

844

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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      Catoosa County Courthouse  
other names/site number      N/A

## 2. Location

street & number      7694 Nashville Street  
city, town      Ringgold      (N/A) vicinity of  
county      Catoosa      code GA 047  
state      Georgia      code GA      zip code 30736

(N/A) not for publication

## 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

buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: County Courthouses in Georgia

**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 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 the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

*Richard Coates*

*07-14-06*

Signature of certifying official

Date

W. Ray Luce  
Historic Preservation Division Director  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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 or bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

*Eden H. Ball* *9-20-06*

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

*Jen*

Keeper of the National Register

Date



---

**6. Function or Use**

---

**Historic Functions:**

GOVERNMENT: courthouse

**Current Functions:**

GOVERNMENT: courthouse

---

**7. Description**

---

**Architectural Classification:**LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival**Materials:**

<b>foundation</b>	BRICK
<b>walls</b>	BRICK
<b>roof</b>	ASHPALT
<b>other</b>	LIMESTONE

**Description of present and historic physical appearance:****SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

The Catoosa County Courthouse, located in Ringgold, the county seat, was completed in 1939. It is a symmetrical, two-story, brick, Colonial Revival-style building with a hipped, asphalt-shingled roof. There is a three-bay central block with a cupola and symmetrical three-bay wings. The central block has a projecting pediment with full entablature and paired, two-story Ionic pilasters. There is a broken pediment set in a wall arch on the front. All of these embellishments are of limestone. There is a high foundation with a limestone water table and a boxed cornice with exaggerated dentils. The brick is Flemish bond. There are brick lintels and limestone sills. The two-story rear façade is symmetrical. There is a central Palladian window as well as twin entrances flanking the rear central block. Exterior alterations to the historic courthouse have been minimal. The cupola has non-historic siding and the weathervane was removed. Some lower level windows have been bricked in. A handicapped ramp has been added on the east front. A second-story bridge connects this historic courthouse with the 1980s Catoosa County Justice Building at the south end which is not part of this nomination. On the interior, there are county offices on the first floor, and the courtroom and judges' chambers on the second level. There are hallways that cross, one going north-south, the other east-west. There is six-foot high marble wainscoting of Georgia Cherokee marble, terrazzo floors in all the hallways, and original stairways and doors. A large Palladian window with stained glass is at the south end of the courtroom. There are original wooden benches and other original wooden courtroom furniture in the Superior Courtroom. The grounds in front of the 1939 courthouse retain the look of a courthouse square. In this area are oaks and Bradford pear trees, a paved walk extending around the perimeter of the building, and a wider walk leading to the front entrance. Two memorials (one

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

---

honoring war dead, the other an eternal flame) and two state historical markers are symmetrically placed on either side of the central walk.

**FULL DESCRIPTION**

The Catoosa County Courthouse is located in Ringgold, Georgia in northwest Georgia. Completed in 1939, the courthouse was designed by the prominent Chattanooga, Tennessee architectural firm of Crutchfield & Law. The contractor for the project was Barrett Construction Company of Dalton, Georgia.

The courthouse is a symmetrical, two-story, brick, Colonial Revival-style building with a hipped, asphalt-shingled roof. The building has a three-bay central block, surmounted with a cupola, and symmetrical, three-bay wings. The central block has a slightly projecting gable (pediment) with full entablature and paired, two-story Ionic pilasters. The central frontispiece entrance features a transom over three-paneled, double doors and a broken (swan's-neck) pediment set in a wall arch. The pediment, entablature, pilasters, door surround, and imposts and keystone (of the wall arch) are limestone. (Photographs 1 and 2.)

Other exterior architectural features include a boxed cornice with exaggerated dentils and a high brick foundation with a limestone water table. Brickwork is Flemish bond. Windows are mostly 8/12 double-hung sash type with brick lintels and limestone sills. (Photos 2 and 3.)

The rear façade features a centered, second-story, Palladian window and twin entrances flanking the central block. An exterior stairway at the southwest corner leads to the heating plant in the basement. (Photographs 6 and 15.)

Exterior alterations to the courthouse are mostly minor. Basement windows have been bricked-in (but not removed) to just above ground level and wooden louvers have been inserted in the window frame above grade; window wells have been filled with earth around the building's perimeter. (Photograph 2.) The cupola has been covered with non-historic siding, and its clock and weathervane have been removed. A handicapped ramp has been constructed along the east front of the building, providing access at the main entrance; and a second-story, enclosed bridge connects the courthouse with the Catoosa County Justice Building, which is not part of this nomination. (Photographs 1 and 6.)

