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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 Pickens County Courthouse
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 50 North Main Street
city, town Jasper () vicinity of
county Pickens code GA 227
state Georgia code GA zip code 30143

() not for publication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:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	1	1
total	2	1

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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.

Richard Luce 3-13-08
Signature of certifying official Date

for W. Ray Luce
Historic Preservation Division Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, explain:
- see continuation sheet

Edson F. Ball 4-29-08

for
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 EARLY 20TH CENTURY MOVEMENTS: Stripped Classical

Materials:

foundation	N/A
walls	STONE: marble
roof	N/A
other	N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

The Pickens County Courthouse is a large, two-story, marble-veneered building located in the city of Jasper in north Georgia. Built in 1949, the Stripped Classical-style building is L-shaped with a two-story rear ell with a daylight basement. The architectural firm of Bothwell and Nash, based in Marietta, Georgia, designed the courthouse that was later built by gangs of convict laborers leased from the state prison system.

The Pickens County Courthouse property consists of the historic courthouse, a non-contributing courthouse annex building, a contributing object (monument), and a non-contributing object (sculpture). The property is located in the city of Jasper's downtown commercial district. Jasper is the county seat of Pickens County, a historically rural county now undergoing rapid suburban development due to recent growth in the north Atlanta metropolitan area.

DESCRIPTION:

The Pickens County Courthouse was built in 1947 on a one-acre lot located in the city of Jasper (Photographs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5). It is a large, two-story, marble-veneered building, with a two-story rear ell and a daylight basement. The building was designed in the Stripped Classical style. Stripped Classical-style courthouses, commonly having only suggestions of columns and pilasters, simple cornices, as well as some of the Colonial Revival and Neoclassical Revival-style styling, have understated classical detailing underlying otherwise unadorned buildings. The Stripped Classical style represents a transition between classical influenced architecture with pediments and pilasters

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

and modern architecture which is characterized by plain wall surfaces and no stylistic detailing as seen in Art Deco- and International-style buildings. This Stripped Classical style or “starved classical” style was commonly used for governmental buildings from the 1920s through the 1940s and represents the synthesis of the “traditionalists,” who favored the use of classical details, and the “modernists,” who favored streamlined, smooth, unadorned buildings and rejected historical antecedents.

The Pickens County Courthouse façade has a symmetrical appearance with its five recessed bays and two wings (Photograph 1). The building’s features are large and heavy. The main section of the building is clad with a four-inch-thick marble veneer. The rear ell is clad in brick (Photographs 10, 11). The five recessed bays with their shallow pilasters suggest a colonnade (Photograph 2). The symmetrical wings contain vertical daylight windows constructed with structural glass blocks (Photograph 6). Overall, the façade’s minimal ornamentation—plain walls, absent cornices, and shallow pilasters—and symmetry reflects the application of the Stripped Classical style.

The southeast side of the courthouse has a two-story rear ell and daylight basement (Photograph 13). The rear ell is not clad in marble and has exposed white painted bricks. From the rear of the courthouse, the 1970s non-historic courthouse annex building can be seen located across a shared parking lot. The northwest side of the courthouse contains an entryway that has a minimally ornamented entablature with small dentils surrounding a glass door with an overhead transom light (Photograph 16).

LANDSCAPE:

The Pickens County Courthouse has a designed land-plan with a subdivided lawn, shade trees, system of sidewalks, a truncated courtyard, monuments, and benches. Traditionally, the focal point for county-seat communities is the courthouse and its lawn. This area not only provides green space, but also is the setting for community events, such as parades, rallies, and festivals. This open space contrasts to the density of the surrounding commercial development and serves as a park-like setting. The courthouse grounds have a historic object and a non-historic object. The non-historic object is a large marble sculpture named “Learning is Fun” that was placed on the grounds in 2002 (Photograph 20). The historic object is a marble monument dedicated to the service and memory of the county’s World War I and World War II veterans. This four-sided marble monument is located directly in front of the courthouse main entrance (Photographs 17, 18, 19, 21). The courthouse grounds also contain several historic planters and marble benches. The four trees located on the site were planted during the 1970s.

