NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

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APR 15 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 100 N. Court St. [ ] not for publication

city or town Fayetteville [ ] vicinity

state West Virginia code WV county Fayette code 019 zip code 25840

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

__ national __ statewide _X_ local

Susan M Pierce Deputy SHPO 2/22/2016
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

for Edson W. Beall 5.31.16
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

	private
x	public - Local
	public - State
	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION and CULTURE: sports facility, auditorium

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION and CULTURE: sports facility, auditorium

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: BRICK, CONCRETE
roof: ASPHALT
other: BRICK, CONCRETE, STONE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

See continuation sheets.

Narrative Description

See continuation sheets.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

[X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[ ] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

[ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[ ] B removed from its original location.

[ ] C a birthplace or grave.

[ ] D a cemetery.

[ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[ ] F a commemorative property.

[ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1951-1966

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bengston, Ludwig Theodore – Architect

Hill Company, Inc. – Builder

Period of Significance (justification)

See continuation sheets.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

See continuation sheets.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

See continuation sheets.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

See continuation sheets.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

See continuation sheets.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
____previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

__x__State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
__x__Local government
____University
__X__Other
Name of repository: WV State Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.46
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

17 490762 4211597

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See continuation sheets.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheets.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ami Dangerfield (with WV SHPO staff)

organization Fayette County Commission date November 2015

street & number 100 North Court Street P.O. Box 307 telephone (304) 574-4290

city or town Fayetteville state WV zip code 25840

e-mail ami.l.dangerfield@wv.gov

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

See continuation sheets.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Description

The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building is located in the center of Fayetteville, just a block from the main commercial district and the Fayette County Courthouse. The building faces southeast along West Maple Avenue, County Route 8. The large lot is bounded on three sides by public streets also including High Street on the northeast side, and West Wiseman Avenue at the rear of the lot.

A paved drive runs along both side elevations of the building where a number of parking spaces are situated along narrow, grassy strips. A gravel lot is situated to the rear of the building. The hedge-lined front lawn is separated by a wide concrete walkway which leads from the sidewalk to the front steps of the building. Two narrow sidewalks curve from this walkway towards the corners of the building. The lawn also includes spotlights, a flag pole, and a stone landscape feature with torch that was dedicated in 1969 by the American Legion Lafayette Post 149. However, its gas line has since fallen into disrepair and it is no longer lit.

The footprint of the Memorial Building occupies the majority of the lot. Displaying elements of the Neo-Classical Revival style of architecture, the building was designed by architect L.T. Bengtson and constructed by Hill Company, Inc. The brick building has smooth stone accents and replacement windows and doors throughout. The exterior of the building appears in three distinct sections; the front, middle, and rear. The front section is two stories and has a flat roof with parapet topped by decorative stone coping. A stone water table wraps around this section of the building.

The main elevation is symmetrical and includes a centered section which projects from the façade. Centered within that section is a unit, five bays wide, which includes the building's main entrances – three sets of modern double-doors – recessed approximately 13 feet. This section is reached by a wide series of steps with hand rails which leads to a 9 foot deep platform the same width as the center unit. The platform is lined by a decorative railing. The five bays on the first story include rectangular openings with smooth stone surrounds. Six squared stone pilasters reach through the second story to the decorative stone cornice. Lamps hang on each of the centered four pilasters on the first story. They replaced the original lamps in the 1980s.

Positioned above the center bay, between the first and second story, is an inlaid rectangular stone which reads, "IN GRATEFUL MEMORY TO THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR ALL FOR THEIR COUNTRY." Two decorative round stones are situated to each side, symmetrically placed within each of the four remaining bays. Five double-hung sash windows are centered above on the second story. Metal letters centered in the parapet read, "FAYETTE COUNTY SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MEMORIAL."

To each side of this centered unit is a single window with stone surround. Two smaller windows are located above each on the second story. A double-door entrance with transom and modern aluminum doors is located on both side elevations of this section. A single window is above each.

The south corner of this building section includes a first story window with stone surround on both the front and side elevation, and a single window on the front and two windows on the side elevation of the second story. The north corner includes a platform with steps and accessible ramp with modern railing. An original double-door entrance is on the northeast elevation. It has a stone surround and covered transom. The doors have six lights in the upper half and a single panel below. The entrance is shielded by a metal awning supported by metal rods and brackets. Two windows are situated above.

The middle section of the Memorial Building houses the gymnasium and auditorium and has a wide, low-pitch gable roof. The side elevations feature four wide bays separated by brick pilasters which reach through the decorative cornice to the stone coping at the rooftop. The first story includes a series of windows with decorative brick surrounds. Each bay of the second story has decorative brickwork assembled to resemble rectangular panels.

The rectangular rear section of the building is three stories in height and includes no fenestration on the back façade. Five bays are separated by squared brick pilasters. The northeast elevation includes a garage bay, above grade, and a single door. The opposite elevation has series of small windows and a single door.

Interior

The building is entered through a lobby with terrazzo floors, exposed rafters, and plastered and brick walls. A plaque reads, “Fayette County Soldiers and Sailor’s Memorial erected 1951 in grateful memory to those who gave their all for their county.” A “Wall of Honor” plaque is displayed at the north end wall of the lobby. Erected in the 1990s, it provides citizens a place to honor loved ones who served in the Armed Services by inscribing their name, rank, and years of service. The lobby also includes a display case of Armed Services memorabilia on loan from local veterans. Stairwells off the main lobby include stylized metal handrails and glazed tile blocks along the lower section of the walls and are lit by period-style hanging light fixtures.

