

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0682446

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 16 1978
DATE ENTERED NOV 17 1978

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Macon County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

E. Northside + N. Main Sts.

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tuskegee

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

STATE

Alabama

CODE

01

COUNTY

Macon

CODE

087

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Citizens of Macon County

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Tuskegee

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Alabama

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Macon County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Tuskegee

STATE

Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Macon County Courthouse, a two-story brick building erected in 1905, is an unusually impressive structure for this rural county. The dominant center tower and flanking octagonal turrets of the facade, together with the twin towers of the west entrance, give the structure a strong Richardsonian quality and characterize it as one of the finest turn of the century courthouses in Alabama. Facing south, the courthouse is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of East Northside and North Main streets and overlooks the public square from the northeast.

Irregularly shaped, the structure has two stories with a six-story tower dominating the facade. Round brick arches are used on the tower at the entrance level, in the second story, and on each face of the uppermost level. Other openings in the tower consist of slender flat-headed windows of various heights. Recessed panels accent the verticality of the tower, while granite lintels and sills, together with brick string courses and a wide corbelled cornice, provide a horizontal contrast. Decorative granite gargoyles highlight the corners of the tower.

Flanking the tower are two octagonal turrets extending from a broad facade. With their irregular shape, these bays deemphasize the plane and the roofline of the basic structure. Several elements used on the tower, including the brick string courses, corbelled cornice, and granite lintels and sills, are repeated on the octagonal bays. As a whole, the elements work together to give the structure a massive Richardsonian appearance.

At the base of the tower are twin brick arches, supported by heavy granite columns with foliated capitals. The area beyond the arches and directly beneath the tower serves as an entrance foyer. It is highlighted by a pressed metal ceiling featuring a foilated and geometric pattern. From the foyer, a double-leaf doorway leads into a center hall, and two single-leaf doors provide access to the side octagonal byas.

Dominated by a three-bay, two-and-a-half story center pavilion, the west elevation further accents the Richardsonian quality of the structure. Twin towers and a center gabled dormer crown the pavilion, with granite trim, brick corbelling, and decorative gargoyles providing characteristic ornamentation. Projecting wings on either side of the pavilion further contrast the surface planes. Entrance is through a one-story flat-roofed portico which features round arches supported by brick columns and resting on a brick foundation. Like the main entrance, this area is highlighted by a foliated and geometric pressed metal ceiling.

The north elevation features a two-and-a-half story projecting center pavilion with a gable end dormer. Flanking this are two hipped-roof minor bays. A wide brick arch crowns the double-leaf door, with granite lintels and sills decorating the flat-headed windows. Beyond the doorway is a rear foyer which leads to another door and into the center hall.

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On the east, ornamentation is minimal, consisting only of the stone lintels and sills. The irregular shape of the building is apparent here, with the center rectangular core set off from the front and rear sections.

The interior of the courthouse retains very much of its original appearance. On the west, off of the center hall, is a wide heavy wooden stairway which leads to the second floor courtroom. The first floor and a portion of the second floor are used for office space. Most of the interior features are original, including the granite and wooden floors and the metal ceiling.

As a whole, the building is in good structural condition, and it bears virtually no alteration.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J. W. Golucke

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Macon County Courthouse is an unusually impressive structure for this rural county and one of the finest turn of the century courthouses in Alabama. With its central tower and flanking octagonal bays, the two-story brick structure reflects strong influence of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. It was designed in 1905, by J. W. Golucke and Company and built for a cost of \$42,000. Overlooking the town square, the courthouse is ideally located for its role as the nucleus of the county's political and social life.

Comprised of former Creek Indian lands, Macon County was created in 1832, and the town of Tuskegee was designated as the seat of government. The following year, the town was laid out and a log courthouse was built in the vicinity of the public square. In 1841, a two-story brick building was erected on the square to replace the old log structure. Then, in 1855, a Greek Revival style courthouse, designed by Montgomery architect Charles C. Ordeman, was constructed on the square for a cost of \$14,000. It was demolished after the 1905 structure was completed.

The present courthouse, the fourth in the county's history, is located across the northeast corner of the public square. The cornerstone was laid on July 25, 1905, during the annual celebration of "Old Home Week" in Tuskegee. Constructed by C. C. Totherow and Company, a Birmingham contracting firm, the building was completed by November of the following year.

Since its completion in 1906, the structure has served as the seat of county government. Its fine Richardsonian character has been retained in its original condition and virtually no alterations have been made.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alabama Historical Quarterly. vol. 18, no. 2, summer, 1956.

Segrest, Florida. Personal communication, summer, 1978.

Todd, Eddie, Jr. Personal communication, summer. 1978.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 4/5 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Tuskegee

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6	6	2	3	0	8	0	3	5	8	8	0	6	0
ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING								

B

ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING								

C

ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING								

D

ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING								

E

ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING								

F

ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING								

G

ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING								

H

ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING								

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

W. Warner Floyd, executive director and Sally Moore

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

DATE

August 4, 1978

TELEPHONE

(205) 832-6621

STATE

Alabama 36130

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Miss B. Howard Jr.

TITLE

SHPO Ala

DATE

August 10, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles Adams

DATE

11.17.78

ATTEST:

DATE

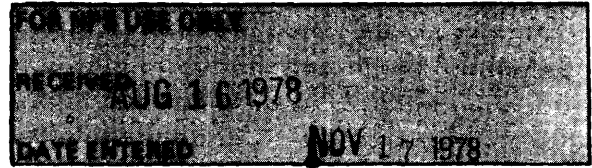
CHIEF OF REGISTRATIONS

JANN H. Gilmore

11/16/78

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Tuskegee News. Nov. 15, 1906.

_____ . Jan. 24, 1970.

_____ . May 8, 1975.

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Beginning at the point of intersection of the northwest boundary of North Main Street and the northeast boundary of East Northside Street, proceed in a northwesterly direction along the northeast boundary of North Main Street approximately 250.8 feet to a point; thence in a northeasterly direction approximately 69 feet to a point; thence in a southeasterly direction approximately 10 feet to a point; thence in a northeasterly direction approximately 80 feet to a point; thence in a southeasterly direction approximately 135.6 feet to a point; thence in a southwesterly direction approximately 32.7 feet to a point; thence in a southeasterly direction approximately 104.0 feet to a point on the northeast boundary of East Northside Street; thence in a southwesterly direction along said boundary approximately 120.2 feet to the point of beginning.