INTERIOR:

The Pickens County Courthouse retains its historic 1949 floor plan. The courthouse has 40 individual offices and nine restrooms located on two floors and a daylight basement. The building’s main floor has terrazzo flooring manufactured and installed by the Williamham Little Stone Company in Whitestone, Georgia. The main floor’s central hallway connects the building’s two symmetrical wings. Eight offices, a vault, and two stairwells are located along the main floor’s central hallway

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

(Photographs 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27). The two stairwells are in each of the building's symmetrical wings. The stairwells have an ornamented wrought iron balustrade with gold-painted twisted spindles and handrails (Photographs 30, 31). Each of the office doors located along the central hallway has an overhead transom light. Each door has its historic hardware (Photographs 22, 23). The rear ell's hallway runs perpendicular to the main building's central hallway. The rear ell hallway has three offices, two restrooms, and a rear stairwell (Photographs 28, 29). The stairwell located in the main floor's north wing leads to the building's second floor landing. The landing serves as a lobby for individuals waiting to appear before the county's Superior Court judge (Photograph 32). The Superior Courtroom is the largest room in the courthouse. The room was remodeled during the late 1980s when a drop ceiling was added throughout the second floor to facilitate ductwork for a new HVAC system. A door, located behind the judicial bench, leads to the judge's robe room (Photographs 33, 34, 35). The building's second floor's plan was designed to accommodate the functional needs of a courtroom. A secured door located off the south stairwell restricts the general public's access to the second floor. The restricted access provides additional security for the superior court judge, staffers, and jurors. The rear ell's upper level has offices for the law clerk, judge's secretary, judicial planning coordinator, court reporter, and the superior court judge as well as private restroom facilities for staff members (Photographs 36, 37, 38).

The Pickens County Courthouse also has a daylight basement. The lower level floor plan is similar to the main floor. A central hallway runs the length of the main building with a perpendicular intersecting hallway running the length of the rear ell. Unlike the main floor, the walls are not partially covered with wood paneling. The lower level's floors are finished concrete unlike the main floor's terrazzo flooring (Photographs 41, 43). The courthouse's racially segregated restrooms were once located in the rear ell portion of the daylight basement. The daylight basement has several storage rooms and two vaults. The rear ell also once housed a private area that served as a battered women's support center.

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/ Government

Period of Significance:

1949

Significant Dates:

1949—Date of Construction

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Bothwell, Eugene (architect)
Nash, Richard (architect)

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

National Register Criteria

The Pickens County Courthouse meets National Register Criterion "A" at the state level of significance in the area of architecture because it is an excellent example of Stripped Classical-style courthouse architecture in Georgia. According to *Georgia's Historic Courthouses: Celebrating a Living Legacy*, "the architectural history of Georgia's existing courthouses spans over 170 years, from the 1830s to the present day. As a collection, these buildings illustrate nearly every major American architectural style." Other extant Stripped Classical-style courthouses located in the state can be found in Troup County (LaGrange: National Register, 1995), Cherokee County (Canton: National Register, 1981), Richmond County (Augusta), Bryan County (Pembroke: National Register, 1995), Cook County (Adel: National Register, 1995), Emanuel County (Swainsboro: National Register, 1995), Hall County (Gainesville: National Register, 1995), Oconee County (Watkinsville: National Register, 1984) and Polk County (Cedartown: National Register, 1992). While several courthouses in the state are clad in marble, Pickens County Courthouse is the only courthouse clad in locally quarried marble.

The courthouse meets National Register Criterion "C" at the state level of significance in the area of politics/ government because of its direct association with governmental operations in Pickens County since 1949. According to *Georgia's Historic Courthouses*, "county courthouses are among the most significant historic buildings in Georgia. Built in the heart of their communities, these courthouses are landmarks, designed as symbols of democracy, community pride, and civic values. The courthouse is a part of daily life, serving as a center of local government activity and the site of political rallies, elections, public meetings, marriages, and trials."

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance is 1949. The Pickens County Courthouse was built in 1949.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Noncontributing Building—Courthouse Annex
Contributing Object—World War I and World War II Monument (1949)
Noncontributing Object—Learning is Fun Sculpture (2002)

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

The Pickens County Courthouse is a mid-20th-century Stripped Classical-style building located in the

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

city of Jasper. The marble veneered two-story courthouse with a rear ell and daylight basement was built in 1949. The architectural firm of Bothwell and Nash designed the courthouse.

Pickens County was created on December 5, 1853, from portions of Gilmer and Cherokee counties. The county was named for Andrew Pickens, a South Carolinian who served as a general during the American Revolution. During its history, Pickens County has built three courthouses. All three have been constructed on the same town lot located in Jasper. The first courthouse was built in 1853. No records exist documenting that building's style. The second courthouse, built in 1888, was a two-story, red brick, Victorian Eclectic-style courthouse with Federal-style elements (Attachment 1). The Atlanta-based architectural firm of Bruce and Morgan designed the courthouse. In 1947, fire destroyed the 1888 courthouse.

