UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

140689548 FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 7 1978

DATE ENTERED DEC 2 2 1978

SEE IN:	TYPE ALL ENTRIES C			(MS
1 NAME				
HISTORIC				
Monroe County	Courthouse			
AND/OR COMMON				
Monroe County	Courthouse			
2 LOCATION				
STREET & NUMBER	<i>,</i>			
Court House Sq	[uare>		NOT FOR PUBLICATI	ON
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL D	ISTRICT
Aberdeen		VICINITY OF	Second	
STATE <b>Mississippi</b>		CODE 28	COUNTY Monroe	CODE
3 CLASSIFICA	TION			
o CLASSIFICA	TION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PF	RESENT USE
DISTRICT	X <sub>PUBLIC</sub>	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTUR	EMUSEUM
X_BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONA	LPRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINM	ENTRELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	X GOVERNMEN	TSCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	X_YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
A OWNER OF I	PROPERTY  Board of Supervisors			
STREET & NUMBER	board or supervisors			
Monroe County	Courthouse			
CITY, TOWN		**************************************	STATE	
Aberdeen		VICINITY OF	Mississippi	39730
5 LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC	Office of the Chanc Monroe County	cery Clerk		
STREET & NUMBER	Manage Country Country	.haaa		
CITY, TOWN	Monroe County Court	nouse	STATE	
CITY, TOWN	Aberdeen		Mississippi	39730
6 REPRESENT	'ATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
ΤΪΤLE				
	Statewide Survey of	Historic Sites		
DATE	1975	FEDERAL	X_STATECOUNTYLC	OCAI
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	Mississippi Departm			
CITY, TOWN	Jackson		STATE Mississippi	39205
				- / = 0 /



#### CONDITION

CHECK ONE

**CHECK ONE** 

\_\_EXCELLENT

\_\_FAIR

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_UNEXPOSED

\_\_RUINS

\_\_UNALTERED XO XALTERED \_\_M

XORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Monroe County Courthouse, built in 1857, is a three-by-nine-bay two-story brick building with a hip roof topped by a polygonal clock tower. The walls are laid in common bond brick and divided by pilasters which support a corbeled and denticulated cornice. Originally set on brick piers, the foundation is now concrete. Windows on the first floor contain six-over-six sash; those on the second floor nine-over-nine sash. All windows are capped by peaked cast-iron lintels ornamented with acroteria and a raised floral motif. All four elevations originally had central entrances. Two of these, located on the north and south (side) elevations, have been enclosed. The two remaining entrances utilize recessed surrounds of side lights and transoms set beneath cast-iron lintels. Heavy four-panel doors are automatically closed by an original weighted pulley mechanism. On the second floor, four larger doorways with matching surrounds open onto cast-iron balconies sheltered by wooden brackets. The clock tower is adorned with fluted Ionic columns and paneled pilasters. In 1901 a one-story brick wing was added to the north side of the main block, and a two-story stucco wing was added to the south side in 1941.

As originally built the courthouse followed a four-room center-hall plan with three crossing halls. Various interior alterations have been made, however, to meet increased space requirements. Located in the front and rear crossing halls were four stairways, one at each corner of the building. Only one of these remains intact; the others now accommodate bathroom facilities, storage room, and elevator. Recent modernization has resulted in the loss of original courtroom furnishings, removal of mantelpieces, enclosure of the balcony, and lowering of ceilings, thereby hiding original eared architraves and cast-iron capitals.

### 6 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J. A. Pate and J. B. Taylor, builders SPECIFIC DATES 1857 Thomas J. Davidson, contractor

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Monroe County Courthouse, located in Aberdeen, is an outstanding example of a Greek Revival public building. The courthouse has been in continuous service for the transaction of county business since 1857, and houses the oldest county records in north Mississippi, dating from 1821 (Mississippi Department of Archives and History, National Register form for Monroe County Courthouse prepared by Mrs. Sam W. Crawford).

When Monroe County was formed in 1830, the county seat was located in Athens, the geographic center of the county. A small courthouse was built there, but it was not standing in 1836, when the first land sales were conducted in Aberdeen. Within six months Aberdeen had become the largest town in Monroe County and its residents began agitating for the legislature to relocate the county seat there. Aberdeen was designated as the county seat in 1847, but attempts to return the county seat to Athens did not cease until 1850. The first courthouse in Aberdeen, a frame building costing only \$1,200, was much criticized by Athens residents, who had allocated \$20,000 for a courthouse in their town. Money was therefore not spared on Aberdeen's second courthouse. A "Court House Palace," symbol of Aberdeen's political dominance, was built at a cost of almost \$40,000. The courtroom on the second floor, measuring ninety-three feet by sixty-three feet, was for many years the largest room in the state (Rodabough).

