Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	
Washington	
Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE O	
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NGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
#2 - Hon. Lloyd Me	eds
UNTY:	031
Jefferson	
STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
Occupied	Yes: X Restricted
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Transportation	Comments
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	INVENTORY - NOMINATION		ENTR	Y 95 10/	APR 2 4 197	3
	(Type all entries complete applicable)	le sections)		DESCRIPTION		
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	AND/OR HISTORIC:		10	RECISTER		
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	Jefferson & Cass Streets		NGRESSIONAL	DISTRICT:	_	
	CITY OR TOWN:		#2 - Ho	n. Lloyd Me	eds	
	Port Townsend	CODE CO	UNTY		031	
	STATE	53	Jeffers	on	190-	
	Washington 3. CLASSIFICATION				ACCESSIBLE	1
	3. CLASSIFICATION OWN	ERSHIP		STATUS	TO THE PUBLIC	1
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C	SE Government			Transportation	Comments	
>	Industrial F	Private Residen		Other (Specify)		
œ		Religious				
-	Entertainment Museum	Scientific				
S	OWNER OF PROPERTY				×	W AT
Z	OWNER'S NAME:					, iii
	Jefferson County STREET AND NUMBER:					<u>i</u> .
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S	Port Townsend					-
	5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.					COUNTY
	Jefferson County Court	house				か さ
	WILLIAM FR					ers
	Jefferson & Cass Stree	ts	STATE		53	日
•	CITY OR TOWN:		Wa	shington	53	+++
	Port Townsend					
	8. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					EN TRY
•	TITLE OF SURVEY:					77 70
	None	☐ Federal	☐ State	County	☐ Local	P Z Z Z
	DATE OF SURVEY:					FOR NPS USE
	DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					7 13 8
	STREET AND NUMBER:					ONLY
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	CITY OR TOWN:					DATE
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			(Check One)		
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CONDITION		(Check One)			(Che	ck One)
	Altered	X	Unaltered	i	Moved	Original Site
	structure is	·				

The courtroom on the third floor is massively decorated with handcarved solid oak paneling. Corridor walls throughout the building are accented with cedar wainscotting.

The clock in the tall brick and stone tower is a unique feature in itself, for it has been in service for seventy-six years, and is considered a mariner's landmark.

The tower which houses the clock and bell mechanism is 143 feet tall and is Romanesque in design.



PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) 1892		
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	eck One or More as Appropri	ite)	
Abor iginal	☐ Education	₩ Political	Q Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi.	OHA (Spectfy)
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	losophy /©	X RECEIVED S
Agriculture	Invention	☐ Science	Malia
Architecture	☐ Landscape	☐ Sculpture	onit 10 13/3
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	NATIONAL
Commerce	Literature	itarian (i)	REGIST
☐ Communications	Military	Theater	X THE SHOP IN THE
Conservation	☐ Music	☐ Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The stately and impressive Jefferson County Courthouse in Port Townsend was built in 1892 and is now the oldest courthouse in the state. The brick building was built by contractor John Rigby and designed by W. A. Ritchie.

Ritchie also designed the Spokane County Courthouse, utilizing a completely different style. The total cost of the building was approximately \$125,000. In 1964 the lower floor of the building was renovated. An elevator has also been installed.

The courthouse has a commodious formal courtroom, a wide staircase, and carved oak woodwork. A tall, steeple-like clocktower serves as a beacon, visible from any direction, including the sea, as one nears the city. The clock was shipped around Cape Horn to this community before the turn of the Century.

The building took two years to construct. Eleven stone-cutters and twelve brick masons were utilized in the carving of stone and elaborate column capitols and the laying of 4,000,000 bircks shipped from St. Louis.

All county business is transacted here. The jail is housed on the ground floor of the building. Jefferson County was organized from Lewis County (one of the state's original eight counties) in 1852. A large portion of the county is in the Olympic National Park. The county fronts on both the Pacific Ocean and Puget Sound.

Port Townsend, the county seat, has a number of Victorian Buildings. The elegant courthouse, with its towers and fine detailed styling, blends beautifully with the character of the community.

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