

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Rutherford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 6 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Rutherford County Courthouse (Rep. Joe L. Evins)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Public Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Murfreesboro

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47 COUNTY: Rutherford CODE: 149

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 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	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Rutherford County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Murfreesboro STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Rutherford County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Murfreesboro STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

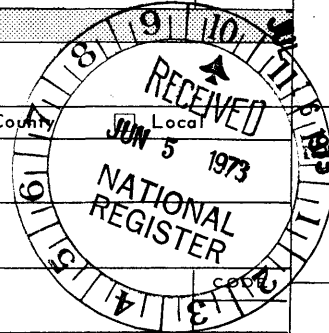
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee
COUNTY: Rutherford
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 Rutherford County Courthouse is a large brick building of the late 1850's, altered during its subsequent career with major changes to its cupola after a severe storm of 1913.

The Courthouse was erected in 1859 at a reputed cost of \$50,000. An early photograph indicated that it consisted of an eclectic combination of Classical Revival and Italianate details, the latter somewhat reminiscent of Samuel Sloan's courthouses in Williamsport, Pennsylvania (destroyed) and Sunberry, Pennsylvania (extant).

Roughly square in plan, its doors and windows were framed and shuttered in a late Classical Revival mode on both stories. A large central two-story portico with four evenly spaced monumental columns occupied the central pair of its six bays. The free-standing columns were fluted with large, somewhat crude capitals in a composite order. Monumental pilasters marked the edges of each bay. A bracketed triangular pediment was placed over the portico, while a broad hipped roof covered the entire structure. From the center of the roof rose a tall two-storied cupola on a low socle. Its lower story, square in plan, was decorated with grouped Italianate louvered round-headed ventilators with a round clock above them which broke the cornice line. The upper story was octagonal with round-headed openings between pilasters reaching the springing points of their arches. An octagonal dome crowned the cupola and was surmounted by a flagpole.

Later modifications consisted of remodelling all fenestration with drip guards over the lower openings. A third floor was inserted beneath the roof with second and third story windows united by a panel between them and a round-headed arch overhead. The cornice was replaced. The original was decorated with paired brackets while the current one is supported on evenly spaced modillions. The portico pediment was changed in proportion, now being lower and broader than the original. A brick parapet was placed above the cornice which obscures the roof from ground level. The inner pair of portico columns was moved outward to broaden the ingress, resulting in an arrangement of paired instead of evenly-spaced supports. The entire cupola was replaced with a glazed octagonal example with a much higher octagonal dome and surmounting lantern. The cupola clock was imbedded into the dome. A large brick addition, one bay in depth, was appended to either side of the building. The addition is terminated at the second story level of the main structure.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1859

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 checked="" 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 first Murfreesboro courthouse was erected on the present site on the public square in 1812. Although no description of the building is available, it evidently was not very substantial, as in March, 1818, the court appointed commissioners to have it repaired or improved. In 1822, while Murfreesboro was the Capital of Tennessee, the courthouse burned. A commission was appointed by the legislature to supervise the erection of a new courthouse which was of brick and constructed at a cost of approximately \$6,000. In January, 1859, a committee was appointed to investigate the necessity of building a new courthouse. After careful investigation, the committee reported that a new building was an absolute necessity, and the present building was constructed in 1859 at a cost of \$50,000.

Probably the most exciting day which the building has witnessed was July 13, 1862, when the dashing Confederate cavalry leader, General Nathan Bedford Forrest, recaptured the courthouse from Federal occupation and rescued several Confederate prisoners who had been sentenced to hang. Evidences of the impact of mini-balls may still be seen in some of the brick of the courthouse walls.

