

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 95000716

Date Listed: 6/8/95


Fannin County Courthouse
Property Name

Fannin
County

GEORGIA
State

Georgia County Courthouses TR
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

6/8/95
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 8

The nomination is amended to delete 1972, the construction date for the non-contributing Sheriff Department building, as a significant date, since it falls outside the period of significance being claimed for the resource.

This change has been confirmed with the Georgia SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

776

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 Fannin County Courthouse
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number Corner of West Main Street & Summit Street
city, town Blue Ridge () vicinity of
county Fannin code GA 111
state Georgia code GA zip code 30513

() not for publication

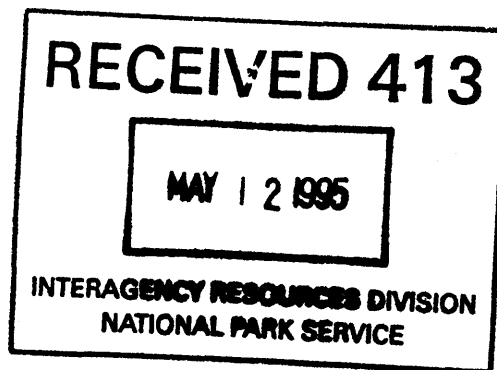
3. Classification

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	1	1
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	1

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

5/05/95
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

MAJ M... 6/18/95

() determined eligible for 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

Current Functions:

GOVERNMENT: courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

Materials:

foundation	concrete
walls	brick
roof	metal
other	wood

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Fannin County Courthouse is located in Blue Ridge, Georgia in the Northeast Georgia mountains. At the corner of West Main Street and Summit Street, the courthouse is one block south from the intersection of West Main and Depot Streets, which is the major commercial intersection in downtown Blue Ridge.

The Fannin County Courthouse was constructed in 1937 with funds from the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (commonly known as PWA), project number GA 1311-D. It was designed by the prominent Atlanta architectural firm of Edwards and Sayward with the assistance of Robert B. Logan Associates.

The courthouse is a two-story, brick, Neoclassical-Revival style building with a basement. It has a side-gabled, raised-seam metal roof with a prominent cornice and finials, and a symmetrical facade. The prominent front-gabled, pedimented portico is supported by four plain-capital, round, fluted columns, and two rectangular pilasters. The central, double-door entrance is recessed with architrave trim and transom with leaded glass. The first and second floor windows are 6/6, double hung, sash. The first floor windows having a flat-arched lintel, and decorative panels and a brick beltcourse underneath. The basement windows are 3/1 with flat-arched lintels.

The courthouse has three portions. The front or main block consists of the entrance, foyer, and offices on the first floor, more offices on the second floor, and bathrooms and janitor's supply room in the basement. This portion is a rectangular mass that measures 46.5 feet deep by 85 feet wide. The central portion contains the large courtroom that is 51 feet wide and 60 feet deep and has a 25 feet high ceiling. The rear portion consists of the judge's chambers and more

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

OMB Approved No. 1024-0018

RECEIVED 413

MAY 12 1995

**INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

office space upstairs and downstairs. This portion measures 28.5 feet deep and 59 feet wide.

The first floor has plaster walls and ceiling, terrazzo flooring, wooden chair rail, steam radiators, and original fixtures in the foyer and main hall. There are transoms above each door. The offices throughout the building have carpeting, wood paneling, and dropped acoustical tile ceilings. The staircase has several marble steps and a wrought iron balustrade. The bathrooms have the original tile floors and exposed plumbing and electrical systems.

The paired, double door entrances to the courtroom have a marble door surround and leaded glass transoms. The courtroom features classical elements such as the window and door surrounds, the pedimented judge's bench, and the detailing on the wood pews and banister. The courtroom has its original light fixtures and pews. Air-conditioning and carpeting have been added.

The only addition to the courthouse occurred after 1976 and is a 26' X 29' brick, one-story addition on the northeast side in the corner beside the central portion and behind the front portion.

The Fannin County Sheriff Department is located behind the courthouse facing Summit Street and is connected to the courthouse with a steel canopy and staircase. Designed by Bobby J. Toles in 1972, this non-historic brick, one-story building also houses the jail.

The courthouse sits on a hill overlooking Main Street and the city park with stairs going down to the sidewalk from the front entrance. Railroad tracks run parallel to Main Street through the park. There is parallel parking in front of the courthouse on both sides of West Main Street which is a two-way street.

