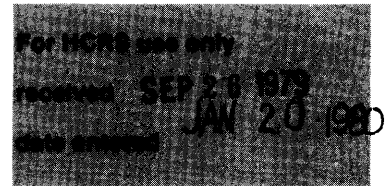


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Sequatchie County Courthouse

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Cherry Street _____ not for publication

city, town Dunlap _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Third

state Tennessee code 047 county Sequatchie code 153

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Sequatchie County Executive

street & number Sequatchie County Courthouse, Cherry Street

city, town Dunlap _____ vicinity of _____ state Tennessee 37327

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sequatchie County Courthouse

street & number Cherry Street

city, town Dunlap _____ state Tennessee 37327

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historical and Architectural Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July 11, 1979 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission, 4721 Trousdale Drive

city, town Nashville _____ state Tennessee 37220

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Sequatchie County Courthouse is located in the county seat of Dunlap. The Cumberland Plateau can be seen rising east and west of the building from the floor of the Sequatchie Valley. The wooded courthouse tract is part of a residential neighborhood.

A brick foundation supports the two story, Colonial Revival courthouse. The walls, also brick, are laid in stretcher bond. The composition shingle hip roof extends to cover a facade portico supported by brick columns of the Tuscan order. A brick chimney rises near the east corner of the rectangular building.

The facade or southwest elevation is composed of five bays separated by brick pilasters. The central bay has the main entrance surrounded by side lights and a fan transom. Each bay has two-over-two windows with segmentally arched lintels, a predominant characteristic of the building. The boxed and bracketed cornice is perimetric.

The southeast and northeast elevations are composed of four and five bays respectively with windows. The central bay of the three bay northwest elevation has a side entrance, side lights, and taller windows. Additions include a rectangular, brick restroom facility on the northeast elevation and a porch supported by brick piers on the northwest elevation.

The main entrance leads into a T-shaped hallway with a southeast-northwest crossbar. At the northwest end of the hallway a dog-leg stairway ascends to the second floor. The balustrade consists of finely crafted wooden handrails and newel posts with ornamental iron balusters. The wooden pews of the second story courtroom are believed to be original. Offices occupy all other space.

A Board of Education Building constructed in 1959, is also located on the property, and fronts Spring Street. This rectangular one-story building has a brick foundation, stretcher bond brick walls, and a composition shingle hip roof. The roof extends over the facade (northwest elevation) into a portico supported by wooden piers. The main entrance, on the northwest elevation, has side lights and a transom.

A croquet court is located north of the education building. The 40 foot x 80 foot court has a concrete border 6 inches in height and width. The iron wickets 5/8 inch thick and 3 feet deep, are anchored in concrete. The wooden slat, concrete block bench is original. Except for overgrown grass, the court remains in excellent condition.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1911 **Builder/Architect** W. K. Brown and Brothers, Contractors

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

On September 21, 1857, the General Assembly of Tennessee annexed the First and Second Civil Districts of Marion County and the Tenth Civil District of Bledsoe County to Hamilton County. On December 9, 1857, the General Assembly detached the districts from Hamilton County and created Sequatchie County. The General Assembly, thereby circumvented the Tennessee Constitution of 1835. The constitution prohibited the annexation of part of a county for the purpose of creating a new county if the act reduced the population of the original county to less than 1,000 residents or its area to less than 625 square miles. However, the constitution did not prohibit annexation of part of a county for the purpose of expanding an adjoining county.

On February 18, 1858, Benjamin F. Bridgeman of Bledsoe County brought suit to stay the organization of Sequatchie County. In September of 1860, the Tennessee Supreme Court ruled the suit to be invalid because the county was organized previous to the suit. However, the court also ruled a survey should be taken to determine whether the General Assembly unconstitutionally reduced the area and/or population of Bledsoe County. The Civil War interrupted proceedings.

The Tennessee Constitution of 1870 recognized Sequatchie County to be a constitutional county in order to legitimize its existence. The constitution also stated, "No part of Bledsoe County shall be taken to form a new county or a part thereof or be attached to any adjoining county." The present Sequatchie County Courthouse was built for \$12,000 by W. K. Brown and Brothers in 1911.

The Sequatchie County Courthouse has served for 68 years as the seat of government of a county created in a circumvention of the state constitution. The Board of Education Building succeeded the courthouse as the center of educational administration for Sequatchie County in 1959. The croquet court provided public recreation for 13 years, 1947-1960.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Crane, Sophie and Paul, Tennessee Taproots, Old Hickory: Earle Shields, 1976.
 Layne, Ora, Sequatchie County, Nashville: Tennessee State Library and Archives, 1969.
 Raulston, J. Leonard and Livingood, James W., Sequatchie: A Story of the Southern Cumberland, Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1974.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 1.93

Quadrangle name Daus, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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6	4	6	5	0	0
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3	9	1	5	2	2	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Sequatchie County Courthouse nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled Dunlap, Sequatchie Tennessee and drawn at a scale of 100 feet to the inch. This is the entire tract owned by Sequatchie County.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Britt Casteel, Research Assistant

organization Tennessee Historical Commission date September 18, 1979

street & number 4721 Trousdale Drive telephone (615) 741-2371

city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37220

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 9/21/79

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
Keeper of the National Register <u>Sally S. Olden</u>	date <u>1/20/80</u>
Attest: <u>Beth Groves</u>	date <u>1/11/80</u>
Chief of Registration	