The significance of the courthouse lies more in its site than the quality of its architecture. Murfreesboro was originally designed as a courthouse town. On a regular grid, a smaller central square was imposed to accommodate the administrative structure. This isolated island became the heart of the new town from the time of the construction of the first courthouse. The current building, by its imposing height and great solidity, provides a very real visual focus to the older central section of Murfreesboro, as the original town planners and the designers of the current structure intended. It is as symbolic as it is functional. It dignifies and marks the town as the regional center of justice and administration. It is an integral part of the fabric of Murfreesboro and no twentieth century structure could fill the shoes of this somewhat battered nineteenth century monument on its intended nineteenth century site.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"The Antebellum Courthouses of Tennessee" Herbert L. Harper,
Tennessee Historical Quarterly, Vol. XXX, No. 1, Spring 1971,
 pp. 21-23.

Consultant: Vaughn L. Glasgow
 Art & Architectural Historian
 Middle Tennessee State University
 Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

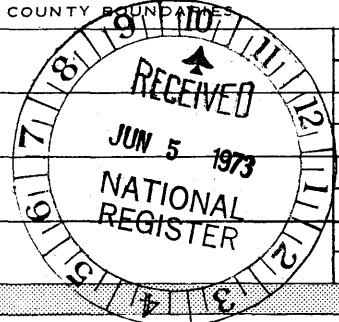
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES									
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE							
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds					
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	35	0	50	45	86	0	23	32
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"								
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"								
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"								

UTM
 16/554910
 3966840

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **6**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Peter S. La Paglia

ORGANIZATION: **Tennessee Historical Commission** DATE: **5-10-73**

STREET AND NUMBER:
403 7th Avenue North

CITY OR TOWN: **Nashville** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47**

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: Michael J. Smith
 Title: Executive Director Tennessee Historical Commission
 Date: 6-1-73

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

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

Date: 7/16/73

ATTEST:
Wm. H. Gentry
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7 10 73

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Rutherford County Courthouse
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TENNESSEE, Rutherford

DATE RECEIVED: 5/16/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/30/03
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 73001826

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ ACCEPT ___ RETURN ___ REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER

DISCIPLINE

TELEPHONE

DATE

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

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Additional Information

The Confederate Monument on the courthouse square.

The monument was erected on November 7, 1901 by the Ladies Memorial Association (Murfreesboro Chapter #91 United Daughters of the Confederacy), the J.B. Palmer Bivouac, the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

It is bronze statue of a Confederate soldier on a granite base with bronze plaques with inscriptions on all four sides. The statue faces north.

Inscriptions:

Front, northeast side. In commemoration of the valor of Confederate soldiers, who fell in the great battle of Murfreesboro, Dec. 31, 1862, and January 2, 1863 and in minor engagements in the vicinity, this monument is erected

Southeast side. Lest we forget 1861-1865

Southwest side. "A monument for our soldiers, built of a people's love."

Northwest side. Honor decks the turf that wraps their clay

Information supplied by Linda Logan, Chair, Monuments Committee, United Daughters of the Confederacy

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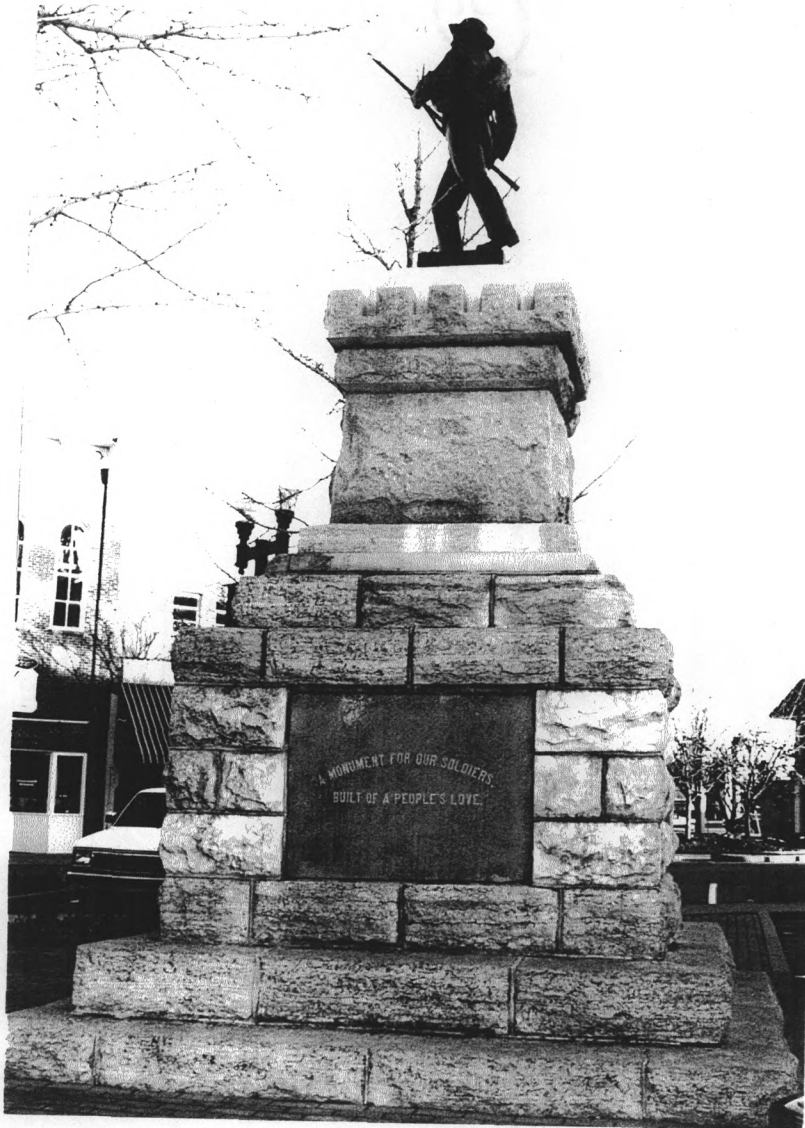
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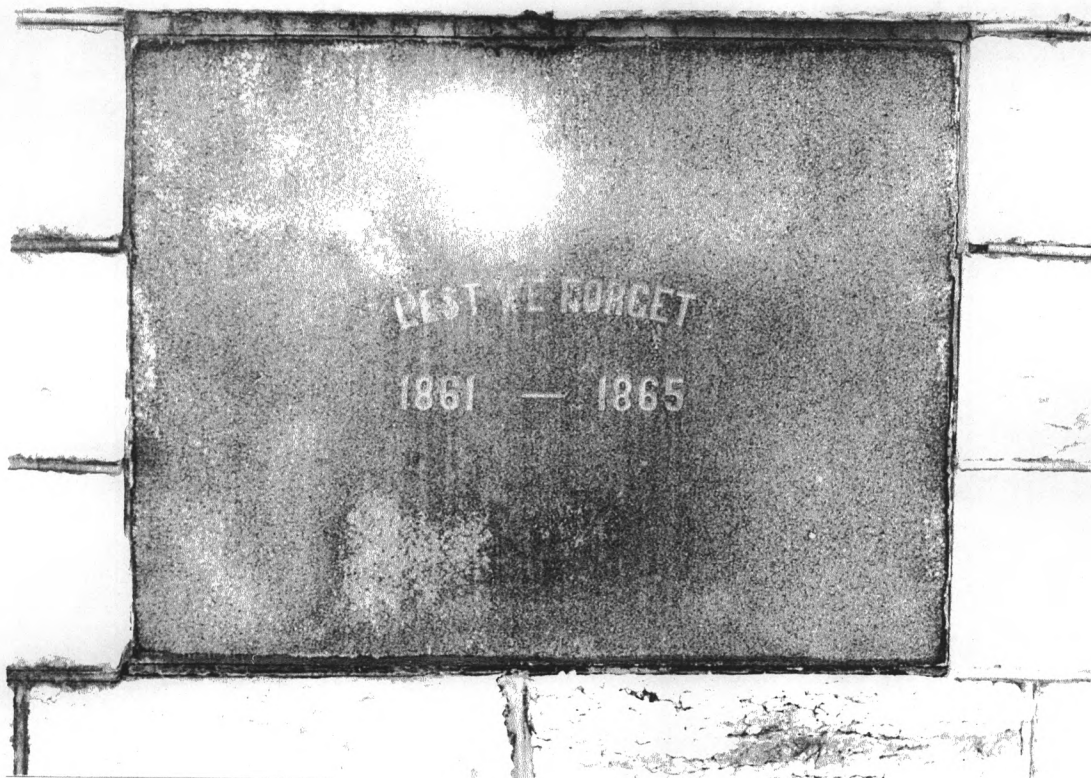
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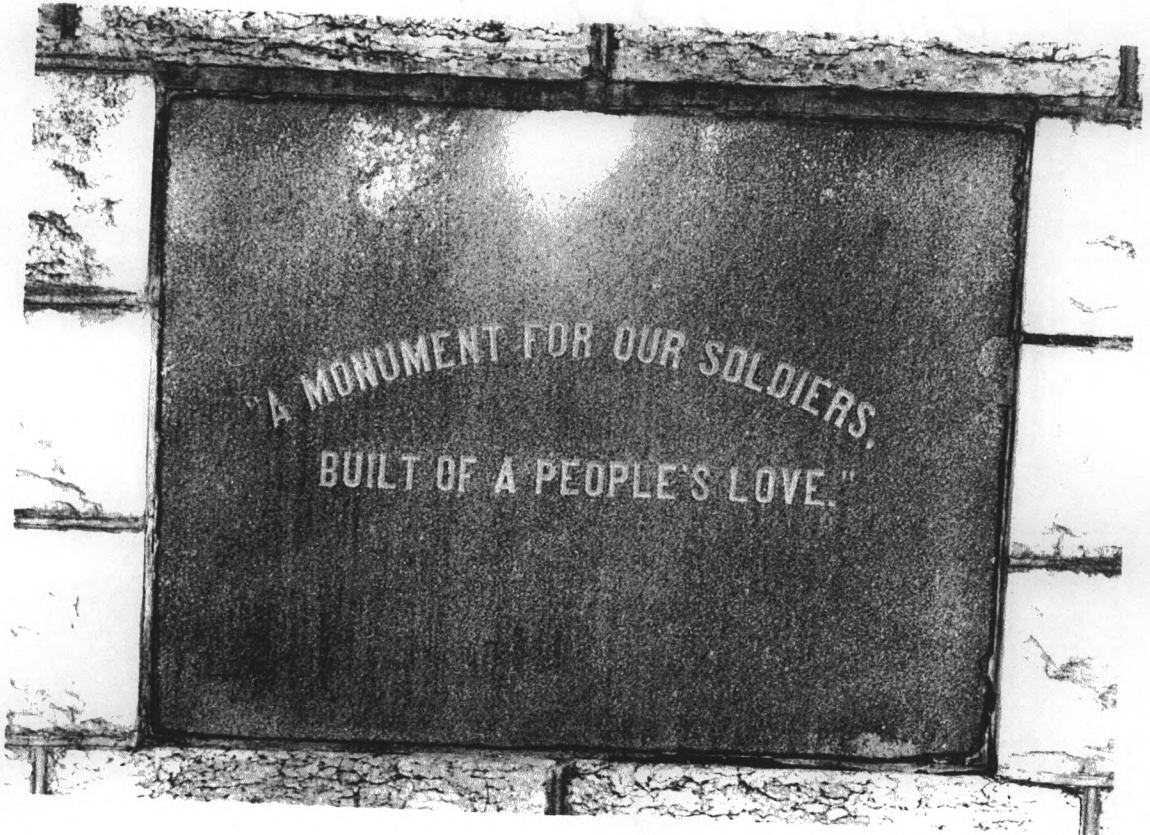
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