The extant courthouse was constructed in 1949. Following the 1947 fire, Pickens County commissioner Henry Grady Jones (Attachment 2) hired Marietta, Georgia, architects Eugene Bothwell and Richard Nash, a.k.a. Bothwell and Nash, to design a new courthouse. Their initial design was for the erection of a large two-story Stripped Classical-style building with large symmetrical wings and a prominent clock tower (Attachment 3). The county launched a bond drive to raise \$100,000 for construction. Pickens County's economy was stagnant during the post-World War II period that had witnessed boom times in other portions of the state. Consequently, locals lacked the funds needed to build Bothwell and Nash's planned design. The architects scrapped their original plans and designed a significantly smaller building that better suited the county's limited coffers. To further reduce costs, the county leased several gangs of state prisoners to build the courthouse. While the courthouse was under construction, Jones approached Samuel Tate, owner and founder of the Georgia Marble Company, to secure locally quarried marble to be installed as a veneer over the building's exterior brick walls. Tate agreed to supply the marble to the county at cost. The company also loaned their principal marble designer, J. B. Hill, to the county to help install the marble veneer. In 1949, Hill, as an employee of the Georgia Marble Company, designed and installed a marble monument on the courthouse grounds honoring the county's World War I and World War II veterans. The monument was funded by donations solicited from local residents and businesses.

The first session of the Pickens County Superior Court held in the courthouse convened in October of 1949. A newspaper editor for *The Herald* (Jasper) wrote: "the people of Pickens County are mighty proud of our new courthouse. There is not a prettier courthouse in the state. Thanks to Commissioner Grady Jones and the Georgia Marble Company for making it possible." When the courthouse opened in 1949, it had a total of 40 rooms and nine restrooms. There were "whites only" restrooms on the main floor. The courthouse housed the sheriff's department, roads and revenues department, Superior Court, tax commissioner's office, ordinary's office, county school superintendent's office, and the county commissioner's office.

Today, the Pickens County Courthouse provides office space for several county offices and the Superior Court judge and staff members.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Georgia's Historic Courthouses: Celebrating A Living Legacy. Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, 2006.

Hill, Mimi Jo Butler. "Pickens County Courthouse: Historic Property Information Form," 2007. On file at Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested**
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued**
date issued:
- 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:

- 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

Acreage of Property .46 acre

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 736167 Northing 3817151

Verbal Boundary Description

The Pickens County Courthouse is located on a .46-acre lot in downtown Jasper, Georgia.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the .46-acre lot historically associated with the Pickens County Courthouse.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Keith S. Hébert

organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

mailing address 34 Peachtree Street, N.W., Suite 1600

city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303

telephone (404) 651-5568 **date** 2-1-2008

e-mail keith.hebert@dnr.state.ga.us

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) () not applicable

name/title Mimi Jo Butler Hill

organization Marble Valley Historical Society, Inc.

mailing address P.O. Box 142

city or town Tate **state** GA **zip code** 30177

telephone

e-mail

() **property owner**

() **consultant**

() **regional development center preservation planner**

(X) **other:** Local Historical Association

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Chair, County Commission

organization (if applicable) Pickens County Courthouse

mailing address 50 North Main Street

city or town Jasper **state** GA **zip code** 30143

e-mail (optional) N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Pickens County Courthouse
City or Vicinity: Jasper
County: Pickens
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: 11-10-2007

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 43

1. Courthouse, front façade; photographer facing northeast.
2. Courthouse, front façade; photographer facing northeast.
3. Courthouse, front façade; photographer facing north.
4. Courthouse, grounds; photographer facing southeast.
5. Courthouse, front façade; photographer facing northwest.
6. Courthouse, front façade and construction glass block window; photographer facing north.
7. Courthouse, marble inscription; photographer facing northeast.
8. Courthouse, marble inscription; photographer facing northeast.
9. Courthouse, marble cornerstone inscription; photographer facing northeast.
10. Courthouse, southeast wing and rear ell; photographer facing northeast.
11. Courthouse, southeast wing and rear ell; photographer facing northeast.
12. Courthouse, southeast wing window; photographer facing northwest.
13. Courthouse, southeast wing, rear ell, and daylight basement; photographer facing northwest.
14. Courthouse, rear; photographer facing southwest.
15. Courthouse, rear; photographer facing south.
16. Courthouse, northeast wing entrance; photographer facing southeast.
17. Courthouse, grounds and marble monument; photographer facing northeast.
18. Courthouse, grounds and marble monuments; photographer facing north.
19. Courthouse, grounds and marble monument; photographer facing north.
20. Courthouse, grounds and marble monument; photographer facing northeast.
21. Courthouse, grounds and marble monument; photographer facing northeast.
22. Courthouse, interior, main floor central hallways; photographer facing northwest.
23. Courthouse, interior, main floor office door; photographer facing southwest.
24. Courthouse, interior, main floor law library; photographer facing northwest.
25. Courthouse, interior, main floor northwest wing vault; photographer facing northwest.
26. Courthouse, interior, main floor office doorways; photographer facing southwest.
27. Courthouse, interior, main floor office; photographer facing facing southeast.
28. Courthouse, interior, main floor rear ell hallway; photographer facing northeast.
29. Courthouse, interior, main floor rear ell office and vault; photographer facing northeast.
30. Courthouse, interior, main floor northwest stairwell; photographer facing southwest.
31. Courthouse, interior, main floor, southeast stairwell; photographer facing southwest.