The interior layout consists of a main entrance hall (running north-south) on a cross-axis with the main hallway running east-west through the building. (Photo 10.) Two secondary entrance halls from the rear are also on a cross-axis with the main hallway and contain single stairways to the second floor. (Photos 10 and 13.) The secondary entrance hall to the east also accesses a stairway to the basement. County offices are on the first floor, and the courtroom, judge's chambers, jury room, witness room, and additional offices are on the second floor. (Photos 11, 15 and 16.)

Intact interior features include six-foot-high marble wainscoting (matched panels of Georgia Cherokee marble) with plain marble baseboards and door surrounds in all hallways and stairwells

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

---

(except the second floor hall in the east wing); terrazzo floors in all hallways; stairs with iron balusters and newel posts and wooden handrails; arched openings in hallways; plaster walls; and six-panel wooden office doors and casings. (Photographs 9-14.)

The rear (south end) of the courtroom features a large Palladian window with stained glass. (Photo 15.) A matching, blind, Palladian window is located behind the judge's bench at the north end of the courtroom. (Photo 16.) The courtroom has original, paneled, wood wainscoting, and windows and doors are surmounted by a convex frieze and cornice. Wooden benches, probably original, provide spectator seating.

Floors are carpeted in the courtroom and offices, and the courtroom and offices have dropped ceilings. The offices have a wainscot of simulated-wood paneling with a chair rail, as does the hallway on the second floor, east wing. Wallpaper covers the plaster walls in the offices. Two large offices on the second floor, west wing, have been subdivided. In 2002 a metal, spiral stair from the original office of the Clerk of the Superior Court to the courtroom was removed and stored.

The courthouse lawn includes oaks and Bradford pears along the east and west sides and an elm on the north (Nashville Street) perimeter of the grounds. A paved walk extends around the perimeter of the building. A wide, paved walk, on the building's central axis, approaches the main entrance from Nashville Street, as does a diagonal walk from the northeast corner. Paved walks also approach the building from the east and west sides of the grounds. Two memorials and two historical markers are symmetrically placed on either side of the central walk at the north end of the lawn. (Photo 1.)

The Catoosa County Justice Building, not a part of this nomination, was built immediately behind (south of) the courthouse in the mid-1980s, replacing an earlier jail on the site. The Justice Building is attached to the courthouse by a second-story, enclosed bridge. This building and a parking lot take up the entire south end of the original courthouse property. (Photographs 6-8.)

The Catoosa County Courthouse remains in active use today as the county courthouse.

---

**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):**  N/A

A       B       C       D       E       F       G

**Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):**

ARCHITECTURE  
POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

**Period of Significance:**

1939-1956

**Significant Dates:**

1939—construction of the courthouse

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

Crutchfield and Law, architectural firm, Chattanooga, Tennessee, whose principals were William Crutchfield and Halbert G. Law.

Barrett Construction Company, contractor, of Dalton, Georgia.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

**Statement of significance (areas of significance)**

This nomination is being submitted under the cover of the thematic/multiple property nomination, County Courthouses in Georgia and its amendment.

The Catoosa County Courthouse is significant in architecture for being a fine example of a New Deal-era county courthouse built in the Colonial Revival style that retains most of its original features, including cupola, entrance, marble wainscoting, crossed-axis hall plan, Palladian window and other original features and furnishings in the main courtroom, and other details, most of limestone or marble. It is also significant as a work of the Chattanooga, Tennessee, firm of William Crutchfield and Halbert G. Law, known mostly for their work in the north Georgia and south Tennessee area. The firm of Crutchfield and Law existed from 1933 through 1947, although Crutchfield had been practicing since 1916.

The building is significant in politics and government because it was built to be the only county courthouse in this north Georgia county, serving as the site for all county government related functions, from marriage licenses to trials, to estate probation, to voting registration. It is also significant in this area because it was built with New Deal funding from the Federal government's Public Works Administration (PWA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). It is one of several surviving Georgia courthouses built with such funding. This funding supplemented local bond funding that was voted on in a local referendum in 1938. The building opened September 2, 1939, one day after World War II began in Europe, with a large public ceremony attended by 1,000 citizens.

