

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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 BUTLER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

Butler County Courthouse

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South Main Street & Diamond Street

CITY, TOWN

Butler

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

25th

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Butler

CODE

019

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: Civic & Social

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

County of Butler

STREET & NUMBER

South Main & Diamond Streets

CITY, TOWN

Butler

STATE

Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Butler County Courthouse, Register & Recorder

STREET & NUMBER

South Main & Diamond Streets

CITY, TOWN

Butler

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

September 29, 1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission  
P. O. Box 1026

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

# DESCRIPTION

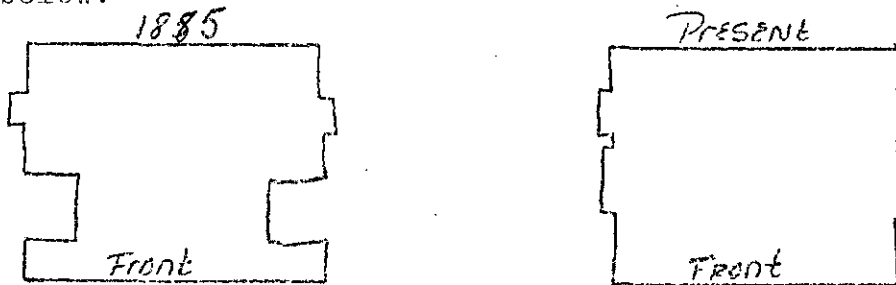
CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Butler County Courthouse, is located in a commercial section of downtown Butler. The present building erected in 1885 was constructed on the site of two earlier courthouses. The first constructed in 1807 was a two story gabled brick building. The second courthouse was built from 1853-1855 from brick and native sandstone with a large central tower. This building was destroyed by fire December 11, 1883. Construction of the third and present courthouse began in April 1885. This third courthouse is basically rectangular in shape with a large central tower in the front of the building.

This tower has two double pyramid shaped roofs surrounded by four turrets. Other tower features include four clocks, a half bowl shaped balcony with railing. three long and narrow round-arched windows and rose shaped decorative stonework. Flanking the main tower are two smaller towers with two turrets each. Front porches with columns are located between the outside and center towers. Bands of carved stonework decorate the windows and floor levels of the main facade.

Original dimensions of the building are recorded as 125 feet long, 95 feet wide at the rear, 91 feet wide at the front, with a tower 190 feet tall from the ground. In 1907 the north and south walls were extended 15 feet to increase office space. See illustration below:



The outside walls are 22" thick, made of honey-brown colored local sandstone lined with brick. In 1907 a new roof was added with skylights to increase lighting in upper courtroom areas. All exterior alterations and additions have been made with the overall harmony of the building in mind.

The building is basically High Victorian Gothic in design with Romanesque accents seen in the front portico and main entrance, the columned accents and the many rounded arches.

The interior of the courthouse has been altered to accomodate needed office space however many of the original offices remain as well as most decorative features.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input 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 April 6, 1885 BUILDER/ARCHITECT R. B. Taylor, Builder  
James P. Bailey, Architect

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present Butler County Courthouse built in 1885 and the two previous courthouses built on the same site have played an important part in the history of the county and the community. Shortly after the creation of Butler County in 1800, a site was chosen for the erection of a county courthouse. In all, three courthouse buildings have stood on this same site serving as the focal point of county and community government activities for over 170 years. Over the years the courthouse has also served as school, center for community activities such as concerts, speeches and political rallies as well as becoming the depository for county historic documents and artifacts.

Architecturally, the building is interesting for its style and preservation. It is basically High Victorian Gothic in style with many Romanesque accents. These accents being seen in the front portico and main entrance, the columned accents and its rounded arches. The use of local honey-brown sandstone and the color matched mortar adds to its attractiveness.

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BUTLER COUNTY COURTHOUSE - Butler County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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History of Butler County Court, A report by Mrs. Jane Hepting, student of Pitt Law School, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

History of Butler County Court, A Report by Ms. Jean Larrick, student of Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

R. C. Brown, Editor & Compiler, History of Butler County, Pennsylvania, R.C. Brown Publishing Co., 1895. (Located in the files of Mr. Mario Petrio, Veterans Affairs Office, Butler County Courthouse, Butler, Penna.)  
 James McKee, Editor & Compiler, 20th Century History of Butler & Butler County, Richmond-Arnold Publishing Company, 1909. (Located in the files of Mr. Mario Petrio, Veterans Affairs, Butler County Courthouse.)

