

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 12 1976

DATE ENTERED NOV 7 1976

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
Asheville City Hall
AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
City/County Plaza
CITY, TOWN
Asheville
STATE
North Carolina
VICINITY OF
11th
CODE
37
COUNTY
Buncombe
CODE
021
NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
City of Asheville Mayor Richard A. Wood
STREET & NUMBER
P. O. Box 7148, Asheville, N.C. 28807
CITY, TOWN
Asheville
STATE
North Carolina
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Buncombe County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Asheville
STATE
North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Asheville City Hall is a colorful, massive, and eclectic building of predominantly Art Deco character. In accord with its architect's goal of having "fortress-like strength . . . and a sense of verticality," it rises eight full stories from a reversed quincunx ground plan through a series of three set-back levels to a stepped octagonal roof crowned by a heavy conical tower. The ground floor, seven bays deep and five wide, is sheathed with mottled pink Georgia marble. A block modillion cornice runs along the top of the first story. Above it is a blank frieze of vertically-jointed rectangular marble slabs. A three-bay arcaded entrance porch is recessed in the central three bays of the main (northwest) facade.

First-floor fenestration consists of rectilinear casement windows set in molded architraves. Beneath each lintel is a sunken marble bas-relief composed of a rigidly upright stylized feather (parallel nested V's bisected by a single vertical member) flanked by a curvilinear vine-and-rosette design. The feather motif was described by the architect Douglas Ellington as the "prevailing ornament . . . devised as being lightly reminiscent of the Indian Epoch."

Floors two through seven are faced with light brown pressed brick laid in mechanical bond. The three tall windows of the second story of the main facade are framed in marble--flanked by pilasters that carry a stylized pediment with modillions underlining the rake of each pediment. Each pediment contains a feather bas-relief identical to those of the ground level windows. The remainder of the second story, as well as the third, fourth, and fifth stories, has rectangular casement windows with variously arranged metal mullions.

The two set-back cornices (between the fifth and sixth floors and the sixth and seventh) are trimmed with small bricks set in extremely thick, protruding mortar hence appearing cream-colored from below. Fenestration at the sixth level is dramatized by stone obelisks which bisect the triangular-topped casement windows and then rise free through a dramatic, heavy zigzag cornice at the set-back line. Each gigantic pinnacle is incised with a heavy "stylized feather." The cornice of the eighth floor is covered with a frieze strip of sawtooth bricks. The octagonal roof is covered with bands of elongated triangular terra-cotta red tiles; between the two levels of the roof are angular pink Georgia marble piers between which are precise vertical rows of ornamental green and gold motifs--reputedly inverted rhododendrons--not unlike the recurrent feather device. Above, the belfry tower repeats the angular pink marble piers open below and joined above with similar ornamental bands.

City Hall is entered through the arcaded covered portico of the northwest facade. This recessed porch is framed by two large octagonal lights located at the right angles formed by the abutment of the arcade walls with the outer facade walls. Each corner light rests on a marble plinth and has an exposed metal skeleton consisting of adjacent stylized feather motifs inset with thick polychromed glass.

The entrance porch is groin-vaulted and has two hanging lamps similar to those outside the arcade. Large pink mottled marble blocks cover the porch floor and continue partially up the walls like a tall wainscot. The rest of the walls as well as the ceiling vaults are covered with green, yellow, and brown flecked mosaic tiles. The

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE one

continuity of these surfaces is interrupted only by a checkered band of hot pink, black, and white tiles which runs horizontally around the porch just above the upper edge of the marble wainscot.

The lateral walls of the porch are pierced by heavy wooden double doors with block raised panels arranged in three horizontal tiers. Each side entrance is framed by a flat-paneled marble surround and surmounted by a marble bas-relief depicting the City Seal on a monumental scale. Each seal is superimposed on a diamond-shaped arrangement of chamfered vertical uprights terminating in smooth-faced roundels (a favorite Ellington motif). The inner wall of the porch contains three towering round-arched plate glass windows, each opening at the base into a double leaf glass door. The doors of the central arch are further interrupted by a rectangular box-shaped vestibule which projects onto the porch proper.

