

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY FORM

Name of Structure: Banks County Courthouse

Location: Homer, Ga. 30547

Cost: \$6,600 (Confederate money) Date of Construction: Begun in 1860 - actually finished 15 years later after the Civil War

Architect/builder: John Willis Pruitt by another builder (unknown). Later remodeling & Samuel W. Pruitt (brothers) Contractor: on interior (unsure of date).

Subsequent architects: _____

TAX MAP/PARCEL NUMBERS

Map 1 Parcel 14

DESCRIPTION:

Style: Greek Revival

Facade Material: Brick

Condition: Excellent Good Fair Poor

UTM NO. _____
 Zone 17/E270110/N3801900
 Acreage: approx. 2 acres
 Boundary:
 As marked on the accompanying sketch map ending 20 feet to north side of the courthouse.

Some of the records are housed in a "pump" house behind the main building and are deteriorating rapidly. There are many loose masonry sections, particularly over windows and doors.

This two story brick courthouse with stone foundation is reminiscent of courthouses found in Virginia, understandably so since the builders came from Pittsylvania County, Virginia. There is a hipped roof; a full width tetrastyle, prostyle portico. Tuscan columns rest on one story brick piers. The ground floor has a double door entrance with sidelights and transom flanked by a double stairway rising to the first floor double door entrance with fanlight and sidelights. Rectangular windows have radiating brick voussoirs.

On the interior, the original cross plan on the first story now has the "arms" of the cross bricked in for additional office space. On the second floor are courtroom, judges chambers, deliberation room and restrooms. Access to the second story is from the outside double staircase. The courtroom is entered from the rear and has a very spartan interior. The feeling of the room is a starkly simple one, blue enamel spittoons are in evidence, and space heaters now replace earlier fireplaces and later pot bellied stoves. Five bare light bulbs hang from the ceiling. Over the judges bench is a florescent light, an out-of-place touch in a Puritan setting. There are wide horizontal boards behind the bench. Seating is provided by straight backed chairs for witness and jury and seven rows of hard spectator benches on each side of the single aisle. Recently wedges were placed under the benches so that they now tilt back at an angle on their risers. There are 4 windows on each side of the room and one on each side of the entrance. Cracks in the walls are evidence of neglect.



SIGNIFICANCE:

This courthouse is an excellent example of the work of carpenter/builders who made the brick for construction on the banks of the Hudson River, near the site. Slave labor was used to build the structure.

The interior of the courtroom has been changed little and has kept its integrity.



BANKS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

MAILING ADDRESS:

Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Banks County Courthouse
Homer, Georgia 30547

SEP 18 1980

THEMATIC NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION - GEORGIA COURTHOUSES