A series of double wood doors with small circular windows leads into the gymnasium. The original hardwood basketball court was replaced in 2012. One end of the court reads “Soldiers and Sailors” and the other end reads “Memorial Building.” The court’s center circle includes logos of the five branches of the armed forces. Original wooden accordion bleachers line each length of the court while a retractable basketball hoop hangs from each end of the court.

An elevated stage is located at the northwest end of the court. It is reached by a set of wooden steps at each corner of the stage. A brick pilaster flanks each side of the stage opening which is topped by a wooden cornice which reads “For God and Country – To the Last Full Measure of Their Devotion.” The rear corners of the stage have metal spiral staircases which lead to the upper floor.

The upper mezzanine of the auditorium has seven rows of stadium-style seating around three sides of the court. The wooden seats have painted numbers and metal supports. Concrete steps between the sections

have inlaid lights and metal rails. The walls in the gym are concrete block – with decorative bricks along the stage wall. The ceiling displays exposed metal rafters and has a mix of modern and original light fixtures.

A hallway on the left side of the foyer/Memorial Hall leads to modest public restrooms and locker rooms for both home and visiting teams and an additional stairwell to the mezzanine and backstage areas. The area on the south end of the foyer originally designated for veterans' organizations is now used as a concession stand and office for the manager. This office is also used for early voting.

The Fayetteville branch of the Fayette County Public Libraries is located on the north end of the building, mirroring the locker room area. It consists of a covered entrance that leads to a small vestibule. Over the entrance to the library stacks on the western side of the vestibule, a plaque reads "Laura C. Hopkins Memorial Library." There is access to the auditorium through the west end of the library, but this is closed to the public. An emergency exit and additional stairwell to the mezzanine and backstage area are located behind the library. On the eastern side of the vestibule, there is a restroom, storage room and on the southern end, a small reading room and historic archives.

The basement originally included an open dining hall, meeting rooms, extra locker rooms and a kitchen. It was converted into offices, a meeting room and a dispatch room in the 1980s for use as the Fayette County 911 Command Center. However, it has been vacant since the center moved in 2013. Fayette County is planning to use this vacant area as records management and preservation storage space.

Statement of Significance

The Fayette County Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building, completed in 1951, is eligible for listing in the National Register under *Criterion A: Social History* for its local significance serving area veterans. It is also eligible under Criterion A: Entertainment and Recreation for its significance to the local community and county, providing space for various activities including sporting events, banquets, plays, and concerts. The period of significance is 1951, the year it was constructed, to 1966. The end date reflects the National Register's fifty-year cut-off date as the building has continued in the capacity it was originally intended and attained significance.

History[1]

WV had the fifth-highest percentage of servicemen during World War II, with 5,830 killed in action.[2] It is not surprising then, that the people of Fayette County were overwhelmingly in support of a memorial to honor the men and women of the armed forces. On August 8, 1945, the Fayette County Commission issued an order in response to a citizen petition which garnered signatures from at least the required 20% of the voting population. The order declared that the county would erect a Soldiers and Sailors Memorial "in the form of a building for general usefulness to all the people of the county with particular reference to the needs, comfort and recreation of the men and women of the armed services."[3] As part of the order, the commission created a Board of Directors. The Board, made up of one member from each of the county's seven magisterial districts, included Chairman Charles E. Mahan, A. L. Foscue, J.F. Reed, W. A. Johnson, Mrs. Nell Walker, E. R. Vawter, and B. J. Amick. Over the following year, these members were charged with promoting the building and the levy.

One way the Board promoted the memorial was by distributing leaflets throughout the county with information on the proposed memorial and a special levy to help pay for its construction. In part, it stated the following:

> After the election has been carried, for the year 1946 a home owner or farmer with a $1,000 assessed valuation of real estate will contribute 30 cents and the two following years 15 cents each – for a total of 60 cents for his full part of the taxes to take care of the memorial.[4]

The leaflet went on to explain taxes on rentals and farm properties and then invited the public to hearings in which they could indicate their preference with regard to the proposed location.

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[1] Prior to 1975, the Fayette County Commission was known as the Fayette County Court and is referenced as such in news articles and documents proceeding this date. County Commission is used for purposes of this nomination to avoid confusion.
[2] "World War II" *The West Virginia Encyclopedia.* West Virginia Humanities Council, 19 Nov. 2010. Web. 6 Nov. 2015
[3] "Public will Decide at Public Hearings Location of Fayette County War Memorial," *Raleigh Register*, Beckley, W.Va., 26 June 1946; and, "People to Decide on Type of Fayette War Memorial," *Beckley Post-Herald*, Beckley, W.Va., 27 June 1946.
[4] "Public will Decide at Public Hearings Location of Fayette County War Memorial," *Raleigh Register*, Beckley, W.Va., 26 June 1946; and, "People to Decide on Type of Fayette War Memorial," *Beckley Post-Herald*, Beckley, W.Va., 27 June 1946.

The special levy was held during that year's primary election on August 6, 1946. The levy, which passed with a substantial majority, was expected to raise $75,000 with addition funds for the memorial from federal aid, the board of education, and private contributions.[5] A few weeks later, the Board of Directors resolved that the building would be two stories with an auditorium and stage area for various performances and sporting events. The basement would be used for armory drills, farm fairs, physical education, and for the National Guard. Further, they decided, the memorial would be constructed at or near Fayetteville, the county seat.[6]

Though the construction of a memorial was approved, the location of the building was yet to be determined. One of the early proposed locations was on eight to ten acres of land owned by the New River Coal Company a short distance north of Fayetteville on U.S. Route 19. Preliminary designs for this location were prepared by Robert A. Sheffry, architect of Bluefield's old Municipal Building. These plans depicted a 100' x 180' building and included a Memorial Park.[7] There were other proposals as well.

