

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY FORM

Name of Structure: Tift County Courthouse

Location: Courthouse Square, Tifton, Ga. 31794

Cost: Unknown Date of Construction: 1912

Architect/builder: W. A. Edwards Contractor: J. F. Jenkins & Co.

Subsequent architects: _____

TAX MAP/PARCEL NUMBERS

Map T51 Par. 105

Zone 17/E261680/N3482480
 UTM NO. _____

Boundary: N is New St; E is Tift Ave.; S is 2nd St.; and west is an alley/drive through.

Acreage: one acre

DESCRIPTION:

Style: Beaux Arts Classicism

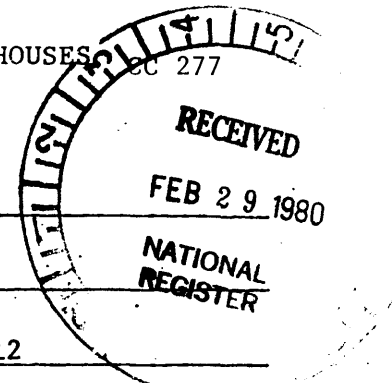
Facade Material: Brick/Stone trim

Condition: Excellent Good Fair

The Ionic tetrastyle entrance is the most distinguishing feature of this courthouse with an H - shaped floor plan. The two story white stone columns contrast with cream colored brick. At the third story level, directly over the columns, the words 'Tift County Courthouse' are cut in stone. At the roofline, capping the entrance is a cartouche flanked by roaring lion's heads (a romantic addition).

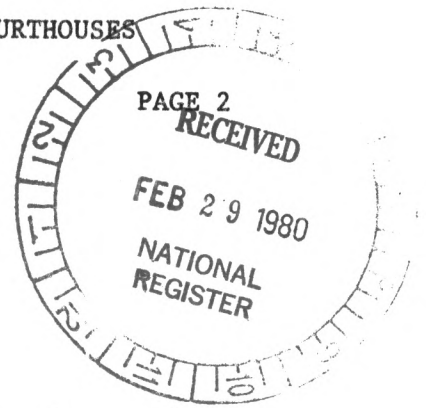
A flight of steps leads to the recessed porch that features round arched windows and a small balcony over the main doorway. Bricks have been laid to create decorative patterns and textures, for instance, as quoins on the corners of the building. The triple windows in the corner pavilions have a heavy, bracketed lintel on the first story and radiating stone and brick lintels on the second and third stories.

The interior has marble wainscoting. In the courtroom, Ionic pilasters circle the room; on the sides, they alternate with round arched windows. The judge's bench is emphasized by single Corinthian columns with a full entablature.



THEMATIC NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION - GEORGIA COURTHOUSES

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY FORM TIFT COUNTY COURTHOUSE



SIGNIFICANCE:

One of the few examples of the Beaux Arts Classicism in Georgia courthouses, this building is unique for its sculptured lions heads. No others are found like them. The building is well kept and reflects the pride the citizens still feel in their center of governmental activity. When the city high school (now federal office building) was built in the 1920's, the architect echoed the style of the courthouse in material choice, massing and some design elements, showing the importance of the courthouse structure to the townspeople. It reflected as well as molded their architectural taste.

William A. Edwards (1866-1939) the architect worked in Atlanta after 1908. He did several courthouses in S.C., as well as the Fannin County (Ga.) Courthouse in 1936. He was also known for commercial and religious structures. He also did the Florida A & M College Administration Building in Tallahassee.



TIFT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

MAILING ADDRESS:

Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Tift County Courthouse
Courthouse Square
Tifton, Georgia 31794