

PH0000990

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Alabama
COUNTY:	Monroe
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	APR 26 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Monroe County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:
same as above

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Monroeville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
1st Congressional District

STATE: Alabama CODE: 01 COUNTY: Monroe CODE: 099

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress 	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural
 Commercial
 Educational
 Entertainment
 Government
 Industrial
 Military
 Museum
 Park
 Private Residence
 Religious
 Scientific
 Transportation
 Other (Specify)
Office space

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Monroe County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Monroeville

STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
New Monroe County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Monroeville

STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

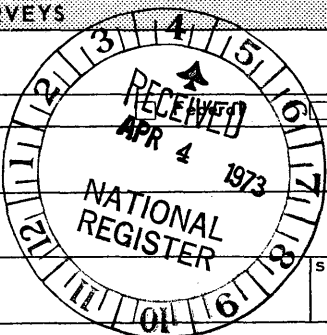
DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

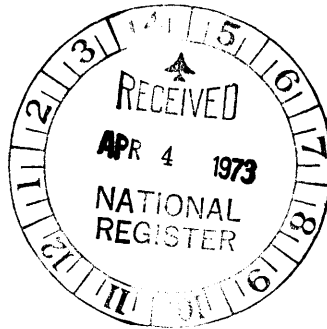
The Monroe County Courthouse is a good example of Eclecticism in its freedom of design, although, it is not as ornate as most eclectic structures. The building is basically in three sections, each of a different shape. The east portion is a two-story unit with cross halls intersecting at lobbies on both floors. This section of the building is topped by an octagonal clock tower with four clocks, one facing each direction. Each of the offices around the lobbies is triangular shaped. Each office has a coal burning fireplace.

Colonial Revival

The central section is a three-story oval shaped building. The probate office was located on the first floor flanked by curved covered walkways on the outside. Upstairs is a two-story oval courtroom.

The western unit of the courthouse is a simple three-story rectangular structure which housed additional offices, as well as witness and jury rooms for the courtroom. Each room had a coal burning grate.

The brickwork of walls and pilasters are of pinkish tan brick.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1903**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

The old Monroe County Courthouse is a prominent Alabama literary landmark because of its association with Harper Lee and Truman Capote, as well as a structure significant to Monroe County as its seat of government from 1903 to 1967.

The building was constructed in 1903. During their early years, Truman Capote and Harper Lee were next door neighbors in Monroeville. At that time, the courthouse was the scene of social occasions, as well as the center of political and legal transactions. Both Capote and Lee mention the structure in their writings. In Capote's autobiographical book, A Christmas Memory, there is a brief mention of it, however, Harper Lee in her Pulitzer Prize winning novel, To Kill a Mockingbird, made the courthouse a central setting of her book. The courthouse was used extensively in the filming of the book which starred Gregory Peck.

When a new courthouse was completed in 1967, the old courthouse was retained and now both structures occupy the courthouse square. The building is now used as the Monroe County Museum and for offices. The Monroe County Museum and Historical Society uses the courtroom for its monthly meetings.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Monroe Journal, Centennial Edition, 1866-1966, Monroeville, Ala. 1966.
 History of Monroe County, an unpublished manuscript in the Monroe Co. Museum.
 Personal interview with Gladys Barton, Mexia, Alabama, 5 February 1973.
 Personal interview with Alfred L. Nettles, Monroeville, Alabama, 8 February 1973.
 Summersell, Charles G: Alabama, Montgomery, Alabama, Viewpoint Publ. 1971.

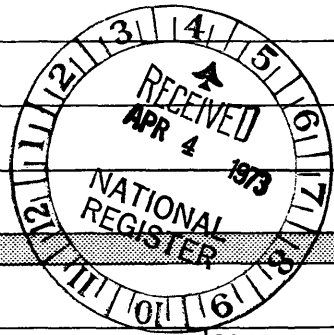
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		N31	31	40
NE	° ' "	° ' "		W87	20	00
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **about one acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mr. W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: **Alabama Historical Commission** DATE: **3-29-73**

STREET AND NUMBER:
309 South Lawrence Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Montgomery** STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01**

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 Mils B. Howard, Jr.

Title SLO for Historic Preservation

Date March 30, 1973

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

Robert W. Utley
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/26/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 4 20 73