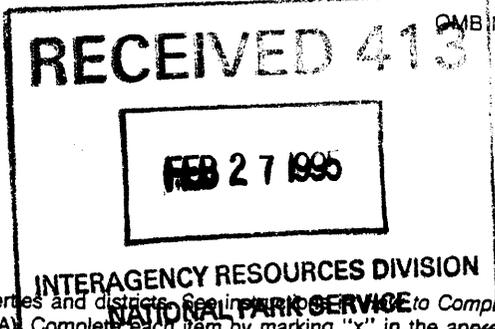


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions to complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name OBION COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
other names/site number N/A

#### 2. Location

street & number Intersection of Third and Washington Streets N/A not for publication  
city or town Union City N/A vicinity  
state Tennessee code TN county Obion code 131 zip code 38261

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
Herbert L. Hayer 2/18/95  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
  - determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
  - determined not eligible for the National Register.
  - removed from the National Register.
  - other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

for  
Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall Entered in the National Register Date of Action 3/30/95

Obion County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Obion Co., TN  
County and State

**5. Classification**

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

- private
- 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	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
	2	objects
1	2	Total

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

Historic County Courthouses of TN

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT; courthouse

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT; courthouse

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: PWA Modern

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls CONCRETE; METAL

roof ASPHALT

other METAL, GLASS

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheets.

Obion County Courthouse

Name of Property

Obion Co., TN

County and State

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.)

- 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:

N/A

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/ POLITICS

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1939-45

Significant Dates

1939

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Marr, Thomas and Holman, Joseph, arch.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 #

Primary location of additional data: N/A

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Obion County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Obion Co., Tn  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property approximately one acre

Union City 427 NE

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	315390	4032660
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Holly Rine  
organization MTSU Center for Historic Preservation date August 30, 1994  
street & number PO Box 80, MTSU telephone 615-898-2947  
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Norris L. Cranford, county executive  
street & number Obion County Courthouse, Box 236 telephone 901-885-9611  
city or town Union City state TN zip code 38261

**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. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Obion County Courthouse, Union City, Obion Co., TN

### VII. DESCRIPTION

The Obion County Courthouse, in Union City, Tennessee (pop. 10,513), is an example of the architectural style commonly known as PWA or Classical Modern. It is a three story, rectangular plan building which measures 75 by 100 feet on the outside. Designed to be fireproof, it is constructed mainly from reinforced steel and concrete. The exterior of the building has a limestone veneer over concrete and brick walls to give it a smooth stone face appearance. It was designed in 1938 by the Nashville based architectural firm of Marr and Holman. It is one of five Marr and Holman PWA courthouses in Tennessee.

The building is placed upon a built terrace which is about five feet above street level. There is a watertable between the basement and first level which is present on all elevations. There are two sets of concrete stairs leading up to the main (east) entrance of the courthouse. The first set goes to the top of the terrace, and the next set leads to the front doors and is flanked by low concrete walls. On top of the walls are two exterior decorative lamps which are original to the building. The Art Deco styled lamps are octagonal and about four feet high; they are decorated with a cast iron "X" pattern with a four pointed star at the intersection of each "X". There are three repeats of this pattern on each vertical panel.

The front (east) facade has eleven bays including a projecting central section which contains three bays. The middle bay in this section is the entrance. The entrance consists of replacement, fully glazed double doors with a glass transom. The entrance is surrounded by a portico with fluted piers topped with a square pediment, crowned with a series of connected semi-circles in relief three deep. Above the pediment are the second and third story windows which are separated by thin iron spandrels with a fret pattern. The second story window is a vertical double casement window with a single horizontal pane below. The third story window is composed of operable awning windows. This central bay band of windows is flanked by sidelights

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Obion County Courthouse, Union City, Obion Co., TN

over which are "X" patterns similar to those found on the lights previously mentioned. Separating the middle bay from the other two bays in the projecting central section are two fluted pilasters which run from the second floor to the entablature. The first floor windows are vertical double casement windows with horizontal panes above and below, some of which are filled with air conditioners. The first and second floor windows are separated by spandrels with a fret design which run along the outer edge of the square. The second and third floor windows are the same as in the middle bay without the sidelights and cast iron "X" pattern. The spandrels separating the second and third floors are identical to those described in the central bay. From the outside bays to the edge of the central section is smooth stone veneer. The central section recedes two "steps" to the surface of the two other sections.