**National Register Criteria**

The Catoosa County Courthouse meets National Register criterion A because it fits the major theme of American history of government at the local level at the county courthouse, the building serving in this capacity during the historic era and even to the present day. It was built to be a courthouse and stands out in the community as such a landmark building. Its features as a courthouse helps it meet National Register criterion C because it retains its form, room arrangement, setting on a separate block, and many interior details that make it a landmark community building.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

**Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance runs from the completion of the building, 1939, to the end of the historic era, 1956, because it has been continuously used during that entire time.

**Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

There is only one contributing building, the courthouse, in this nomination.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

**Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)**

Catoosa County was established December 5, 1853 by act of the Georgia General Assembly from parts of Walker and Whitfield Counties. The county was named for the Catoosa Springs, which were located near Ringgold. "Catoosa" was a Cherokee word that may have meant "small mountain."

Ringgold, while still in Walker County, had been incorporated by an act of the Georgia General Assembly on December 27, 1847. The town was named for Samuel Ringgold, who was mortally wounded at the Battle of Palo Alto (Mexican-American War) in 1846. Ringgold was designated the county seat of Catoosa County on March 16, 1854.

The first Catoosa County courthouse was built at Ringgold c. 1855-56. This earlier courthouse, three stories high, and a two-story jail, were built at a cost of \$6,845, of which \$2,375 was raised by public subscription. The third floor was built by the Masonic lodge, which received title to it from the county. The lot for the courthouse was donated by W. B. W. Dent.

By 1938 Catoosa County's 82-year-old, antebellum courthouse was in very poor condition. The brickwork was full of cracks, mortar was loose, and the walls were sagging and out of plumb. Architects advised the county commissioners that the building was unsafe and should have been condemned years earlier.

With the opportunity "to take advantage of the vast amount of federal money that is available at this time," a vote on the question of issuing bonds by the county for building and equipping a new courthouse was scheduled for August 6, 1938. The bond issue submitted was for \$46,500, which was to be supplemented by a Public Works Administration (PWA) grant of \$38,045 to build and equip a building costing \$84,545. Two days before the bond issue was to be voted on, a rendering of the proposed new courthouse, designed by Crutchfield & Law, a Chattanooga, Tennessee, architectural firm, appeared in the *Catoosa County Record*. On August 6, the Catoosa County voters overwhelmingly approved issuance of the courthouse bonds—1,096 out of 1,138 voting in favor.

The architectural firm of Crutchfield and Law, included as its senior partner, William Crutchfield, II, (1889-1956), a native of Chattanooga. After his education and training he opened his own firm in 1918, as Crutchfield and Hamilton. He later had other business partners, including Halbert G. Law. Law (1909-1981), was a Chattanooga native and a graduate of Georgia Tech, c. 1930. Most of Crutchfield's better-known works were in the Chattanooga area but he also designed the large house in Dalton, Georgia, known as Oneonta, in 1921. The firm of Crutchfield and Law published a book on their works in 1938. It included the Dalton City Hall and the Dalton First National Bank as two of the firm's projects. [Joseph L. Herndon, *Architects in Tennessee until 1930: A Dictionary*. A thesis, Columbia University, 1975, and material from the National Register application for Oneonta.]

Since the new courthouse was to be erected on the same grounds as the existing courthouse, demolition of the earlier building was scheduled as soon as all plans for the new building were completed. By September 3, the old courthouse had been razed. Bids for the construction of the new courthouse were opened on September 30, and Barrett Construction Company, of Dalton,



National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

Georgia, was the successful bidder with a bid of \$63,485. Construction was begun on Monday, October 3, 1938; and the contractor was allowed 270 calendar days to complete the job.

After an almost two month delay in finishing the new courthouse, it was officially opened to the public with a dedication and open house on Saturday, September 2, 1939. The celebration, attended by approximately 1,000 citizens, was described as an "old-fashioned dinner-on-the-grounds affair." The Honorable John C. Mitchell, Judge of the Cherokee Circuit, opened the delayed August term of the Catoosa County Superior Court—the first court held in the new courthouse—on Monday, September 11, 1939.

Since the courthouse was built, various historical markers and war memorials have been added to the grounds.

The Catoosa County Courthouse remains in active use as the county 's courthouse. Adjacent to the building, and attached by way of a second floor walkway, is the Catoosa County Judicial Building, built in the 1980s. It is not included in this nomination. It takes up the south part of the original courthouse square.