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
Politics and Government

Period of Significance:

1937-1945

Significant Dates:

1937 - Courthouse constructed
1972 - Fannin County Sheriff Department constructed

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

1937 Courthouse - Edwards & Sayward and Robert B. Logan Associates
1937 Courthouse - Beers-Collins Construction (contractors)
1972 Sheriff Department - Bobby J. Toles Architect, Inc.
1972 Sheriff Department - Haren Construction Company (contractors)

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

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

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Fannin County Courthouse is significant in architecture as a good and intact example of a Neoclassical-style community landmark type of building built during the 1930s. The classical style of architecture became popular for use in public buildings after the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 which featured the "White City," which was made up of classical buildings that housed the exhibits. The use of classical elements in public buildings continued until the mid-20th century. As reflected in the Fannin County Courthouse, the classical elements became more understated after the 1910s, as seen in its unadorned portico and columns. This more straight forward style can in part be attributed to the higher cost of building and the lessening of available public funds during and after the Depression, as well as to the rise of modern architecture which favored function over form and a lack of stylistic elements.

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

Like other community landmark type of buildings, the Fannin County Courthouse is freestanding and, when built, it was the most elaborate and modern in Blue Ridge 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.

It is also significant in architecture as a design of the prominent Atlanta architectural firm of Edwards & Sayward with the assistance of Robert B. Logan Associates. William Augustus Edwards (1866-1939) and William James Sayward (1875-1945) were partners from 1912-1939. Well known for their designs of institutional buildings, they designed a number of courthouses, schools, and public buildings in Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina. Some of the other buildings they designed were buildings at Agnes Scott College, Florida State College for Women, and University of Florida. Also in Blue Ridge, Edwards & Sayward designed the swimming pool at the Mary P. Willingham School for Girls in 1920. Robert B. Logan was another Atlanta architect who became Sayward's partner after the death of Edwards in 1939.

In politics and government, the courthouse is significant because this area--containing the county courthouse and sheriff department--has been the center for county governmental activity since 1895 when the county seat was changed to Blue Ridge from Morganton after the

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

railroad came in 1886 which caused Blue Ridge to overtake Morganton as the commercial center of the county. In Georgia and throughout the South, county government has traditionally been the strongest form of local government. This courthouse is Fannin County's third courthouse. The first was a wood building located in the original county seat of Morganton. The second was a brick Romanesque Revival-style building that was built in 1901 and burned down on July 3, 1936.

The courthouse is also significant in government because it was built with Federal monies from the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (commonly known as PWA) 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 Fannin.

The Fannin 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 Fannin County Courthouse is eligible under Criterion A for its significance in the political and governmental history of Fannin County. It is eligible under Criterion C as a good and 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 1937 and 1945 marks the fifty-year cutoff for historical significance.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The courthouse retains its integrity and was built within the period of significance. The Sheriff Department was built after the period of significance.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

Fannin County was named after James Walker Fannin, the "Hero of Goliad" in the Texas War for Independence. It was established in 1854 from parts of Gilmer and Union Counties by an act of the Georgia Legislature. Six months after the county was formed, Morganton, formerly Tacoah, became the official county seat. In 1886 the Marietta and North Georgia Railroad came into Blue Ridge and went north to North Carolina and into Tennessee. The railroad spurred the growth of Blue Ridge which was incorporated in 1887. Soon Blue Ridge outdistanced Morganton as the commercial center of Fannin County and became a resort area which attracted tourists because of the mountains, mineral springs, and Baptist Assembly. Therefore, a referendum was held to move the county seat to Blue Ridge. In 1895 the Georgia House and Senate approved the move and Blue Ridge became the official county seat. Other towns located in Fannin County are Mineral Bluff, McCaysville, Epworth and Fry.

The original Fannin County Courthouse, located in Morganton, was completed in 1855. It was a two-story, wood building with full-length, two-tiered, front porches. After the county seat was moved to Blue Ridge, the old courthouse was used by the North Georgia Baptist College. The second courthouse, which was the first one built in Blue Ridge, was completed in 1901 for \$14,000. It was a brick Romanesque Revival courthouse and jail. Because women were not able to vote and it was believed that women had no business in the courthouse, there were only men's restrooms in the second courthouse. This was changed after the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment and when in 1928 a Grand Jury recommended that a women's restroom be built. This building served as the courthouse until it burned on July 3, 1936.

The third and present courthouse was built for approximately \$50,000. Insurance money from the fire contributed \$20,000 to the construction of the courthouse. Forty-five percent of the cost came from Federal dollars from the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (PWA). It was Project Number GA 1311-D. The courthouse was designed by the prominent Atlanta architectural firm Edwards & Sayward with the assistance of Robert B. Logan Associates. Beers-Collins Construction company built the courthouse which was finished in 1937. The only addition to the building was a small, one-story addition to the northeast facade after 1976. Originally, the present courthouse housed the sheriff department, but in 1972 the Fannin County Sheriff Department and Jail was built behind the courthouse with a steel canopy and staircase connecting the two.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Fannin County News Clippings File. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia.

