

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kentucky
COUNTY: Madison
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 12 1975

1. NAME

COMMON: Madison County Courthouse
AND/OR HISTORIC: Same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street between North 1st and North 2nd Streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 6th	
STATE Kentucky	CODE 021	COUNTY: Madison	CODE 151

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific			
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Community room used for art exhibits, etc.			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Madison County Fiscal Court		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond	STATE: Kentucky	CODE: 021

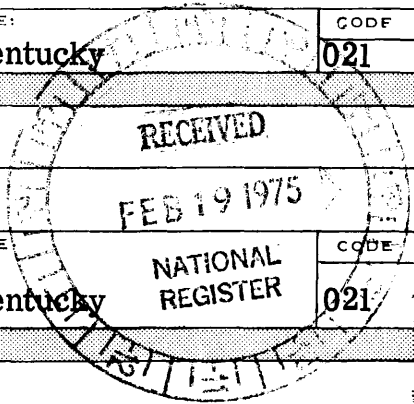
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Madison County Clerk's Office		
STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond	STATE: Kentucky	CODE: 021

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky		
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kentucky Heritage Commission		
STREET AND NUMBER: 401 Wapping Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort	STATE: Kentucky	CODE: 021

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER MAY 12 1975
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DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Madison County Courthouse is a powerful architectural variant on the Greek Revival temple-form public building. It consists of a two-story large-scale longitudinal block with integral portico, flanked by lower latitudinal wings with end-gables. The smaller pilaster system continues around the wings, but only under the portico and at the corners of the main block, although all but the facade of the main block and the fronts and ends of the wings are now hidden by later additions. The front view remains, however, essentially as it was originally, except for the painted surface which may not have been original and the replacement of small-paned sash with single-paned sash. An early view of the building also shows small one-story flat-topped columnar porches on the center bay of each wing; these were removed about 1890 and the opening replaced by a window. These porches must have emphasized the contrast in scale between the main block, probably always the seat of the courtroom on the second story, and the wings with their direct access from ground-level to offices and other daily services.

The portico is a very impressive one. The frieze of prominent triglyphs dominates the design and assures the continuity of portico and main block as it continues uninterrupted over the lower roofs of the wings. The wings have a similar cornice at correspondingly smaller scale, also with highly visible mutules over the triglyphs and within the pediments. The four full columns supporting the portico are of the "Roman Doric" order, with shallow bases, rings and bands of rosettes at the capital, and a thin cushion (abacus) projecting beyond the architrave. The square pilasters lack rosettes and are simply reduced in scale on the wings. The spacing of pilasters is carefully aligned with the triglyphs, with an additional triglyph at the center of the portico allowing for a wider intercolumniation facing the main entrance. The extra height of the central block allows for the greater height of the courtroom, traditionally in Kentucky placed on the second story. The columns of the portico and the pilasters on the walls rest on a low foundation.

The location of the courthouse is the typical Kentucky county square, in this case gently sloping up from the surrounding streets toward the building. The commercial structures that define the square retain their Victorian scale and still allow the Courthouse to dominate by its simple forms and grand scale. In spite of the additions, there remains enough open space around at least the sides of the structure to allow for full-grown trees and some sense of the traditional square. The proportional system of the porticos described above is a particularly handsome and satisfying one. However, the
(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1849-50; 1890; 1965**

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 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Madison County Courthouse, a product of the mid-nineteenth century, derives importance from its architectural significance as one of the finer examples of Greek Revival architecture in Kentucky and from its role in the history of the county since its construction. Of particular value, too, are records contained in the courthouse, some dating back to 1786.

Madison County, formed as one of the western counties of Virginia in 1785, and one of the nine counties in existence when Kentucky became a state in 1792, was named in honor of James Madison, fourth president of the United States. Among the historic sites contained within its borders is Boonesborough, one of the first two permanent settlements in Kentucky. Erected in the spring of 1775 by Daniel Boone and members of his party, Boonesborough was the first fort in the state to be incorporated. The commercial center of the county, Richmond, was made the county seat in 1798, moved from Milford which was four miles to the southwest. The first settler of what is now the city of Richmond was Colonel John Miller, a Revolutionary War veteran who came with his family to the area in 1784 from Virginia. The town was later named in honor of Miller's birthplace, Richmond, Virginia.