---

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

---

- "Barrett Co. Gets Contract for New Courthouse Here." *Catoosa County Record*, 6 October 1938, p.1.
- "Catoosa County Citizens Will Vote on \$46,500 Courthouse Bond Issue on August 6<sup>th</sup>." *Catoosa County Record*, 7 July 1938, p. 1.
- "Catoosa County Marches On!" *Catoosa County Record*, 11 August 1938, p. 1.
- "County's Old Courthouse that Gave Way for the New One Had an Interesting Background." *Catoosa County Record*, 24 August 1939, pp. 1, 3.
- "Court To Open in New Building Monday, Sept, 11." *Catoosa County Record*, 24 August 1939, pp. 1, 3.
- "Crutchfield & Law Architects." *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, 18 May 1975, p. E1.
- "Dedication of New Courthouse Saturday September 2<sup>nd</sup> Is Climax of an Era of Building and Progress for the Town of Ringgold and Catoosa County." *Catoosa County Record*, 24 September 1939, pp. 1, 3.
- McDaniel, Susie Blaylock. *Official History of Catoosa County, Georgia, 1853-1953*. Dalton, Ga.: Gregory Printing & Office Supply, 1953.
- "New Courthouse Officially Opened to Public Saturday." *Catoosa County Record*, 7 September 1939, p. 1.
- "United We Stand, Divided We Fall." *Catoosa County Record*, 4 August 1938, p. 1.
- "We Are Proud of Our Historical Court House but There Is an Acute Need for a New One Now." *Catoosa County Record*, 28 April 1938, p. 1.
- "What Does the Bond Issue Mean to You?" *Catoosa County Record*, 21 July 1938, p. 1.

### Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued  
date issued:
- 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 #

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 9—Major Bibliographic References

---

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office**
- Other State Agency**
- Federal agency**
- Local government**
- University**
- Other, Specify Repository:**

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** N/A

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

**Acreage of Property**      Approximately .56 acres.

### **UTM References**

A)    Zone 16      Easting 672581      Northing 3865111

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is marked on the enclosed tax map.

### **Boundary Justification**

The nominated property is that part of parcel 78 on which the historic courthouse rests, and does not include the new justice center or its parking lot.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

**State Historic Preservation Office**

**name/title** Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr./Historian  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**mailing address** 34 Peachtree St., N. W., Suite 1600  
**city or town** Atlanta      **state** Georgia      **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840      **date** June 5, 2006  
**e-mail** ken\_thomas@dnr.state.ga.us

**Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable)** ( ) not applicable

**name/title** Dan H. Latham, Jr./Historic Preservation Planner  
**organization** Coosa Valley Regional Development Center  
**mailing address** PO Box 1793  
**city or town** Rome      **state** Georgia      **zip code** 30162  
**telephone** (706) 295-6485  
**e-mail** dlatham@cvrdc.org

- ( ) **property owner**  
( ) **consultant**  
(X) **regional development center preservation planner**  
( ) **other:**

**Property Owner or Contact Information**

**name (property owner or contact person)** Ron Brown, Catoosa County Manager  
**organization (if applicable)** Catoosa County  
**mailing address** 800 Lafayette St.  
**city or town** Ringgold      **state** Georgia      **zip code** 30736-1712  
**e-mail (optional)** N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

---

**Name of Property:** Catoosa County Courthouse  
**City or Vicinity:** Ringgold  
**County:** Catoosa  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** November 2004

**Description of Photograph(s):**

Number of photographs: 17

1. Front façade, with monuments in foreground; photographer facing southwest.
2. Front façade; photographer facing southwest.
3. Front façade, closer look at the front façade; photographer facing southwest.
4. Front façade, oblique look; photographer facing west.
5. East façade with rear entrance; photographer facing northwest.
6. East façade showing connecting link to new building (not in this nomination); photographer facing northwest.
7. New building/addition to courthouse on south/rear side and not included; photographer facing northwest.
8. West façade and part of new building/addition; photographer facing northeast.
9. Interior, first floor hall looking toward front door; photographer facing northwest.
10. Interior, first floor hall looking toward east end; photographer facing east.
11. Interior, first floor, conference room looking toward front entrance; photographer facing northeast.
12. Interior, first floor, vault off conference room; photographer facing southeast.
13. Interior, first floor, west hall with stairs; photographer facing southwest.
14. Interior, first floor stairs at west end; photographer facing southwest.

