

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina
COUNTY: Iredell
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Statesville City Hall
AND/OR HISTORIC: Iredell County Courthouse and Post Office

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 227 South Center Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Statesville		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Ninth The Hon. James G. Martin	
STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37	COUNTY: Iredell	CODE: 097

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <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 <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input 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: City of Statesville		
STREET AND NUMBER: 227 South Center Street.		
CITY OR TOWN: Statesville	STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Iredell County Courthouse		
STREET AND NUMBER: Center Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Statesville	STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:	

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Statesville City Hall, originally the United States Post Office, Courthouse, and Customs House, is situated on a busy corner surrounded by large commercial buildings.

The Richardsonian Romanesque building is a rectangular two-and-one-half story structure, seven bays wide and three deep, constructed of red brick and sandstone, set on a foundation of random rusticated sandstone with a row of smooth sandstone blocks marking the water table. The wall surfaces are broken by the projection of the two northwest bays and the two-story tower in the southwest bay of the main (west) facade; between them is the one-story entrance pavilion with central arched recessed entrance porch. The continuity of the tall hip roof is interrupted by the turret of the facade tower, the large wall dormers (one on each end elevation, two on the front, and three on the rear), and the four tall paneled interior brick chimneys with corbeled caps of brick and sandstone. The pressed red brick wall surfaces, laid with string joints, contrast strongly with the sandstone employed in the entrance arch, window trim, and string courses and with the copper cornice and dark grey slate roof.

A wide plaster palmette frieze occurs at the cornice level. This frieze is protected by a copper modillion cornice and overhanging roof eaves covered with molded copper sheeting. The frieze also appears along the entrance pavilion, bounded above and below by a sandstone molding. The roof ridges are marked by crenellated copper coping, and simple copper finials surmount the roof pinnacles.

The main feature of the first floor of the facade is the sandstone arch which outlines the entrance and is supported on truncated sandstone pedestals with foliate capitals which extend across the wall surface of the entrance pavilion as a string course. Granite steps with a central brass handrail lead from the sidewalk to the porch level, which is covered in varicolored marble tiles. Three double doors, each set within an arched opening outlined by sandstone quoining, give access to the first floor. Each door is flat-paneled with a glazed upper half and is surmounted by an arched single-pane fanlight. An oak entrance alcove with a marble base and glazed sides encloses the central door. The south side and rear elevations each contain an entrance within an arched opening. Beneath the rear entrance a stair descends to the basement entrance.

The window treatment is varied, consisting of three window types (round-headed, rectangular and segmental-arched), providing complex surface articulation. The first story contains, with the exception of the tower, round-arched openings, each framed by a molded brick label with foliate stone corbels, with single or double one-over-one pane sash windows surmounted by blind arches and set within molded architraves. The molded sandstone string course which divides the first and second stories serves as a sill for each segmental-arched second-story window opening. Each of these windows is a narrow one-over-one pane sash window with a blind segmental arch surmounted by a flat brick arch. A third window type, a one-over-one pane narrow sash window, usually with a blind transom, within a rectangular window opening, occurs in multiple bands at several locations within the structure. This type is found in a band of two at the first

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
North Carolina	
COUNTY	
Iredell	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7.A

level of the tower, and in a small band of three in the gable apex of the largest dormer of each side. A wide continuous sandstone lintel surmounts each of these window bands. In the second story below the northwest gable dormer of the main facade and below the gable dormer of the north side is a band of four, flanked by brick pilasters supported by ornamental sandstone corbels which extend through the eaves and flank the gable dormer above it, terminating in foliate sandstone capitals. Each gable is coped with a sandstone molding and topped by a red sandstone fleur-de-lis finial. The upper part of each gable is ornamented with terra cotta tiles bearing foliate designs.