The interior arrangement is typical of many office buildings of the 1920s. Rectangular offices occur at the perimeter of each floor. Most of the remaining central space is filled by a large service core which contains public elevators and an enclosed maintenance stairway.

The second floor, however, is distinguished by the city manager's office and the monumental city council chambers, located in the western corner and along the northwest elevation, respectively. Both are decorated in an unhistorical Neo-Georgian fashion with paneled wainscot and walls finished with a grey-green stain. The city manager's office contains a handsome built-in wooden bookcase of door height. The lower third of the front has three heavy horizontal raised panels and each lateral end has a single vertical flat panel. The upper two-thirds of the front of the bookcase has three unpretentious double frosted glass leaves. Each leaf is ornamented with a delicate rectilinear grid and in the large upper middle panel of each appears the ubiquitous stylized feather motif.

Decoration in the city council chambers is frankly over-stated and includes cumbersome plaster ceiling medallions as well as large paintings of Indians and early settlers in the area framed into the wall. Heavily paneled aprons, consisting of a roundel symmetrically flanked by raised panels, are at the base of each painting frame. A sawtooth "chairrail" (actually above head height) encircles the room. The chambers' double door is ornamented on each inner leaf with a decorative plaque applied to a vertical flat panel.

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/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

1926-1928

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Douglas D. Ellington

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Asheville City Hall, built 1926-1928, is a massive and flamboyantly polychromed office building, combining some Beaux Arts form with vivid Art Deco character. Its curious, "fortress-like" form designed especially for the mountain city of Asheville and the stylized American Indian-derived feather motif that dominates the decorative scheme make a distinctive expression of Asheville's pre-Depression heyday and one of the chief monuments of Asheville's Art Deco master, architect Douglas Ellington.

The city of Asheville was formally established in November, 1797, and was organized as a municipality in 1798. It is uncertain how the town was governed during the early years of its existence (no records pertaining to this period are available), but it is believed that a group of commissioners elected at intervals oversaw its affairs. In January, 1841, the North Carolina General Assembly created a body politic known as the Board of Commissioners for the town of Asheville and invested it with powers to act "for the good government of said Town." Records from 1849 suggest that the board of commissioners elected that year made the first efforts to adopt rules and regulations to govern its deliberations and official actions. It is not known, however, where this body held its meetings.

The first reference to formal quarters for the town government appeared in 1869. Minutes from that year's meetings reveal that Mayor Thomas D. Johnston was paid \$25.00 per year for the use of his private offices as the commissioners' monthly meeting place. By 1889 city officials had responded to public agitation for a designated meeting place by authorizing a bond issue in the amount of \$25,000 for the purpose of erecting a suitable municipal building. This structure was occupied in August, 1892. It was situated on the east end of Pack Square and contained a fire station, a police station, and a city market. It served Asheville until 1926, when it was condemned and razed.

The present City Building was originally proposed as part of a joint city-county plaza development. Different political factions are said to have controlled the city and county governments at this time, and they apparently failed to agree on a common architect and mode of design. When the "twin" buildings were completed in 1928, therefore, they bore little relationship to each other in appearance. The fifteen-story Buncombe County Courthouse was designed by the architectural firm of Milburn and Heister of Washington, D. C. (Frank Pierce Milburn [1868-1926], a partner in this firm, was a specialist in the design of courthouses and other public buildings. Many of his designs once graced North Carolina cities and county towns, and a few survive today.) It is built of cream-colored bricks, with classic details of Indiana limestone and granite.

The City Building was designed by Douglas D. Ellington, an architect then living

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Asheville Citizen-Times. "Asheville City Hall Was Completed In 1928," 80th Anniversary Edition, March 26, 1950; "Ellington, Architect and Artist, Dies Here," August 28, 1960.