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.5 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	59,305.0	4,523,410	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		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

Samuel A. MacDonald/Susan M. Zacher

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Butler Co. Courthouse/Pa. Historical & Mus. Comm. 1-20-77

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Main & Diamond Sts./P. O. Box 1026

717-787-4363

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Butler/Harrisburg

Pennsylvania

**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



William J. Wewer, Executive Director

TITLE Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE 2-15-77

FDR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

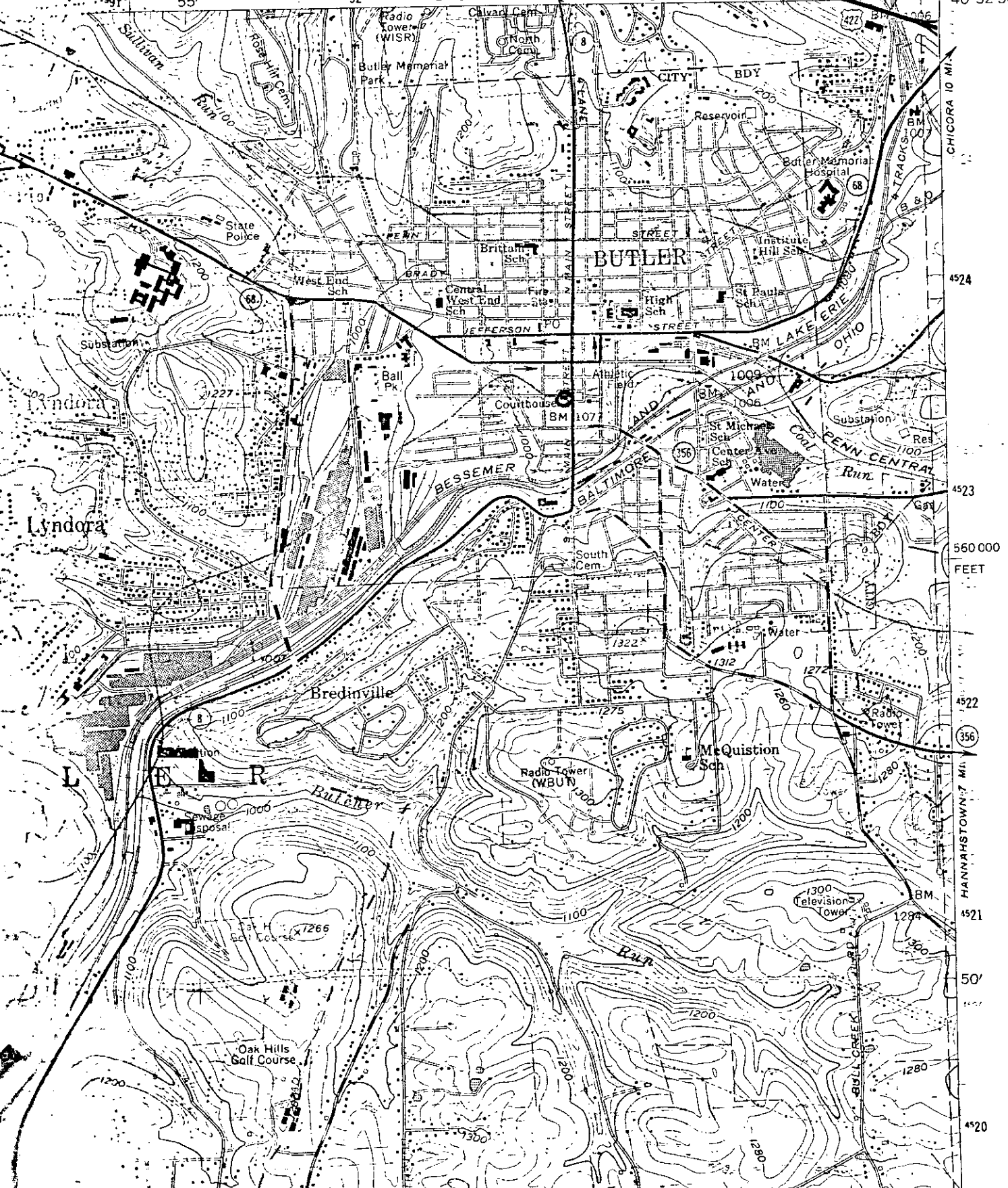
BUTLER QUADRANGLE  
PENNSYLVANIA—BUTLER CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
SW 1/4 BUTLER 15' QUADRANGLE

5065 IV NE 1  
(EAST BUTLER)

FRANKLIN 42 MI.  
UNIONVILLE 6 MI.

594. 1 410 000' FEET

79°52'30"  
40°52'30"



4524

4523

560 000  
FEET

4522

4521

50'

4520

50'

4520