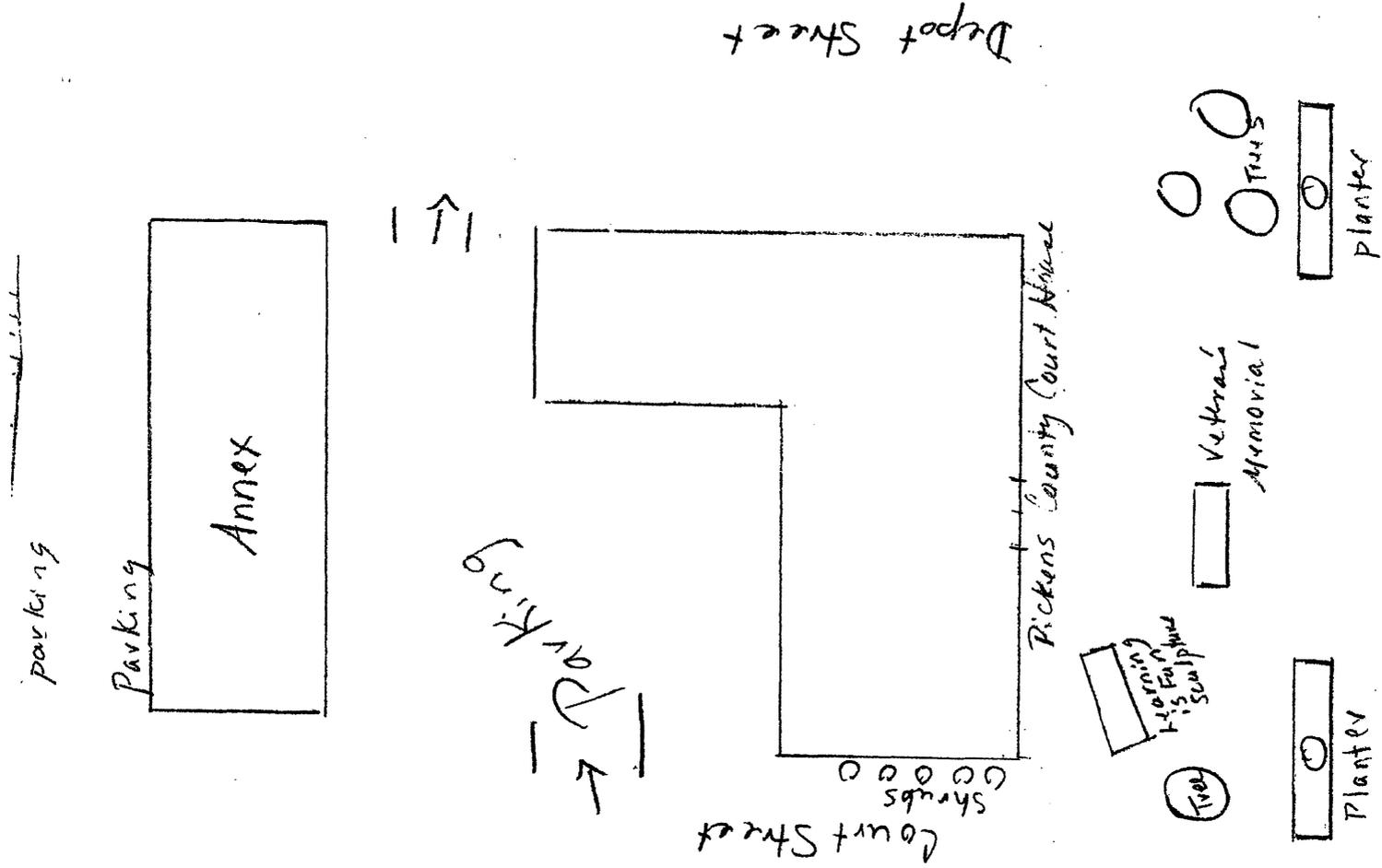
National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