Buncombe County Records, Buncombe County Courthouse, Asheville, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deed Books).

Buncombe County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds Books).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	7	3	5	9	7	2	0	3	9	4	0	0	0	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Research by Robert Topkins, survey specialist; architectural description by Mary Alice Hinson, consultant	DATE	5 May 1976
ORGANIZATION	Division of Archives and History	TELEPHONE	919/829-4763
STREET & NUMBER	109 East Jones Street	STATE	North Carolina
CITY OR TOWN	Raleigh		

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

Larry E. Jim

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 5 May 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 11/7/76

ATTEST:

DATE 11/2/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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in Asheville. Born in Clayton, North Carolina, on June 26, 1886, Ellington was educated at Randolph-Macon College, Drexel Institute, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. While in Paris he became the first southerner to win the Prix de Paris, and the only American at that time to be awarded the Prix Rougevin. His measured drawing of the eleventh century Church of St. Trophime at Arles, France, has been cited by experts as the finest such execution of that structure in existence. He was also one of ten first prize winners in the worldwide Christopher Columbus Memorial Competition, in which more than a thousand architects competed. He served for a time as professor of architecture at Drexel Institute, Columbia University, and Carnegie Institute of Technology, and was also noted for his talents as a watercolorist.¹ His first important work in the South was for Old St. Paul's Church in Richmond, Virginia.

According to his obituary in the Asheville Citizen-Times, Ellington first came to the Asheville area in the 1920s. In 1926 he purchased a three-acre tract of land in Chunn's Cove upon which he built his home. (This house was later selected by House Beautiful magazine as one of the fifty most artistic and interesting residences in North America.) Among the buildings he designed in Asheville were the Lee Edwards High School, the First Baptist Church, Biltmore Hospital (which he later redesigned as the home office of the Imperial Life Insurance Company), the S & W Cafeteria Building, and the Merrimon Avenue Fire Station (all of which are still standing), and a large number of residences. In addition, he designed the model town of Greenbelt, Maryland, and restored the Dock Street Theater in Charleston, South Carolina. Beginning in 1937, he is said to have spent a good deal of his time in Charleston, where he was involved in construction and restoration projects. He was active in a number of professional organizations and his practice extended throughout the eastern seaboard. Ellington died at his home near Asheville on August 27, 1960.

In an article published in The Architectural Record shortly after the City Building was completed, Ellington sought to explain the process by which his design evolved. Acknowledging that he had been "privileged to entertain a fresh point of view because of the freedom of surroundings and because of the broad outlook of the officials who had the project in charge," Ellington explained that

The initial step was a close study of Asheville and its environs, a thorough regard for what nature had done here and a careful consideration of what man had added to it. Then followed a discussion with the officials who had the project in hand concerning its site, its uses, its magnitude and the money appropriation available. Within twenty-four hours thereafter a design was conceived and a sketch made. This first sketch contained all the elements which have been carried into the final structure, except that the roof treatment and tower were projected beyond the point as first indicated. This came about as an evolution of the desire that the contours of the building should reflect the background and that the building be equally presentable from all points of view, above and below. . . .

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There was a desire to have the structure emerge from the ground in fortress-like strength and ascend to its full height with a sense of inevitability, presenting equality in all facades and frankly to express the steel framing of the building as against masonry forms and feeling. Throughout the making of the plans for the structure the material to be employed was in mind; the particular marble, brick and terra cotta were selected so as to embrace a transition in color paralleling the natural clay-pink shades of the local Asheville soil, the order of transition, from base to roof, being from the lighter to the darker, the banded vertical surfaces of the roof being high-lighted in green, blue and gold. The details in connection with the marble and the brick were deliberately confined to the greatest simplicity, the more ornate capping motifs having been equally deliberate and having been studied in the light of the distance from the eye. All openings were of course studied with a view to having them conform to the general spirit sought for. The prevailing ornament, which may be described as a feather motif, was devised as lightly reminiscent of the Indian epoch.²

In May, 1927, Asheville mayor John H. Cathey reported that the city was "bringing to completion a municipal home of distinguished architecture and substantial construction which it is hoped will prove an attraction to visitors and a pride to residents." He also announced that the cost of the new city hall was \$750,000.³ When it was completed, the city fathers boasted that no finer municipal building existed anywhere in the United States.