On May 7, 1947, attorney William G. Thompson appeared before the Fayette County Commission on behalf of the City of Oak Hill. The city offered to deed nine acres for the location of the memorial, at no cost to the county, and the Oak Hill Chamber of Commerce offered $25,000 towards the construction of the building if it were located in the City. Following Oak Hill's proposal, Commission president Guy Douglas asked for remarks from the Memorial Board of Directors. Chairman Mahan expressed his personal interest in the project and reiterated the general sentiment of the constituents, and the order of the County Commission, that the memorial should be in or near the county seat.[8] The County Commission agreed unanimously by vote at their June 11, 1947 meeting.[9]

By the August 6, 1947 Commission meeting, the Board had decided the location would be the Wiseman property, a plot of land located in the middle of Fayetteville. [10] The board then approached the Commission to retain Ludwig Theodore (L.T.) Bengtson, a prominent Charleston architect, to design the memorial, and by order on May 5, 1948, the Commission agreed to pay a $2,000.00 credit on his contract, which would equal 5% of the cost of the building and equipment.[11] Bengtson was active in the early to mid-twentieth century and designed many public buildings and homes including the historic Young-Noyes House, St. George Orthodox Church, and Fruth School, all of Charleston, and the Raleigh County Courthouse in Beckley. Bengston was well versed in various styles ranging from Colonial Revival to Art Deco.

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[5] "Rodes Wins Court Race, Taylor Leads for Board," *Beckley Post-Herald*, Beckley, W.Va., 9 August 1946; and, "Public will Decide at Public Hearings Location of Fayette County War Memorial," *Raleigh Register*, Beckley, W.Va., 26 June 1946; and, "People to Decide on Type of Fayette War Memorial," *Beckley Post-Herald*, Beckley, W.Va., 27 June 1946.
[6] "Site for Soldier-Sailor Memorial Building Sought Near Fayetteville," *Sunday Register*, Beckley, W.Va., 20 October 1946.
[7] Ibid.
[8] "Court Hears Oak Hill's Plea for Fayette County Memorial Edifice," Raleigh Register, Beckley, W.Va., 8 May 1947.
[9] "Fayette County Court Agrees to Place Memorial in Fayetteville," Beckley Post-Herald, Beckley, W.Va., 12 June 1947.
[10] "County Court Authorized Purchase of Memorial Site," *Raleigh Register*, Beckley, W.Va., 7 August 1947.
[11] County Commission Order Authorizing payment to L.T. Bengston (filed 5 May 1948) Fayette County, West Virginia, Order Book 25, page 69. County Clerk's Office, Fayetteville, West Virginia.

At this same meeting, the Commission authorized the purchase of a site in Fayetteville less than two blocks from the courthouse. The Commission decided on land offered for sale by the heirs of W.A. Wiseman and a separate lot from Albert Mullins. Wiseman was an early area blacksmith and prominent merchant who was later elected the first mayor of Fayetteville in 1883. For purchase of the site, the Town of Fayetteville, by way of the Business Men's Association donation campaign, presented a check to the County Commission for $16,000.[12] The Town also provided the county an additional $5,500 from the estate of Ms. Laura B. Hopkins who bequeathed to them the funding to build a library and meeting rooms, especially for boys and girls. The library and meeting rooms were to be incorporated into the memorial building.[13]

Shortly after the site purchase, American Legion Post 149 purchased the house directly across the street from the Memorial Building to serve as their new headquarters. This was an important event, given the relationship between the Legion and the memorial.[14] In addition to the Legion and the Board of Directors, the memorial was also sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, their auxiliaries, organized labor, the Republican and Democratic county organizations, farmers, schools, civic, fraternal and service clubs and lodges, and families of veterans.[15]

Originally, the estimated $150,000 cost of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building was to be funded with the levy authorized during the 1946 primary election and private donations. By 1948, however, the high costs of material and labor made clear that the projected cost was unrealistic. In September of 1948, the Board of Directors informed the County Commission that the levy would need to be extended another three years to help fund the newly projected cost of $300,000. The levy, voted on in a special election on November 2, was once again approved.[16]

In February 1950, the Board of Directors published a request for bids for the construction of the memorial building.[17] On March 9, 1950, the County Commission awarded the contract to Hill Company, Inc. of Oak Hill which submitted the lowest bid of $286,667.50. The construction bid included alternatives which provided for terrazzo floors in the lobby areas. The building would also include a gymnasium and auditorium with a 2,500 person seating capacity, a library, and a dining room. Prather Brothers of Oak Hill won the plumbing bid, Heating and Cooling, Inc. of Charleston provided heating, and Charleston Electric Company of South Charleston won the electrical bid.[18] The Commission also approved the hiring of a

[12] "$16,000 Donated for Fayette Memorial Site," *Beckley Post-Herald*, Beckley, W.Va., 7 August 1947.
[13] "County Court Authorized Purchase of Memorial Site," *Raleigh Register*, Beckley, W.Va., 7 August 1947.
[14] "Legion Post Buys Setgall [sic] Home As Permanent Headquarters Site," Raleigh Register, Beckley, W.Va., 17 September 1947.
[15] "Members of War Memorial Board Formulate Plans for Levy Vote," *Raleigh Register*, Beckley, W.Va., 12 October 1948; and, "Plans Made to Pass Levy for Memorial," *Beckley Post-Herald*, Beckley, W.Va., 13 October 1948.
[16] "Special Levy Election for Fayette Memorial Called," *Beckley Post-Herald*, Beckley, W.Va., 11 September 1948.
[17] "Bids Asked for Fayette County Memorial Building," *Raleigh Register*, Beckley, W.Va., 16 February 1950.
[18] "Immediate Construction Slated for Fayette Memorial Building," Raleigh Register, Beckley, W.Va., 10 March 1950.

