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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Mississippi COUNTY: Tishomingo FOR NPS USE ONLY

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The Tishomingo County Courthouse is a two-story, rectangular, brick building with a gently pitched gable roof. The structure measures sixty feet across the principal facades (north and south) and forty-five feet across the ends. The numerous window openings are tall and narrow, arched on the first level and trabeated on the second. They are arranged in a symmetry made intricate by varied window groupings and by intersecting horizontal and vertical projecting bands of brickwork. Two horizontal bands act as a double belt course to mark the line between the stories. Four full-height piers divide each elevation into three bays.

On the south facade, each outer bay contains two lower windows with label molds which break at the impost level and continue as a horizontal band to the piers. Just below the impost band a vertical band is corbeled out from the wall between the windows and is brought up between the two upper windows and through the eaves to terminate as a chimney top. Flanking the upper windows are two other vertical bands corbeled out from the wall just below the belt courses. The vertical and horizontal bands intersect below the windows to form panels recessed in stages. Below the panels additional corbeling supports the lower belt course.

The central bay of the south facade contains three closely spaced upper windows. Beneath the double belt course is a wide, low arch which frames a recessed entrance porch. A double-leaf door and a two-paned transom are set in the tall rectangular doorway opening.

The configuration of the north facade repeats that of the south, differing only in the treatment of the entranceway. The head of this narrower doorway is semi-circular, formed by radiating brick voussoirs and a keystone. Within its paneled embrasure, a double-leaf paneled door is set beneath a three-paned fanlight.

Across the west gable end, the line of the eaves return is continued by a brick band containing rectangular recesses. In the pediment is a large thermae opening with blank panels flanking a louvered center section. Below the pediment, each small outer bay of the wall contains a double belt course and an upper and a lower window. The label mold of the lower window continues as a horizontal band across the large center bay where it is the only decoration of the lower wall. The upper wall of the center bay contains three closely spaced windows flanked by vertical bands which terminate in corbeling just below the two belt courses. Between the vertical bands,

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)	-	
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SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	le and Known) 1889-1	971	
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			SILIFICA

Between 1889, when it was first occupied, and 1971, when it was abandoned for a newer building, the Tishomingo County Courthouse at Iuka was the focal point of the everyday political life of the county and the center for occasional social gatherings connected with political speeches, hangings, and singing conventions. Architecturally, it is the most elaborate local example of a building type whose decorative effect is derived primarily from brickwork arranged in intricate corbeled patterns. Due at least in part to the influence of the courthouse, such decoration is found in simpler form on many of the later commercial buildings in the town.

Construction of the courthouse was begun in 188% to the plans of L. M. Weathers. J. T. Weaver was the contractor and John M. Stone, former governor of Mississippi (1876-82), was the supervisor of construction. Furnishings, including thirtynine benches, a judge's stand, and a bar, were installed early in 1889 indicating that the building was ready for occupation by that date.

Speakers at the courthouse have included Governors James K. Vardaman (1904-08) and Theodore G. Bilbo (1916-20, 1928-32), several congressmen, and a lieutenant-governor. Except for two years in the 1930s, the Tishomingo County Singing Convention met in the courthouse every year from 1917, when the convention was begun, to 1971.

The courthouse has been vacant since the county offices moved to a new building in 1971. On the basis of a study made by the Tennessee Valley Authority, a committee appointed by the County Board of Supervisors plans to restore the exterior of the building and renovate the interior for use as a visitor information center and a museum of local history.

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Tishomingo County, Chancery Court, Minutes, March 1888 sess., bk. 1, p. 53; April 1888 sess., bk. 1, p. 58; May 1888 sess., bk. 1, p. 62; January 1889 sess., bk. 1, p. 95; March 1889 sess., bk. 1, p. 112; April 1889 sess., bk. 1, p. 117.

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Form 10-300g (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mississippi
Tishomingo
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER 1 1013 DATE
WLW II

(Number all entries)

the lower belt course is corbeled out from the wall and three panels are inset in the wall between the belt courses.

On the east end, each small outer bay of the wall is left blank. A two-story projection, pedimented like the west end, occupies the large center bay. The lower wall of the projection contains two, small, round windows; the upper wall contains five windows separated by vertical bands ending in corbeling just below a double string course. Each side wall of the projection is decorated by a single upper window.

On the interior of the first floor, a central hallway is flanked by two rooms on each side. Each room has an iron chimneypiece with a serpentine mantel shelf and an arched opening for burning coal. The eastern rooms open to a double vault on the interior of the eastern projection. A stairway begins in the hall and, after passing through a double-leaf door, leads up between the western rooms to an intermediate platform where it divides and continues in opposite directions along the west wall to the level of the courtroom. The courtroom, decorated by a stamped metal ceiling, occupies the entire upper level of the main block. Behind a simple railing, the judge's platform is placed in the center of the east wall between flanking doors. The doors lead to the two robing and jury rooms in the east projection. The stepped jury platform is placed against the south wall at the east end of the court-The furnishings, including courtroom benches, a judge's desk, and, in the northeast lower room, a teller's cage, are stylistically contemporary with the building and are probably original.

The interior of the building has hardly been changed but the exterior appearance has been altered by the application of several coats of paint and, most radically, by the addition in the 1930s of a two-story wing at the southeast corner. Basically, however, the main block of the courthouse remains structurally intact. Some of the original windows of the main block were reused in the addition.

NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Matching Grants-In-Aid for Historic Preservation

FACT SHEET

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (80 Stat. 915) as amended authorizes matching grants-in-aid to the States and to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Matching grants are to assist historic survey and planning programs and acquisition and development projects. The term "project" means programs of States, local governments, and other public bodies, as well as private organizations and individuals, that are for the acquisition of title or interests in any district, site, building, structure, or object that is significant in American history, architecture, archeology and culture, or property used in connection therewith, and for its development in order to assure its preservation for the public benefit.

The National Park Service administers the program in each State through the cooperation of a State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor (see current data below). The Liaison Officer nominates historic properties to the National Register, prepares the State Historic Preservation Plan, and submits grant applications. All applications for grant assistance are made through him.

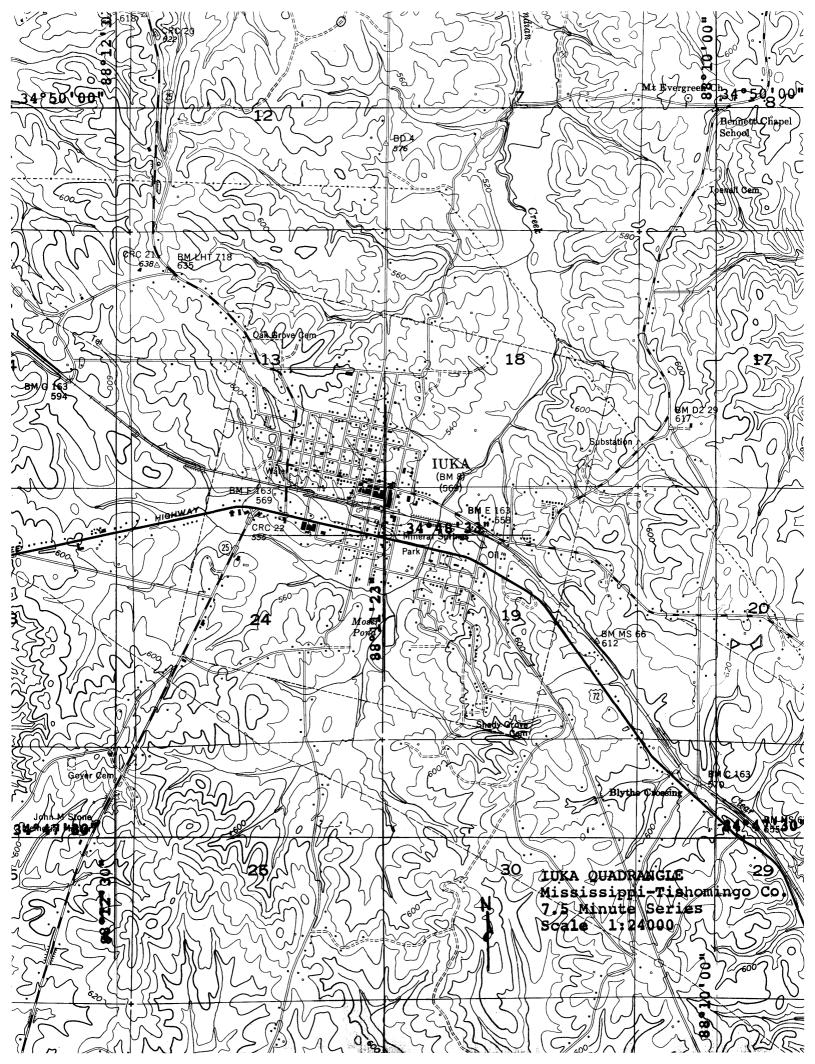
Historic resources are eligible for assistance if they are on the National Register of Historic Places (see current data below) and accord with an approved State Historic Preservation Plan (see current data below). The National Park Service encourages private organizations and individuals, as well as public bodies, to participate in the program.

Every State submits an annual work program on April 1 of each year. All grant applications must be included in that program. We urge you to confer with your State Liaison Officer as far in advance of this deadline as possible.

The Budget of the United States for 1972 (pages 350-351 and page 599 in the appendix) requests \$5,980,000 for the grants program for fiscal 1972, the amount appropriated in fiscal 1971. In fiscal 1971 the Secretary of the Interior apportioned \$2.1 million to 41 States for survey and planning, \$1 million to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and \$2.3 million to 40 States for acquisition and development projects. Your State Liaison Officer works under a stringent funding limitation which falls short of the need. This should be understood by anyone seeking Federal matching assistance.

Current Data

	•	Dr. R. A. McLemore, Director, State of Mississippi, Department of of Archives & History, Post Office Box 571, Jackson, Mississippi
3.	c.	MISSISSIPPI'S State Liaison Officer is
	_	Has not been submitted.
	~b•	Is expected to be approved shortly.
	a.	Was approved on December 31, 1970
2.	· c.	Has not been proposed. MISSISSIPPI'S State Historic Preservation Plan
	ь.	Was nominated on and is under review.
	a.	Was registered on
1.	THE	OLD COURTHOUSE, TISHOMINGO COUNTY



^lForm 10-301 (July 1969)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE
Mississippi
COUNTY
TishomingO
FOR NPS USE ONLY
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