Although the structure was converted from courthouse to city hall in 1941, the interior has undergone little alteration. Not only the original floor plan but also the plastered interior walls and rich wooden trim still exist throughout the structure. The first-floor plan features a large open central area with partitioned offices on the north and south sides. The plastered walls throughout the first floor have a high molded baseboard and a deep plastered cove cornice. Each window is set in a heavy molded architrave which extends to the floor, framing small vertical flat panels. The doors are raised-paneled, and those in the interior partition walls are surmounted by transoms. At the upper corners of some of the door architraves are corner blocks with leaf ornament. The plaster coffered ceiling of the central area is supported by Corinthian stucco columns set on round iron bases. The original wooden paneled post office screen, with a continuous ledge set beneath the service openings which are protected by metal grates, was converted for use by various city agencies. The south side offices have been renovated, but the north side offices remain in their original state, finished like the central area. In the center north side office is a safe, entered through a plain iron door with a cast-iron overdoor in an Eastlake design. The gas light fixtures, each consisting of a slender stalk suspended from the ceiling and terminating in a large single holder, are possibly original, although the globes are replacements. The radiators at this level are protected by fine cast-iron covers with sinuous floral-patterned side panels of art nouveau character.

The stair rises behind the facade tower through three stories, each story containing two flights, with the landing at each level occurring within the tower. The railing, consisting of slender turned balusters below a heavy molded handrail, is punctuated at each landing by a square chamfered newel with a molded cap. The heavy newel at the stair base contains raised panels and terminates in a polygonal cap. The closed string is raised-paneled.

The second floor features a wide center hall with offices opening on the east, west and south sides and a large courtroom on the north side. With the exception of one office, which has been modernized, the trim at this level is original and identical to that of the first floor but with a deeper cornice. In three of the rooms are identical marble mantels, each with short, heavy turned colonnettes supporting a three-part frieze and curved shelf. Incised

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7. B

Eastlake geometric and curvilinear designs ornament the colonnettes and frieze. In the center east side office is a safe identical to that of the first floor. The original lighting at this level has been replaced.

The east end of the courtroom has been modernized, and a paneled wainscot installed in this area. The original courtroom furniture has been removed. The original trim, however, remains intact, and above each door and window is a heavy molded lintel. The entrance door at each end of the room is surmounted by a large raised panel with a carved red, white and blue wooden seal of the United States set upon a bed of olive branches within an interlacing border. From the ornamental openwork centers of the two large plaster ceiling medallions are suspended brass gas chandeliers which have been electrified.

The third story contains small offices on the east and west sides opening off the narrow central hall. At the north end is a small door which opens to the unfinished attic above the high-ceilinged courtroom directly beneath. The trim at this level is much plainer, consisting of plaster walls, high unmolded baseboards and simple window architraves. The original stalk-type two-pronged gas fixtures remain in the hall.

Beneath the main stair, a granite stair leads to the full basement. The door openings within the brick partition walls at this level are segmental-arched, surmounted by brick relieving arches, and finished with wooden flat-paneled soffits and reveals. The floor plan has been altered, and many of these doorways are now infilled.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 15th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1891-1892

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input 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

The Statesville City Hall, completed in 1892, is probably North Carolina's best example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style, its monumentality enhanced by the rich and varied ornament. It remains remarkably unaltered inside and out, following a sympathetic conversion from Federal to municipal use.

The property for the Statesville City Hall was purchased on March 4, 1889, by the United States government from John B. Glover and his wife Susan for \$4,000. The building was designed to serve as a post office and courthouse. Construction of the building was done under the auspices of Willoughby J. Edbrooke, supervising architect of the United States Treasury Department. Edbrooke (1843-1896) a native of England, practiced architecture in Chicago as early as 1867 and worked on "a number of buildings in midwest cities." In 1887-1891 he was associated with Franklin P. Burnham in preparing plans for the state capitol in Atlanta. In September, 1891, Edbrooke reported that a contract for the building had been entered on June 24, 1890, and that a cost limit of \$75,000 had been established. He further related that much of the building had been completed and that \$61,340.70 had been expended to date. The next year he reported that it had been necessary to obtain an additional appropriation of \$2,500 to complete the heating system and that the building had been occupied for some months.