The interior of the building includes symbolic murals in the council chamber on the second floor, the work of Clifford Addams of New York. These depict the story of the Indians and the early white settlers. The carillon in the tower was presented to the city by the Buncombe County War Mothers as a memorial to the county's World War I dead. During World War II the entire City Building was leased to the United States Army, which made the structure the world headquarters for its Weather Wing and Communications Services branch of the Air Forces. During these years the city's offices were housed on the first and fourth floors of the county courthouse. After the war most of the municipal agencies moved back into the first two floors of the City Building, leaving much of the upper-floor office space available for rent.

¹"Ellington, Architect and Artist, Dies Here," Asheville Citizen-Times, August 28, 1960, sec. 8, p. 8.

²Douglas D. Ellington, "The Architecture of the City Building, Asheville, North Carolina," The Architectural Record, LXIV, No. 2 (August, 1928), 89.

³John H. Cathey, Four Years in Review and recommendations upon Asheville's civic development of the future (Asheville: n.p., 1927), n.p.

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PAGE one

- Cathey, John H. Four Years in Review and recommendations upon Asheville's civic development of the future. Asheville, 1927.
- Ellington, Douglas D. "The Architecture of the City Building, Asheville, North Carolina." The Architectural Record, August, 1928.
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- Private Laws of North Carolina, 1797.
- Roberts, Gallatin. "A Brief History of Asheville," in Dedication of the City Building, Asheville, N.C. Asheville: City of Asheville, 1928.
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- Sondley, Forster A. A History of Buncombe County, North Carolina. Asheville: Advocate Printing Co., 2 volumes, 1930.
- Towe, Elma, comp. and ed. Dedication of the First Baptist Church, Asheville, N. C. Asheville, 1927.

Property Asheville City Hall

State North Carolina

Working Number 5.12.76.3442

Buncombe
76001307

TECHNICAL

Photos 5
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK ^{pl} 5.17.76

Nice building

HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
Livingood
21 Oct 76

This does not specifically address the 50-yr limit - however, it is clearly an exceptional bldg & the statement of significance explains this

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
M. Murray
10-27-76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

acting
BRANCH CHIEF

ACCEPT
Cole
10.29.76

KEEPER

W
11/2/76

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 12-7-76

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered NOV 7 1976

INT:2106-74



MAY 1 2 1976

NEGATIVE NUMBER N. 74-3-899- Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C.
PHOTOGRAPHER Greer Suttlemyre
PHOTO DATE March 1974
SUBJECT Asheville City Hall

City/County Plaza

NOV 7 1976

Buncombe Co., Asheville
Main facade (Before cleaning)

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RALEIGH, N. C.

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MAY 12 1976

NOV 7 1976

NEGATIVE NUMBER N. 75-7-1691 - Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C.
PHOTOGRAPHER Jo Ann Sieburg
PHOTO DATE July 1975
SUBJECT Asheville City Hall
City/County Plaza
Buncombe Co., Asheville
Overall view (after cleaning)

Nc 7

3

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MAY 12 1976

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NEGATIVE NUMBER N. 75-7-1687 - Division of Archives and History,
PHOTOGRAPHER JoAnn Sieburg Raleigh, N.C.
PHOTO DATE July 1975
SUBJECT Asheville City Hall
City/County Plaza
Buncombe Co., Asheville

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NEGATIVE NUMBER N. 75-7-11676 - Division of Archives and History,
PHOTOGRAPHER JoAnn Sieburg Raleigh, N.C.
PHOTO DATE July 1975
SUBJECT Asheville City Hall