Each of these two outside sections consists of four vertical bays with three fluted pilasters, which run the height of all three stories, separating the vertical bands of windows. Each bay, or band of windows and spandrels, is identical to those described above for the outside bays of the central section. The wall surface is smooth from the edge of the outer sections to the stepped, central section. It is also smooth at both front corners of the courthouse.

The east facade is topped by an entablature that consists of an architrave running the length of the building decorated with a single line of the fret pattern described above. Above that is an unadorned frieze, except over the central section. Here is inscribed the words "COURT HOUSE / OBION COUNTY." These words surround a fasces, which is a symbol of Roman authority. The cornice of the two outer sections is a type of crenelated molding. The cornice of the first step of the center section consists of five horizontal lines. The cornice over the center section is a zigzag pattern molding with a smaller row placed in front of a larger row.

The rear (west) elevation of the Obion County Courthouse is a symmetrical, thirteen bay facade. This side is on street

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Obion County Courthouse, Union City, Obion Co., TN

level and has stairs leading to a basement level. There is no entrance to the first floor on this side of the building. Each bay consists of a vertical band of three windows separated by spandrels identical to those described above. Each set of windows is separated from the adjacent one by a fluted pilaster like those on the front facade. The pilaster between the fifth and sixth bays and the eighth and ninth bays are slightly wider than the rest of the pilasters. The corners of this elevation are smooth stone. The architrave consists of the fret pattern which is present on the front of the building. On the frieze above the fifth through ninth bays is inscribed the words "OBION COUNTY COURT HOUSE." That is the only decoration on the frieze on this elevation. The cornice is the same crenelated type pattern which is present on the front of the building. This cornice runs the length of the building.

Both the north and south elevations of the Obion County Courthouse are comprised of seven bays with a stepped, projecting center section of one bay. Both elevations have one set of concrete and tile stairs which lead to the first floor entrance.

On the south elevation is located a wheelchair ramp, added in about 1985, which runs up the middle of the stair case. The central bay on this elevation consists of double replacement doors with sidelights and glass transom. Above is a stone pediment crowned with an pattern of alternating semi-circles and small triangles in relief. Above the pediment are the windows for the second and third floors which are separated by an iron spandrel with the fret pattern described above. The second floor window is in four vertical sections with small horizontal panes below the two outer sections and one longer horizontal pane below the middle two sections. The third floor window is in three sections. The middle section is one square pane. The two outer sections are three rectangular panes laid horizontally and stacked vertically. The surface of this center section of the elevation is smooth stone. On either side of the windows on the smooth stone are small exterior lamps similar to the large ones in front of the building. These lamps are

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Obion County Courthouse, Union City, Obion Co., TN

hexagonal without any decorative grill work over the panes. The six bays in the two outer sections are identical to bays described in the outer sections of the front facade and the entire rear elevation. They are a vertical band of three windows, each floor being separated by spandrels with fret patterns. Each set of three bays is separated by two fluted pilasters. The corners are smooth stone, as are the sections which are adjacent to the central section. The architrave is decorated with the fret pattern seen throughout the courthouse. The frieze of the central section contains the words "COURT HOUSE." The rest of the frieze is unadorned. The cornice has the crenelated type pattern on all sections of this elevation.

The north elevation is identical except in the fenestration of the central projecting section. Here are replacement double doors with sidelights that are panelled at the bottom. The second floor window is in three vertical sections. The middle section is two vertical windows with a single horizontal pane above and below. The two outer sections each consist of one long vertical window with small square panes above and below. The third floor window is also separated in three sections. The middle section is a single square pane. The two side sections are three small rectangular panes laid horizontally and stacked vertically.

The interior of the Obion County Courthouse is a "T" plan. Entrances are at the north, south and east elevations, with the east facade serving as the main entrance. The walls of the interior corridors consist of original marble wainscoting. Above the wainscoting the walls are plaster to the ceiling. The top of the walls and ceiling are framed by cove molding, which is in two layers, the lower of which is at a forty-five degree angle to the wall. The layer at the ceiling is level with the ceiling and at a ninety degree angle with the wall. The ceiling is covered with acoustic tiles, which are original to the building. The floor consists of two colors of terrazzo. The lighter brown is in the center and is framed by a darker brown border of terrazzo. The archway leading to the central foyer from the east hall is squared and made of marble. The inside of the

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Obion County Courthouse, Union City, Obion Co., TN

supports are fluted. The floor under the arch has a square of light brown terrazzo framed by the dark brown terrazzo. All of the materials described above are original to the building. Located in the east hall is the bronze PWA and Obion County Building Committee plaques.