The first court ever held in Richmond was in Colonel Miller's barn, near the site where the present courthouse now stands. The second building to be used was a log house erected in 1798 along with a small jail. In 1799 what has been described as "a plain brick two-story building" designed by Tyra Rhodes was constructed; it stood for fifty years. The present Greek Revival courthouse was erected in 1849-1850 at a cost of \$40,000 on property originally purchased from John Miller.

One of the commissioners appointed to procure plans for the construction of a new courthouse was the nephew of Tyra Rhodes, William Rhodes, who saw to it that an architect of high caliber was retained. Employed was Major Thomas Lewinski, an (continued)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dorris, Johathan Truman and Dorris, Maud Weaver. Glimpses of Historic Madison County, Kentucky. Nashville: Williams Printing Co., 1955, pp. 38, 39, 41.

"Historical Madison County." Richmond Daily Register, October, 1962.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

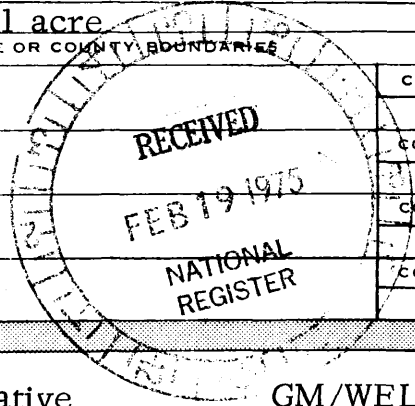
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37° 44' 53"	84° 17' 40"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

16/739380
4121190

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 1 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: Mrs. Charles C. Combs, County Representative GM/WEL

ORGANIZATION: Kentucky Heritage Commission DATE: Aug. 3, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: Walnut Meadow Road, Route 2

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Kentucky CODE: 021

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 Eduard W. Mellon Title State Liaison Officer Date 2-10-75

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

Ernest A. Connally
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/12/75

ATTEST: Ronald M. Greenberg
Keeper of The National Register

Date 5/9/75

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Kentucky	
COUNTY	Scott	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		MAY 12 1975

(Number all entries)

Madison County Courthouse

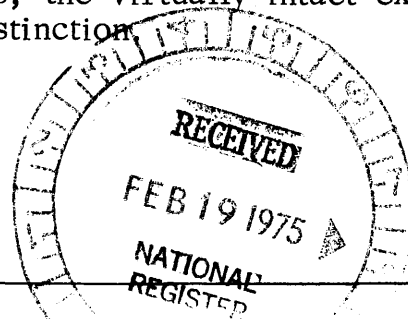
7. Description (continued)

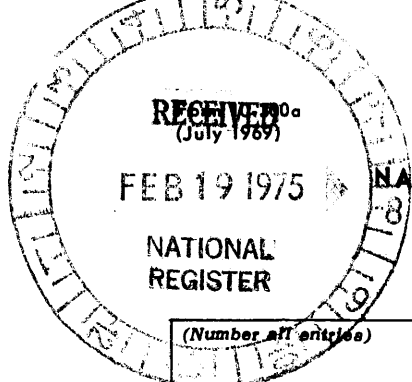
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cupola seems somewhat small in scale for the blocks below. It may be that the architect thereby reveals a certain discomfort in the attempt to combine the usual courthouse tower with the rigid requirements of the classical temple. The octagonal cupola sits back from the portico over the first bay of the main block. A plain pedestal is surmounted by the simply-paneled clock stage with its four faces. Above, the lantern has very slender Ionic columns at the eight corners with arched louvered openings on the four main sides. A delicately modeled cornice carries the low curved eight-sided roof and fish weathervane. Although handsome in its own right from a distance, when seen from close up this tower does not hold its own against the bold Doric treatment of the building itself. At a certain distance, however, it does relate to the smaller pediments at the ends of the windows, and perhaps originally still more to the side porches.

The courthouse extensions that fill in the ells between the main block and the original wings, which are set almost at the plane of the main facade, have a stripped classical intent. Widely-spaced windows are set in recessed vertical panels and there is a parapet around the roof related to the frieze. A less sympathetic structure has recently been added at the rear of the building which otherwise retains the original fenestration of three stories fitted into the two of the front.

