THEMATIC NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION - GEORGIA COURTHOUSES CC 157

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY FORM

Name of Structure: Jackson County Courthouse

Location: Jefferson, Ga. 30549

Cost: $11,122 Date of Construction: 1879 Clock Tower-added 1906 Renovations in 1978

Architect/builder: W. W. Thomas Contractor: M. B. McGinty

Subsequent architects: 1906 - Clock tower and furnace added

1978: Interior renovations

Architects: John H. Cunningham & Asso.
Contractor: Beeco Contracting Co.

TAX MAP/PARCEL NUMBERS

J-5, Par. 57

Zone 17/E262540/N3778070

UTM NO.

Acreage: less than one

Boundary: All that block on which the courthouse sits.

DESCRIPTION:

Style: Carpenter Style (Classic) with Neo-Classical clock tower

Facade Material: Brick

Condition: [ ] Excellent [X] Good [ ] Fair

Has recently been renovated.

Painted white, the two story brick structure has a balcony over the segmentally arched entry portico facing Washington Street which originally was a rear entrance. On the second story the arched windows were altered to square ones, but the round hooded arches remain as a decorative motif. The eaves are bracketed.

In the courtroom the coved pressed metal ceiling was saved. Its pattern is that of a "cathedral quilt". The egg and dart cornice is also of pressed metal. Four bladed brass ceiling fans remain suspended from the ceilings; plaster has been repaired, painted and draperies added. The old paneled judge's bench remains. The balcony has been enclosed for storage/office space. Paneling has been added in downstairs offices.

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SIGNIFICANCE:

This courthouse is one of the first built after the Civil War still in use and whose plan has not been drastically altered. It is an excellent example of an evolving structure. The original building was plain and sturdy utilizing a cross plan. As money became available, a Neo-Classical clock tower was added; later there were rear additions; one arm of the cross plan was enclosed for offices. In the recent renovations, minor changes were made, but the original character of the building is still much in evidence.

The architect, William Winstead Thomas(1848-1904) was a native of nearby Athens,Ga. He was president of the Southern Mutual Insurance Company, but also designed notable buildings in the area. The Oconee County Courthouse (now destroyed) was done by him, as well as several private homes most notably White Hall outside of Athens. This courthouse is one of the earlier examples of Thomas' versatility.

SEP 18 1980

JACKSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

MAILING ADDRESS:

Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Jackson County Courthouse
South Street
Jefferson, Georgia 30549

PRESSED METAL COURTROOM CEILING - DETAIL

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