The foyer is octagonal and maintains its historic integrity. The walls are faced completely in marble. There is a doorway to the trustee's office on the west side of the foyer. The interior of the office retains its original ceiling; however, the floor has been carpeted, the wainscoting paneled, and a new service counter added. The original entrance door to the office has a single pane of glass over wooden panelling. Flanking the door are two sidelights with wood panelling on the lower half. There is also a glass transom over the door. There is a decorative band a foot below the ceiling which imitate the appearance of the fluted supports under the archways. This band runs all the way around the foyer. At the top of the walls and the edge of the ceilings is cove molding described above. The molding also runs completely around the ceiling of the foyer. In the center of this molding are original acoustic tiles.

On the west walls, which are at forty-five degree angles with the hallways, are brass grates that serve as heating vents and have a pattern of a cross and an "X". This pattern repeats three times. These grates are at the bottom and the middle of the walls. The floor in the foyer consists of the light brown terrazzo squares surrounded by a border of the dark brown terrazzo. In the middle of the floor of the foyer is a terrazzo and brass engraved map of Obion County. The map is multi-colored and depicts the different districts and communities of the county along with important rivers and roads. All of these elements are original to the courthouse.

On the north and south side of the foyer are the openings for the hallways which run the length of the building. These openings are similar to that described above. The inside of the supports are fluted marble. The walls in both

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Obion County Courthouse, Union City, Obion Co., TN

halls are similar to those in the east hall. They are made of a marble wainscoting with plaster making up the rest of the wall. The ceilings and floors are identical to those described in the east hallway with the acoustic tiles, cove molding and two-toned terrazzo.

The north hall contains part of the trustee's office, the registrar's office, a meeting room, the assessor of property's office, and the stairwell. The door to the registrar's office is a wooden paneled door with a single glass pane on the upper half. Above the door is a glass transom. The interior of the office contains a drop ceiling, paneling, and carpet. The meeting room has retained much of its original materials except for a dropped ceiling. The assessor's office has the same changes made to it as the registrar's. Near the end of the hall are two more brass heat grates.

The stairway is located at the end of the north hallway with light brown terrazzo flooring. The walls of the stairwell have marble wainscoting with plaster which leads to the ceiling of the second floor. The handrails are brass and have the "X" and star pattern described on the outdoor lamps. The newel posts are fluted with cut away corners and topped with a brass sphere. The rail at the landing has a single "X" and star with three vertical brass bars on either side. The first landing floor is made of light brown terrazzo like the stairs. The stairs then turn 180 degrees and lead to the second floor where the courtrooms are. The railing extends to the west wall and continues the "X" and star pattern. All of the above elements are original.

The south hallway contains the juvenile court office, county clerk's office, county executive's office, and part of the trustee's office. The juvenile, county clerk, and county executive's offices have had drop ceilings installed and some paneling, while the county clerk's office have added a new service counter. The trustee's office has added a new service counter and carpeting.

The second floor has one large hallway off of which are the

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Obion County Courthouse, Union City, Obion Co., Tn

court rooms and court offices. The walls consist of the marble and plaster combination described throughout. The ceiling has been dropped and florescent lights installed. Directly at the top of the stairs on the west side is the office for the Circuit Court Clerk. The original door is wood with a single glass pane and a single panel and a glass transom. The other door on this side is the same and leads down a corridor to the General Sessions Office. On the east side of the hall is the clerk master's office and the chancery courtroom. Both rooms have drop ceilings, with the clerk's office having carpeting and a new service counter as well. On the south end of hall are double doors which lead to the circuit court room. The doors are original full wooden panelled doors.

