

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JAN 17 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Madison Parish Courthouse

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Corner of U. S. Hwy 80 and U. S. Hwy 65 N/A not for publication

city, town Tallulah N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Madison code 065 zip code 71282

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Leslie Tassin 1/11/89

Signature of certifying official Leslie Tassin, LA State Historic Preservation Officer, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

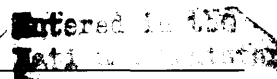
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Andrew Byers



2/21/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/courthouse

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/courthouse

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls stucco

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roof asphaltother 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Madison Parish Courthouse (1939) is a handsome two story stucco over masonry Colonial Revival building located in downtown Tallulah. Despite the addition of side wings, the building retains its National Register eligibility.

The five bay hip roof courthouse has an elegantly proportioned Ionic portico with a lunette set in the tympanum. The building culminates in a two-stage English Baroque cupola consisting of a square base, a balustrade, and an octagonal lantern with round arch openings and an ogee cap. The rest of the exterior detailing is fairly conventional Colonial Revival with louvered shutters, twelve over twelve windows, and light window cornices. The entrance opens into an off-center hall with an ornamental steel staircase which ascends to an upper lobby which gives access to the courtroom. Aside from these spaces, the building is entirely given over to offices with transomed doorways and heavy oak doors. The interior detailing is restrained.

Since the courthouse's construction, two single story side wings with parapets have been added. Evidently they were added fairly soon after the courthouse was built because their detailing is identical to the original building. Although these wings have altered the courthouse's exterior appearance, the original central block still stands forth and still dominates architecturally. The wings have not decreased the courthouse's monumentality or its status as a local landmark.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G    N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
architecture

Period of Significance  
1939

Significant Dates  
1939

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Architect: J. W. Smith & Associates, Monroe  
Builder: M. T. Reed Construction Co.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Madison Parish Courthouse is of local significance in the area of architecture as the landmark among the surviving older buildings in the parish seat of Tallulah. Although the town was founded in 1857, floods and other factors have taken their toll on the building stock. Today there are perhaps 150 50+ year old structures, most of which are plain bungalows, nondescript cottages, Colonial Revival cottages or plain commercial buildings. There are also a handful of fairly generic Queen Anne Revival cottages. In contrast to this comparatively humble patrimony, the courthouse is a grand and imposing building with an impressive presence on the town's main square. Its elegant five bay facade features one of only two pedimented porticoes in all of Tallulah. In addition, of these two porticoes, it is the only one with a fully developed Greek order (i.e., Ionic). (The other has square posts with molded capitals.)

See continuation sheet

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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Brasseaux, Carl A., Conrad, Glenn R., and Robinson, R. Warren. The Courthouses of Louisiana. Lafayette, Louisiana: Center for Louisiana Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1977.

Windshield survey of Tallulah by National Register staff, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of property @ 3 acres

UTM References

A 

1	5	6	7	0	4	6	0
Zone		Easting			Northing		

B 

Zone		Easting			Northing		

C 

Zone		Easting			Northing		

D 

Zone		Easting			Northing		

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description** Boundary lines follow the property lines of the city block on which the courthouse stands, said block bounded by U.S. Highway 80, U.S. Highway 65, Depot St., and Chestnut St. Please refer to enclosed sketch map.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification** Boundary lines follow property lines of the city block on which the courthouse stands.

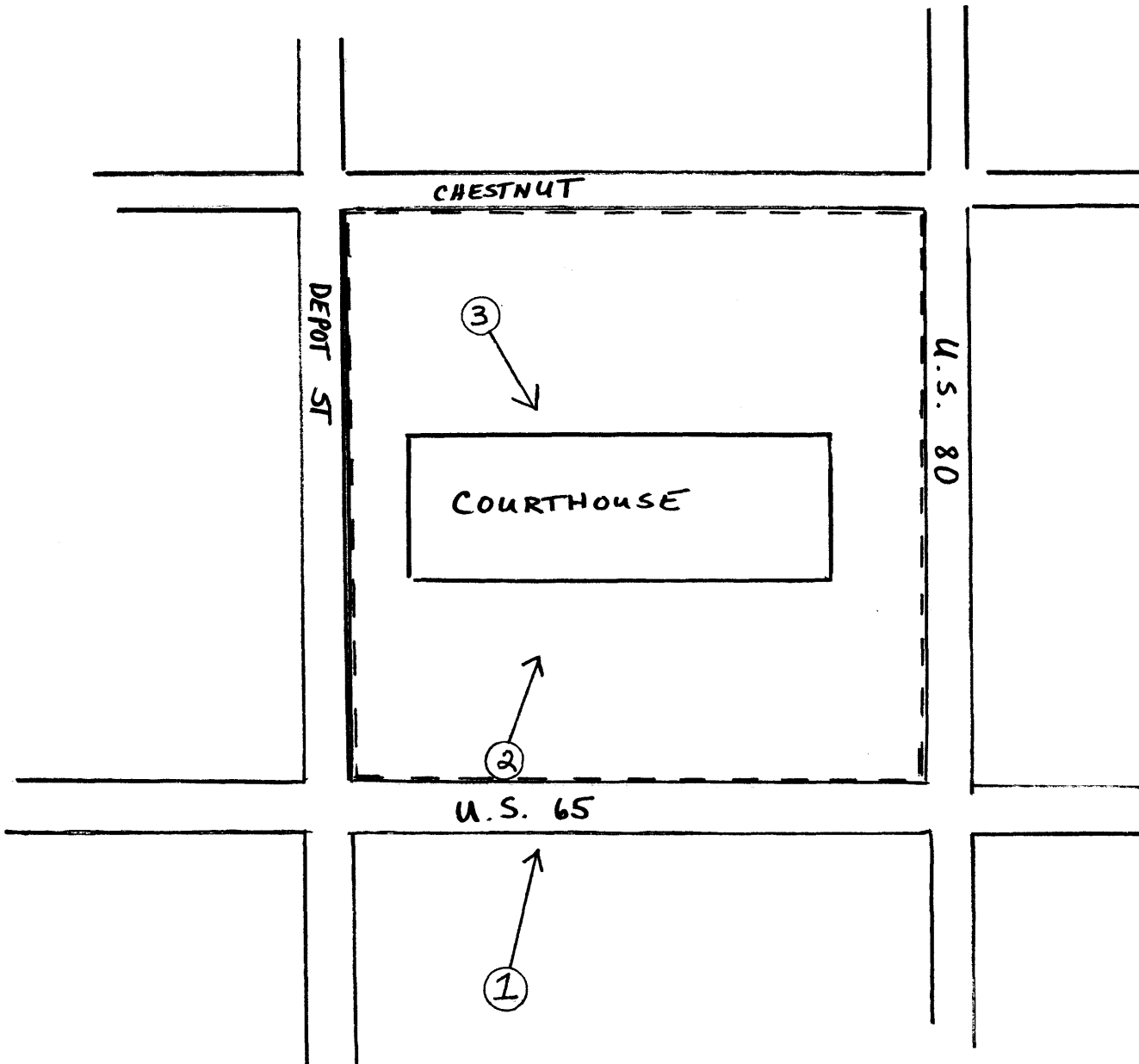
See continuation sheet

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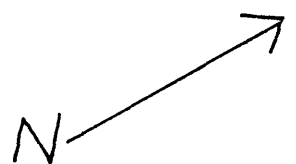
**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title National Register Staff  
organization Division of Historic Preservation date April 1988  
street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160  
city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804



MADISON PARISH COURTHOUSE  
Tallulah, LA

N   
1" = 100'  
--- BOUNDARY