

THEMATIC NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION - GEORGIA COURTHOUSES

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY FORM

Georgia County Courthouses Thematic Resources

Name of Structure: (Cherokee County Courthouse) (Addition)

Location: 100 North Street, Canton, Georgia 30114

Cost: \$149,036.59

Date of Construction: 1927 - 1928

Architect/Builder: A. Ten Eyck Brown Jailworks: Pauly Jail Company

Contractor: J.S. McCauley Company

Subsequent Architects: Associate Architect, Alfredo Barili, Jr.

Tax Map/Parcel Numbers: Map 115, Parcel 50

UTM No.: Zone 16/W3791150/E731080

Acreage: Less than one acre

Description: Style: Neo-Classical
Facade Material: Marble
Condition: Good

The Cherokee County Courthouse is a five-story Classical Revival building made of native marble. It dominates the town's open square. Its floor plan is that of a half-H with an open portico connecting the front extensions. The building has many fine details, including four sculptured open-winged eagles above the Corinthian columns, a carved shield honoring Cherokee County, and carved "Union Jack" designs spaced throughout the building's cornice. It has a reinforced-concrete frame. The original plaster walls and ceiling in the courtroom have been covered by paneling and a lowered acoustical ceiling. Some of the offices have been modernized and some hallways partitioned to provide more office space. The original jail is located in the top story of this structure. A brick addition has been constructed to the rear of the courthouse to accommodate county records. The courthouse occupies a focal point in the town. There is a minimum of landscaping around it. Non-historic outbuildings located on the grounds include the two-story brick courthouse annex and the two-story brick health center buildings. The sheriff's house is a historic, early-twentieth-century, one-and-one-half-story wood-framed bungalow.

Significance:

The Cherokee County Courthouse is significant in architecture, communications, economics, law, and politics-government. It is architecturally significant because it is one of Georgia's few native-marble courthouses and because it falls into a transitional era of architecture from the Neo-Classical styles of the early-twentieth century to the more modern or contemporary

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styles of the Depression and the Williamsburg or Colonial Revival styles of the 1930s. It is transitional because it combines indigenous marble, stylized Neo-Classical design, and a reinforced-concrete structural system. It is also significant as one of the few Georgia courthouses designed by A Ten Eyck Brown of Atlanta, one of the Southeast's foremost architects. It is significant in communications and economics because as the county courthouse it served as a place for community activities and as an economic center since all courthouse squares were the focal points for marketing, especially during "court week." Many local celebrations would have also taken place on its lawns. In law and politics/government, it is significant as the location where the county's laws were made and enforced, where people voted, and where other political and governmental functions, especially those involving marriages and estates, and all court cases, were carried out. An unusual feature is that the jail was incorporated into the courthouse building in the top story. The jailworks were created by the well-known Pauly Jail Company of St. Louis, Missouri.

Owner: Trammell Carmichael, County Commissioner
Cherokee County Courthouse
100 North Street
Canton, Georgia 30114

Historical Narrative:

The destruction by fire of the earlier Cherokee County Courthouse was announced in The Cherokee Advance of March 11, 1927. The New Court House Commissioners of Cherokee County had already been created by the Georgia General Assembly on August 2, 1921, and thus were already available to go into action with this crisis. A meeting of citizens held in late March, 1927, helped to decide the "best method to pursue" in rebuilding the courthouse. A bond issue was called to finance the construction and this was passed August 9, 1927, for \$150,000. Sealed bids were advertised and those selected were announced December 14, 1927. Through negotiations with the Georgia Marble Company in nearby Tate, Georgia, the county was able to secure a good price for the native stone and used it rather than brick. The building was delivered to the county, upon its completion, on November 14, 1928. The variously dispersed county offices regathered into the courthouse without any formal dedication.

The site of the new courthouse was slightly north of the earlier location. The old location was leased to the city of Canton for a public park as it is today. Several local sculptors were employed under the supervision of Jimmy Watt of Scotland, the master sculptor. David Ashe Herschel Couch and B. Maloni carved the eagles. The cartouche is attributed to Walter Howard. Anthony Ten Eyck Brown (1878-1940), the architect of the courthouse, was a native of Albany, New York, and the son of an architect. His early career in architecture took place in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Nashville, Tennessee, before he came to Atlanta by 1905. His best known remaining works in Atlanta include the Fulton County Courthouse (designed 1911), the United States Post Office on Forsyth Street (1929), and the Atlanta City Hall (1930). Another Georgia county courthouse he designed was the recently burned Spalding County Courthouse (1911). He is known to have designed courthouses in North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana, as well as many other prominent civic buildings. He also designed the Clarke County, Georgia, Courthouse in 1914 which incorporates a jail on its top floor.

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Bibliography:

Cherokee County. Minutes of the Superior Court, Book 19, pp. 129-32.

The Cherokee Advance, review of issues of 1927 and 1928 by June Hart Wester of Canton.


Files on A. Ten Eyck Brown at the Atlanta Chapter, AIA; the Atlanta Historical Society; and as published in the Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased) (1970), by H.F. and E.R. Withey; and Men of Atlanta (1924), edited by Dudley Glass.

A. Ten Eyck Brown, A.I.A.....Architectural Catalog, October, 1924. (Original at the Atlanta Historical Society)

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