Extensive alterations were made in the mid-1890s under the supervision of the prolific Cincinnati firm of Crapsey and Brown. According to a notice in The Inland Architect these additions were to cost about \$15,000, then a considerable sum. Although much of this remodeling has apparently been swallowed up in later alterations (most notably in 1965), a lavish but heavy-handed marble and bronze staircase survives in the main vestibule. The main courtroom (which displays several important early portraits of Kentucky jurists) has recently been drastically altered with the addition of pine-panelling and reorientation of the dais. Most of the rest of the interior has been repeatedly "modernized." Nevertheless, the virtually intact exterior portion of the building retains great distinction.





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Madison County Courthouse

8. Significance (continued)

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Englishman of Polish extraction who worked out of Lexington. Lewinski had a most varied and interesting background. He once studied for the priesthood, was a former soldier of fortune in Spain and South America, and originally came to Kentucky as an instructor at the University of Louisville. In 1842 he moved to Lexington and became a close friend of Cassius Marcellus Clay, abolitionist, publisher of the emancipation paper The True American, co-founder of Berea College, and minister to Russia from 1863-1869. While in Lexington, Lewinski met and married Mary Watkins, niece of Henry Clay and sister of Thomas Watkins, who was married to a daughter of Kentucky architect-builder John McMurtry.

Lewinski was the second trained architect to practice in Lexington (the first being Gideon Shryock) and he did considerably well. He was most active professionally in the 1840s but continued to work in the field until the mid-1850s when he became secretary of the Lexington Gas Company. For a decade longer he did remodeling.

Some of Lewinski's better known designs include the rebuilding of Henry Clay's Ashland in the 1850s, Christ Church Episcopal, Second Presbyterian Church, the Henry Clay monument in the Lexington Cemetery and, with John McMurtry as builder, enlarging White Hall (1864-1868), near Richmond and home of Cassius Clay.

As with Ashland, White Hall, and other Lewinski - designed projects, John McMurtry (1812-1890) served as builder of Madison County's Greek Revival courthouse. McMurtry was locally trained as a builder, and as such was kept busy with commissions for residences, churches, and public & private buildings. He for a shortwhile was apprenticed to architect Gideon Shryock and advertised himself as an architect as well as builder. He had no formal architectural education, however, and was overshadowed by Lewinski in the 1840s. Among those designs accepted and executed by McMurtry were the Catholic Church of St. Peter, the Transylvania Dormitory and Medical Hall in Lexington, the Kentucky Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb in Danville and numerous residences in the Bluegrass area. McMurtry also designed and built the Greek Revival Clark County Courthouse, in Winchester (**placed** on the National Register August 7, 1974), which is somewhat similar to that in Richmond.

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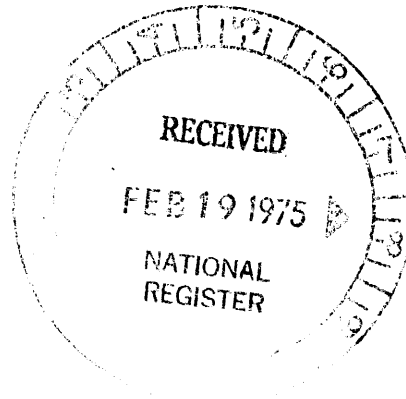
Madison County Courthouse

8. Significance (continued)

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The forward part of the courthouse looks much the same as when originally built. A wrought-iron fence around the courtyard was an addition of the 1850s which proved useful during the Civil War when the yard and courthouse were used as a war prison, states Elisabeth Headley Garr (p. 106). The fence was purchased in 1908 by the Richmond Cemetery Company and it now surrounds the Richmond Cemetery.

According to local historian Johnathan Dorris, the courthouse was also used as a hospital after the Battle of Richmond, August 29-30, 1862. The battle resulted in a Confederate victory and was one of the largest engagements of the war in Kentucky.



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Madison County Courthouse

9. Major Bibliographical References (continued)

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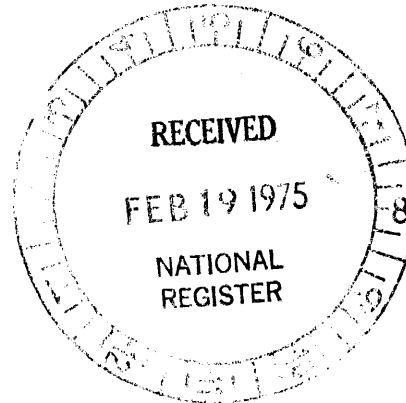
Lancaster, Clay. Ante Bellum Houses of the Bluegrass. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1961, p. 134.