MAY 12 1976

NOV 7 1976

City/County Plaza
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MAY 12 1976

NOV 7 1976

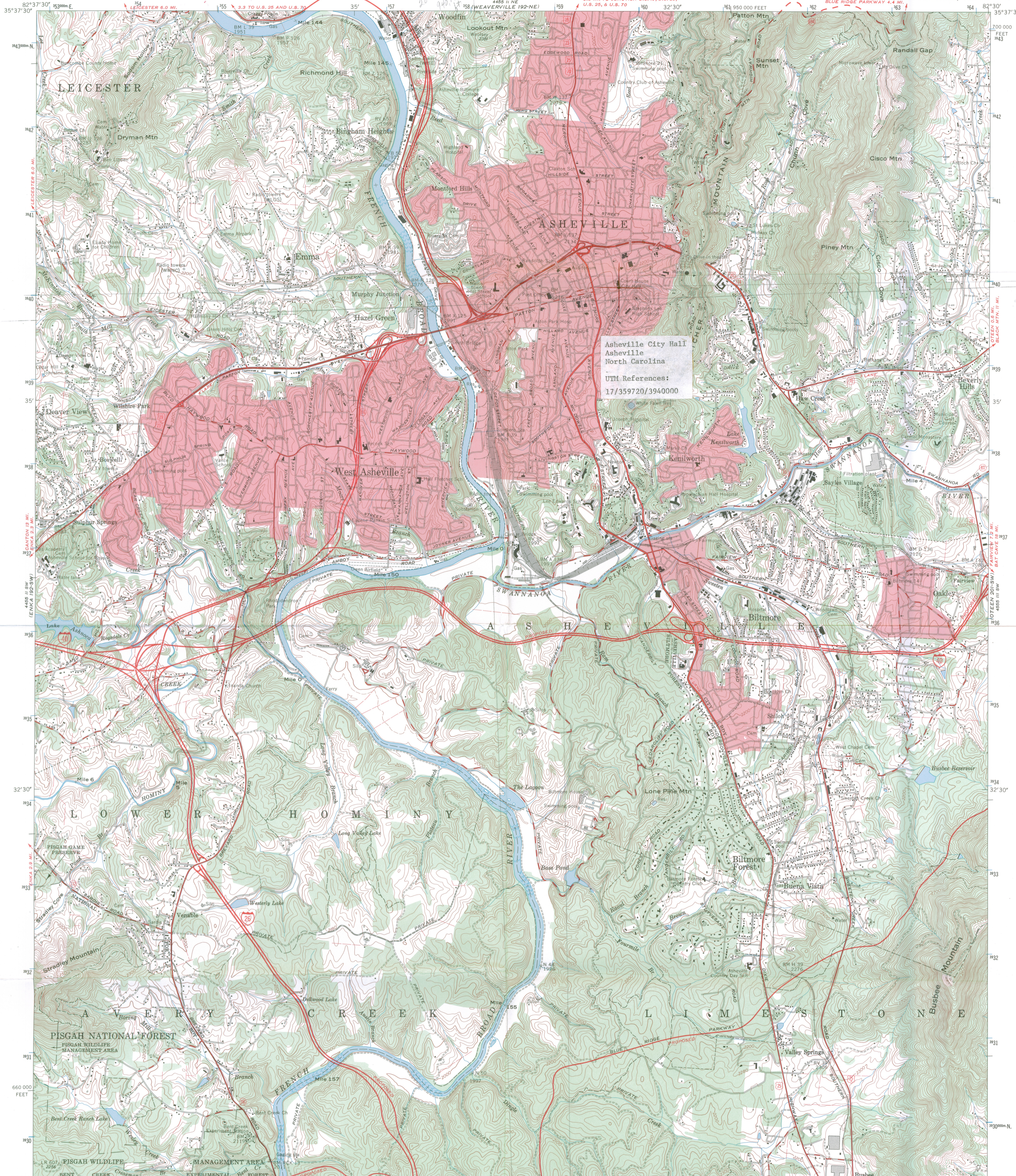
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PHOTOGRAPHER Jo Ann Sieburg
PHOTO DATE July 1975
SUBJECT Asheville City Hall
City/County Plaza
Buncombe Co., Asheville

