

719

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Taylor County Courthouse
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number Main Street
city, town Butler () vicinity of
county Taylor code GA 269
state Georgia code GA zip code 31006

() not for publication

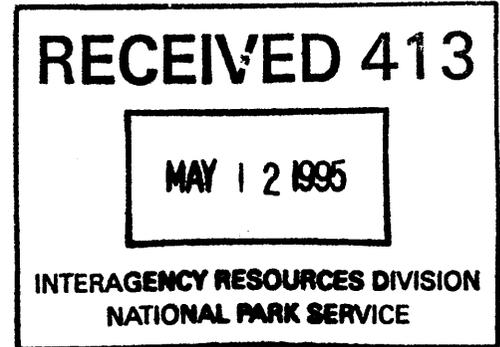
3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- () private
- (X) public-local
- () public-state
- () public-federal

Category of Property

- (X) building(s)
- () district
- () site
- () structure
- () object



Number of Resources within Property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	2	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	1	0
total	3	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: n/a

Name of related multiple property listing: County Courthouses in Georgia

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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 the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards

Signature of certifying official

5/09/95

Date

Mark R. Edwards
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Edson H. Beall

6/14/95

() determined eligible for the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

for

Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

GOVERNMENT: courthouse
GOVERNMENT: correctional facility

Current Functions:

GOVERNMENT: courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival/Colonial Revival

Materials:

foundation	concrete/brick
walls	brick
roof	asphalt
other	stone

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Taylor County Courthouse is located in the county seat of Butler in Middle Georgia, forty-five miles east of Columbus. The Taylor County Courthouse was constructed in 1935 with funds from the Civil Works Administration (CWA), which also provided the necessary funds to raze the previous courthouse. The courthouse was designed by Frederick Roy Duncan, an architect from Columbus, Georgia.

The Taylor County Courthouse is a Neoclassical Revival-style building with a Colonial Revival cupola and clock tower. The courthouse is a two-story, brick building with a cross-gable roof and concrete and brick foundation. The two main facades which face west and east have monumental, pedimented porticos with round, plain capital columns, and pilasters. These facades are identical with quoins, central second-story windows with semi-elliptical fanlights, keystones, and limestone pedimented entrances. The other two facades are more like side wings that are pedimented with paired pilasters. Besides the arched windows, all of the other windows are 6/6 double hung with lintels. There is a beltcourse underneath the first-story windows and above the second-floor windows.

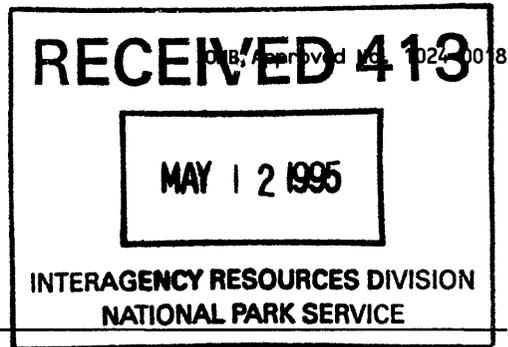
The layout of the courthouse is a cross plan with wide entrance hallways coming from each entrance so that they cross each other in the middle. There is office space in the corners and a staircase on the north and south sides of the building. The first floor houses county offices.

In the public areas there is terrazzo flooring, but in the offices there is now carpeting. Throughout the building there are plaster walls and ceilings, wooden chair rails, wooden window and door

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Section 7



surrounds, steam radiators, and some original fixtures and hardware. The stairs are painted concrete with iron posts and balustrade.

The interior also demonstrates a classical influence with engaged columns in the main hallway, the patera and fluted door surround on the first floor vault, and the detailing of the courtroom. On the second floor is more office space and the courtroom. The courtroom has the historic tile where the two sections of public seating are and carpeting around the judge's bench. The ceiling is acoustical tile with hung fluorescent lighting. The classical influence is apparent in the pilasters along the walls, the judge's bench, banister, pedimented doorway, and the arched window openings. There is a balcony level which was used during segregation.

The courthouse lawn reflects a historical landscape design incorporating a large lawn, monument and a system of sidewalks and post and chain fencing. There are oaks, magnolias, and shrubbery on the grounds. The courthouse sits in the middle of a rectangular block in the center of the downtown Butler commercial area. The granite monument memorializes Taylor County Confederate veterans and was placed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy at this location on the southwest corner of the courthouse when the old courthouse stood.