32. Courthouse, interior, second floor, landing; photographer facing northwest.
33. Courthouse, interior, second floor, courtroom; photographer facing southeast.
34. Courthouse, interior, second floor, courtroom; photographer facing northwest.
35. Courthouse, interior, second floor, courtroom; photographer facing southeast.
36. Courthouse, interior, second floor, rear ell hallway; photographer facing northeast.
37. Courthouse, interior, second floor, rear ell hallways; photographer facing northeast.
38. Courthouse, interior, second floor, fire hose; photographer facing south.
39. Courthouse, interior, second floor, mechanical closet; photographer facing northeast.
40. Courthouse, interior, main floor, rear ell stairwell; photographer facing north.
41. Courthouse, interior, daylight basement, rear ell hallway; photographer facing southwest.
42. Courthouse, interior, daylight basement, storage closet; photographer facing southwest.
43. Courthouse, interior, daylight basement, offices; photographer facing northwest.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

PICKENS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
PICKENS COUNTY, GEORGIA
SITE MAP
NORTH: ↓
SCALE: NOT DRAWN TO SCALE
SOURCE: MIMI JO BUTLER HILL, 2007.

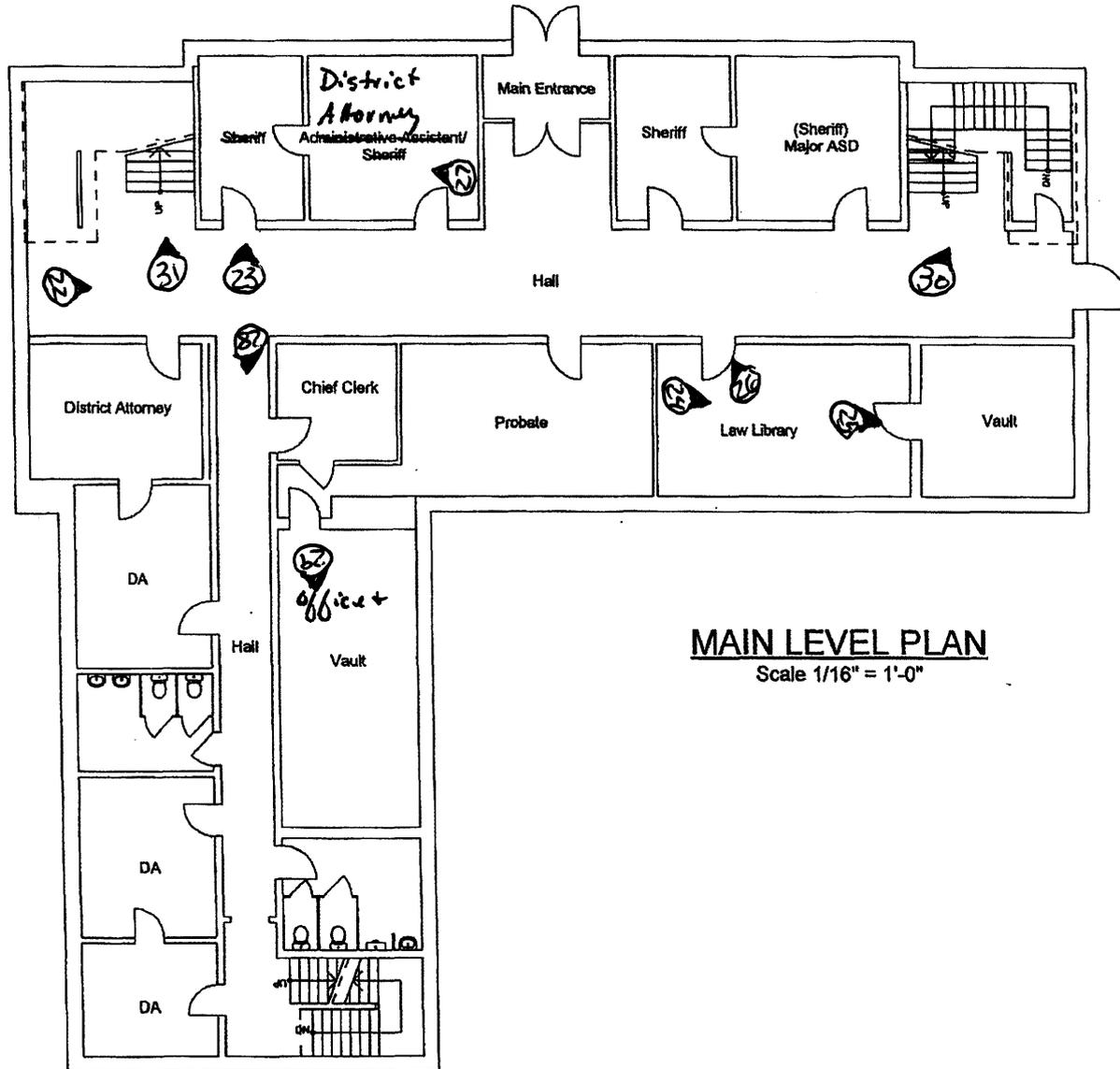


PICKENS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
PICKENS COUNTY, GEORGIA
MAIN FLOOR PLAN

NORTH: →

SCALE: 1/16"=1'

SOURCE: PICKENS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 2007.