building inspector, C.B. Coleman of Glen Ferris for the entire construction project timeframe. He was hired on May 1, 1950 and the building permit was officially issued later that month. [19]

Though the contract called for completion within 360 days, over a year later, on July 25, 1951, the *Beckley Post Herald* reported the building was nearing completion and that Chairman C.E. Mahan promised an opening date of September 15, 1951 with a completion cost of $300,000.[20] However, the promised September deadline arrived with still work to be done. On December 11, Mahan was quoted in the local newspapers stating that the only remaining work included landscaping, exterior paving, and finishing touches, and that the building would open on December 20, 1951.[21] Even before opening, community events were scheduled. The American Legion, for example, planned the annual Fayette County Christmas Dance to take place at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building on December 23rd.[22] Other activities planned before it opened included local high school and college basketball games, a polio banquet, as well as wrestling and boxing matches.[23]

On January 1, 1952, J.D. Summerfield and Robert Kent assumed their new duties as caretaker and manager, respectively.[24] Their first year provided a full schedule beginning with an inaugural basketball game between Beckley-Fairmont and Fayetteville high schools on January 4th. In February, the Memorial Building hosted the Region 5 High School Basketball Tournament. The Fayette County Board of Education quickly saw the building as an answer to their indoor athletic facility issues and offered the County Court $4,800.00 a year for maintenance fees in exchange for use by all county, but primarily Fayetteville schools. This agreement, although adjusted for inflation, still exists between the County Commission and the Board of Education.[25]

Throughout 1952 and 1953, the schedule stayed active with sports events, ice shows, plays, concerts and all types of meetings and entertainment. The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building was finally officially dedicated on May 30, 1953 after a nearly yearlong delay. The original dedication date was slated for July 4, 1952, however the Raleigh County Memorial Airport had scheduled their dedication that same day. The Board of Directors decided on postponement rather than competing with the larger event.

In front of a crowd numbering nearly 400, the dedication address was made by West Virginia American Legion Commander, Harry W. Miller who, in part, stated the following:

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[19] County Commission Order authorizing hire of C. B. Coleman as building inspector (filed 4 April 1950) Fayette County, West Virginia, Order Book 25, page 440. County Recorder's Office, Fayetteville, West Virginia.
[20] "Memorial Building Nears Completion," *Beckley Post-Herald*, Beckley, W.Va., 25 July 1951.
[21] "Fayette Memorial Building Scheduled to Open Dec. 20," *Raleigh Register*, Beckley, W.Va., 11 December 1951.
[22] "Annual Christmas Dance Planned by Legion Post," *Raleigh Register*, Beckley, W.Va., 14 November 1951.
[23] "Fayette Memorial Building Scheduled to Open Dec. 20," *Raleigh Register*, Beckley, W.Va., 11 December 1951.
[24] "Fayette County News," *Beckley Post-Herald*, Beckley, W.Va., 2 January 1952.
[25] A yearly lease agreement is signed between the County Commission and the Fayette County Board of Education determinate upon a scheduled set by the Fayetteville High School principal. These are recorded in order books, County Clerk's Office, Fayetteville, West Virginia.

> Today it is our privilege to participate in a service to dedicate this building to the memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice in the service of their country, and to those who willingly offered their lives for their country but were spared to come back to Fayette County.[26]

The Fayetteville High School band provided music and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Color Guard presented the colors. Reverend Shirley Donnelly gave the invocation and Reverend G.J. Wilson presented the benediction.[27]

Following dedication, the Memorial Building continued to host basketball games of all calibers, from the local Ben Argento Basketball Children's League, to contests between WVU and Marshall to the Harlem Globetrotters. Music shows from Grand Ole Opry stars to James Brown, Ice Capades, presidential candidates Hubert Humphrey and John F. Kennedy, and many local craft shows, boxing events and fairs have all been held on the hardwood. An annual Veteran's Appreciation Ceremony is held the Sunday before Veteran's Day each year.

Summary

Serving the Town of Fayetteville and the entire Fayette County region, the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building was an integral and significant part of the community upon completion in 1951. While its primary function was to support the needs, comfort, and recreation of local members of the armed forces, the building also provided an important venue for indoor recreation and entertainment for all the people of Fayette County. Thus, it is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A: Social History and under Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation. While the building has undergone some changes, such as replacement windows and a new gymnasium floor, they do not adversely affect the building's ability to portray significance under Criterion A.

[26] "Memorial Building Dedicated; State Legion Head is Speaker," *Sunday Register*, Beckley, W.Va., 31 May 1953.
[27] Ibid.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Annual Christmas Dance Planned by Legion Post," *Raleigh Register*, Beckley, W.Va., 14 November 1951. Print.

"Bids Asked for Fayette County Memorial Building," *Raleigh Register*, Beckley, W.Va., 16 February 1950. Print.

County Commission Order Books County Clerk's Office, Fayetteville, W. VA. Print.

"County Court Authorized Purchase of Memorial Site," *Raleigh Register*, Beckley, W.Va., 7 August 1947. Print.

"Court Hears Oak Hill's Plea for Fayette County Memorial Edifice," Raleigh Register, Beckley, W.Va., 8 May 1947. Print.