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Asheville City Hall
Asheville
North Carolina
UTM References:
17/359720/3940000

690,000 ft
210,212
meters

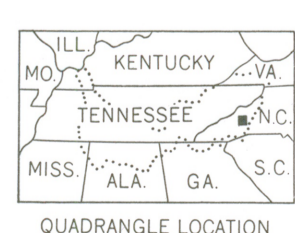
Mapped and edited by Tennessee Valley Authority
Published by the Geological Survey
Control by USC&GS, USGS, and TVA
Revised by TVA in 1961 by photogrammetric methods using
aerial photographs taken 1960 and by reference to TVA-USGS
quadrangle dated 1943. Map field checked by TVA, 1961
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on North Carolina
rectangular coordinate system
1000 meter Universal Transverse Mercator Grid ticks,
Zone 17, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines
visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DASHED LINES REPRESENT HALF-INTERVAL CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D.C.
AND BY U.S. TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY, CHATTANOOGA OR KNOXVILLE, TENN.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Poor motor road
Medium-duty	Wagon and jeep track
Light-duty	Foot trail
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

In developed areas, only thru roads are classified

ASHEVILLE, N. C.
N3530-W8230/7.5
1961
AMS 4455 II SE-SERIES V842



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Cultural Resources
Raleigh 27611

5 May 1976

James E. Holshouser, Jr.
Governor

Grace J. Rohrer
Secretary

Division of Archives and History
Larry E. Tise, Director

Dr. William J. Murtagh
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C streets, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

We are enclosing a nomination for the Asheville City Hall in Buncombe County, North Carolina, to be entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

We trust you will find this nomination in order. If there are any questions, please call us.

Sincerely yours,

Larry E. Tise
State Historic Preservation
Officer

enclosures

cc: Hon. Robert Morgan
Hon. Jesse Helms
Hon. Roy Taylor



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NORTH CAROLINA

Date Entered **NOV 7 1976**

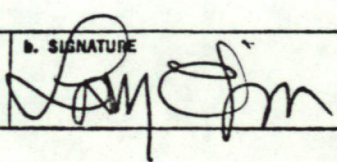
<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Asheville City Hall	Asheville Buncombe County
Pembroke Hall	Edenton Chowan County
Weaver, William, House	Piney Creek vicinity Alleghany County
Pierce, John M., House	Crumpler vicinity Ashe County
Waddell, William, House	Sussex vicinity Ashe County
Cox, Samuel, House	Scottville vicinity Ashe County
Bower-Cox House	Scottville vicinity Ashe County

Also Notified

Hon. Jesse A. Helms
Hon. Robert B. Morgan
Hon. Roy A. Taylor
Hon. Walter B. Jones
Hon. Stephen L. Neal
Regional Director, Southeast
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. Larry E. Tise
Director
Division of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources
109 East Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