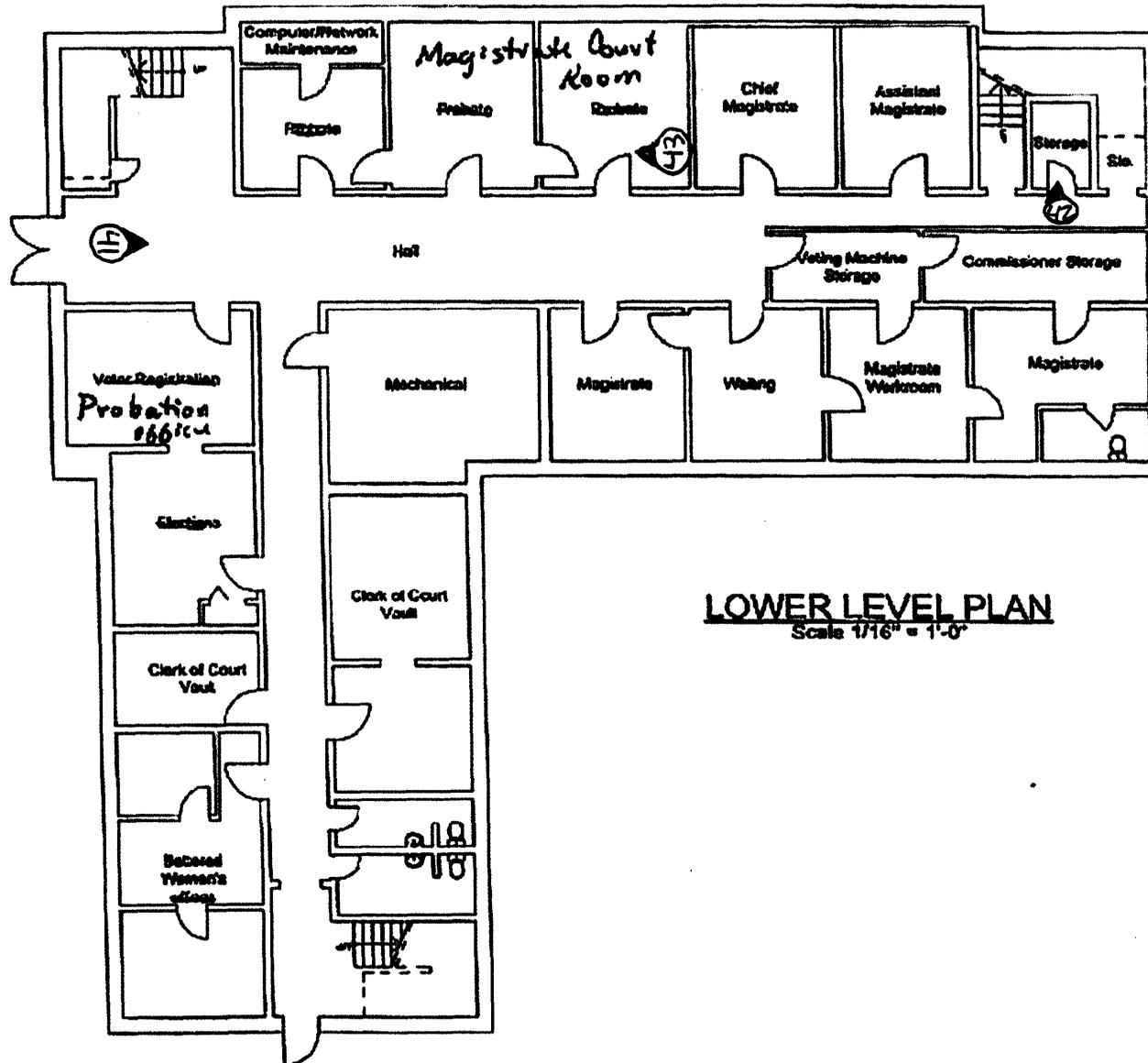


PICKENS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
PICKENS COUNTY, GEORGIA
LOWER LEVEL PLAN

NORTH: →

SCALE: 1/16"=1'

