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Registration Form				Write	
his form is for use in nominating or requestin ational Register of Historic Places registratic entering the information requested. If an it chitectural classification, materials, and area tries and narrative items on continuation sh	<i>n Form</i> (National Registe em does not apply to the as of significance, enter o	er Bulletin 16A). Comp property being docum only categories and su	olete each item b iented, enter "N// bcategories from	y marking "x" in t A" for "not applica the instructions.	the appropriate box o able." For functions, Place additional
Name of Property			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
storic name Lewis County Courth	ouse				
her names/site number <u>N/A</u>		······································			
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<u></u>	<u></u>				
reet & number <u>110 North Park Str</u>	reet				t for publication
ty or town <u>Hohenwald</u> ate Tennessee code	TN county l		40		x□ vicinity 38462
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Name of Property

5. Classification						
<b>Ownership of Property</b> (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of (Do not includ	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in count)			
☐ private ⊠ public-local	⊠ building(s) □ district	Contribu	ting	Noncontributing		
public-State	☐ site	1		0	buildings	
public-Federal	☐ structure	0			sites	
harved 1	object	0		0	structures	
		0		0	objects	
		1		0	Total	
Name of related multiple (Enter "N/A" if property is not pa	e property listing rt of a multiple property listing.)		Contributir onal Registe	ng resources previ er	ously listed	
N/A		N	/A	_		
6. Function or Use						
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructio	ns)	Current Fu	inctions ries from instruc	ctions)		
GOVERNMENT: Courthou	Jse	GOVERNM	IENT: Courth	nouse		
Correctional Facility (Jail)						
		- 111		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
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7. Description		······································	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
Architectural Classificati		Materials				
(Enter categories from instruction	ns)	· ·	ies from instruc	tions)		
Art Deco OTHER: PWA Modern		foundation walls				
OTHER. PWA Wodem		Walls	Brick			
<u></u>		roof	OTHER: E	Built-Up/ Membrane		
		other	Metal Wind			

### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property

### 8. Statement of Significance

### **Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity who's components lack individual distinction.

**D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

## Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- **B** removed from its original location.
- C moved from its original location.
- D a cemetery.
- **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- **F** a commemorative property
- **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
  - 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 #

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government Architecture

### **Period of Significance**

1939 - 1956

### Significant Dates

N/A

#### Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked) N/A

N/A

### **Cultural Affiliation**

### Architect/Builder

Public Works Administration (PWA)	
Hart & Russell - Architects	
Chrichlow & Yearwood - Contractors	

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

County and State

Lewis	County	Courthouse
Name of	of Property	v

Lewis County, Tennessee County and State

10	). G	eographical Data	

Acreage of Property Approx 3 acres	_ Kimmins, Tenn 41 SE
<b>UTM References</b> (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
1         16         449907         3934144           Zone         Easting         Northing           2	3     Zone     Easting     Northing       4         I See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Kevin Chastine	
organization Tennessee Historical Commission	date April, 2005
street & number 2941 Lebanon Road	telephone 615-532-1550
city or town Nashville	state TN zip code 37214
Additional Documentation	
submit the following items with the completed form:	

### **Continuation Sheets**

#### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 0r 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### **Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

#### **Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

#### **Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)				
name Lewis County; Kenneth Turnbow, County Mayor				······
street & number 110 North Park Street			telephone	931-796-3378
city or town Hohenwald	state	TN	zip coo	le <u>38462</u>

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Lewis County Courthouse Lewis County, TN ------

## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The 1939 Lewis County Courthouse, located on the public square in Hohenwald (pop 3754) is an excellent local example of Public Works Administration (PWA) Modern architecture. It was designed by the Nashville architectural firm of Hart and Russell, and built by Chrichlow and Yearwood contractors, also from Nashville. The public square in Hohenwald is lined with a combination of residential, commercial and public buildings, dating mostly from the mid twentieth century.