On September 2, 1941, the federal government sold the building to the city of Statesville because it was "declared to be in excess of the needs of the Federal Works Agency and for which there is no further Federal need." The purchase price was \$31,100. It was at this time that the building became the city hall of Statesville, a capacity retained to this day.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research by Greer Suttlemyre, survey specialist; architectural description by Neil Pearson, consultant. *With little Stokes, survey specialist*
 Iredell County Records, Iredell County Courthouse, Statesville, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroup: Deeds).
 Iredell County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroup: Deeds).
 Report of the Supervising Architect the Treasury Department. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1891 and 1892.
 Withey, Henry F. and Withey, Elsie Rothburn. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). New Age Publishing Company: Los Angeles, 1956.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "	35°	46'	59"
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "	80°	53'	15"
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "			
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Survey and Planning Unit

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives and History DATE: 25 October 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh, STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 H. G. Jones

Title Director, Division of Archives and History

Date 25 October 1973

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

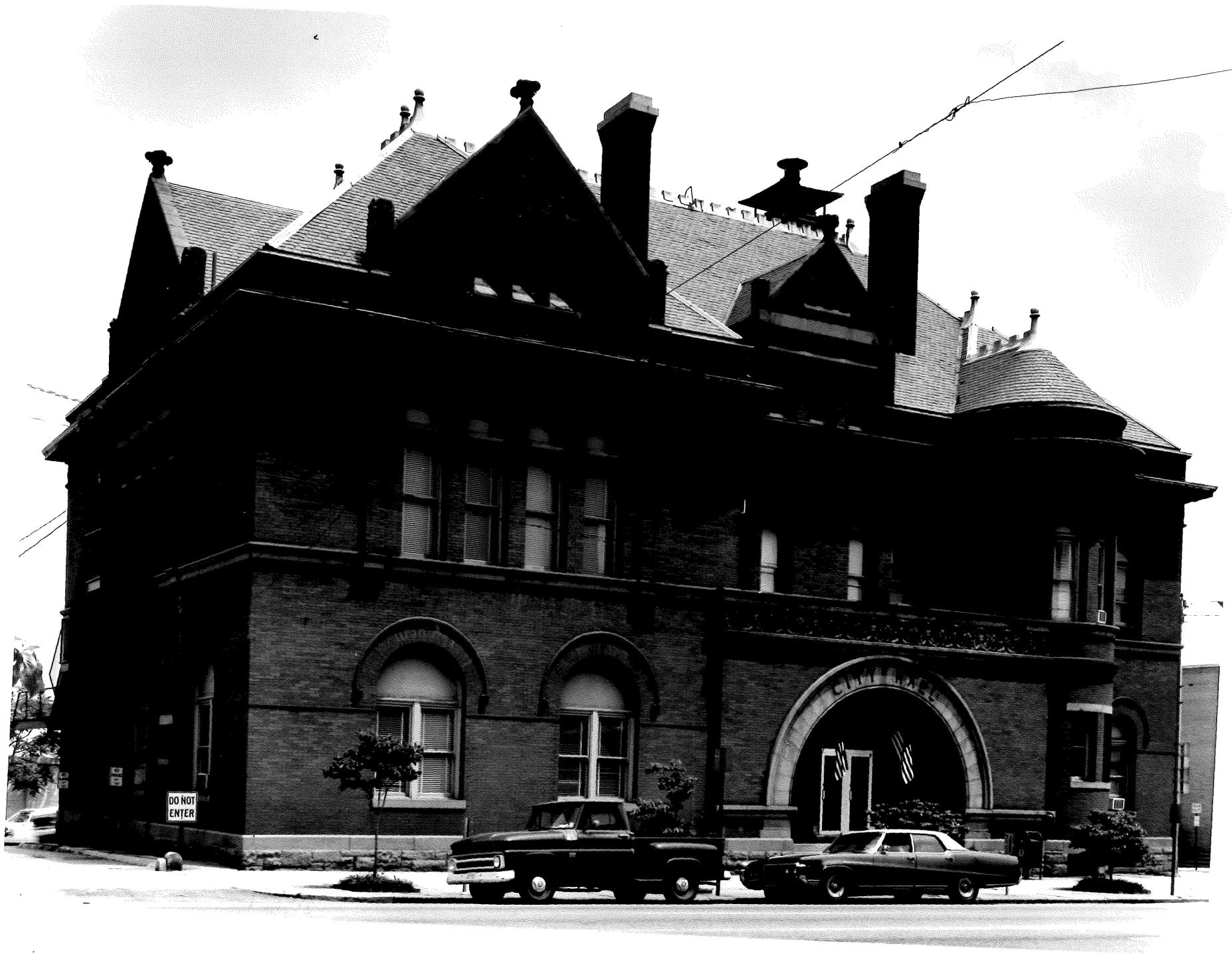
Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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DO NOT
ENTER

COMMERCIAL