SOURCE: PICKENS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 2007

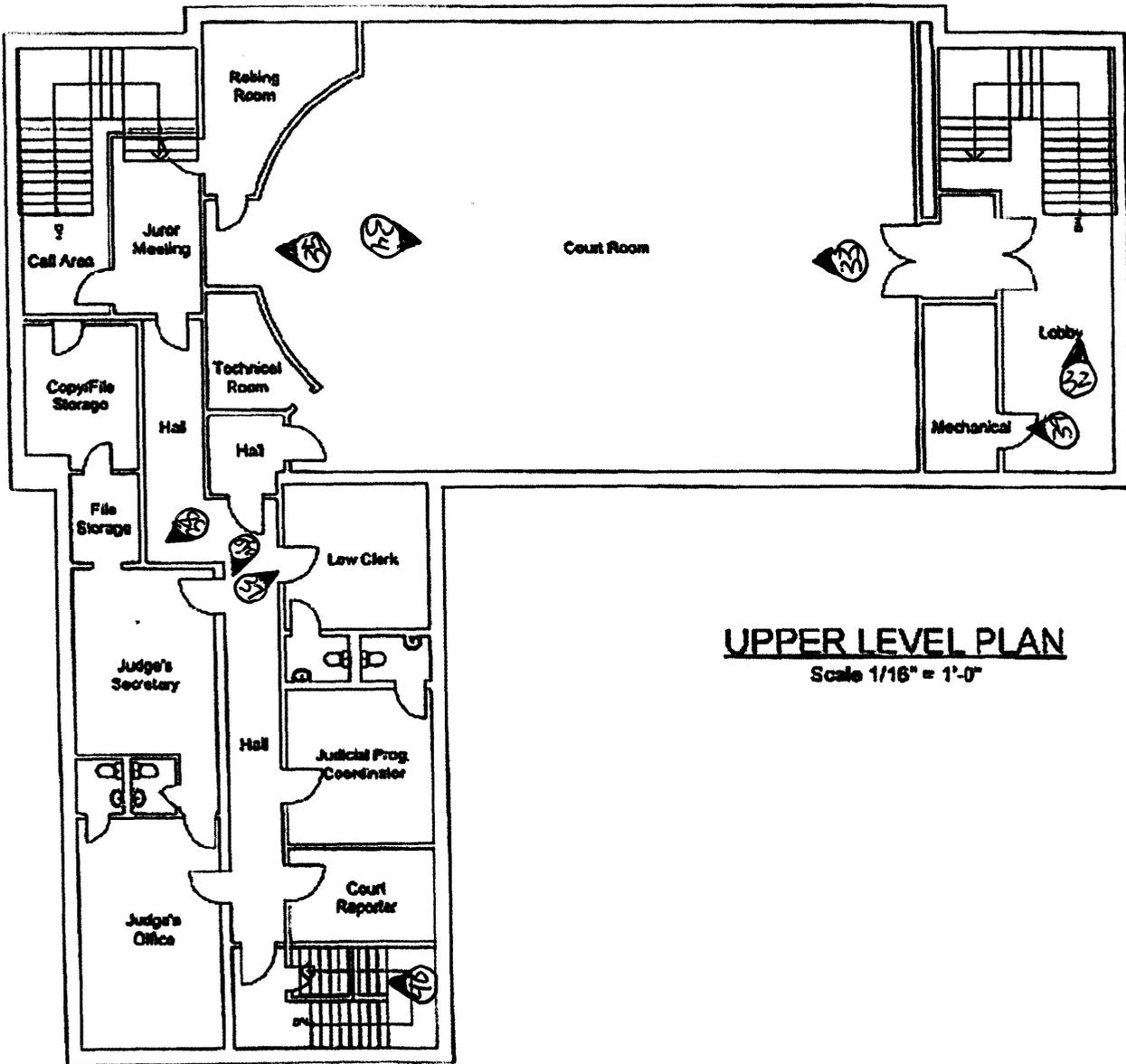


**PICKENS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
PICKENS COUNTY, GEORGIA
SECOND FLOOR PLAN**

NORTH: →

SCALE: 1/16"=1'

SOURCE: PICKENS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 2007.