"Fayette County Court Agrees to Place Memorial in Fayetteville," Beckley Post-Herald, Beckley, W.Va., 12 June 1947. Print.

"Fayette County News," *Beckley Post-Herald*, Beckley, W.Va., 2 January 1952. Print.

"Fayette Memorial Building Scheduled to Open Dec. 20," *Raleigh Register*, Beckley, W.Va., 11 December 1951. Print.

"Immediate Construction Slated for Fayette Memorial Building," Raleigh Register, Beckley, W.Va., 10 March 1950. Print.

"Legion Post Buys Setgall [sic] Home As Permanent Headquarters Site," Raleigh Register, Beckley, W.Va., 17 September 1947. Print.

"Members of War Memorial Board Formulate Plans for Levy Vote," *Raleigh Register*, Beckley, W.Va., 12 October 1948. Print.

"Memorial Building Dedicated; State Legion Head is Speaker," *Sunday Register*, Beckley, W.Va., 31 May 1953. Print.

"Memorial Building Nears Completion," *Beckley Post-Herald*, Beckley, W.Va., 25 July 1951. Print.

"People to Decide on Type of Fayette War Memorial," *Beckley Post-Herald*, Beckley, W.Va., 27 June 1946. Print.

"Plans Made to Pass Levy for Memorial," *Beckley Post-Herald*, Beckley, W.Va., 13 October 1948. Print.

"Public will Decide at Public Hearings Location of Fayette County War Memorial," *Raleigh Register*, Beckley, W.Va., 26 June 1946**.** Print.

"Rodes Wins Court Race, Taylor Leads for Board," *Beckley Post-Herald*, Beckley, W.Va., 9 August 1946. Print.

"Site for Soldier-Sailor Memorial Building Sought Near Fayetteville," *Sunday Register*, Beckley, W.Va., 20 October 1946. Print.

"Special Levy Election for Fayette Memorial Called," *Beckley Post-Herald*, Beckley, W.Va., 11 September 1948. Print.

"World War II" *The West Virginia Encyclopedia.* West Virginia Humanities Council, 19 Nov. 2010. Web. 6 Nov. 2015.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The National Register boundary of Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building includes the following Fayette County tax parcel: District 05, Map 8, Parcel 96.

Described in Fayette County Deed Book 127, page 11 as follows:

> Beginning at an iron pipe at the intersection of High Street with Maple Avenue and with High Street N 49-14 W 226.30 feet to an iron pipe at the intersection of High Street with Wiseman Avenue, and with Wiseman Avenue S 55-57 W 227.78 feet to an iron piper in said Avenue, corner to the Clarissa Wiseman and with Clarissa Wiseman S 35-04 E 104==42 feet to an iron piper, corner to Lene Wiseman, and with the latter S 49-04 E 146-40 feet to a locust fence post, corner to Lena Wiseman on Maple Avenue, and with said Avenue N 41-14 E 255.10 feet to the place of beginning, containing 1.477 acres, more or less.

Excepting and reserving there from the lot or parcel or real estate in dimensions 40 by 20 feet fronting on High Street which was conveyed to The County Court of Fayette County, West Virginia, buy deed of J.A. Mullins and wife, bearing date the 28th of July, 1947.

Described in Fayette County Deed Book 126, page 301 as follows:

> Beginning on the street leading from Maple Avenue to the graveyard on Wiseman's corner (High Street), and thence along said street 20 feet to Wiseman, thence running with Wiseman 40 feet, thence at right angles with Wiseman 20 feet, thence at right angles with Wiseman and with Wiseman 40 feet to the beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The National Register boundaries for the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building encompass the entire historic parcel associated with the property when it was purchased by the county and constructed.

PHOTOS

Name of Property: Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building
Town: Fayetteville
County: Fayette
Photographers: Ami Dangerfield (Photos 1- 10, originally taken November 4, 2015, reshot March 24-26, 2016) and Steve Kennan (Photo 11, originally taken December 6, 2015, reshot March 24-26, 2016)
Location of Original Digital Files: West Virginia SHPO

Photo 1: Fayette County Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building, Facing West Maple Avenue

Photo 2: Torch donated by the American Legion Post 149

Photo 3: Auditorium and Gymnasium, from Mezzanine

Photo 4: Wall of Honor in Memorial Hall/foyer

Photo 5: Rear of Building

Photo 6: East Side of Building, Fayette County Library Entrance

Photo 7: Northwest view of Building Entrance

Photo 8: Interior stair railing

Photo 9: Gymnasium

Photo 10: Gymnasium

Photo 11: Gymnasium, Refurbished floor detail, Fayette County Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building

Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building, Fayette County, WV

This map is created by West Virginia GIS Technical Center for West Virginia SHPO GIS Map Viewer.