880 MMott/row 11/10/76

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE		2. APPLICANT'S APPLICATION	a. NUMBER	3. STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER	a. NUMBER
1. TYPE OF ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> PREAPPLICATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPLICATION <small>(Mark appropriate box)</small> <input type="checkbox"/> NOTIFICATION OF INTENT (Cpt.) <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT OF FEDERAL ACTION		b. DATE Year month day 19 78 11 28	Leave Blank	b. DATE ASSIGNED Year month day 19	
4. LEGAL APPLICANT/RECIPIENT				5. FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NO.	
a. Applicant Name : NC Department of Cultural Resources b. Organization Unit : Division of Archives and History c. Street/P.O. Box : 109 East Jones Street d. City : Raleigh e. County : Wake f. State : North Carolina g. ZIP Code : 27611 h. Contact Person (Name & telephone No.) : Larry E. Tise, SHPO : 919/733-7305				56-0475645	
7. TITLE AND DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT				6. PROGRAM (From Federal Catalog)	
Asheville City Hall Asheville, Buncombe County, N.C. The City of Asheville was formally established in November 1797 and organized as a municipality in 1798. In 1889, city officials, responding to public agitation for a designated meeting place, authorized a bond issue in the amount of \$25,000 for a municipal building. This structure was occupied in August 1892, and was condemned and razed in 1926. The present City				a. NUMBER 1 5 • 4 1 1 b. TITLE Historic Preservation	
10. AREA OF PROJECT IMPACT (Names of cities, counties, States, etc.)				8. TYPE OF APPLICANT/RECIPIENT	
Buncombe County, North Carolina				A-State H-Community Action Agency B-Interstate I-Higher Educational Institution C-Substate J-Indian Tribe D-District K-Other (Specify): E-County F-School District G-Special Purpose District Enter appropriate letter <input type="checkbox"/> A	
13. PROPOSED FUNDING		14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:		9. TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	
a. FEDERAL \$ 24,500 .00 b. APPLICANT 24,500 .00 c. STATE .00 d. LOCAL .00 e. OTHER .00 f. TOTAL \$ 49,000 .00		a. APPLICANT #4 b. PROJECT #11 16. PROJECT START DATE Year month day 19 78 12 1 17. PROJECT DURATION Months 80/9/30		A-Basic Grant D-Insurance B-Supplemental Grant E-Other C-Loan Enter appropriate letter(s) <input type="checkbox"/> A	
11. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PERSONS BENEFITING				12. TYPE OF APPLICATION	
tot. co. pop.				A-New C-Revision E-Augmentation B-Renewal D-Continuation Enter appropriate letter <input type="checkbox"/> A	
18. ESTIMATED DATE TO BE SUBMITTED TO FEDERAL AGENCY				15. TYPE OF CHANGE (For 13c or 15e)	
19 78/11/29				A-Increase Dollars F-Other (Specify): B-Decrease Dollars C-Increase Duration D-Decrease Duration E-Cancellation n/a Enter appropriate letter(s) <input type="checkbox"/>	
20. FEDERAL AGENCY TO RECEIVE REQUEST (Name, City, State, ZIP code)				19. EXISTING FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service, Department of the Interior					
21. REMARKS ADDED				22. THE APPLICANT CERTIFIES THAT	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				a. To the best of my knowledge and belief, data in this preapplication/application are true and correct, the document has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant and the applicant will comply with the attached assurances if the assistance is approved. b. If required by OMB Circular A-95 this application was submitted, pursuant to instructions therein, to appropriate clearinghouses and all responses are attached: (1) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> (2) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> (3) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
23. CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE		a. TYPED NAME AND TITLE		b. SIGNATURE	
Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer		Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer			
24. AGENCY NAME				c. DATE SIGNED	
Department of the Interior				Year month day 19 78 11 29	
25. AGENCY UNIT				26. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE	
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service				Grants Administration Div.	
27. ADDRESS				28. FEDERAL APPLICATION IDENTIFICATION	
440 G Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20243				37-04369	
31. ACTION TAKEN		32. FUNDING		33. ACTION DATE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a. AWARDED <input type="checkbox"/> b. REJECTED <input type="checkbox"/> c. RETURNED FOR AMENDMENT <input type="checkbox"/> d. DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> e. WITHDRAWN		a. FEDERAL \$ 24,500 .00 b. APPLICANT 24,500 .00 c. STATE .00 d. LOCAL .00 e. OTHER .00 f. TOTAL \$ 49,000 .00		Year month day 19 78 12 28	
34. CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Name and telephone number)				35. STARTING DATE	
Stephen D. Newman 202-343-4941				Year month day 19 78 12 01	
36. ENDING DATE				37. REMARKS ADDED	
19 80 09 30				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
38. FEDERAL AGENCY A-95 ACTION				39. FEDERAL AGENCY A-95 OFFICIAL (Name and telephone no.)	
a. In taking above action, any comments received from clearinghouses were considered. If agency response is due under provisions of Part 1, OMB Circular A-95, it has been or is being made.					

