

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Washington
COUNTY: Garfield
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUL 24 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Garfield County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
8th and Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Pomeroy

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
#5 - Honorable Thomas S. Foley

STATE: Washington CODE: 53 COUNTY: Garfield CODE: 023

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Garfield County

STREET AND NUMBER:
8th and Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Pomeroy

STATE:
Washington

CODE:
53

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Garfield County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
8th and Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Pomeroy

STATE:
Washington

CODE:
53

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

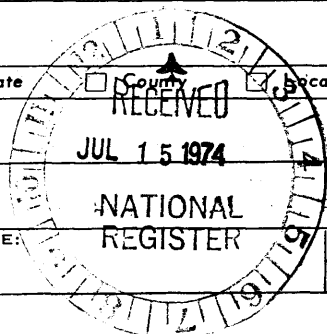
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Pomeroy

STATE:
Washington

CODE:
53

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Washington

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2011
M3
EAST

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Garfield County Courthouse is a typical two story brick Victorian building on a broken coursework rusticated stone foundation. It is rectangular in plan with the long axis in an east west direction. The south, or front elevation, is divided into approximate thirds by two projecting towers; one octagonal and the other square. Off center between these is the major entrance which also projects and barely overlaps the square tower. Centered on the east facade is a one story semicircular bay. The octagonal tower is engaged for slightly more than half its diameter with one double hung window on the front at each floor and three semicircular arched windows on adjacent facets of the tower above. Below these windows is a substantial ogee sill on top of a band of disc-shaped ornaments framed at the bottom by a narrow string course connecting the main roof overhang where it is broken by the tower. The octagonal spire roof is flared at the overhang and topped by an ironwork finial.

The square tower is similarly engaged to the building, being slightly taller and more massive than the other. At its base is a semicircular arched opening into a partially enclosed porch recess. Above this is a set of three windows of the same total width as the porch opening but somewhat shorter than most of the other windows and crowned with a rough lintel and the word GARFIELD. A corresponding set of three windows taller than most is directly above these resting on a heavy sill and with an ornamental panel at the top. A pair of windows above, of the same total width as the three below, is contained within a shallow recessed arch. This portion of the tower is above the roof overhang and is apparently wood framed. The wall surface projects slightly so that the brickwork beneath it is flush with the arched window recess. Set back from the arch is a semicircular hood moulding with dentils. The roof on this tower is a bulging convex pyramid that rises from the inside of a narrow cornice with dentil trim. The cornice is broken in front by a false gable dormer that contains a large clock flanked by pillars engaged only at their lower part. At the roof apex is the statue "Blind Justice" standing roughly seven feet tall.

Next to the tower, the main entrance is a rectangular porch with sheltered steps between piers in front. Above the rectangular opening is a lintel, bearing the date 1901, that is relieved above by a semicircular arched window around which are arranged the words GARFIELD COUNTY. This window is flanked by engaged pillars similar to those near the clock. The top of the entrance porch is a railed balcony with French doors into the main building. Windows are typically tall and narrow and the fenestration is of fairly even distribution with most openings aligned both in the vertical and horizontal directions. Belt courses connect the second story window sills and the first story lintels and they also occur where the wall meets the foundation and where it meets the roof. The latter course is complexified by corbeling and dentils.

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#7 - Description
Garfield County Courthouse

The main roof is a stepped medium hip roof of wood frame that rises from the west to a short first ridge, after which it rises to a second ridge and then down the other side. On the east elevation is a full story gable dormer with its ridge in line with the lower ridge of the hip on the opposite side and its roof surface flush for the central third of the major roof slope to the front. There is a single chimney behind and above the octagonal tower (it is missing several courses at the top).

The building has been painted white recently and shingled with composition roofing to replace the original shakes. Little else has been altered on the exterior. The interior retains some of the decorative carpentry and original furniture.



3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Completed in 1901

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

In 1881 Garfield County was created by act of the Territorial Legislature in response to complaints that the Columbia County seat, Dayton, was too remote to serve the governmental needs of the growing population of South Eastern Washington. A temporary county government was located at Pataha City until an election could be held the following year.

The town of Pomeroy had at the time a long history of competition with Pataha City. Mr. J. M. Pomeroy, founder and town platter, gave away lots on Main Street to business of any description in response to the Pataha challenge. This added irritant of a fight over the county seat produced a "never-to-be forgotten struggle, and everyone realized that on the result hinged the future prosperity of the town. [There ensued a] sectional, factional, and political war prevailing over a considerable period between 1881 and 1884."

Just before the issue came to a vote, Jay Lynch, a Blue Mountain sawmill operator living at Pomeroy but with little vested interest in the outcome, loaded several ox-team carts with lumber and dumped them three miles east of Pataha City. There he staked out lots and declared the new city of Mentor. It was his intention to "compete" for the county seat and to thereby divide the Pataha City vote, a successful but unnecessary measure. Pomeroy won the election easily.

To celebrate the victory, Pomeroy residents "rode through the streets of Pataha, shouting and jeering." However, a legal technicality invalidated the election, returning the county government to Pataha City and prompting the citizens there to retaliate with a return invasion of Pomeroy. Later a lawsuit ended with a ruling that Garfield County had no legal county seat due to the expiration of the temporary legislation that designated Pataha. A bill passed by the Territorial Legislature returned the government to Pomeroy, although this was found to be defective because a clerk omitted the enacting clause of the bill. Bribery was suspected, although probably without foundation.

Finally, the Congress of the United States passed an act that validated several defective bills passed by the Territorial Legislature of 1883 and this resulted in the final designation of Pomeroy as the seat of Garfield County.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

An Illustrated History of Southeastern Washington, Western Historical Publishing Co., 1906

The Book of the Counties, 1853-1953, Washington State Association of County Commissioners and County Engineers

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		46° 28' 30"	117° 36' 02"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

HR
Znll
E453820
W514678

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than one**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mr. Robert Beale

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: **February, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Beale Road

CITY OR TOWN: **Pomeroy** STATE: **Washington** CODE: **53**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Charles H. Odegaard
Charles H. Odegaard

Title: Director - Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission

Date: July 10, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/24/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7/22/74

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#8 - Significance
Garfield County Courthouse

"Again Pomeroy had an opportunity to jeer the crestfallen forces of Pataha. The long fight was over; the issue was definitely settled in favor of Pomeroy, which has the distinction of being the only city in the state, perhaps in the nation, that was established as a county seat by Act of Congress."

A wood frame courthouse was constructed in 1887, but in 1900 it burned in a catastrophic fire that destroyed half the Pomeroy business district. In a flurry of activity the town rebuilt and expanded. The Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company granted a 33% reduction in freight rates for building materials. The new brick courthouse was completed in 1901, and after three quarters of a century it is still occupied by the county government.

The new courthouse was designed by architect Charles Burgraf of Albany, Oregon, and constructed by August Isle, a Spokane contractor, who submitted his bid on stationery from the local hotel where he was staying. It was built with red brick from a local kiln, and shakes from the Blue Mountains. The stone was soft and red although it hardened when exposed to air.

Garfield County Courthouse is one of several elaborate county courthouses constructed in Washington around the turn of the century. The size and complexity of the few that survive is evidence of the importance of local government during these years, an importance that has somewhat diminished since the development of modern transportation and communication.