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 Web Mercator (Auxiliary Sphere)

Map Created on 11/19/2015

Architectural
- Point
- Area

National Register
- Point
- Area

User Notes:

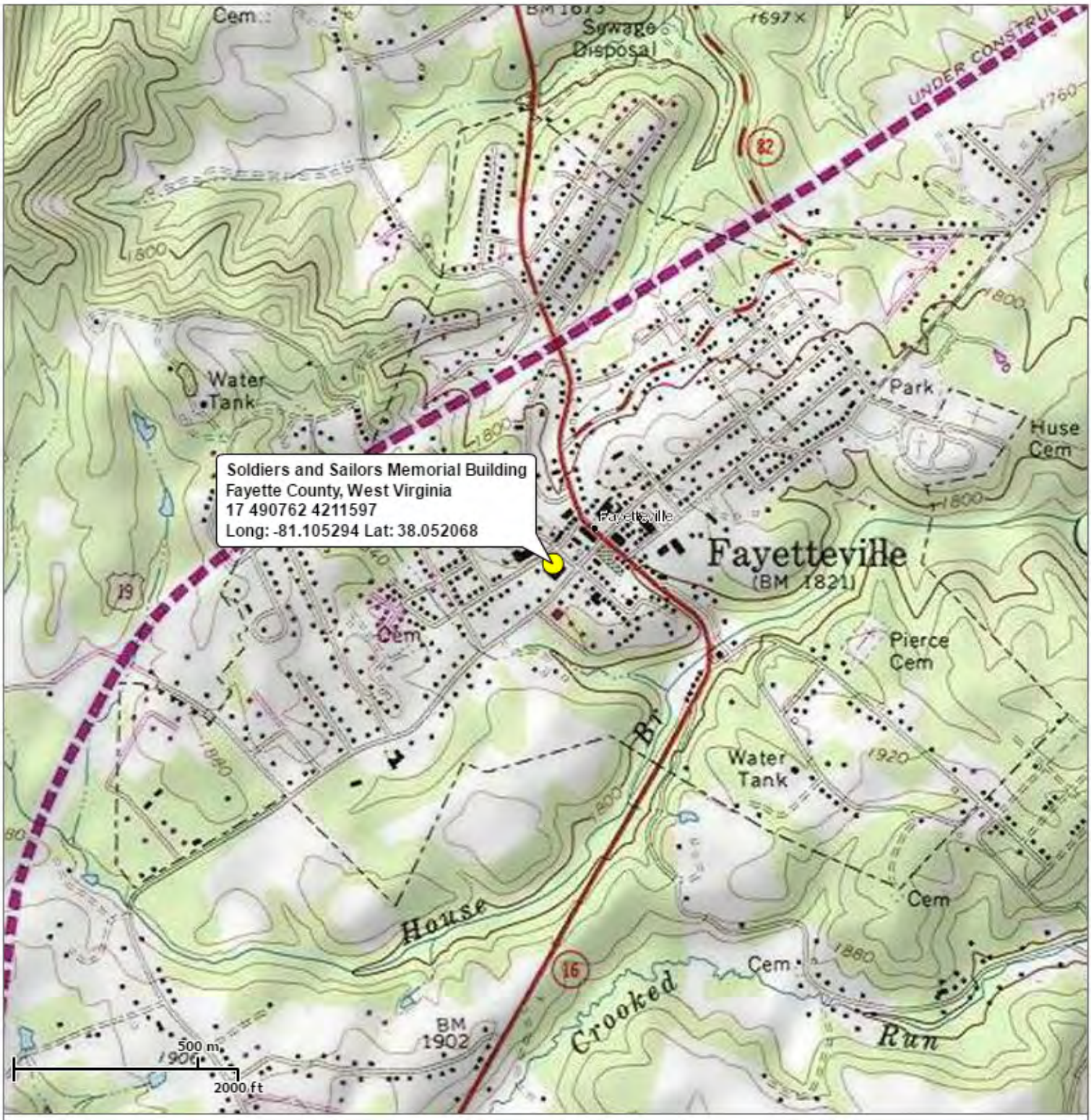
17 490762 4211597
Long: -81.105294 Lat: 38.052068

Disclaimer:

The West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office Interactive Map is designed to provide professional consultants, state/federal agency employees and the public with a means to make informed decisions with regards to the cultural resource location.

N

Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building, Fayette County, WV



