest works that we witness Fred F. Willson's dependence upon catalogs, the railroad, local craftsmen, and the influences of other local buildings to create his architecture prior to the emergence of a mature style.

During the first half of this century, Fred Willson was Bozeman's most prominent architect. Born in 1877, Willson was educated in Bozeman -- attending Montana State College as a charter student. Later, he transferred to Columbia University where he graduated in 1902, with an architecture degree. He had graduate studies at Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. After traveling through many European countries, he returned to work for Visscher and Burley in 1906 in New York City. Before establishing his own firm in Bozeman (1910-1912), he worked in the Butte branch office of Link and Haire for four years, then formed the firm of Shanley, Willson, Heigenin in 1928 and four years later he opened his own private practice. Willson became a prominent local architect, responsible for many of the local public buildings. Among them are the 1912 Sacajawea Inn (National Reg. 1979), the 1912 Bozeman jail, the Hotel Baxter (1928), the 1936 Gallatin County Courthouse, and the Engineering building and Chemistry building on the Montana State University campus. Since most Montana cities are one architect communities (until recent years), the role these early architects played in shaping the built environment was enormous. Willson died on 8-13-56 at the age of 78.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Belgrade, Montana

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>2</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>16</u>	<u>3</u> <u>12</u> <u>15</u>	<u>5</u> <u>10</u>	<u>6</u> <u>18</u>	<u>9</u> <u>15</u> <u>10</u>
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

B	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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F	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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G	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

The property nominated is a rectangular lot 80' by 50', bounded on the northeast by Broadway Street and on the north by the alley between Main Street and Central Avenue.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kingston Heath, Assistant Professor

organization School of Architecture date June 1, 1981

street & number Montana State University telephone (406)994-3832 or 994-4255

city or town Bozeman state Montana

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 Marcella Boyd

title Deputy SHPO date 9-14-82

For NPS use only

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

Paul McCullum 11/25/82

Special Agent in Charge of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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High Country News, April 15, 1981, page 2.

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APPENDIX

Other Works:

Many of the buildings at the Orphans' Home at Twin Bridges, Montana and at the State Normal School at Dillon, Montana, the Park County High School, the Ennis School and Gymnasium in 1940, the Commercial National Bank in Bozeman, Montana, and accredited with the remodeling of all the Safeway Stores in Montana.

*The building dates supplied by: Vol. 1 Final Report, Blue Ribbon Commission, Bozeman Public Schools, Bozeman, Montana, February, 1981.