SECTION I - APPLICANT/RECIPIENT DATA

SECTION II - CERTIFICATION

SECTION III - FEDERAL AGENCY ACTION

- #7 Building was originally proposed as part of a joint city-county plaza development. The Asheville City Hall was built 1926-1928, designed by Douglas Ellington, a prominent southern architect. Its curious "fortress-like" form was designed especially for the mountain city of Asheville, and the stylized American Indian-derived feather motif makes it a distinctive expression of Asheville's pre-Depression heyday, and a chief monument of the Art Deco master, Ellington.
- 22 Compliance with A-95 Clearinghouse requirements is in process at this time. As soon as received by this office, they will be forwarded to you.

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 21 Dec 76
Reviewer INITIALS: [Signature]

NR DOE NOV 7 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Asheville City Hall

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER: City County Plaza
CITY/TOWN: Asheville CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 11th
STATE: North Carolina VICINITY OF: 37 COUNTY: Buncombe code: 021

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline):

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR: Substantially intact-1
 unknown - 4
 not applicable - 7
EXTERIOR: Substantially intact-2
 unknown - 5
 not applicable - 8
ENVIRONS: Substantially intact-3
 unknown - 6
 Not applicable-9

Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - EXCELLENT DETERIORATED UNALTERED ORIGINAL SITE
 GOOD RUINS ALTERED MOVED
 FAIR UNEXPOSED RECONSTRUCTED UNKNOWN
 UNEXCAVATED EXCAVATED

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)
then- CITY HALL
now- CITY HALL

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW/GOV'T/politics
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)
- entertainment
- health
- recreation
- settlement
- socio/cultural
- urban & commun planning

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Art Deco

architect/m.builder: Douglas Ellington

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan: Clifford Addams

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES: personal

(label role

& appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1926¹⁹ 28

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1920 carillon

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1942-45 used by Army Air Force

SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY

OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre) 2

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

~~Brick, pink marble (1st story); 8 stories, quincunx plan, octagonal tiled roof with polygonal lantern tower, ground-floor entrance arcade surmounted by 3 windows with modified pedimented lintels, 3 front bays articulated by 5-story pilasters surmounted by stepped caps, casement windows, decorative stylized feather motif at windows; extensive interior decoration including tile work, plaster work and wood work. Each facade, at the 6th level has 3 feather motifs between the windows. Considerable interior decoration.~~

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences) Excellent flamboyant example of the art Deco style, designed by prominent local architect, Douglas Ellington.

~~This colorful, massive Art Deco building continues to fulfill its civic function as well as symbolizing the importance of that function.~~

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Art Deco

architect/m.builder: Douglas Ellington

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan: Clifford Addams

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES: personal

(label role & appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1926-28

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1920 carillon

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1942-45 used by Army Air Force

SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre) 2

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

~~... plan, octagonal tiled roof with polygonal~~

Brick, pink marble (1st story); 8 stories, quincruz plan, octagonal tiled roof with polygonal lantern, ground-floor entrance arcade surmounted by 3 windows with modified pedimented lintels, 3 front bays articulated by 5-story pilasters surmounted by stepped caps, casement windows, decorative stylized feather motif at windows, extensive interior decoration including tilework, plasterwork, and woodwork. Excellent flamboyant example of the Art Deco style; designed by prominent local architect Douglas Ellington.

propel-
ble, ~~lines~~
wak
uk.

~~This colorful, massive Art Deco building continues to fulfill its civic function as well as symbolizing the importance of that function.~~
prominent local architect, Douglas Ellington, of the art deco style, designed by