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N

Concessions

Library

Managers Office, Early Voting

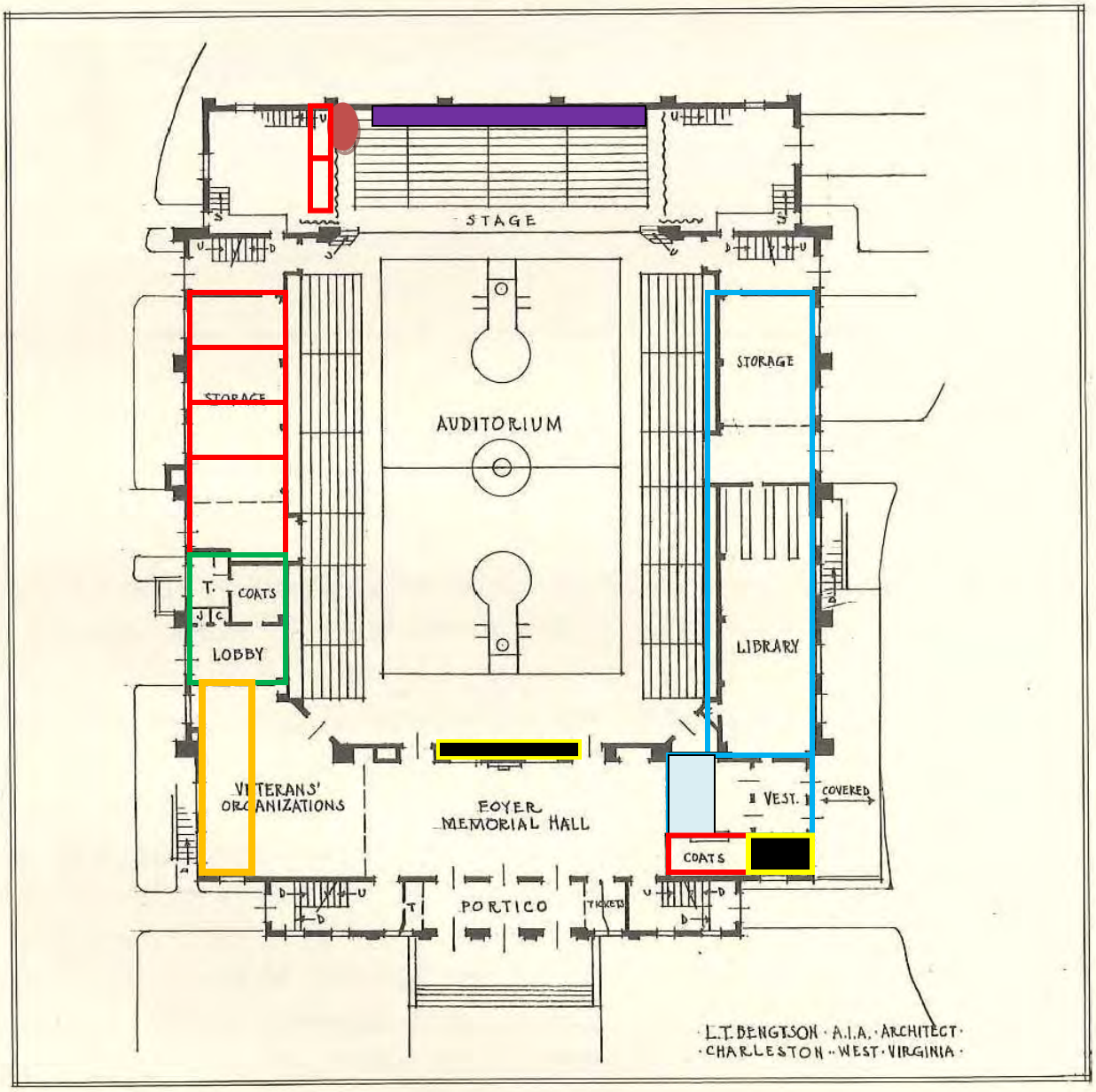
Restrooms/Locker rooms

Spiral Staircase

Additional Bleachers behind curtains

WV Room/ Historic Archives

Storage

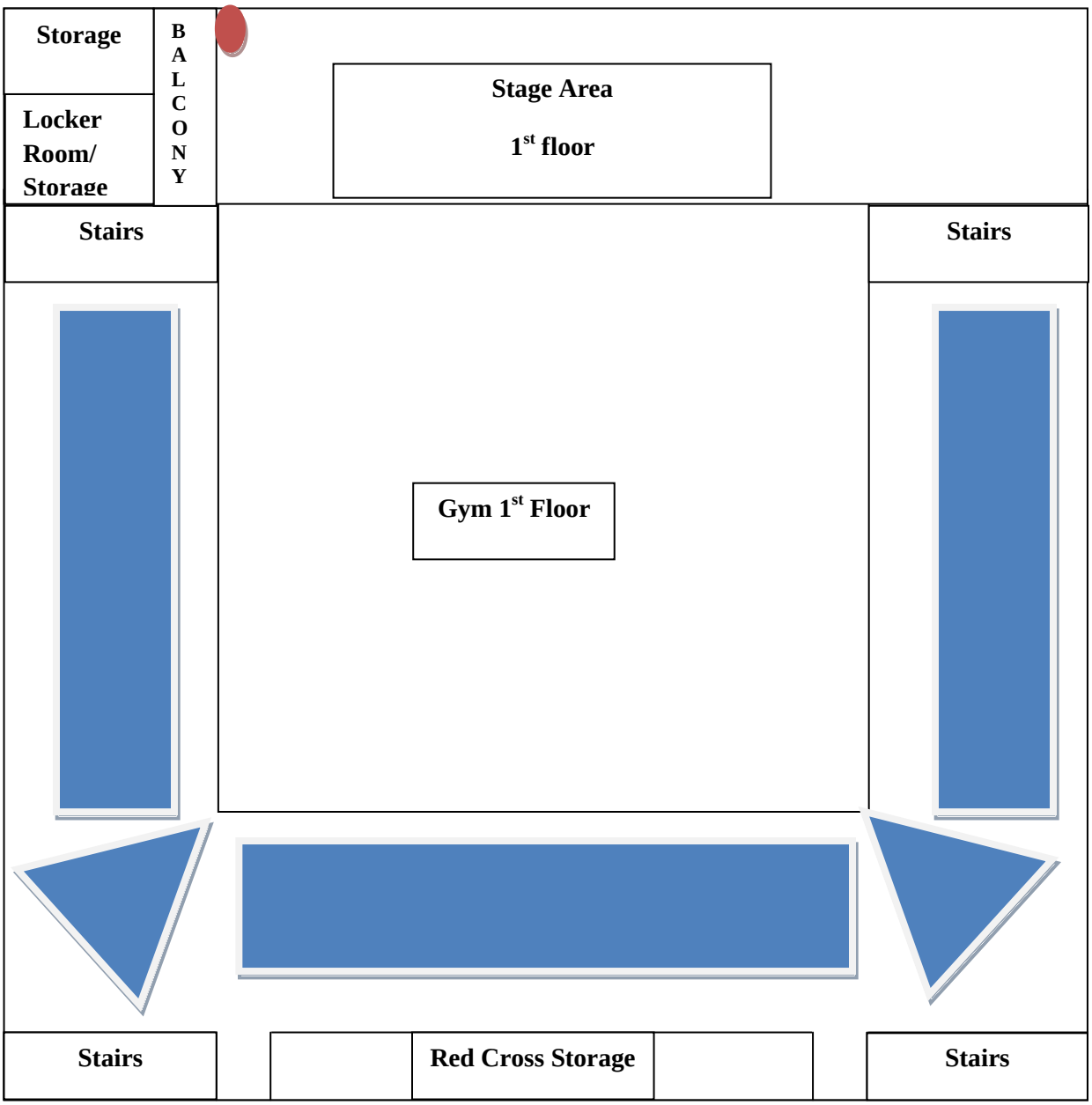


Main Floor Plan

Mezzanine

The blue areas are seating. 4 sections of 7 rows each in each section. Triangle sections are individual sections of 7 rows each. See photo attached to email.