The courthouse is based on a large rectangular central block flanked by smaller rectangular wings. The courthouse is constructed of red brick laid in a common bond pattern with a concrete foundation. All elevations maintain original metal hopper windows ranging in size from two panes to sixteen panes. All windows are capped by a soldier row course. A three-part concrete cornice is found on all elevations.

The east façade is a large scale, two-story, symmetrical, five bay central block flanked on both sides by two-story, single bay wings. A centrally located replacement double door entrance projects from the elevation and is topped with a convex cast concrete ornamentation. The doors were replaced c. 1990. The central block has six large-scale pilasters rising from the concrete foundation and terminating at the top of the second floor windows. The pilasters are topped with a concave fluted concrete ornamentation, which represents the capitals for the pilasters. The pilasters are given more prominence and depth due to the recessed nature of the window bays located between each pilaster. Each window bay on the first story of the facade contains an eightpane metal hopper style window that relates to first floor offices. The courtroom occupies almost the entire second floor and is lit by sixteen-pane metal hopper style windows. Centered above the second-story windows are the words: "LEWIS COVNTY COVRT HOVSE." The letters are made of a copper colored metal and are flanked to each side by round rosettes of the same material. The rosettes are centrally located above the capitals of the outermost pilasters. The central block of the façade is topped by a three-part cornice.

Flanking the central block of the facade are two story, single bay wings that are set back from the central block by five feet. Each wing begins with the concrete foundation that stops at four feet, where the brick cladding begins. Two vertically stacked windows are symmetrically arranged on the facade of each wing. Each window is an eight-pane metal hopper window topped by a soldier course of bricks. Above the second-story window is a stringcourse, which marks the height of the second floor ceiling. The roofline of each wing terminates with the three-part cornice.

The north and south elevations are the ends of the wings, which flank the central block. Both elevations consist of the concrete foundation and brick cladding. The elevations are symmetrically arranged with two rows of four hopper windows each. Some changes to the windows were made c. 1999 on the north elevation where a first floor window has been enlarged to fit a single door to

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Lewis County Courthouse Lewis County, TN comply with ADA access standards and the newly installed elevator. Also two other window openings were bricked in and another window was replaced by a modern single pane window at the same time. All other windows are eight-pane metal hopper windows and are all topped with a solider row course. On both elevations, above the second story windows, the stringcourse is continued from the east facade of each wing. Also, both elevations are topped with the same three-part cornice found on the east facade. A rectangular chimney is visible extending from the roof on the south elevation. The south elevation also has stairs leading down to a window and three basement entrances that are no longer used.

The west elevation is a large scale two-story, seven bay central block flanked on both sides by two-story, single bay wings. Unlike the front façade, the west elevation is nearly devoid of ornamentation. The only architectural features of the west elevation are the concrete foundation; soldier row course over each window, the three-part cornice, and a variety of metal hopper windows. The window fenestration on this elevation utilizes four different variations of pane configurations. These configurations range from two-pane to sixteen-pane.

The west elevation begins with a centrally located replacement double door entrance that opens to a landing in the basement. Two-pane windows flank the entrance. These windows were replaced in 1992, however the new windows closely match the appearance of the original configuration. Moving above the centrally located entrance there is a sixteen-pane metal hopper window flanked by eight-pane metal hopper windows. This collection of windows coincides with the large staircase on the interior. Flanking this collection of windows are four eight-pane metal hopper windows. Vertically aligned above the second story windows are seven square shaped two-pane metal hopper windows. The five windows on the north side of the third story relate to the jail cells and are covered with decorative steel grates. The remaining two windows to the south relate to the warden's room and do not have the steel grates. The west elevation is completed by two-story, single bay wings to each side of the central block, identical to the arrangement of the front façade.