The circuit courtroom runs along the south end of the building. The floor consists of light brown terrazzo with a brick-colored terrazzo border running the circumference of the room. The ceiling is dropped with acoustical tiles with florescent lighting; these alterations took place in about 1980. The walls in the courtroom are the original: wood panel wainscoting in the juror areas, brick-colored ceramic tile wainscoting in the spectator area, and plaster above. The witness stand and jurors area retain their original appearance. There are also added heat and air conditioning grates along the north wall. Behind the judges bench there is imitation wood panelling below the chairrail. The judges bench is in an alcove the corners of which are fluted. A door on either side of the judges bench leads to court offices. Above the door on the north side of the judges bench is a cold air return grate. A set of double doors on the north side of the courtroom leads into an entry vestibule, which then leads into the courtroom. The fluting behind the judges bench is similar to Marr and Holman's design for the Franklin County Courthouse in Winchester, Tennessee.

The spectator area benches are the original benches used in the courtroom. They too take on the vertical emphasis of the building. The ends have fluting on both sides which flank a small floral design in relief. The center is raised

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Obion County Courthouse, Union City, Obion Co., TN

somewhat and there is a small band of vertical lines parallel to the floor.

The basement of the Obion County Courthouse has retained a great deal of its historic integrity. The stair rail design leading to the basement is identical to that described on the rail leading to the second floor. The floor of the basement maintains the original pattern of light brown terrazzo framed by dark brown terrazzo along the walls. The walls in the basement consist of ceramic tile on the lower half and plaster on the upper. The ceilings have a simpler style of the wood cove molding. It consists of only one piece at a forty-five degree angle to both the ceiling and the wall. Inside this molding are acoustic tiles original to the building. Florescent lights have been added, however, probably in the 1970s. There are exits at the north and south end of the basement. The double doors for these exits are original wood panel and glass doors with glass transoms. Most of the doors in the basement are the original doors. They also consist of wood panelling and a single glass pane with a glass transom. The youth service's office, sheriff's department, and various storage rooms are located in the basement. One room used for storage has a metal door for security reasons. One room is also used as an alternate general sessions court room.

Two, non-contributing monuments are on the grounds of the Obion County Courthouse, located on the east side of the building. One monument is to commemorate the life and career of Robert A. "Fats" Everett (1915-1969), a former state legislator and U.S. Congressman. This c. 1970 statue is located to the south of the main entrance and consists of a statue of Everett on a pedestal with an inscription of his accomplishments and a quote by Everett (NC, due to date). The other monument is a war memorial erected in 1971. It is stone with an inscription honoring the memories of Obion County's war veterans and has a "Flame of Freedom" burning on top (NC, due to date).

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Obion County Courthouse, Union City, Obion Co., TN

VIII. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Obion County Courthouse, located in Union City, the seat of Obion County, Tennessee, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local association with government, and its association with the federal Public Works Administration program, which was implemented during the New Deal reform period of the 1930s and 1940s. It is also eligible under Criterion C as a significant example of PWA or Classical Modern architecture popular during the New Deal era. It is nominated under the registration requirements for County Courthouses set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation form for Historic County Courthouses in Tennessee, 1865-1945.

Obion County was established on October 24, 1823. Its boundaries at that time included present day Lake County, which was later established in 1870 and consisted of the land west of Reelfoot Lake. The county court met at the home of Colonel William Wilson three miles south of Troy until 1825 when the first courthouse was ready for use. This courthouse was an almost square eighteen by twenty log building built by William Hutchinson. In 1831 a brick courthouse was built on the same site, which measured 50 by 50 feet and was two stories in height. However, the building suffered damage from an earthquake in 1842 and was reconstructed from the same material into a one story courthouse. In 1852, Obion County received state tax revenue from the years 1848, 1849 and 1850 to build a new two story, frame courthouse in Troy. This money was repaid in three annual installments.

In 1890, the citizens of Obion County voted to change the county seat from Troy to Union City. On August 11, 1890, Obion County Court was held for the first time at Union City. The old courthouse in Troy was moved and used as a school annex. The first courthouse built in Union City was constructed by T.L. Bransford and was paid for with funds donated by the people of Union City. This building stood until the construction of the present courthouse began in 1938.

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Obion County Courthouse, Union City, Obion Co., TN

It took over two years of effort by the Obion County Government, the Chamber of Commerce and local organization to gain Public Works Administration approval for a new courthouse in Union City. Obion County appeals to the Public Works Administration cited lack of office room and heating and plumbing facilities, to name just a few problems, in the old courthouse as reasons for a new building. Construction of the courthouse took over a year and was completed in January 1940 at the cost of just over \$200,000.