_____. Back Streets and Pine Trees. Lexington: Bur Press, 1956.

The Kentucky Pioneer, Vol. IV (May, 1973), p. 5.

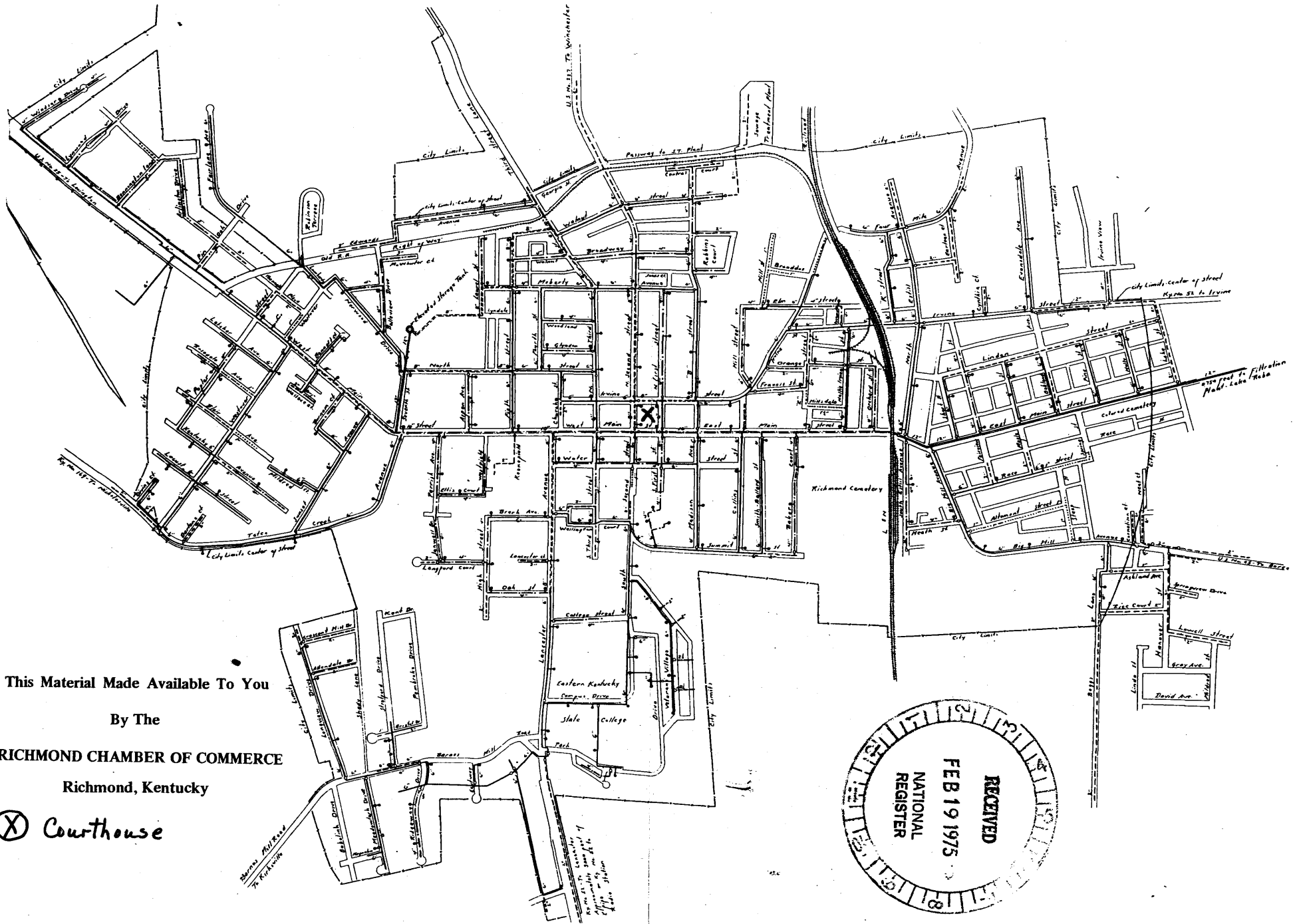
Todd, Russell I. This is Boone County. Louisville: Gateway Press, Inc., 1968, p. 21.

Newcomb, Rexford. Architecture in Old Kentucky. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1953, p. 122, Pl. 50-D.





Madison County second and present
courthouse as it looked in 1855.
Built 1850. (Courtesy of Mrs.
Clarence Harney)



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 Richmond, Kentucky

⊗ Courthouse