= Metal Spiral Staircase

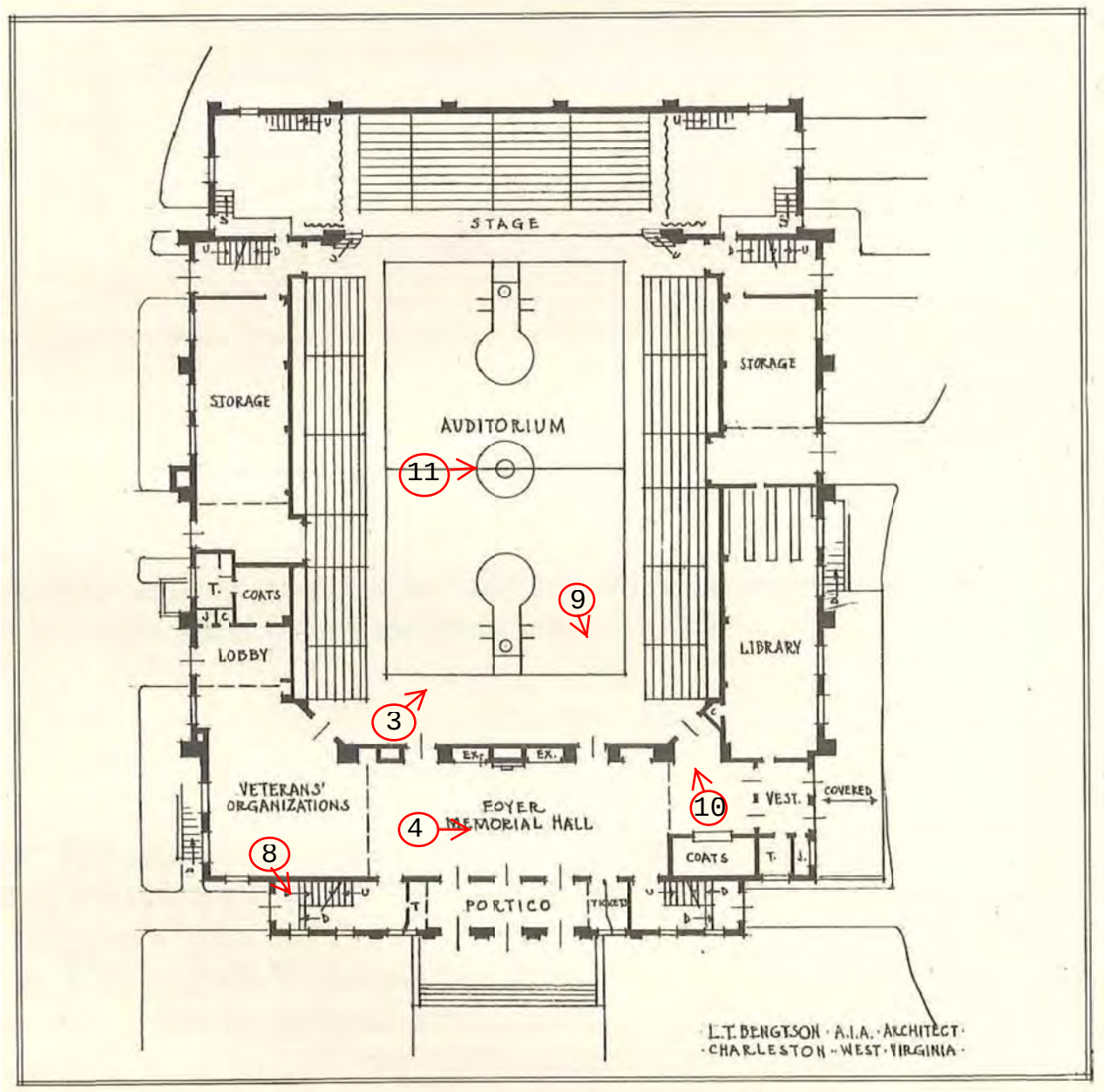


Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building
Fayette County, West Virginia
Photo Site Plan
not to scale

National Register Boundary

(1) Photograph Vantage Points

Interior Photo Map
Fayetteville Memorial Building
Fayette County, WV



Main Floor Plan

LAFAYETTE COUNTY
SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MEMORIAL

THIS TORCH HAS BEEN ERECTED
BY
AMERICAN LEGION POST 149
FAYETTEVILLE, WEST VIRGINIA
AS A TRIBUTE TO
THE VETERANS OF ALL WARS WHO
BY THEIR PATRIOTISM AND LOYALTY
SERVED GOD AND COUNTRY

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY-TO THE LAST FULL MEASURE OF THEIR DEVOTION

FAYETTE COUNTY
WALL OF HONOR

FAYETTEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

OF THE ARMY
AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
MCMXLVII

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY · TO THE LAST FULL MEASURE OF THEIR DEVOTION

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
1775
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
SEMPER PARATUS
1790
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
MCMXLVII
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
UNITED STATES
MARINE COPRS