Architecturally the Monroe County Courthouse is a catalog of elements and influences characteristic of the Greek Revival period in American architecture. Although there is no portico, reference to the Greek temple form is evident in the orientation of the building (main entrance located on the short end), the brick pilasters, and the denticulated frieze. Common Greek Revival features are displayed in the pilasters and Ionic columns in the clock tower. The influence of Minard Lafever is evident in the delicacy of the narrow door panels and floral motifs of the lintels, and it is particularly interesting to see Lafever's decorative ideas expressed in cast iron. influence of elements of Egyptian architecture, unearthed during the Greek Revival period, is reflected in the courthouse interior, which utilizes Egyptian pylon architraves and Egyptian column capitals.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERE
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Cramer, Adele, architectural historian. Personal inspection, September 7, 1978.

Hamilton, Charles G. "Historic Monroe: An Introduction." Revision of paper read at meeting of Monroe County Historical Society, March 11, 1974. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, uncataloged.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL I	DATA			
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPE				
QUADRANGLE NAME Aber			QUADRANGLE	SCALE 1:24000
UTM REFERENCES				
A[1,6] [3]5,7[3,3,0	3,7[4,3]3,4,0	B [1,6]	3 5 7 4 4 0	3, 7 4, 3 3, 1, 0 NORTHING
ZONE EASTING	NORTHING		EASTING	NORTHING :
$C[1_16] [3]5_17[4_10_10]$	3,7 4,3 2,1,0	D[1,6]	321/310101	3,7 4,3 2,2,0
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GLI LILI		нЦ	لسلسل	
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCR	RIPTION		44.92 - 25	The System of th
The nominated property Court House Square on t	he original 1836 pla	an of the :	feet by 200 fe Town of Aberdee	en. It is bordered on
LIST ALL STATES AND	COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIE	ES OVERLAPP	ING STATE OR COU	NTY BOUNDARIES
OT 1 WE	CODE	201 INTV		CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
11 FORM PREPARED  NAME/TITLE  Adele Cramer	· BY			tectural Historian
ORGANIZATION Mississippi Department	of Archives and His	+0417	DATE Septe	mber 19, 1978
STREET & NUMBER	Ol Alchives and mis-	EOL y	TELEPH	
P. O. Box 571				54-6218
CITY OR TOWN			STATE	
Jackson			Missi	ssippi 39205
12 STATE HISTORIC	PRESERVATION	OFFICE	R CERTIFIC	ATION
THE EVAL	LUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF T	HIS PROPERT	Y WITHIN THE STAT	E IS:
NATIONAL	STATE	<u>X</u>	LOCAL	
A Linear Historia I	Officer for the Nr	- Uistorio	Act of 1	220 /D 111 1 00 GGEV 1
As the designated State Historic F hereby nominate this property fo criteria and procedures set forth b	or inclusion in the National Re by the National Park Service.	egister and cer	tify that it has been	
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION O	FFICER SIGNATURE	bur B.	1tilliand	
TITLE State Histori	ic Preservation Offic		DATE	November 1, 1978
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS	S PROPERTY IS INCLUDED I	N THE NATION	IAL REGISTER	
1.1 rellarle	adding		DATE	12.22.18
ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL	L REGISTER		DATE	142418
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION				-

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE O	NLY	TO BOOK .
		<b>建筑技术</b>
RECEIVED N	N 7 19/8	
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DATE ENTERED	DEC 2	2 1978

### **CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 9 & 10 PAGE 1

### 9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hamlin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America. New York: Dover, 1964.

Lafever, Minard. The Modern Builder's Guide. New York: Dover, 1969.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Statewide Survey File. Monroe County and Monroe County Courthouse (containing National Register nomination form for Monroe County Courthouse prepared by Mrs. Sam W. Crawford, September 25, 1975).

. Subject File. Aberdeen.

Monroe County, Mississippi. Deed Book 14:472.

Peacock, Lucille, comp. <u>Historical Sketches of Aberdeen</u>, <u>Mississippi</u>. Aberdeen: Lucille Peacock, 1961.

Rodabough, John. "Port of Aberdeen." Aberdeen Examiner, August 17, 1972.

### 10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

the north by Jefferson Street and block 24, on the west by Locust Street and block 26, on the south by Madison Street and block 41, and on the east by Chestnut Street and block 27.