The only building on the courthouse lawn is on the northwest edge of the property. This is a small, brick, six-sided building with asphalt roof and board-and-batten interior that once housed the local police station. It is no longer in use.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ARCHITECTURE
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance:

1935-1945

Significant Dates:

1935 - Original courthouse razed
1935 - Present courthouse completed

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Frederick Roy Duncan - architect of courthouse

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Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Taylor County Courthouse is significant in architecture as a good and intact example of a Neoclassical Revival-style community landmark type of building built during the 1930s. The classical style of architecture became popular for use in public buildings after the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 which featured the "White City," which was made up of classical style buildings that housed the exhibits. The use of classical elements in public buildings continued until the mid-20th century. Although the classical elements became more understated after the 1910s, the Taylor County Courthouse differs from other courthouses built during the Depression Era in that it has prominent stylistic elements, such as its pedimented portico, Colonial Revival cupola, pedimented entrances, quoins, and keystones.

The intact architectural features on the interior, such as the doors, pilasters, fixtures, and classical detailing in the courtroom, enhance the architectural significance of the courthouse.

Like other community landmark type of buildings, the Taylor County Courthouse is freestanding and, when built, it was the most elaborate and modern in Butler and reflected the architectural trends of the period. As a centerpiece for public gatherings, the courthouse provides a sense of place and cohesiveness for the citizens and symbolizes the permanence, stability, and strength of a county.

The courthouse is also significant as a design of architect Frederick Roy Duncan (1864-1947) from Columbus, Georgia. Duncan had worked on the Panama Canal Gatun Power Plant in 1910 with the Chief Engineers Office, as well as designing schools and a bus terminal in Columbus and buildings at Fort Benning. Most of Duncan's work was in West Georgia around Columbus.

The Taylor County Courthouse is significant in terms of landscape architecture due to the courthouse grounds which feature a designed land-plan with a large lawn, shade trees, system of sidewalks, monuments, and benches. The landscape design dates to the mid 1930s when the courthouse was constructed. Funded by the Civil Works Administration, it was probably designed by a landscape architect. Traditionally the focal point for county-seat communities is the courthouse and its lawn. This area does not only provide green openspace, but it is also the setting for community events, such as parades, rallies, and festivals. This open space contrasts to the density of the surrounding commercial development and serves as a park-like setting.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

In politics and government, the courthouse is significant because it has been the center for county governmental activity since 1935 when the courthouse was built. In Georgia and throughout the South, county government has traditionally been the strongest form of local government. The present courthouse is the second courthouse in Taylor County. The first courthouse was built in 1853 and razed in 1935 in order to build the present building.

The courthouse is also significant in government because it was built with Federal monies from the Civil Works Administration (CWA) program during the New Deal era. The courthouse represents the federal government's efforts to provide employment and assist communities during the Depression as a part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's economic stimulus programs and a major Depression-era public works project for Taylor County.

The Taylor County Courthouse is one of 19 Georgia courthouses built from 1930 to 1945. It is one of 12 documented courthouses that was funded by the federal government through one of its Depression Era relief programs.

National Register Criteria

The Taylor County Courthouse is eligible under Criterion A for its significance in the political and governmental history of Taylor County. It is also eligible under Criterion C as a good, intact example of a Neoclassical Revival-style community landmark building.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification)

The courthouse was constructed in 1935 and the fifty-year cut-off of historical significance is 1945.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The contributing resources, the courthouse, Confederate monument, and police station, were built within or before the period of significance and retain their integrity. There are no noncontributing resources.

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Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

Taylor County was created by on January 15, 1852 from parts of Macon, Marion, and Talbot Counties. It was named for Zachary Taylor (1784-1850), who was the twelfth President of the United States. The county seat of Taylor County is Butler, which was incorporated in 1854 and chosen for its geographical location in the center of the county.

The first Taylor County Courthouse was constructed in 1852 on the same location in the center of town as the present courthouse. It was a two-story, brick, Georgian-style building that cost \$5,400 to build. The old courthouse stood until 1934 when the Taylor County Commission applied for federal funds to raze their eighty year old building and build a new modern one. The Civil Works Administration (CWA) provided the funds for tearing down the old building, preparing the grounds, and the erection of a new building through three separate contracts totaling \$60,000. Twenty-thousand dollars was provided by Taylor County through the sale of bonds which was approved by a special election on Saturday, February 17, 1934. The old courthouse was evacuated on September 17, 1934 and convict labor began the process of tearing the building down.

The new building was designed by Frederick Roy Duncan (1864-1947) of Columbus. M. Entrekin of Columbus served as contractor with the assistance of Warden J. F. Helms. The courthouse cost \$29,251.31 to build and \$7,100.69 to furnish for a total of \$36,352.00. The dedication ceremonies were held October 7, 1935. During the time of construction, the local Masonic Lodge was used as the courthouse.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Griggs, Verna, compiler. "Taylor County Turns Back the Clock," A compilation of Taylor County News articles. Butler, GA, 1976.