Jones, Ethelene Dyer, ed. Facets of Fannin: A History of Fannin County, Georgia. Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corporation, 1984.

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

Thompson, Kathy, ed. Touching Home: A Collection of History and Folklore from the Copper Basin, Fannin County Area. Produced by the students of the West Fannin High School Photo Journalism Class. Blue Ridge, GA: Kathy Thompson, 1976.

In Touch With the Past: A Guide to Historic Places and Homes in Fannin County, Georgia and Polk County, Tennessee. Produced by the students of the West Fannin High School Journalism Class. Blue Ridge, GA: Kathy Thompson, 1982.

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

Acreege of Property Aproximately 1 acre.

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 744330 Northing 3861000

Verbal Boundary Description

This nomination encompasses the Fannin County Courthouse and the Fannin County Sheriff Department, as indicated with a heavy black line on the enclosed tax map, drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

This nomination includes the property owned by Fannin County which includes the courthouse, its lawn, and the Sheriff Department but excludes the library. The Sheriff Department was included because it is connected to the courthouse by a steel canopy and is part of the county government system.

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

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

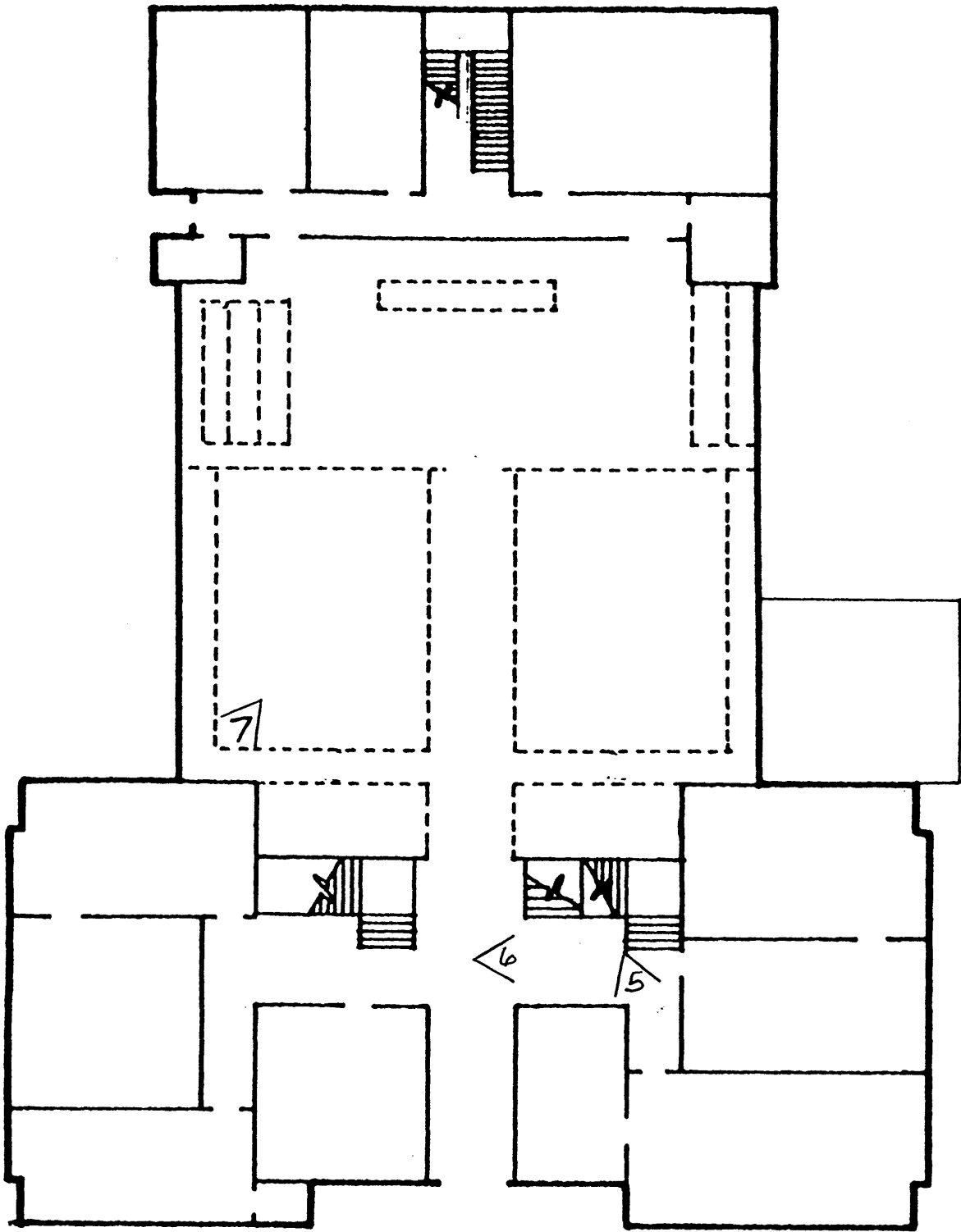
Photographs

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

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 7: Fannin County Courthouse, front facade; photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 7: Front facade; photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 7: Front facade detail; photographer facing west.
- 4 of 7: South facade; photographer facing northeast.
- 5 of 7: Hallway; photographer facing west-southwest.
- 6 of 7: Hallway; photographer facing south.
- 7 of 7: Courtroom; photographer facing northwest.