The courthouse was not the only New Deal project in the county. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) constructed a school building in 1936-37 on College Street for the sum of \$105,000. Between 1935 and 1938, the Civilian Conservation Corps ran a camp at Blue Bank Park on Reelfoot Lake. The camp employed 175 young men in the construction of docks and lodges, fencing in a game reserve, grading and landscaping. The National Youth Administration (NYA), established in 1935 to financially assist young people of school age to stay in school or receive vocational training, also set up a training center where 125 to 250 students could learn metal and wood working. The products the students made were used to furnish schools and offices. The NYA training center cost about \$25,000 in material and wages, and twenty percent of the funding was paid for by Obion County. The PWA also supplied a grant for \$4,500 in order for Obion County to build a health department. In conjunction with the health department, the WPA awarded Obion County a grant to improve its sanitation system. The Tennessee Valley Authority also had a significant impact on the county. Through the New Deal's Rural Electrification program and the establishment of the TVA, access to electricity was increased to about 900 families. Also, rates were dramatically lowered from one dollar for the first eleven kilowatt hours (KWH) per month to three cents for the first fifty KWH per month.

The new Obion County Courthouses represented a major contribution by the federal Public Works Administration to the civic life of Union City and Obion County. Its modernist blending of Art Deco and Classicism was at odds

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Obion County Courthouse, Union City, Obion Co., TN

with the more conservative public and commercial architecture of the town. For example, just east of the new courthouse was the last federal building constructed in Union City, the very proper Colonial Revival-styled U. S. Post Office (NR 5/31/84), designed by federal architect James Knox Taylor. Elite homes and churches built in Union City during the early twentieth century generally followed the domineering white columns of Classical Revival style. The disjunction represented by the new PWA courthouse, compared to this more conservative urban environment, reflected the reform impulse of the New Deal and how federal reformers hoped to lead southern communities like Union City into the modern age.

Another indication of the reform impulse represented by the new building was that it created new office spaces within the courthouses where PWA and WPA officials worked as well as providing new offices for earlier reform movements like the agricultural extension program. Thus, in the late 1930s and early early 1940s, officials working at the Obion County Courthouse participated in an important development in local government as control over public works and general welfare programs was transferred from local sources to new programs administered by state- and/or federally-funded agencies. This process of federal intervention in local government continued in World War II as the courthouse became part of such federally-administered programs as the draft (the local draft board met there) and county commissioners voted expenditures to support various war bond and scrap drives. The commissioners in 1942 also supported the creation of an Army Air Force base in Obion County which operated until the end of the war. The base was the first major federal military expenditure in Obion County since the Civil War.

The PWA or Classical Modern style of the Obion County Courthouse is similar to the seven other PWA courthouses in Tennessee. This was one of five PWA courthouses designed by the architectural firm Marr and Holman. The courthouse contains many of the architectural elements associated with the PWA Modern style. The building displays the vertical emphasis that is common to the style in the repetitive bands of windows and the fluted columns between them. The steel

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Obion County Courthouse, Union City, Obion Co., TN

framing and concrete, brick and stone walls are also common to the PWA style and are present in the Obion County Courthouse. Art Deco elements like the frets on the architrave, the crenelated cornice, and the "X" and star pattern of the outside lights are also representative of PWA Modern architecture.

The interior has retained its historic integrity and displays many commonalties with other PWA courthouses throughout the state. The county map remains in the central hall of the first floor of the building. The emphasis on vertical design is also present inside the building. There are columns with fluting on the openings of the hallways on the first floor. The county courtroom has also maintained many elements of its PWA origins. The benches are all original and display fluting on the ends flanking a small single engraved flower.

The Obion County Courthouse continues to stand as the center for governmental activity in the county. It still houses the county jail facilities as it did in 1940, and it remains a symbol of the New Deal era.

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Obion County Courthouse, Union City, Obion Co., TN

### IX. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Obion County Courthouse, Union City, Obion Co., TN

## X. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

### Verbal Boundary Description

The property is located on a square at the intersection of 3rd and Washington Streets in Union City, Tennessee. It is defined in the attached Obion County Tax Map 48-N-B, parcel 8.