Renfroe, Diane, Taylor County Employee. Taylor County Courthouse, Butler, Georgia. Informal interview by Leslie N. Sharp, August 31, 1994.

Sharp, Leslie N. "County Courthouses in Georgia," Multiple Property Documentation Form, amended submission, 1994. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

The Butler Herald, 1934-1935. Various issues.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) 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:

- (X) State Historic Preservation Office
- () Other State Agency
- () Federal agency
- () Local government
- () University
- () Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

n/a

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 759390 Northing 3605360

Verbal Boundary Description

This nomination encompasses the property which includes the Taylor County Courthouse and grounds, as indicated by the heavy black line on the attached tax map, drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the all of the property owned by Taylor County at this location which includes the Taylor County Courthouse, Confederate monument, and old police station.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leslie N. Sharp, National Register Consultant
organization Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG)
street & number 50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 1000
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 522-5022 **date** April 13, 1995

(OHP form version 12-08-93)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property: Taylor County Courthouse
City or Vicinity: Butler
County: Taylor
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: March 1995

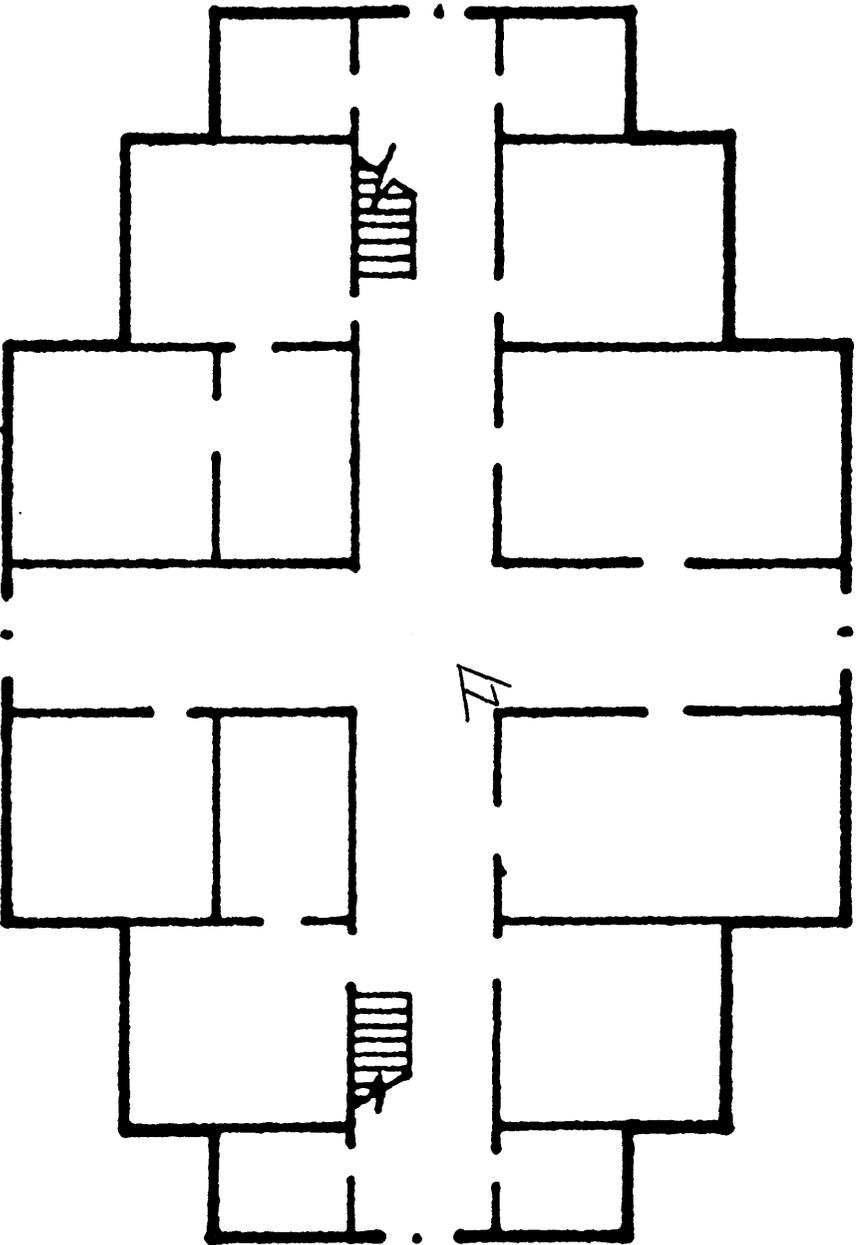
Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 10: Taylor County Courthouse, front facade; photographer facing northeast.
- 2 of 10: Front facade; photographer facing east-northeast.
- 3 of 10: Front facade; photographer facing east.
- 4 of 10: Front and north facades; photographer facing southeast.
- 5 of 10: East facade; photographer facing west.
- 6 of 10: East and south facades; photographer facing northwest.
- 7 of 10: Hallway; photographer facing northwest.
- 8 of 10: Second floor landing; photographer facing south.
- 9 of 10: Courtroom; photographer facing southwest.
- 10 of 10: Courtroom and balcony; photographer facing southeast.

