

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Minutes, East Feliciana Parish Police Jury beginning 29 March 1839, abstracted and published in part in:

All Around the Square by Mamie Austin Rouzan (mineographed)

Notarial Records, East Feliciana Parish

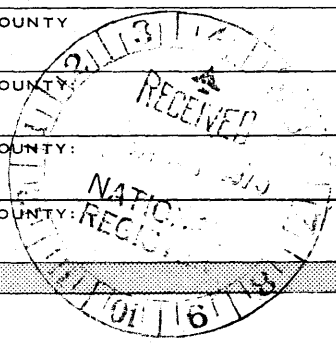
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	°	'	"	°	'	"	30°	51'	58"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	91°	01'	07"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than 1**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Mamie Austin Rouzan**

ORGANIZATION: **East Feliciana Pilgrimage and Garden Club** DATE: **12/5/72**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Route 1, Box 57**

CITY OR TOWN: **Jackson** STATE: **Louisiana** CODE: **022**

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: *George W. Rucke*

Title: State Liaison Officer for Historic Preservation, La.

Date: 9 Jan. 1973

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

Roderick Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/4/73

ATTEST:

S. Bradford
Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5/31/73

15/689420/...
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) **Built between 23 July 1839 and 7 September 1840**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" 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

The East Feliciana Parish Courthouse is one of the oldest buildings in the state still used for its original purpose. It was built to take the place of a frame Courthouse built in 1826 and burned in early 1839 by an arsonist, and on the Public Square which was donated by James Holmes and Susan Coates Bostwick (wife of John), who had purchased the land where Clinton is located from Lewis Yarborough and thereby become the proprietors and developers of Clinton. It was built by a lawyer, Lafayette Saunders, who came here from Gallatin, Tennessee, who was a member of the Police Jury when he made his bid to build the building, and was for some years the Judge who dispensed justice from the Judge's Bench in his "own" Courtroom.

It was occupied by Union troops during the War Between the States. Its old records are replete with slave sales and railroad and steamboat activities, (The Clinton and Port Hudson Railroad begun c. 1832 is still being used.) Land sales, franchises, mills to grind corn, cotton gins, sugar mills, sawmills, and many other things fill the pages of its thick record books. Re-recorded records, the Spanish Records Translations, and the pages of Gale and Seaton's and Duff Green's American State Papers are also located in the building. The structure is still used as the parish courthouse.

The perfection of its architecture is such that it is considered a work of art, with its beautifully planned mass, its great Doric columns and its balanced door and windows. It is often a subject of study by students of architecture.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 4 1973

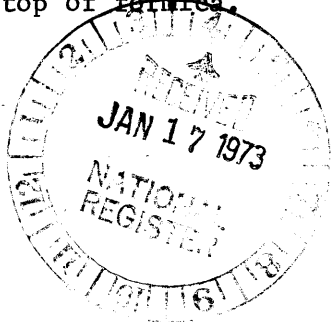
(Number all entries)

7. Description (cont'd)

tower room were to be laid with planks one and one half inches thick; floors of the Courtroom and the other two above were to be of oak, double, and filled in with mortar. The staircase was to land so as to leave an eight foot span in the center, the opening to be railed. The only walls in the building which are not of brick are the side walls of the two small second floor rooms which are of plastered frame. Only minor changes have been made inside the Courthouse as well as on the outside, so essentially this building is as it was, even to three coats of smooth plaster on the inside walls. Even the bell which was ordered to be properly hung and not to cost more than \$50.00 is still rung to announce sessions of the Court.

The Courthouse was designed by J. S. Savage and built by Lafayette Saunders, who resigned as a member of the East Feliciana Parish Police Jury when his bid won the contract at \$23,000. The building was accepted as completed 7 September 1840 even though the roof leaked due to the above noted changes in roof covering and addition of dome. That leak persisted for 124 years and finally stopped after the restoration had been done.

The fenders for the fireplaces are gone, but some of the original chairs remain and the old pegged table for the lawyers still sits in front of the Judge's Bench, still uniquely horseshoe-shaped even though it now has a top of ~~ferris~~.



