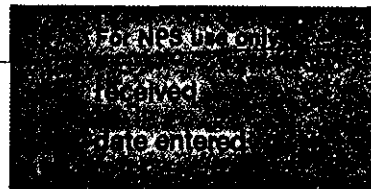


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Buchanan County Courthouse

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number SW Corner Walnut and Main Streets N/A not for publication

city, town Grundy N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Virginia code 51 county Buchanan code 027

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Buchanan County, C/o Chairman, Board of Supervisors

street & number Main and Walnut Streets

city, town Grundy N/A vicinity of state Virginia Zip Code 24614

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Buchanan County Courthouse

street & number Walnut and Main Streets

city, town Grundy state Virginia Zip Code 24614

6. Representation in Existing Surveys (2)

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

(1) title Historic American Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
Inventory

date 1958 federal state county local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state D.C.

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		_____ N/A _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Buchanan County Courthouse, originally built in 1905-06, is the only building of architectural sophistication in the frontier-like, coal-mining community of Grundy in the hook of southwestern Virginia's tip. The building is located at the town's main intersection with the steep, almost cliff-like wooded hills rising immediately behind. The courthouse is in the Renaissance Revival style; its focal point is a graceful corner clock tower. Rough-faced ashlar of locally quarried stone is used for the wall surface. Because of a 1915 fire and subsequent remodelings, little of interest survives on the interior. Included in the nomination is an adjacent county office building and a large, five-story wing currently under construction.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The Buchanan County Courthouse was designed by the Washington, D.C., architect Frank Milburn in the Renaissance Revival style popular for public buildings at the turn of the century. A copy of Milburn's rendering of the original design survives in the picture collection of the Virginia State Library and shows a fairly standard but dignified medium-size civic structure of the period, carefully and knowingly articulated. Giving the design special character is a tall, slender, corner clock tower with an open belvedere at the top.

Milburn's building unfortunately was gutted by fire when the whole community was engulfed with flames in 1915. It was rebuilt and reopened in 1917. The exterior, as it now stands, closely follows Milburn's rendering, thus it is assumed that most of the original exterior walls survived the fire. Various window treatments and stonework details differ, but they could have been modifications of the original design undertaken as part of the initial construction. In its present form, the courthouse is a two-story structure with additional levels inserted at the corners. It is covered by a shallow, slate-covered hipped roof with a modillion cornice and plain frieze. The original design called for a tile roof and an exposed-rafter cornice. The walls are rough-hewn irregular ashlar of the local stone. The main elevation is on the north side; its central three bays on the second story are marked by large arched windows separated by pilasters. The windows serve the main courtroom and give the building the appearance of having a piano nobile as the first-floor windows are much smaller. Beneath the center courtroom window is an unadorned entrance approached by a set of ^{sto} steps. The first-floor windows have very curious but rather imaginative stone surrounds consisting of plain facings and square indentations at the corners. On the west elevation is a small stone porch topped by a balustrade. At the building's northwest corner is the visually dominant, six-level clock tower; the top level is treated as an open belvedere topped by a shallow pyramidal roof. Below the belvedere are clock faces on all four sides. Below the clock faces, on all but the east side, are tall, very slender, triple arches. The arches are filled with louvres. The windows throughout the building have plain, one-over-one sashes. The courtroom windows have fanlight arches. The original design called for a much more interesting treatment of heavy mullions for these windows.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