The interior spaces of the Lewis County Courthouse have had no major structural and only minimal decorative changes since its completion in 1939. The floor plan for the Lewis County Courthouse is a central lobby with hallways extending to the left and right with three offices located in each hallway. The second floor of the courthouse utilizes a similar plan with the main exception being the replacement of the lobby with the Courtroom. Additionally the hallways on the second floor contain more offices. A staircase located next to the Clerk and Master's office accesses the third floor, which contains the former jail.

The first floor begins by entering the double doors of the east elevation. There are four steps that lead up to the first floor lobby area of the courthouse. The linoleum floor, added in 1985, in the lobby contains the letters L and C for Lewis County as well as the outline of the county itself. A single square of black linoleum marks the location of Hohenwald within the county. On axis with the double door entrance is the staircase, which is a divided flight design that consists of a central

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Lewis County Courthouse Lewis County, TN

double-width flight that leads up to a landing. Single-width flights located to each side ascend to the second floor from the landing. In addition there are single-width flights located to each side that descend to the basement level.

The staircase consists of a metal balustrade and concrete treads and risers, with the treads covered with linoleum. The handrails are of wood. The baluster section of the staircase is a repetitive pattern of a central floral rosette with eight square metal rods radiating out to eight cardinal points and then attaching to larger square metal rods. This baluster section is repeated from the ground floor/basement level up the entire staircase to the second floor landing at the courtroom. The only exception in this pattern is at turning points of the staircase where three square metal rods are utilized to turn the corner.

The staircase is the most defining feature of the lobby. Secondly are the ten foot ceilings, which are trimmed with a three stepped crown molding that is very similar in appearance to the three part cornice which circles the roofline of the exterior. Other defining features include the five-foot high chair rail, which begins at the double door entrance and encircles the entire lobby and leads down the staircases to the basement and rear entrance.

The offices of the Lewis County Courthouse have undergone cosmetic changes since their opening in 1939, however all offices retain their original layout of public and private spaces. In the 1980s the original plaster walls were covered with wood veneer paneling. All offices in the courthouse are one large open space with some type of division of space between office and public areas. A wood counter, opaque glass panels, and a doorway are typically used to achieve the division between public and private spaces within the offices. Some of these counters have been moved slightly within the offices to improve traffic flow. All the offices retain the wood counters, although some opaque glass panels have been removed. The County Clerks and Register of Deeds office best displays the configuration of the original counter, opaque glass panels and door separating the office space from the public space.

Standing in the lobby and facing the double door entrance, there are two offices that flank the entrance hallway. In addition there are three offices located in each hallway, which extend from the lobby. At the end of the south hallway there is a bathroom, while the other hallway terminates at the elevator, which was installed in 1996 to meet ADA requirements.

The second floor of the courthouse follows the same plan as the first floor with only minor differences. The main difference is the courtroom is located directly above the first floor lobby area and entrance hall. In addition the second floor does provide access to the original jail which is found on the third floor of the courthouse.

The courtroom is a large rectangular space. The original judge's bench is located along the south wall, with the jury seats located east of the judge's bench. An original paneled wall separates the

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Lewis County Courthouse Lewis County, TN jury and general public from the judge's bench and attorney desks. The public area of the courtroom maintains its original fourteen rows (seven rows side by side) of wooden folding seats. Each row consists of six seats that consist of wooden backs and folding seats. The end of each row is decorated with a classical design of fluted pilasters, recessed panels and floral motifs. The ceiling was covered with acoustical panels in the 1980s. The walls are topped with a crown molding, and the doors are trimmed with a fluted trim with corner rosettes that was added in the 1990s. The floor is carpeted, except for the public seating area which is concrete.

The third floor contains three original jail cells. The walls and floors are concrete. The original bunks extend from the walls and are made of steel. Original metal doors are in place and have a sliding viewing window. Small rectangular windows with metal grates provide light to the cells. The northeast corner cell contains several bunks and the former shower area. The central room is made of concrete and currently is used for storage. The jailer's rooms on the south end have been converted to a storage room and a break room.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Lewis County Courthouse Lewis County, TN 

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The property is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C for its local significance in government and architecture. The Lewis County Courthouse is a good example of a county courthouse built through the Public Works Administration. It is a good local representation of the federal government's efforts to provide work and economic relief during the Great Depression. The courthouse has served as the center of government in Lewis County since its construction in 1939. Also the third floor was actively used as a jail for several years. The Lewis County Courthouse is the only PWA funded courthouse in the state designed by the architectural firm of Hart and Russell. It is a good example of the PWA Modern style with restrained Art Deco elements. The building has undergone few cosmetic changes and retains a high level of integrity.

Lewis County was formed in 1843 with the county seat located at the community of Gordon. Five years later the county seat was moved to the newly established town of Newburg. By 1857 a new, larger courthouse was constructed. During the Civil War the population of Newburg rapidly declined to the point that county business was handled in neighboring Lawrence County. Following the war county business resumed in Newburg, but the town slowly started to become abandoned. As a result, in 1897 the county seat was moved to Hohenwald. The courthouse building in Newburg was dismantled and the wood was used for a residence. A new courthouse was built in Hohenwald in 1897 and used until 1927 when it was torn down for construction of the Meriweather Lewis High School. At that time the court activities were moved to an old school building located on the current site of the courthouse. In 1937 the old school building was razed and construction began on the current courthouse building. Courthouse offices were scattered to available buildings across Hohenwald until the courthouse was completed.

The three-story plus a basement courthouse is one of eight PWA county courthouses in Tennessee, but the only one designed by the architectural firm of Hart and Russell. Six of these eight courthouses are listed in the National Register: Lauderdale County (NR 03/30/95), Davidson County (03/23/87), Franklin County (03/30/95), Polk County (06/24/93), Madison County (03/30/95), and Obion County (03/30/95). From 1936 to 1945 eight Tennessee county courthouses were constructed utilizing aid from the Public Works Administration (PWA). Of these eight courthouses, the Lewis County Courthouse is the most subdued.

During the mid to late 1930s Lewis County suffered through difficult economic times, like much of the country. Lumber activities that had previously been an important industry in the county declined as available timber resources became depleted. One source reported that, "during more recent years the wooded area has become almost depleted of its marketable timber."<sup>1</sup> Development of new or large-scale industry was limited due to a lack of improved transportation routes through the county. Furthermore, agricultural activities in the county were limited due to the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> TN Valley Authority. Ind. Div. "Agricultural-Industrial Survey of Lewis County, TN". Knoxville, TVA, 1934. pg 6.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Lewis County Courthouse Lewis County, TN rolling terrain and rocky soil. As a result Lewis County had the highest unemployment rate in the state.<sup>2</sup>

The Public Works Administration was formed in 1933 to help the country lift out of economic depression. Its goals were to provide jobs as well as needed public buildings, structures and infrastructure. The PWA offered grants for projects that were deemed to be useful to their communities. Projects typically involved educational buildings, health care facilities, road projects and public buildings. From its inception until 1939 the PWA was involved in the construction of about sixty-five percent of all non-federal public buildings including courthouses.<sup>3</sup> Construction of the Lewis County Courthouse cost a total of \$84,501, of which \$37,505 was provided by the PWA.<sup>4</sup>

The construction of the courthouse represented a new orientation for the layout of the town of Hohenwald. It was sited at a location previously held by a public school. The 1897 courthouse was located three blocks south of the current courthouse on a site that was originally intended to be the public square of Hohenwald. The city was originally sited at the intersection of two roads that cut across the county. Later it developed further with the arrival of the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railroad. As a result the town developed along the crossroads and railroad, and the public square did not become the town center.

Originally the courthouse also housed a jail. The third floor still contains three original jail cells with their original metal doors and metal bunks intact. The jail cells are currently used for storage space. Additionally the flat roof of the south wing was used as a recreation and exercise area for the inmates.

The courthouse also serves to hold offices for local officials. One of the most notable was John Howard Warf. Warf served twice as Superintendent of Lewis County Schools (1929-1940, 1951-1963). Additionally his wife, Josephine Warf, also held the position on two occasions (1940-1950, 1963-1976). Then in 1963 he was appointed to be State Commissioner of Education, a post he held for eight years. He has been described as an aggressive politician who dominated local politics. He was credited with being responsible for a number of civic improvements throughout the county including the hospital, airport, public library and the courthouse. He served as the chairman of the building commission for the courthouse. As State Commissioner of Education he oversaw great growth in the schools of the state. During the time that he held the post nine community colleges, four technical institutes, and twenty-six area vocational technical schools were established.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Carroll Van West. "Historic County Courthouses in Tennessee". National Register Multiple Property Submission, 1995. pg 31.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Carroll Van West, *Tennessee's New Deal Landscape*. University of Tennessee Press, 2001. pgs 40-41.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> John Howard Warf's historical significance in terms of this National Register Nomination can be evaluated at a later date when his achievements reach fifty years old.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Lewis County Courthouse Lewis County, TN

When compared to the seven other PWA built courthouses in Tennessee, the Lewis County Courthouse is the least adorned. PWA projects generally emphasized function over form resulting in buildings that had restrained ornamentation. Even though the PWA did not advocate a particular style, many of the buildings displayed aspects of contemporary modernistic styles. The term 'PWA Modern' came to describe buildings built by the program. The PWA Modern style is characterized by symmetry, flat wall surfaces, vertical window bands, and stylized elements borrowed from Art Deco.<sup>6</sup> Buildings of this style generally contain few decorations and were built with a sense of utility and efficiency. This sense of utility was commonly seen in public buildings, such as courthouses, in order to portray a sense of efficient government management during an economically depressed time.

The exterior of the courthouse displays many of the characteristics of the PWA Modern style. The façade displays a strict symmetry. The windows, especially on the second story have an elongated, vertical appearance, which together with the brick pilasters that separate each bay give the building a strong sense of the vertical. Stylized elements on the exterior are limited to the concave decoration at the top of each brick pilaster and the convex decoration along the top of the main entrance bay. The lack of decoration reflects the economic realities of the time and the utilitarian philosophies of the PWA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Carroll Van West. "Historic County Courthouses in Tennessee". National Register Multiple Property Submission, 1995. pg 35.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 8

Lewis County Courthouse Lewis County, TN

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- Van West, Carroll. *Tennessee's New Deal Landscape*. University of Tennessee Press: Knoxville, TN, 2001.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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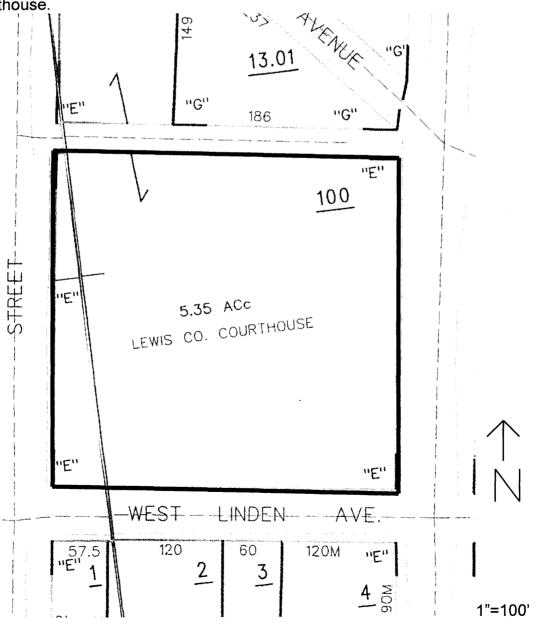
Lewis County Courthouse Lewis County, TN 

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property consists of a portion of parcel 100.00 in group E of Lewis County tax map 035P as shown on the accompanying map.

## **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nominated boundary represents the area currently and historically associated with the Lewis County Courthouse.



# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTOS Page 10

Lewis County Courthouse Lewis County, TN

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Lewis County Courthouse 110 North Park Street Hohenwald, Tennessee 38462

Photos taken by Kevin Chastine Photos taken April, 2005 Negatives at the Tennessee Historical Commission – Nashville, TN

East façade, photographer facing west. 1 of 13

North elevation, photographer facing south. 2 of 13

West elevation, photographer facing east. 3 of 13

South elevation, photographer facing north. 4 of 13

Main lobby with staircase, photographer facing west. 5 of 13

Stairs and hall outside courtroom, photographer facing east. 6 of 13

Interior of courtroom, photographer facing north. 7 of 13

Interior of courtroom, photographer facing south. 8 of 13

Interior of jail cell, photographer facing west. 9 of 13

Jail cell door, photographer facing west. 10 of 13

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

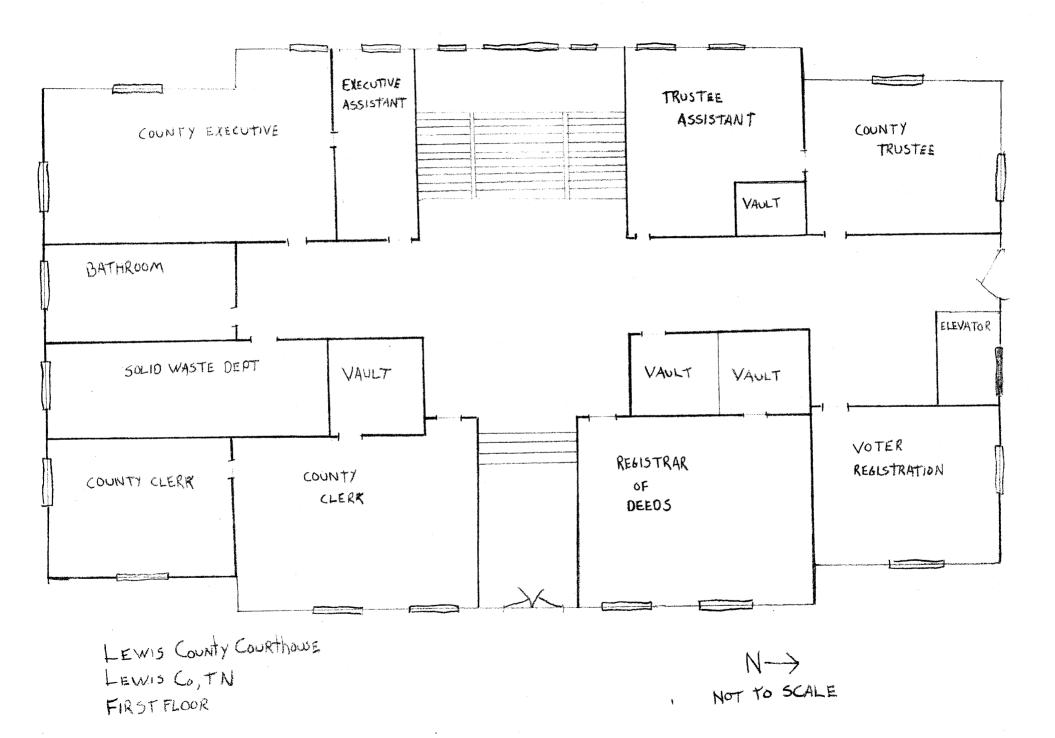
Section number PHOTOS Page 11

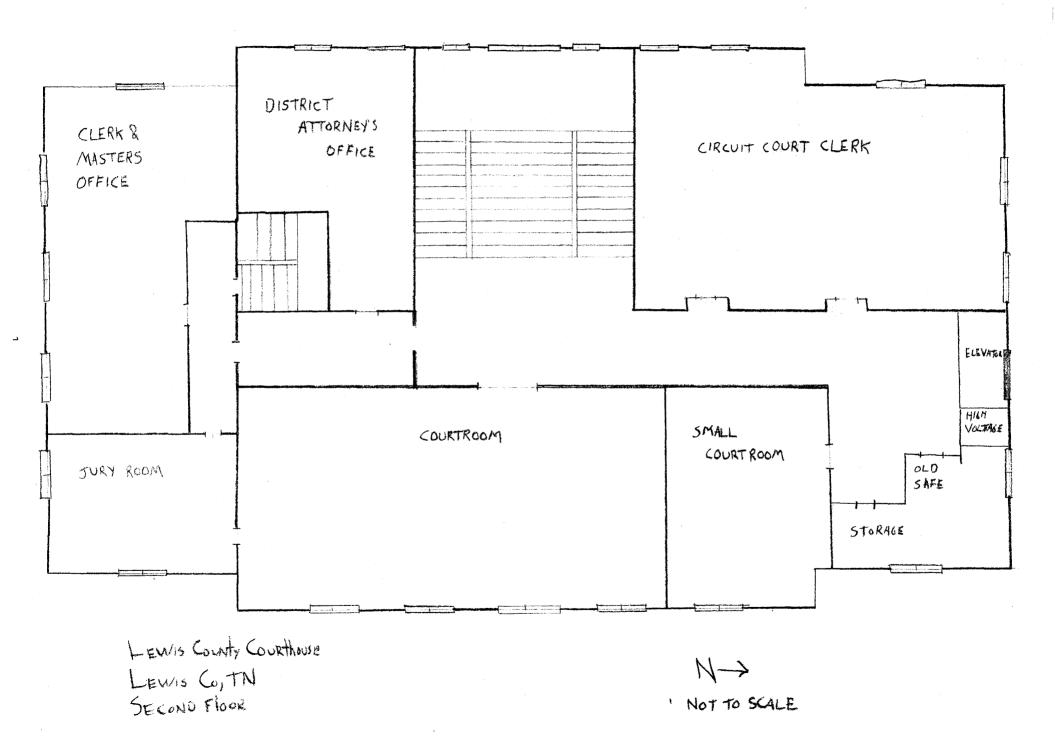
Lewis County Courthouse Lewis County, TN

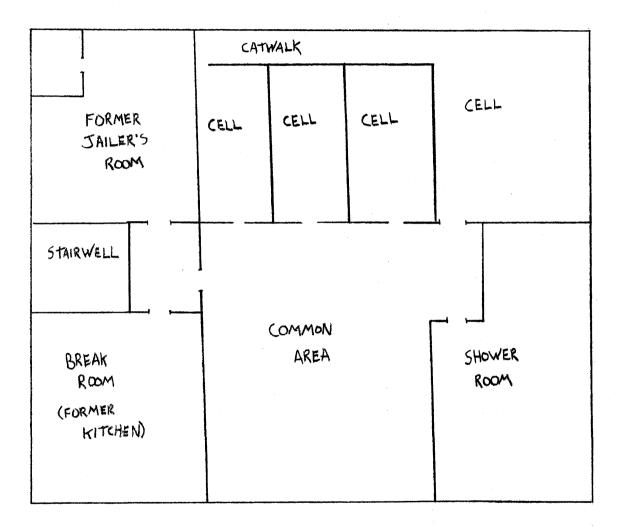
Hallway in front of courtroom, photographer facing north. 11 of 13

Basement hallway, photographer facing south. 12 of 13

Register of Deeds office, photographer facing northeast. 13 of 13







LEWIS COUNTY COURTHOUSE LEWIS CO, TN Third Floor

 $N \rightarrow$ 

NOT TO SCALE