

PH 0000060

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: ALABAMA
COUNTY: COFFEE
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 8 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Coffee County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Elba

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
2nd Congressional District

STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01** COUNTY: **Coffee** CODE: **031**

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 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 <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Coffee County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Elba

STATE:
Alabama

CODE:
01

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Coffee County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Elba

STATE:
Alabama

CODE:
01

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

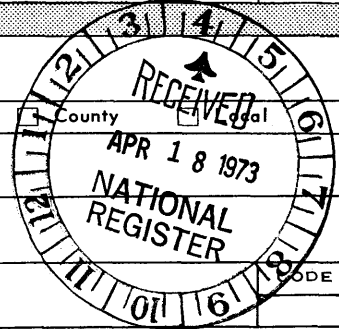
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

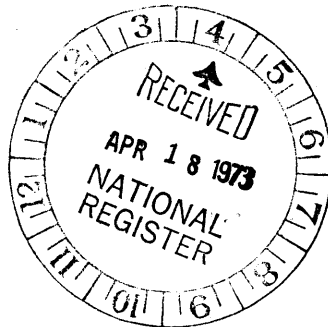
CONDITION

		(Check One)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed	
(Check One)			(Check One)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Coffee County Courthouse in Elba is a two-story brick Romanesque structure with Richardsonian influences. The most arresting features of the building are the twin turrets and the square clock tower that rises between them. The semicircular turrets are two-story in height and topped by conical roofs. Each has two rectangular windows with four large panes on the first floor and three arched windows on the second floor. Between the turrets on the first floor is a brick arch above the entrance. The double doors have two panels each. The upper panel is glass and the lower panel wood. Above the door is a three pane fanlight. Above the entrance there is a balcony with a plain balustrade and an arched doorway that repeats the first floor entrance.

The brick square clock tower rises above the entrance and balcony. There are three arched ribbon windows below the clock with a small non-functional balcony in front of them on the front side of the building. On the other three sides, the arched windows and balcony are omitted. The circular clocks on each side are set in circular patterned brickwork set in a square that has recessed brickwork at the four corners. The tower is capped by a pyramidal roof with a finial on top. On the first floor the windows are rectangular shaped with two lights in each sash. On the second floor the windows are arched with each having four lights. Above the windows is a single row of projecting brick outlining each arch. The building has a hipped roof.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1903

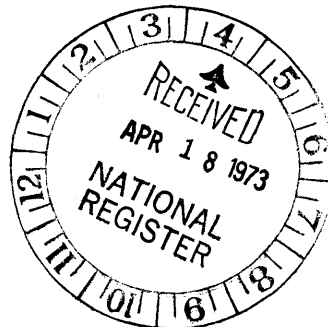
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Elba became the county seat of Coffee County in 1852. The first courthouse, located in Wellborn, burned in 1851, and an election was held October 5, 1852, to select a new county seat. Elba received 491 votes and Indigo Head (Clintonville) received 433 votes. Elba had been founded about 1840 as Bridgeville. The name was changed in 1850 to Bentonville in honor of Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri who served in Alabama in 1813-1814 during the Creek War. In December 1851 the name was again changed. Elba was drawn out a hat during a town mass meeting.

The first Elba courthouse, a two-story white frame building completed in 1853, was burned by "Ward's Raiders", a band of Confederate deserters, bushwhackers, and Tories, in 1863. A replacement building was not completed until 1867. In 1881 this building was sold and moved and the first brick courthouse was completed in 1882. Although this building was enlarged in 1899, it still inadequate, so the present courthouse was built in 1903. In the same year the legislature passed a law, later declared unconstitutional, establishing a branch courthouse in Enterprise. In 1907 another act was passed that made provisions for a separate judicial district centered in Enterprise and provided for branches of all principal county offices to be located there. The third and present Enterprise courthouse was built in 1924



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McMillan, M. C. The Land Called Alabama, Austin, Texas
 Steck - Vaughn Co., 1968
 Owen, T. M. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama
 Biography Chicago, S. J. Clarke Publ. Co., 1921
 Watson, Fred S., Coffee Grounds A History of Coffee County
 Anniston, Higginbotham, Inc. 1970

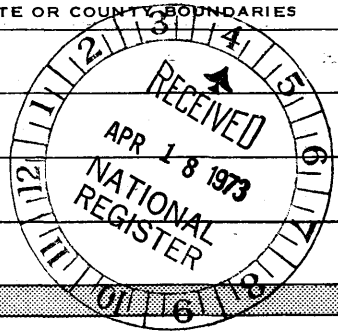
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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
NW	0 . "	0 . "		31	24	45
NE	0 . "	0 . "		86	03	44
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1 acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: **Alabama Historical Commission** DATE: **3/30/73**

STREET AND NUMBER:
305 South Lawrence Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Montgomery** STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01**

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 Wils B. Howard, Jr.

Title SLO for Historic Preservation

Date April 7, 1973

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

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

Date 5/8/73

ATTEST:

W. Warner Floyd
 Keeper of the National Register

Date 4 27 73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS