

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee
COUNTY: Coffee
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE FEB 12 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Coffee County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **Public Square** **Congressional District: 4th Rep. Joe L. Evins**

CITY OR TOWN: **Manchester** **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:**

STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47** COUNTY: **Coffee** CODE: **031**

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	<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: **County of Coffee**

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER: **Courthouse**

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

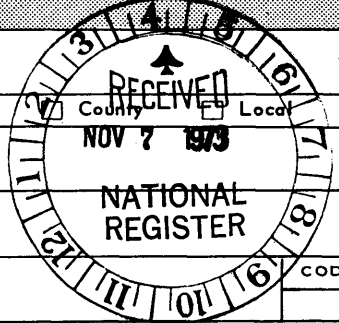
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Tennessee**

COUNTY: **Coffee**

ENTRY NUMBER: **FEB 12 1974**

DATE: **FEB 12 1974**

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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

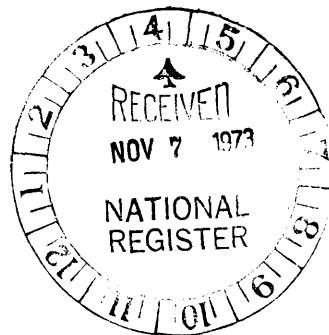
The Coffee County Courthouse is located on the public square in Manchester, Tennessee. It was built in 1871 after the original courthouse, built in 1837, was destroyed by fire. The woodwork, painting, plastering, iron, tin, and stone work were contracted to J. O. and D. S. Wright of Nashville. Records indicate that they received \$8,755.00 for the job. The hard pressed bricks were locally produced and are laid in six course American bond with some variance on 2nd floor, in a bed of lime and sand mortar. Henry Levy received a total of \$2,341.00 and is listed as the contractor for the brickwork. The name of the Architect is yet to be determined.

The two-story Italianate brick structure was originally rectangular in form and measured 44 x 64 feet. The ground floor originally had four double doors. One entrance was centrally located in each side of the building. A hallway connecting north and south doors and a hallway connecting east and west doors crossed in the center of the building. A large room, 15 x 24 feet, was located in each corner of the ground floor. The Coffee County Courtroom and the quarters of county officers were located in these four rooms.

The Circuit Court and jury rooms were located on the second floor. In 1914 an addition was made on to the northside of the Courthouse and the east and west doors were removed and the openings bricked up. The east to west hallway was converted into four separate fireproof storage vaults. This two-story, 1914 addition has a flat roof and measures 24 x 25 feet. Care was taken to match the style and trim of the addition with that of the 1871 structure; however, the bricks of the addition were laid in common bond and the newer bricks are smaller in size.

A distinctive Victorian charm is created by the fancy, yet non-gaudy, trim work. Hoodmolds, brackets, dentils, and cornices are crafted from heavy gauge, tin-coated, sheet metal. A twelve column cupola straddles the gabled roof at the center of the 1871 structure. The incurvate, pyramid roof of the cupola is slightly truncated to provide a base for the slender sheet metal spire.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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)

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/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1870 Tennesseans voted by a 3 to 1 majority to accept a new State constitution that would lead to post-Civil War recovery. The new constitution was vigorously opposed by extremists who wanted Tennessee to remain under minority radical control. The elections of that year were a decisive victory for the Democrats. During this year the original Coffee County Courthouse burned, and out of necessity the present structure was constructed. The ornate design chosen for the present courthouse reflects the confidence and optimism of Coffee Countians as Tennessee emerged from post-Civil War minority radical control.

The architectural beauty of the Courthouse is accented by a fine example of the use of ornamental tin work. It is of great significance as an example of Tennessee architecture immediately following the Civil War. It is the focal point of downtown Manchester, and is very important to the townscape.

In recent years great controversy has arisen over the fate of the courthouse. Considerable support has been given to the idea of razing the present building and erecting a new building. The courthouse has survived several close calls with the assistance of local historical groups who have advocated its preservation. At present the building is undergoing repairs and restoration, and its future looks brighter than in years past.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bridgewater, Betty Anderson, "A Hundred Years Old and Still Going Strong, or A Look at the Coffee County Courthouse," Coffee County Historical Society Quarterly, Vol. II, No. 4, Winter 1971.

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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	° ' "	° ' "		35° 28' 59"	86° 05' 19"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One

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:
Carey E. Waldrip, President

ORGANIZATION: Coffee County Courthouse Preservation Association DATE: 10/11/73

STREET AND NUMBER:
1201 Bond Street

CITY OR TOWN: Manchester 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: 10/26/73

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

A. R. Wooten
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 2/12/74

ATTEST:

Wm. H. Smith
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 2-6-74