5

Taylor County Courthouse
Taylor County, Georgia
First Floor Plan
Not to Scale
Photographs: 
North: 

10



FIRST FLOOR

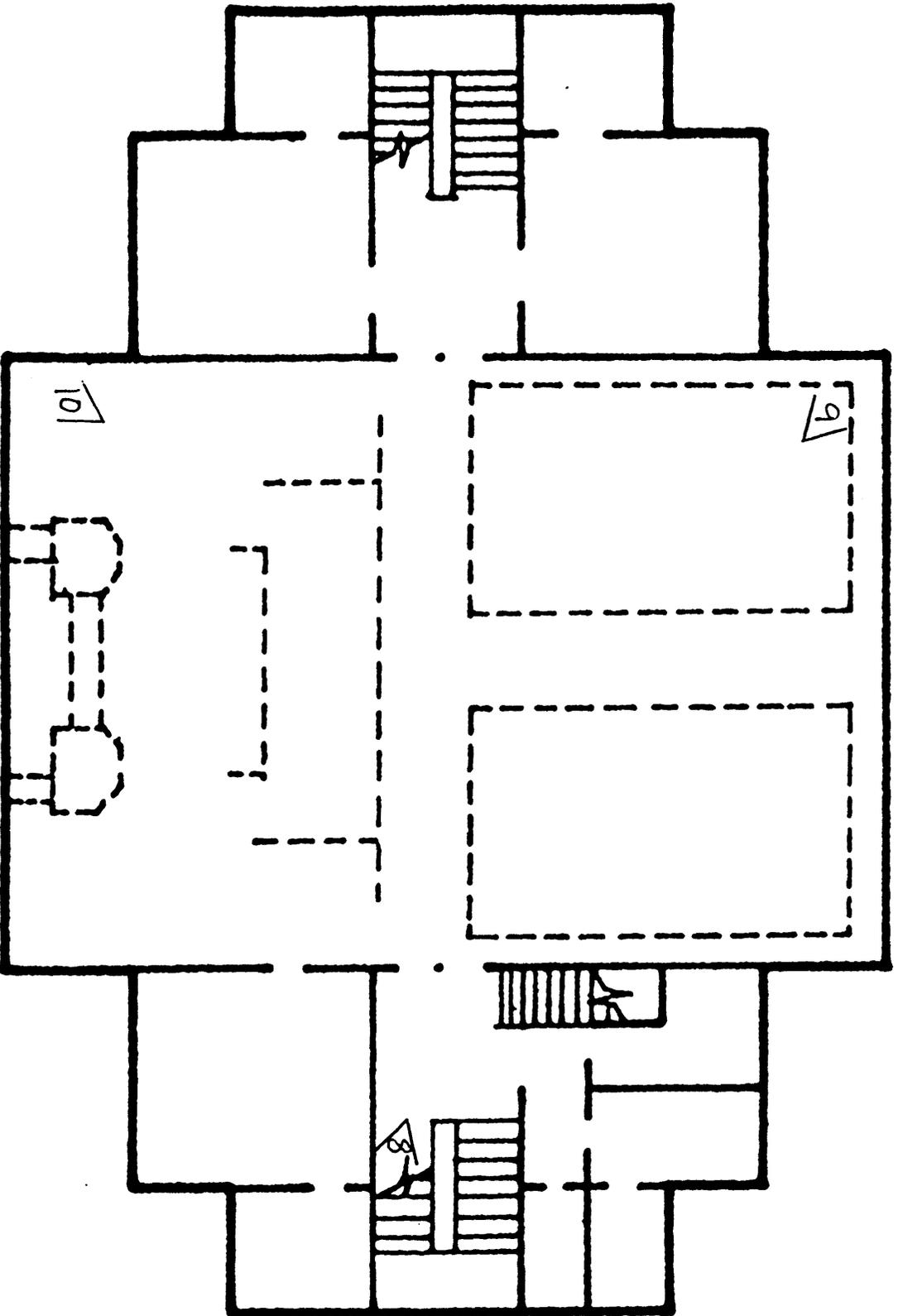
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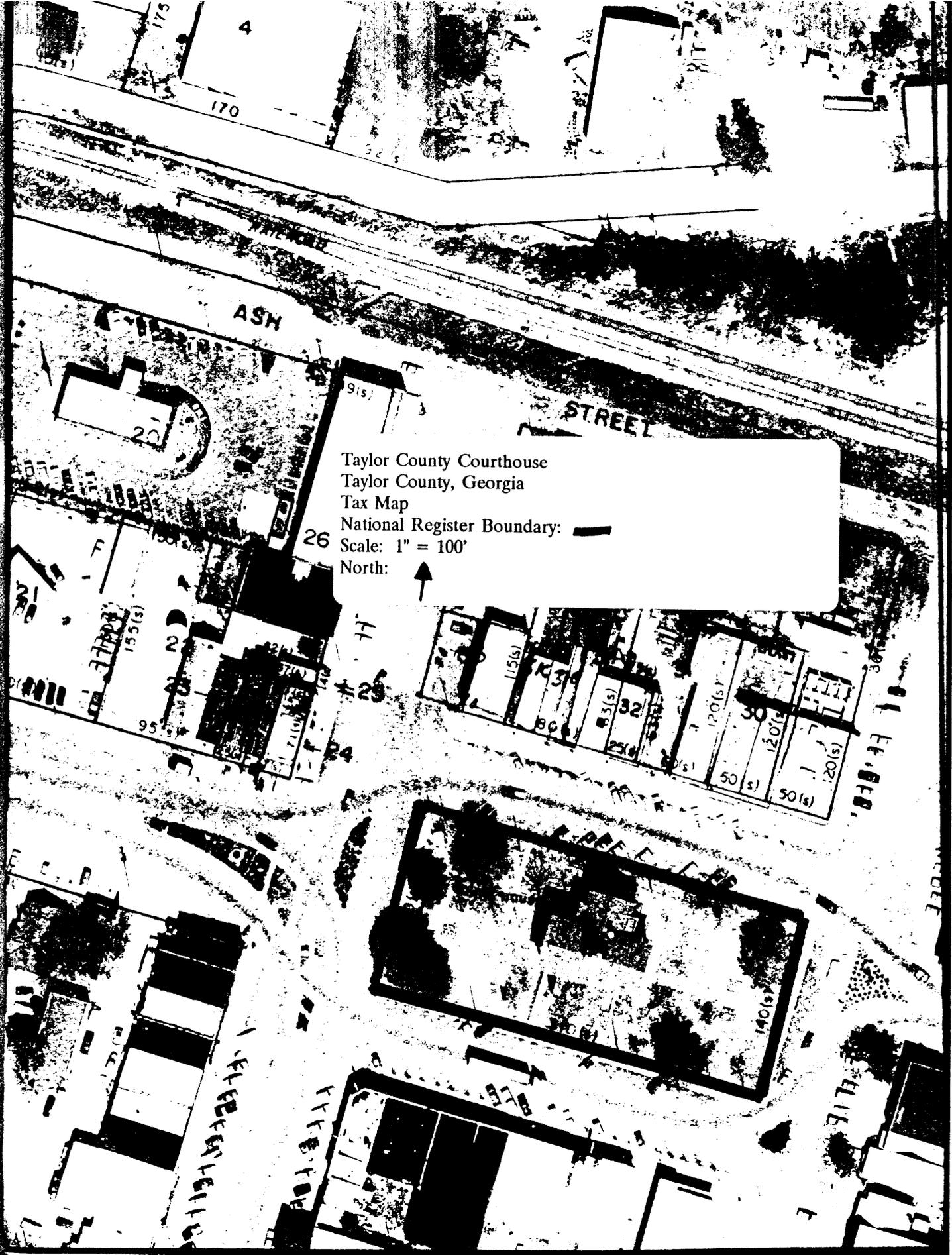
3

2

Taylor County Courthouse
Taylor County, Georgia
Second Floor Plan
Not to Scale
Photographs: >
North: ←



SECOND FLOOR



Taylor County Courthouse
 Taylor County, Georgia
 Tax Map
 National Register Boundary: 
 Scale: 1" = 100'
 North: 

VISION	BY

TAYLOR COUNTY, GA.

CITY OF BUTLER

MAD

