

**Q. Won't asbestos abatement cost a fortune if we remodel the building?**

A. Asbestos abatement would have to occur whether the building were torn down or remodeled. There would be no cost difference.

**Q. Aren't old buildings always more expensive to remodel than building something new?**

A. Absolutely not. When remodeling rather than building new, you already have the fundamental structure of the building intact, and don't need to purchase and construct those elements.

**Q. Isn't it likely that once a remodel begins, we would run into unexpected issues and costs?**

A. Not necessarily. The architect hired to provide designs and the State Department of Public Works employees have gone through this building in great detail. They are experienced professionals and the estimates they have provided in all likelihood are fairly accurate. In addition, the original plans for the building have been located and provide detailed information about the structure and will help avoid any surprises. And finally, the cost estimates the State is currently working with includes "contingency" amounts to cover unexpected costs that might arise during construction. (Contingency costs are always included in any large construction project, whether a remodel or new construction.)

**Q. Is the Ada County Courthouse historic.**

A. Yes. The building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Capital Area Historic District over 25 years ago, and was one of the first buildings so recognized in Idaho.

**Q. But since it was listed in a district, doesn't that mean that it wasn't important or significant enough to be listed on its own?**

A. No. The National Register does not differentiate between those property listed individually and those in a district. The building would certainly be eligible to be listed on its own. Besides, by that logic, the Statehouse, which was also listed as part of the same district, would be somehow less significant as well.

**Q. Isn't the building awfully dark and unattractive inside?**

A. Yes, right now, most people would probably say so. The building has been abandoned for 3 years. But once remodeled, it would be as clean, bright, and modern as any new construction.

**Q. Isn't it hard to retrofit historic buildings fro modern needs?**

A. Sometimes. But often it is easier to retrofit an old building than a newer one because old buildings have higher ceilings, wider walls, and more area to work within.

**Q. How can you fit hearing rooms in that old building?**

A. The plan does not call for hearing rooms in the historic Ada County Courthouse building. The plan calls for 4 to 8 new hearing rooms to be constructed as part of the *new addition* portion of the project. The historic building would be easily remodeled into very functional, modern office space.

**Q. If this building is so important, why didn't anyone raise any concerns when the State purchased it from the County?**

A. At that time, there were no concerns that the State might tear the historic building down. Early indications were that the State intended to remodel the building.

**Q. Why didn't the County add covenants to the sale of the building restricting the State from tearing it down?**

A. Preservationists encouraged the County to do just that; but the County was unwilling to do so, fearing it might jeopardize the sale of the building.