# Pierce Courthouse

**Location:**
- Street and Number: Section 2, T36N, R5E
- City or Town: Pierce
- State: Idaho

**Classification**
- Category: [ ] District
  - Building [ ] Site
  - Structure [ ] Object
- Ownership: [ ] Public
  - Private [ ] Both
  - In Process
  - Being Considered
  - Occupied
  - Unoccupied
  - Preservation work in progress
  - Accessible to the Public: [ ] Yes
    - Restricted
    - Unrestricted

**Present Use**
- [ ] Agricultural
- [ ] Commercial
- [ ] Educational
- [ ] Entertainment
- [ ] Government
- [ ] Industrial
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Religious
- [ ] Museum
- [ ] Scientific
- [ ] Park
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Other (Specify)

**Owner of Property**
- Owner's Name: Leonard Gardisi
- Idaho State Historical Society

**Location of Legal Description**
- Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, Etc: Clearwater County Courthouse
- Street and Number:
- City or Town: Orofino
- State: Idaho

**Representation in Existing Surveys**
- Title of Survey:
- Date of Survey:
- Depository for Survey Records:
- Street and Number:
- City or Town:
- State:
- Code:
The two-story courthouse was built of hewn logs and measured thirty-six feet in length and twenty feet in width, with sixteen foot posts employed for support. The roof was a square or one-half pitch and covered with three feet long and "two feet to the weather" shakes. Double thick one and one-half inch plank was used for the sides of the two cells, while the ceilings consisted of one inch shingle plank. The entire area was closely spiked. Each cell had a four inch by ten inch hole to allow the light in. When the courthouse was sold in 1884 it was turned into living quarters and "in the ensuing years many people have lived in it, including Jack Maloney, a timber cruiser, whose daughter had the distinction of being born in the old jail." Subsequently an addition was built on and later the interior re-modeled. The building still stands on its original location, and except for the addition, the outside retains much of its general original appearance.
Following gold discoveries at Pierce, September 30, 1860, thousands of miners rushed there the next spring. As a result, Shoshone county was established January 9, 1861, and cast the largest vote in Washington territory in the congressional election July 8. After Shoshone county was organized in Pierce, September 2, the Washington legislature moved the county boundaries northward to include the county seat and the voters in the county, December 19. Finally, on May 26, 1862, the county commissioners authorized construction of a courthouse and jail. Completed in August at a cost of $3700, the courthouse served Shoshone county until the county seat was moved to Murray. At that point, Idaho's oldest public building was sold to Ed Hammond for $50. He used it for a residence.
To find the property, use the following coordinates:

**Corner Latitude and Longitude Coordinates Defining a Rectangle Locating the Property**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corner</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>46° 29' 23&quot;</td>
<td>115° 47' 23&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>46° 29' 23&quot;</td>
<td>115° 47' 23&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>46° 29' 23&quot;</td>
<td>115° 47' 23&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>46° 29' 23&quot;</td>
<td>115° 47' 23&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Approximate Acreage of Nominated Property:** less than 1 acre

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Form Prepared by**

**Name and Title:** Merle Wells, State Liaison Officer

**Organization:** Idaho State Historical Society

**Street and Number:** 610 North Julia Davis Drive

**City or Town:** Boise

**State Liaison Officer Certification**

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 [X]
- Local [ ]

**Name:** Merle Wells

**Title:** State Liaison Officer

**Date:** February 24, 1972

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

**Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation**

**Date:** 1/3/72

**Keeper of the National Register**

**Date:** 1/7/72
NPS Number: Nov 3, 1922

Title: Lucie Courthouse

Loc.: Clearwater, Idaho

This view is toward the east.
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number: 11/3/73

Site: Pierre Courthouse
Clearwater Co., Idaho

Loc.