7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

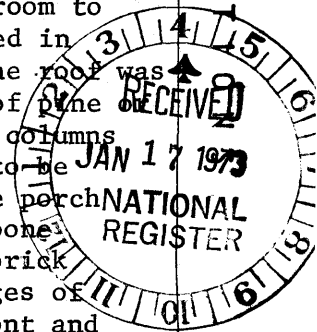
Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Courthouse is hardly changed at all, the changes being noted in the following description of the original. The building is of brick, two-story, 55' x 55', ceilings 18', with twelve windows below and seventeen above. Windows below were to have batten shutters covered with sheet iron. They now have plain batten shutters on the original strap hinges. Windows above were to have Venetian shutters, now they have none. All windows were and are six over six, but the old panes were taken out by the contractor who did the restoration in 1964 and given to the architect. Windows were to be omitted from the lower floor west end because of the stairway. There were to be four chimneys, two on the east and two on the west partition walls, so as to have four fireplaces downstairs, two in the courtroom and one each in each jury room (these were originally intended for Petit and Grand Juries). The stacks remain as they were, but all fireplace openings except one are sealed and used for heating and air-conditioning ducts. The roof was first planned to be four-sided, covered with zinc, surmounted at the apex by a handsome iron railing ten feet square and three feet tall, but this was changed during the construction to a four-sided roof covered with leaded slate and surmounted by a dome atop the square apex. Walls of the first floor (the foundation) were to be three feet thick, walls of first to second floor to be 17" thick, from second to third to be 13" thick and all partition walls to be 13" thick. Doors and windows were to be finished with plain pilasters, and the large folding doors were to have square headlights. All is as it was planned except the architect changed the headlight over the west door to a fanlight. Steps were to be of sound oak logs put neatly together (original plans called for granite steps, but they were changed to oak). There were to be two balconies at the folding doors in either end of the Courtroom to project three feet with iron railings. The oak steps were removed in 1964 because of termite damage and concrete ones substituted. The roof was to be supported by Doric columns and the cornice to be of heart of pine cypress without sap or other defects. The outside walls and the columns were to be plastered rough cast. All doors to the outside were to be folding doors, and were the ones leading into the Courtroom. The porch which surrounds the building had a brick floor laid in a herringbone pattern. The old bricks were taken up and replaced with modern brick and the tops of the great slabs of slate which line the outer edges of the porch were covered with concrete. The old brick walks in front and back still remain.

Inside there were four rooms on the first floor; the two on the north have been long since combined into one large room. On the second floor is a Courtroom which is 52' x 38', with two rooms of 12' x 20' and a stair landing ten feet wide. The great west hall runs the full length of the west side, is brick floored (now new brick) and contains the double stairway going up from the folding doors to the Courtroom. The stairsteps were to be six feet wide of plank two and one half inches thick. Joists of the first and second floors were to be not more than 18" apart, and the same for joists on the second floor; those over the Courtroom were to be supported by two girders across the breadth of the Courthouse so the joists would not be over 18' long. All fastenings were to be of the best brass mounted, the windows to have single box frames and all sash to be hung with weights and pulleys. Door frames were to conform to plans; floors of the

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NHL 5.30.74
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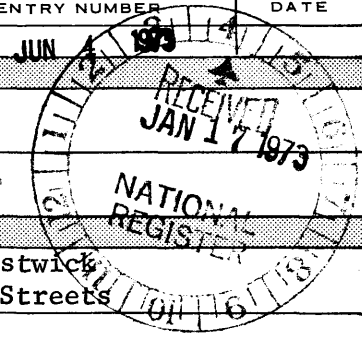
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



1. NAME

COMMON:
* * The Courthouse & Lawyers' Bldg
AND/OR HISTORIC:
East Feliciana Parish Courthouse *Use this*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Public Square donated by Holmes and Bostwick
Bounded by St. Helena, Woodville, Liberty and Bank Streets
CITY OR TOWN: Clinton
STATE: Louisiana CODE: 022 COUNTY: East Feliciana CODE: 037

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"/> 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	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Original records of many kinds</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: East Feliciana Parish Police Jury
STREET AND NUMBER: Police Jury Building adjoining the Courthouse
CITY OR TOWN: Clinton STATE: Louisiana CODE: 022

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Notarial Records, East Feliciana Parish Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER: Bounded by St. Helena, Woodville, Liberty, and Bank Streets
CITY OR TOWN: Clinton STATE: Louisiana CODE: 022

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Plan-Layout of Streets - Town of Clinton, La.
DATE OF SURVEY: May 1951 Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: East Feliciana Parish Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER: Bounded by St. Helena, Woodville, Liberty and Bank Streets
CITY OR TOWN: Clinton STATE: Louisiana CODE: 022

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER
JUN 4 1973

DATE

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