UPPER LEVEL PLAN

Scale 1/16" = 1'-0"

PICKENS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PICKENS COUNTY, GEORGIA

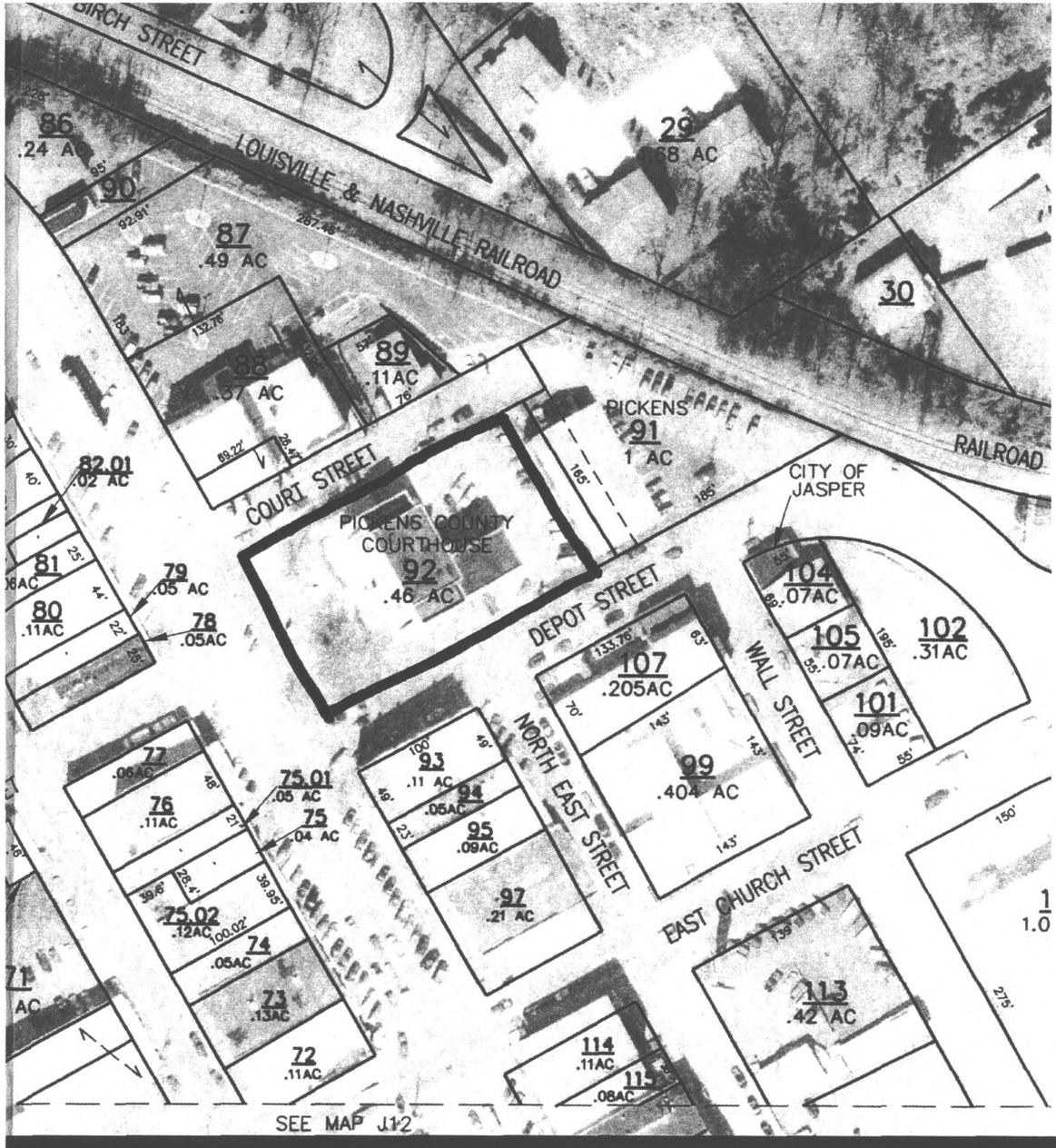
TAX MAP

NORTH: ↖

PROPERTY BOUNDARY: 

SCALE: 1"=100'

SOURCE: PICKENS COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR, 2006



PICKENS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
PICKENS COUNTY, GEORGIA
ATTACHMENT ONE: 1888 Victorian Eclectic-style Courthouse



Court House Building, Jasper, Ga.

**PICKENS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
PICKENS COUNTY, GEORGIA**

ATTACHMENT TWO: Pickens County Commission Henry Grady Jones (Age 18)



PICKENS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PICKENS COUNTY, GEORGIA

ATTACHMENT THREE: Original Courthouse Design Submitted by
Bothwell and Nash in 1947.

Pickens County

VOLUME 60, NUMBER 7

JASPER, GEORGIA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1947

Drawing of Proposed New Pickens County Court House
For Which Bond Election Is To Be Held Next Tuesday

