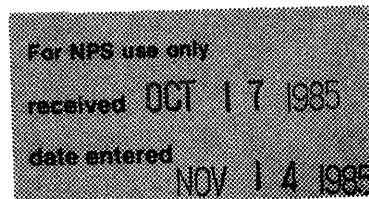


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NAME: Adams County Courthouse

LOCATION: 600 Adams Avenue, Hettinger, North Dakota 38, Adams County 001

OWNER: Adams County, Hettinger, North Dakota

VBD (LEGAL): Lots 4, 5, and 6, Block 15, Original Townsite of Hettinger

ACREAGE: less than 1 acre

UTM: Zone 13, Easting = 683170, Northing = 5096720; Hettinger North, N. Dak. Quad.

DESCRIPTION: The Adams County Courthouse has three stories and a basement, a facing of repressed Hebron brick, a foundation of white limestone, and a flat roof. The building features a three-part vertical composition in which the wide central portion is set back from and elevated above the side bays. A four-part composition defines the building horizontally: the base, the main floor faced with dark-colored brick and scored by recessed courses, the upper two floors, and a projecting stone cornice. Stonework can be seen at the sills, as spandrels below the upper and middle floors, and framing the door. The frieze carries the name "ADAMS COUNTY COURT HOUSE" and has four-petal medallions, two on either side. The main bay of the front facade has paired double-hung 1-over-1 metal sash windows on the main floors, with fanlights above the upper floor courtroom windows. The rest of the windows are double-hung 1-over-1.

Interior spaces are marked by a stone veneer midway up the walls. The courtroom also has doric pilasters, many original lighting fixtures, and a rusticated arch over the entry door.

The site originally consisted in all of Block 5. A wood-frame courthouse and sheriff's residence were situated east of the present courthouse location from about 1907. The present building was added to the site in 1928. By the 1960's the old courthouse was removed, a new law enforcement center replaced the sheriff's residence, and an office building/county garage was added behind (north of) the present courthouse. These alterations to the site required a reduction of the boundaries to that area which surrounds the historic resource, indicated by the verbal boundary description. The major alteration to the building has been the replacement of the original wide-wood-framed, three-mullion windows with metal sash windows in 1981.

SIGNIFICANCE: Date 1928-29

Architect: Ira Rush
Contractor: Fred R. Comb

The Adams County Courthouse is significant for providing space for county offices and court trails, and for protecting valuable records of property, government and commerce. The building also exhibits an architecturally significant design from an architect who won many commissions for courthouses in the state. This project preceded that of the Burleigh County Courthouse for architect Rush, and differs dramatically in style. The horizontal composition and decorative elements of the Hettinger courthouse lean toward the federalist revival style, which was declining in popularity among leading designers in the state by the end of the 1920's. Rush uses the massing of vertical composition and the spandrels in a way more akin to Art Deco effects. The building, then, demonstrates the movement toward the dominant courthouse style of the

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1930's. County commissioners required Rush to simplify his original design because of expense. It is conceivable that Rush reduced costs by modifying a Deco design to include more conventional (and less costly) classically inspired features. Finally, the recent change in window types has preserved the original vertical emphasis given by the wooden mullions.

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