

Acreage: Less than one acre
Location: 1616 Eighth Street
City: Minden State: Nevada County: Douglas County

Current Owner: Douglas County
Address: 1616 Eighth Street, Minden, Nevada

Data Prepared by: Douglas County Planning Department Date: 1981
Address: Minden, Nevada

Property Information

Original Use: Courthouse
Present Use: Courthouse
Condition: Good
Architect: Frederick J. DeLongchamps
Builder: Friedhoff and Hoeffel
Construction/Modification Dates: 1915/1964, 1979
Building Type: Public
Style: Neo-Classical Revival

Physical Description

The Douglas County Courthouse is a one-story, masonry structure designed in 1915 by Frederick J. DeLongchamps. The Neo-Classical style building was constructed as the Douglas County Courthouse and has served as such since its completion. Despite a south addition to the building (1964) and modification to the original windows (1979) the building retains its overall architectural integrity.

The courthouse is located on a landscaped site in Minden's residential district. The structure occupies a prominent location at the terminus of Esmeralda Avenue a street which becomes the town's main commercial artery at its opposite end.

The symmetrical, seven bay building is supported by a raised concrete foundation and rises to a flat roof banded by a low brick parapet terminating in a concrete cap course. A dentil cornice with full entablature is found beneath the parapet. Exterior wall planes are faced in beige brick laid in running band. Brick headers are used as decorative accents. A brick soldier course separates the basement from the first story.

The principal elevation (west) includes a central portico-in-anthis defined by Doric columns and reached by way of an open, concrete stair. Brick pilasters with simple capitals flank the building's portico. Building windows are one-light-over-two-light, fixed sash set in dark metal frames. These units replaced original, ten-light windows in 1979.

In 1964, a 6000 square foot addition was added to the south side of the building. This single story was designed by the Reno Architectural firm of Ferris, Erskine and Calef. The addition is compatible with the design of the courthouse and clearly distinguishable from the original building.

Statement of Significance (Criteria A, C)

The Douglas County Courthouse is an architecturally significant building representative of the work of Nevada Architect, Frederick J. DeLongchamps in the town of Minden. The structure is also significant for its historical associations with the political development of Douglas County and the establishment of Minden, Nevada. Please refer to the nomination cover form for a detailed discussion of DeLongchamps' work.

The Nevada Territorial Government created Douglas County in 1861. The county was named for Stephen Arnold Douglas, chairman of the U.S. Committee of Territories. Genoa, the oldest settlement in the territory was selected as the original county seat.

Through political maneuvering, the newly established town of Minden captured the county seat on January 1, 1916. The year before the county seat location was made official, DeLongchamps was commissioned to design the Minden Courthouse. Contractors Friedhoff and Hoeffel erected the building at a cost of \$25,000.00. The Minden courthouse was dedicated on the day the county seat was transferred.

Bibliography

Koontz, John, Secretary of State, Political History of Nevada: 1865 (Carson City, Nevada: State Printing Office, 1965).

Record-Courier, March 26, 1915, May 14, 1915, June 4, 1915, July 2, 1915, July 9, 1915, December 1915.

Thompson and West, History of Nevada with Selections and Biographical sketches of its Prominent Men and Pioneers (1881).

Boundary Descriptions

200' x 300' lot known as 1616 Eighth Street located at corner of Eighth Street and Esmeralda Avenue in Minden, Nevada. Douglas County Assessor's Map BK 25-190-52 (PARCEL)

Location of Legal Description: Douglas County Courthouse, 1616 Eighth Street, Minden, NV

Representation in Existing Surveys: The Architectural Heritage of Carson Valley, 1981, Local survey deposited with the Division of Historic Preservation & Archeology, Carson City, NV

UTM References: Zone 11 E 260540 N 4315280.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name DeLongchamps, Frederick J., Architecture TR
State Douglass and Washoe Counties, NEVADA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 11. Douglas County Courthouse | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Linda McClelland 8/6/86</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 12. Farmers Bank of Carson Valley | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Linda McClelland 8/6/86</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 13. Minden Butter Manufacturing Company | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Linda McClelland 8/6/86</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 14. Minden Inn | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Linda McClelland 8/6/86</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 15. Minden Wool Warehouse | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Linda McClelland 8/6/86</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 16. Reno Main Post Office | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Ret.</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 17. Carson City Public Buildings | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Linda McClelland 8/2/86</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 18. Douglas County High School | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>3/9/92</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 19. Washoe County Library--Sparks Branch | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>3/7/92</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 20. Immaculate Conception Church | Keeper | <u>12/23/92</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Douglas County Courthouse (Architecture of
Frederick J. DeLonchamps TR)
Douglas County
NEVADA

Substantive Review

Working No. 1111/26, 1986
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 7/24/86 - 8/10/86
Action: ACCEPT 8-6-86
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Despite unfortunate window
replacements, cautions.
is eligible for historical
asoc. with organization
of county gov't in Douglas*

Recom./Criteria Accept A + G
Reviewer L. McEllelland
Discipline Arch. Hist.
Date 8/6/86
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

*County, and as one of several
works by de Longchamps
in Minden, related
to its physical
growth as a planned
community.*

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category

Ownership
Public Acquisition

Status
Accessible

Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

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

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other


- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



1



Douglas County Courthouse
1616 Eighth Street, Minden, Nevada
Photographer: K. Kuranda, HP&A
Carson City, Nevada (1985)
View northwest looking at northeast
elevation.

Photo 1 of 2



2

Douglas County Courthouse
1616 Eighth Street, Minden, Nevada
Photographer: K. Kuranda, HP&A
Carson City, Nevada (1985)
View southeast looking at southwest
elevation.

Photo 2 of 2

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000527