

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Wyoming County Courthouse and Jail

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street (County Road #97)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Pineville

VICINITY OF

Fourth

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

COUNTY

Wyoming

CODE

109

**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:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Wyoming County Commission

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Pineville

VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Wyoming County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Pineville

STATE

West Virginia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# DESCRIPTION

8

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Wyoming County Courthouse is a temple-form structure of native cut stone typical of Neoclassical buildings of the early twentieth century. It is planned as a central block with flanking wings. A massive fifty-four foot wide and twenty-four foot deep portico with triangular pediment, dominates the front elevation. The building measures approximately 120 feet across the front, 54 feet along the side, and is two stories high. The front and rear elevations are comprised of eleven bays, while the sides have nine bays.

Locally quarried and finished rock-faced ashlar was used in great quantities as the principal material. Dressed smooth native stone was used as quoins and as trim to accent windows and doors. Water tables and belt courses detail both the courthouse and the jail. The cornices on the courthouse wings and the jail are copper with a washing tin which matches the color of the stone.

The center block is a gable with medium pitched roof. The wings have flat roofs with a balustrade that contains balusters in sets of four. The ridge of the building at the front is surmounted by a small domed cupola pierced by clock faces on all sides. Below the clock faces is a cornice and plain frieze and below this a belfry with three open arches on each side.

The windows of the wings are double hung sash with six lights but at front and rear of the central block the windows of the second floor courtroom are double hung sashes with twelve over twelve lights and transoms with double latticed lights. On the first floor the windows are arched and transomed to match the entry which has double doors and a draped fan light. All the windows and exterior doorways of the building have dressed stone surrounds. The one chimney of the courthouse is of brick and is corbeled and serves the heating system.

A special feature of the Wyoming County Courthouse is the Imperial Roman style portico with triangular pediment. This is a tetrastyle portico carried by four modified Roman Doric (Roman Tuscan) Columns. Matching these columns in size and height are four finely dressed limestone pilasters. A smaller entrance to the building is at the west side. It has double doors with a transom and is covered by a single-story portico which is a small one-bay likeness of the larger one. A Masonic cornerstone was placed on the drip belt at the southwest corner of the building in 1916.

The Main entrance to the courthouse leads to a large lobby which is directly under the south half of the second floor courtroom. Doors and rampant arches at the rear of the lobby lead to the offices

PERI  
PREH  
1400  
1500  
1600  
1700  
1800  
X1900

SPECI  
STATE

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WYOMING COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND JAIL, PINEVILLE, WEST VIRGINIA

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of several departments of the county government. An archway at each front corner opens to a stairwell which leads to the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court and the Circuit Courtroom. This room is bordered on the west by a row of pertinent offices. The stairways to the courtroom are open-well, three-flight, and with an open string. They have lovely turned newels and balusters three to the tread. The string has ornamental brackets and the handrail is large and beautifully curved. The stairway at the west wing entrance is an open single-flight with all the features of the other stairs.

A few of the interior doors have glass panels for reason of security but all others are solid, with three tiers, six panels, good brass hinges and knobs. The arches which lead to the hallways have a hood mould on architrave trim and have paneled reveals. The doors which lead to rooms have square shouldered trim. Other trim throughout the building, such as cornices, the backboards and the wainscoting is very fine. It is either painted with a pleasing color or stained very dark. All this wood work is believed to be either light oak or walnut. The ceiling of the lobby is coffered and matches in its detail the courtroom cornices. The courtroom has a high paneled wainscot which holds the bases of the many fluted pilasteres with Ionic capitals which grace the courtroom walls. The floors are of terazzo though much of it has been covered with tile for the sake of quietness.

The Wyoming County Jail stands beside the Courthouse on the Square only twenty feet to the east. It was built of the same handsome native, rock-faced stone with some dressed stone used as quoins and window trim. The building has a grim, unfriendly look. It lacks the attractiveness that lively exterior decoration gives to the Courthouse. The jail is ninety-four feet wide and fifty feet deep and is L-shaped. It has three stories and a basement and its flat roof is surrounded by an unbroken parapet. The front (South) facade contains eleven bays and the West side nine. The central block, of three bays, has dressed stone surrounds and a pleasing frontispiece with a semielliptical lined pediment, also of smooth stone. The jail has one exterior and one interior chimney both of stone lengthened by brick. All cell windows are swing-up metal casements with 4/4 lights, and all other windows have swing-out casements with 6/6 lights. Two floors of the West wing are cell blocks. The front wing contains the jailor's living quarters.

