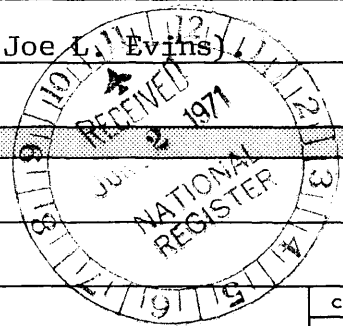


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Roane	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
11.7.47.0022	7/14/71



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Roane County Courthouse (Congressman Joe L. Evins)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Kentucky Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Kingston

STATE Tennessee	CODE 47	COUNTY: Roane	CODE 145
--------------------	------------	------------------	-------------

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Roane County

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Kentucky Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Kingston

STATE:  
Tennessee

CODE:  
47

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Roane County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Court House

CITY OR TOWN:  
Kingston

STATE:  
Tennessee

CODE:  
47

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
STATE:  
CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Roane

ENTRY NUMBER: 11.7.47.0022

DATE: 7/14/71

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

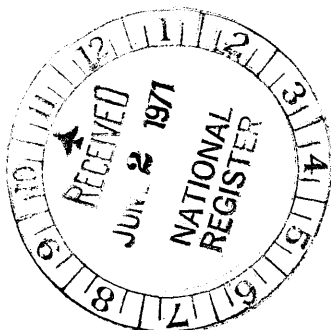
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present Roane County Courthouse resulted from a meeting of the Quarterly Court on January 3, 1853, at which the members voted to build a new courthouse and sell the old building to assist in the construction of a new one. The commissioners were authorized to contract for the building of a new courthouse on any part of the public square that seemed most advisable, and dispose of the old building which had been built in 1814, and which was requiring a great deal of repair work.

The original specifications of the present courthouse, with very detailed instructions, have been preserved. Plans were drawn by a Mr. Guenther, and a contract was awarded to John D. Lowery and Augustus O. Fisher for the sum of \$9,400, with the stipulation that the building be completed within eighteen months. However, some controversy arose between the commissioners and the contractors that necessitated an arbitration, and the building was not accepted by the county until July, 1856.

The courthouse is of Greek Revival design. The original dimensions were 56 x 70 feet, three stories high. In the front of the building is an open hall or vestibule 20 feet wide, with a wing of offices on either side and two flights of stairs leading to the upper offices and courtroom. Two wooden fluted columns extend the entire height of the vestibule. On the south side of the building is a two-story portico supported by four columns similar to those at the front. A large dome and cupola sits atop the building, and a gallows still exists in the dome. Tradition has it that one hanging took place there, but that it was not used any more because not enough people could gather around to witness the hangings.

In 1936, a three-story brick addition was added to the rear of the courthouse because of a need of additional office space. Although some minor interior changes have been made, this addition is the only significant change in the courthouse since it was constructed.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

*Courthouse  
1853  
1856  
1936  
1971*

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

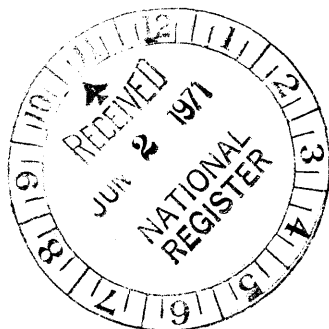
- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

From the time of the early settlement in Tennessee down to the present time, the courthouse has played a vital role in the life of the community. In addition to serving as a place to hold court and carry on the affairs of the county, it has served a multitude of other purposes. Since it was the only available place in many instances, meetings of all kinds, from political to religious, have taken place in the courthouse. The steps and yard have been favorite locations for political oratory, and have heard the chant of the auctioneer and the pleading of the itinerant preacher. Held regularly are the sessions of those who gather to engage in a few games of checkers, swap knives, whittle, or just comment on the problems facing the world.

Of all the courthouses built in Tennessee before the Civil War, only seven have survived. All of the others have given way to various forms of destruction. Many were victims of fire, pillage, and wanton destruction during the war. Others have given way to progress as obsolescence and overcrowded conditions necessitated the construction of larger quarters. The Roane County Courthouse is one of the seven survivors. Due to its style of architecture which represents the antebellum courthouses of Tennessee which are rapidly becoming extinct, it should certainly be preserved.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Goodspeed, W. A. (pub.) History of Tennessee (Nashville, 1886).  
 Harper, Herbert L., "The Antebellum Courthouses of Tennessee,"  
Tennessee Historical Quarterly, Vol. XXX (1971) No. 1, pp. 3-25.  
 Roane County Court Minutes, Book Q, p. 305.

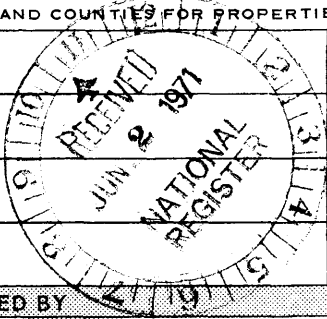
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	35	52	18
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	84	30	57
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **3**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



NO  
LHM  
CO

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Herbert L. Harper, Director of Field Services**

ORGANIZATION: **Tennessee Historical Commission** DATE: **5-25-71**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**403 7th Avenue, North**

CITY OR TOWN: **Nashville** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE:

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Stephen S. Lawrence  
 Stephen S. Lawrence

Title: Executive Director  
 Tennessee Historical Commission

Date: 5-25-71

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

**JUL 14 1971**  
 Date

ATTEST:

William Mustog  
 Keeper of The National Register

**JUL 1 1971**  
 Date