

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY FORM

Name of Structure: Effingham County Courthouse *see addendum 7/21/80*

Location: Springfield, Ga. 31329 *for additional info*

Cost: Approx. \$20,000 Date of Construction: 1908

Architect/builder: H. W. Witcover Contractor: F. P. Heifner

Subsequent architects: _____

TAX MAP/PARCEL NUMBERS

Map s 101 Par. 25

Zone 17/E470100/N3582100
UTM NO. _____

DESCRIPTION:

Style: Palladian Adaptation

Boundary:
Twenty feet on all sides of
the courthouse.

Facade Material: Brick

Acreage: one acre

Condition: [] Excellent [X] Good [] Fair [X] Poor *integrity classified by SHPO*

(Is on the Judicial Council of Georgia's list of the 20 in the worst Physical condition in Georgia.)

The courthouse is a bulky two-story building crowned by a ballustrated dome that is reminiscent of Jefferson's home at Monticello. The hexastyle, prostyle pedimented portico projects from the main building. On the first story, the windows are segmentally arched with a decorative keystone. The second story has plain rectangular windows.

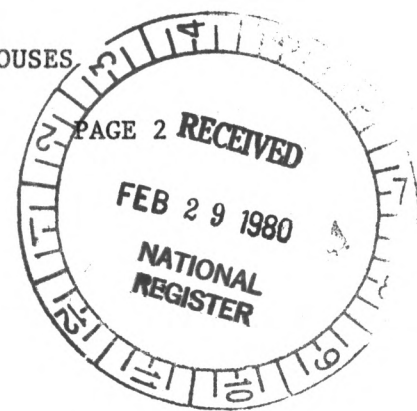
On the interior the rotunda is used for storing voting machines and a crowded hallway leading to the rear of the building has been divided to construct rest rooms.

The small courtroom upstairs shows no evidence of the dome. Its coved ceiling is divided by beams into 25 panels of varying sizes. The balcony remains open. The judges' bench is simple and is framed by coupled pilasters topped with a pediment. A paneled dado encircles the room.



ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY FORM

EFFINGHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE



SIGNIFICANCE:

The significance of this building lies in its architecture and its site. It is one of two Palladian adaptations seen in the architecture of Georgia courthouses. The other is in Murray county. The Springfield courthouse is away from the town proper; it sits isolated, facing a railroad track. In 1908, the railroad was the life line of this town, so was the ideal location for the courthouse.

The architect, Hyman W. Witcover (1871-1936) was from Savannah, Ga. although born in S.C. He began his professional career in 1906 in Savannah and was there for 25 years. He did hotels in S.C., Mississippi, and Alabama, and the City Hall, Liberty Bank Building, and Public Library in Savannah.



EFFINGHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE

MAILING ADDRESS:

Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Effingham County Courthouse
Springfield, Georgia 31329