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The site of the Wyoming County Courthouse and Jail is a Square of about two acres on a hill side in the center of Pineville. Its position is on the North side of Main Street at the junction of State Route #97. The Square contains three broad terraces from front to back which contain long grassed lawns with good trees, wide walls and steps. On the middle terrace is the Cook Memorial built by friends to honor the "Rev. W. H. H. Cook Soldier-Statesman-and Minister", 1840-1923. The Square is enclosed with a heavy but handsome stone wall of good proportions. No one questions the right of the people of Wyoming County to be proud of their Courthouse Square.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 100-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" 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 1916, 1929

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Architect-A.F. Wysong  
Builders-D.J. Phipps and Early Brothers

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Creation of the Courthouse and Jail complex of Wyoming County was the answer to a dream of fifty years duration and the stately stone buildings of classic architectural design on their prominent and handsome lawns fulfilled local ambitions. Within the bounds of the County there is no other building, structure, or place that is so significant to the county citizenry. Wyoming County is in the middle of the second tier of West Virginia counties as viewed from the state's southern border. It is deep in the southern coal fields.

After many years of "county seat fights and disputations", lasting until 1911, Pineville was solidly affirmed to be the county seat. In 1916, a handsome classical revival couthouse was built of stone from a local quarry. A state architect A.F. Wysong planned and D.J. Phipps of Roanoke erected the building for \$79,000. The present jail was built close beside the Courthouse in 1929 by contract with the Early Brothers. The same lovely native stone and many of the same architectural features were used in the construction of the jail. By use of Work Projects Administration aid in 1930, Courthouse Square was landscaped and the splendid stone wall was built. All this stone was quarried just west of Pineville. A large modern, three-story brick building was built across the street behind the Square as a fireproof annex.

Wyoming County was formed from Logan County by Act of the General Assembly of Virginia on 26 January 1850. The county received her name from an Indian tribe. The County contains 507 square miles. Indicative of its lack of development as a political unit in the new state of West Virginia, Wyoming County sent no representative to the First Constitutional Convention of 26 November 1861. In the first election of the new state, in this and 14 other counties, there were no returns. The first seat of county government was the Cook settlement. The bids for county seat began in 1893 when Castle Rock, the early name of Pineville (the rock is still there), sought the honor. Oceana made a try in 1892, then Bartley made a bid and lost in 1893. Again in 1898 and 1905 Pineville had to defend its claim. And, finally, in 1911, a third vote for Pineville ended the controversy.

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Bond was given by eight men of Pineville in 1905, "to furnish a suitable building for county purposes". The Thomas A. Cook house was secured as the county's first courthouse. In 1909, the county bought several lots for a public square and had built on one corner a frame temporary building with a stone vault. Then, in 1916, the grand stone courthouse was built and in 1929 the jail was added on the northeast corner of the square. The County has kept both buildings and grounds in good repair and has made no structural changes in the complex.

The exploitation of the coal fields in Wyoming County started c. 1875. With the coming of the railroads in the first quarter of the twentieth century fortunes in the timber and coal industries were made by foreign born operators. Since 1916 the coal fields have suffered repeated misfortune. They hang on and given a reasonable period of industrial peace Wyoming County will insure her future.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ambler, Charles Henry, West Virginia: The Mountain State. New York: Prentice-Hall, 1940.

Bowman, Mary Keller, Reference Book of Wyoming County History. Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Co., 1965.

West Virginia Stories and Biographies. New York: Rand McNally and Co., 1937.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Two Acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Pineville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,7 4,5,2 5,2,0 4,1 5,9 5,6,0

B                  

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The courthouse and jail are centered in a two-acre square on a hillside in the center of Pineville. The complex is on the north side of Main Street at junction of State Route #10 and County Road #97. The nominated area includes the courthouse and jail, and the square with three broad terraces enclosed by a stone wall fronting on Main Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Colonel C. E. Turley, Field Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

West Virginia Department of Culture & History

DATE

October 25, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

The Cultural Center, Capitol Complex

TELEPHONE

304 348-0244

CITY OR TOWN

Charleston

STATE

West Virginia 25305

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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

*Clarence M. Moran*

1-17-79

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION







