

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

2<sup>nd</sup> draft  
**WASHINGTON**

For HCRS use only

received \_\_\_\_\_

date entered \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Name**

historic OGLE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

and/or common \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number Courthouse Square (Ill. Rt. 2 & 64) \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Oregon \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 16

state Illinois code 012 county Ogle code 41

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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 type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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
	<u>N/A</u>	<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 County of Ogle

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Oregon \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Illinois

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Ogle County Clerk-Recorder

street & number PO Box 357

city, town Oregon \_\_\_\_\_ state Illinois 61061

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Inventory of the County Archive of Illinois has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date July 1940  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Illinois Historical Records Survey Project

city, town Chicago \_\_\_\_\_ state Illinois

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> addition	

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Ogle County Courthouse is a large, basically square, three story building, topped by a cupola, set on a high foundation with a full basement. The building stands in a public square in the heart of the commercial section of Oregon, which is in the center of the County.

The building is constructed of red pressed brick, reinforced with steel girders, and trimmed with limestone (Naperville and Ashton, IL) on the entrance arches and stairs, as well as the window lintels and sills. At the four corners, cupola-like dormered roofs break up the monotony of the cross-shaped ridged roof. The center of the steeply angled slate roof is topped with a large white wooden cupola which is spot lighted from sundown to 11 p.m. throughout the year. The lights were provided by an anonymous gift and the cost of perpetuation has been borne by the County.

Some windows are straight topped and others have a semi-circular arch above. In 1971 new entrance doors were installed and in 1972 aluminum framed windows replaced the original wood framed windows. The gutters and roof have been maintained throughout the years only as required.

The two entrances (one from the East and one from the West) have the doors recessed behind an arch and at the top of 11 stone steps. The interior floors are all white pine wood - some of them now carpeted.

In most areas within the building the original woodwork - sills, door frames and doors are oak. The walls are 12" thick concrete and are painted or covered with paneling. There is a double open stairway to second and third floors at the west side entrance. In the center of the Courthouse there is an elevator that goes from the basement to the third floor. Ceilings on first floor are 15 feet high with 12 foot doorways. The courtrooms on second floor have been remodeled and the ceilings dropped to 10 feet.

Two Civil War cannon guard the East entrance. On the Southeast corner of the Courthouse square a monument records and displays the names of men who served their (and our) county and nation. The monument depicts both Confederate and Union soldiers with a figure depicting Peace between. Noted sculptor Lorado Taft designed the monument which was approved by the County Board of Supervisors in 1911. Bond and Bond were the architects who completed the piece in 1916 and it was dedicated the same year. The names of Civil War, Mexican War and the War of 1812 veterans, as well as some World War I (added at a later date, of course) are listed. The names of veterans of more recent wars are listed on plaques throughout the first floor of the Courthouse.

In 1966 a marble and stone monument was erected in front of the older sculpture and this honors the memory of John F. Kennedy.

The first floor of the building now also is the site for a Hall of Fame of Ogle County residents. This was established in 1976. Part of the display is a mural showing important events of our nation as the country grew from 1776 to 1976.

A Public Safety Building was constructed in 1969 and connected by a tunnel to the basement of the Courthouse. The building was designed with simple lines and of brick and trim to blend into the surroundings as much as possible.

# 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 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/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

**Specific dates** 1891 **Builder/Architect** Charles A. Moses/George O. Garnsey

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ogle County Courthouse is a prized landmark for the citizens in this County of the North-Central part of Illinois. Situated in a square block within the City limits of Oregon, it is admired by one and all for the rock face trim, the lighted cupola which is visible for a long distance, and for the green grass and trees which share space in the square with the Civil War cannon and monuments to its fighting men. Tourists have been known to drive out of their way to see the structure and artists have committed the structure to lasting tribute.

The first courthouse, completed in 1840, was burned to the ground by Prairie Bandits before it could ever be used. The replacement was completed in 1848 and soon outgrown as the many records needed by the various offices accumulated. The present building has been in constant use since it was completed in 1891 and houses most of the activities of County government as well as the records from the inception of the County in 1836.

Ogle County has a long history, dating back to January 16, 1836, when it was formally established by an act of the State Legislature. Prior to the formation of Ogle County, this area was a part of Jo Daviess County, with the County Seat at Galena. Settlers here had to travel to Galena, a hard two day journey each way, to transact any and all official business.

When Ogle County was organized in 1836, it included the land now known as Lee County. Rival interests led to a division of the territory with Dixon named as the County Seat for Lee County in 1839.

With the division Ogle County was left with an area of 756 square miles measuring about 39 miles from East to West and 21 miles from North to South. There have been no changes in the boundary lines of Ogle County since that time. Oregon was established as the County seat in 1839. In the early years of the County's history, the name of the town of Oregon was changed to Florence. In 1843 it was renamed Oregon and has remained that ever since.

Ogle County is named for Capt. Joseph Ogle, born in 1738 in Delaware. He has been featured in many accounts of battles with Indians in Illinois history.

A sign on the north lawn of the Courthouse square relates the history of Thomas Ford. He was the 8th Governor of Illinois who served as a Circuit Judge in Oregon before his nomination and election in 1842 to the office of Governor.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Historical Records Survey, INVENTORY OF THE COUNTY ARCHIVES OF ILLINOIS, Chicago, 1940 (basis was County records and State books on government)  
OGLE COUNTY AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION COMMISSION,  
BICENTENNIAL HISTORY OF OGLE COUNTY, Oregon, 1976

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name OREGON, ILLINOIS

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References NOT AVAILABLE

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 21, City of Oregon

4th St., Washington St., 5th St., and Jefferson Sts. form the boundary

### 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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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret A. Fridley, County Clerk-Recorder

organization Ogle County

date April 24, 1981

street & number Box 357

telephone

city or town Oregon

state IL 61061

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Director, Cell. Dept. of Conservation date 6/23/81

For HCERS 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

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet Ogle County Courthouse

Item number 6

Page 2

2. Inventory of Historic Landmarks in Ogle County  
January 1973, Il.Dept. of Conservation  
Springfield, Il.
  
3. Inventory of Historic Structures in Ogle County  
October 1972, Il.Dept. of Conservation  
Springfield, Il.

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

0-4-21

50

SURVEY USE ONLY

1. Name of Site: County courthouse  
Common  
Historic

- Archaeology  
 Architecture  
 History

260344

2. Location:

Street and Number  
 5th St. at Madison  
City or Town  
 OREGON  
County  
 OGLE

Township  
 T23N  
Range  
 R10E

Section  
 3  
1/4 Section  
 SW

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

- District  Building  
 Site  Structure

Integrity (check one)

- Altered  Unaltered  
 Moved  Original Site

4. Ownership

- Private  
 Public

Status (check one)

- Occupied  
 Unoccupied  
 Preservation work in progress

Access to public

- Yes  Restricted  Unrestricted  No

Present Use (check one or more)

- Agricultural  Industrial  Religious  
 Commercial  Military  Scientific  
 Educational  Museum  Transportation  
 Entertainment  Park  Other (specify)  
 Government  Private Residence

5. Ownership of Property

Owner's name Ogle County

Street and Number

Phone Number

City or Town Oregon

State

County

Zip Code

6. Description

Condition

- Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway?  Yes  No

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- Archaeological Site (Pre-Columbian)  
 Archaeological Site (Post-Columbian to 1673)  
 French Influence (1673-1780)  
 Illinois Frontier (1780-1818)  
 Illinois Early (1818-1850)  
 Illinois Middle (1850-1900)  
 Illinois Late (1900-present)  
 Famous People (give names & dates)

GOVERNMENT



8. Specific Date: 1890

Areas of Significance (check one or more of the following)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Military             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication             | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture    |   |

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates.) Use additional sheets if necessary.

9. Form prepared by:

Name and title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street and Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
City or Town \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.