### Boundary Justification

The boundaries described above are of the original location of the first courthouse built in Union City and the current Obion County Courthouse.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Obion County Courthouse, Union City, Obion Co., TN

PHOTOGRAPHS

Obion County Courthouse, Union City, TN

Photos by: Carroll Van West  
                  MTSU Center for Historic Preservation  
Date: October 1993  
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission  
                  Nashville, TN

East facade, facing west  
1 of 20

Detail, freize, east facade, facing west  
2 of 20

Exterior lamp, east facade, facing west  
3 of 20

West elevation, facing east  
4 of 20

South elevation, facing northeast  
5 of 20

South elevation, facing north  
6 of 20

North elevation, facing southeast  
7 of 20

Entrance hall into lobby, first floor, facing west  
8 of 20

Central lobby, first floor, facing northwest  
9 of 20

County map, lobby, first floor, facing west  
10 of 20

First floor hallway, facing north  
11 of 20

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet**

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Obion County Courthouse, Union City, Obion Co., TN

First floor hallway, offices, facing southeast  
12 of 20

Staircase to second floor, facing south  
13 of 20

Second floor hallway, facing south  
14 of 20

Second floor courtroom, facing south  
15 of 20

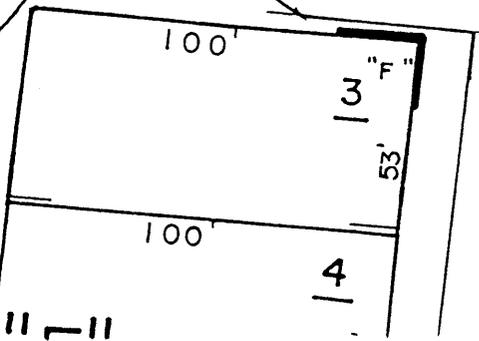
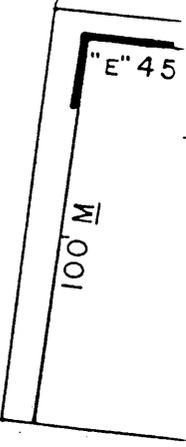
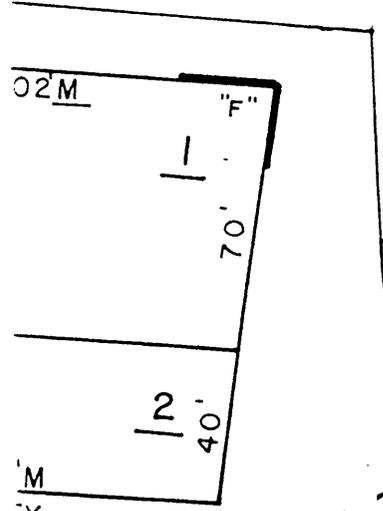
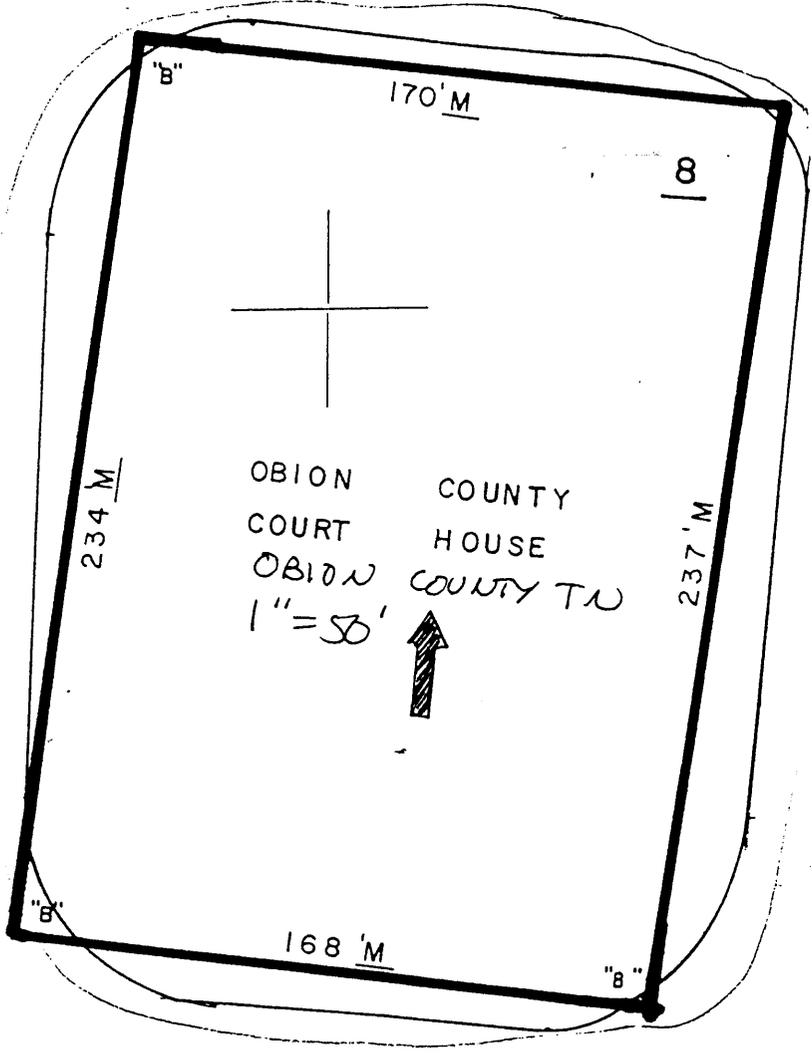
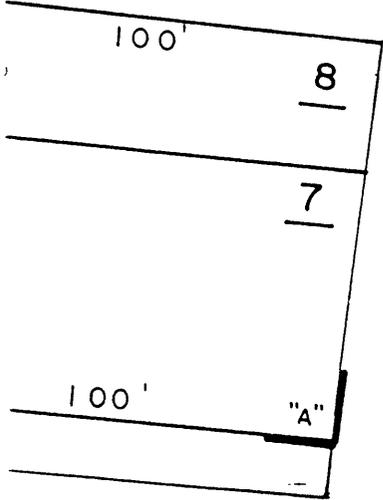
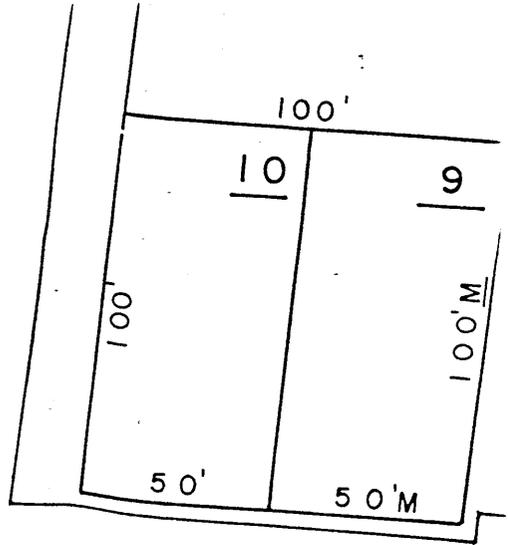
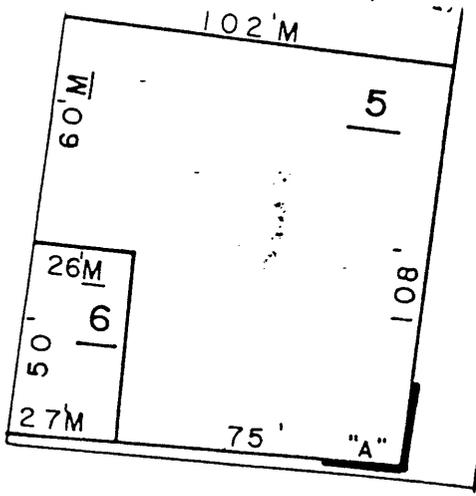
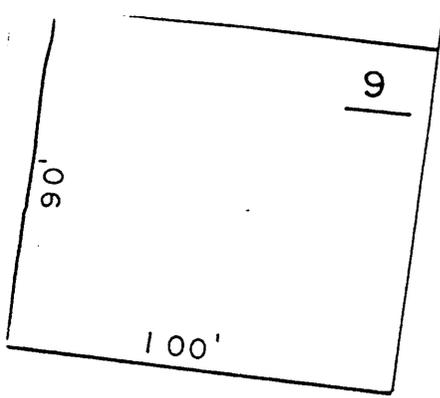
Second floor courtroom, judges bench, facing south  
16 of 20

Detail, public bench, second floor courtroom, facing east  
17 of 20

Staircase, basement hallway, facing north  
18 of 20

Waller monument, facing southeast  
19 of 20

War memorial monument, facing northeast  
20 of 20



STREET