4



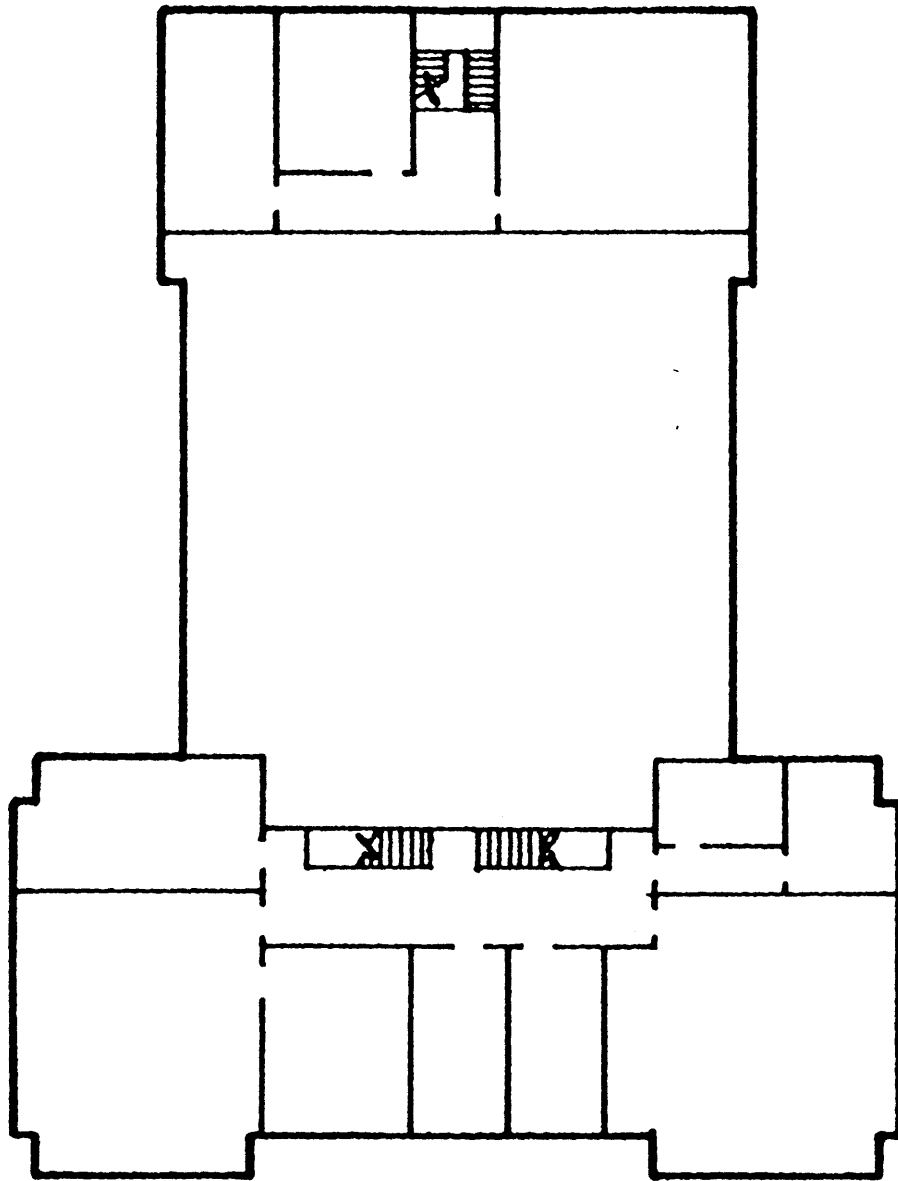
FIRST FLOOR

3

11

2

Fannin County Courthouse
 Fannin County, Georgia
 First Floor Plan
 Not to Scale
 Photographs: >
 North: →



SECOND FLOOR

Fannin County Courthouse
Fannin County, Georgia
Second Floor Plan
Not to Scale
Photographs: >
North: →

50
68

65
60'

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



SUMMIT

EAST

STREET

LIBRARY

COURTHOUSE

STREET 205

FIRST

STREET

222

224

228

152

154

100

100

470

100'

100'

100'

100'

100'

250

250

65

250

70

71

303

30

80

35

115

80

62

62

62

62

62

62

62

62

62

62

62