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY FORM

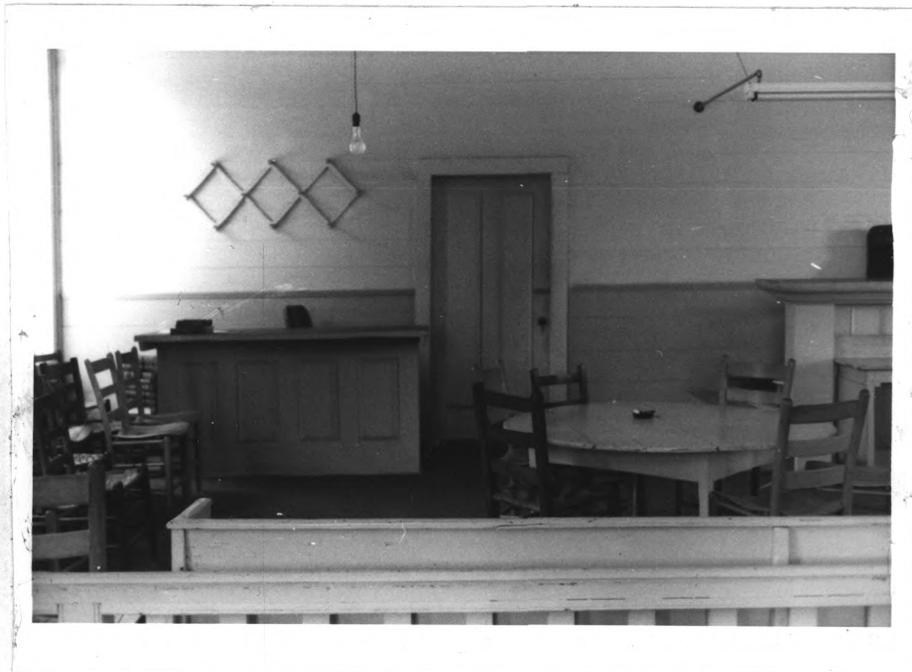
BANKS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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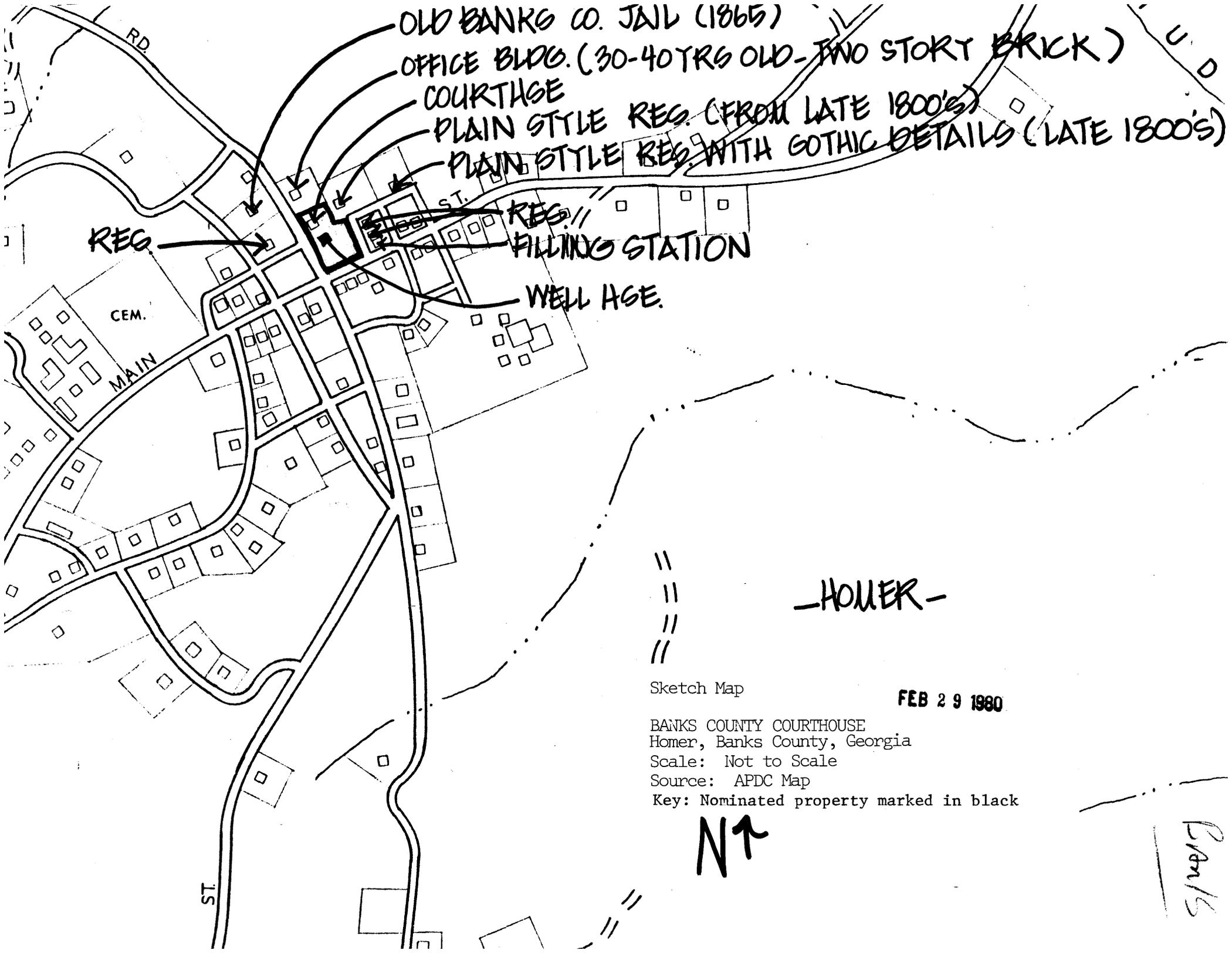


BEFORE PAINTING OF BRICK

SEP 18 1980



COURTROOM



OLD BANKS CO. JAIL (1865)

OFFICE BLDG. (30-40 YRS OLD - TWO STORY BRICK)

COURTHOUSE

PLAIN STYLE RES. (FROM LATE 1800'S)

PLAIN STYLE RES. WITH GOTHIC DETAILS (LATE 1800'S)

REG.

RES.

FILLING STATION

WELL HSE.

CEM.

MAIN

ST.

ST.

-HOMER-

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Sketch Map

FEB 29 1980

BANKS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Homer, Banks County, Georgia

Scale: Not to Scale

Source: APDC Map

Key: Nominated property marked in black

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Banks