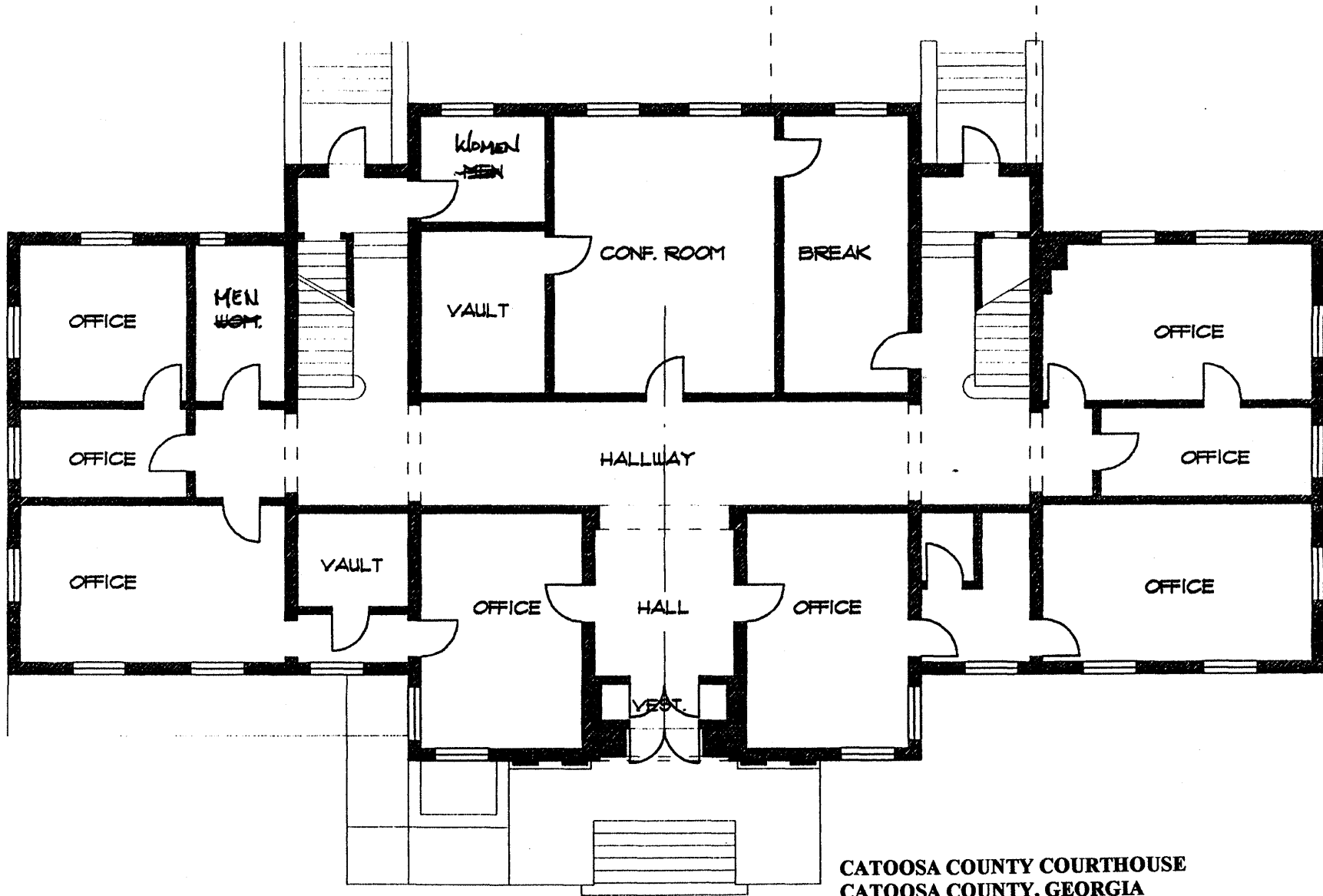
National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

---

15. Interior, second floor, superior court room; photographer facing northeast.
16. Interior, second floor, superior court room; photographer facing southwest.
17. Interior, second floor, door to court room and stairs/security arch; photographer facing south.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)



**FIRST FLOOR PLAN**

3/32" = 1' - 0"

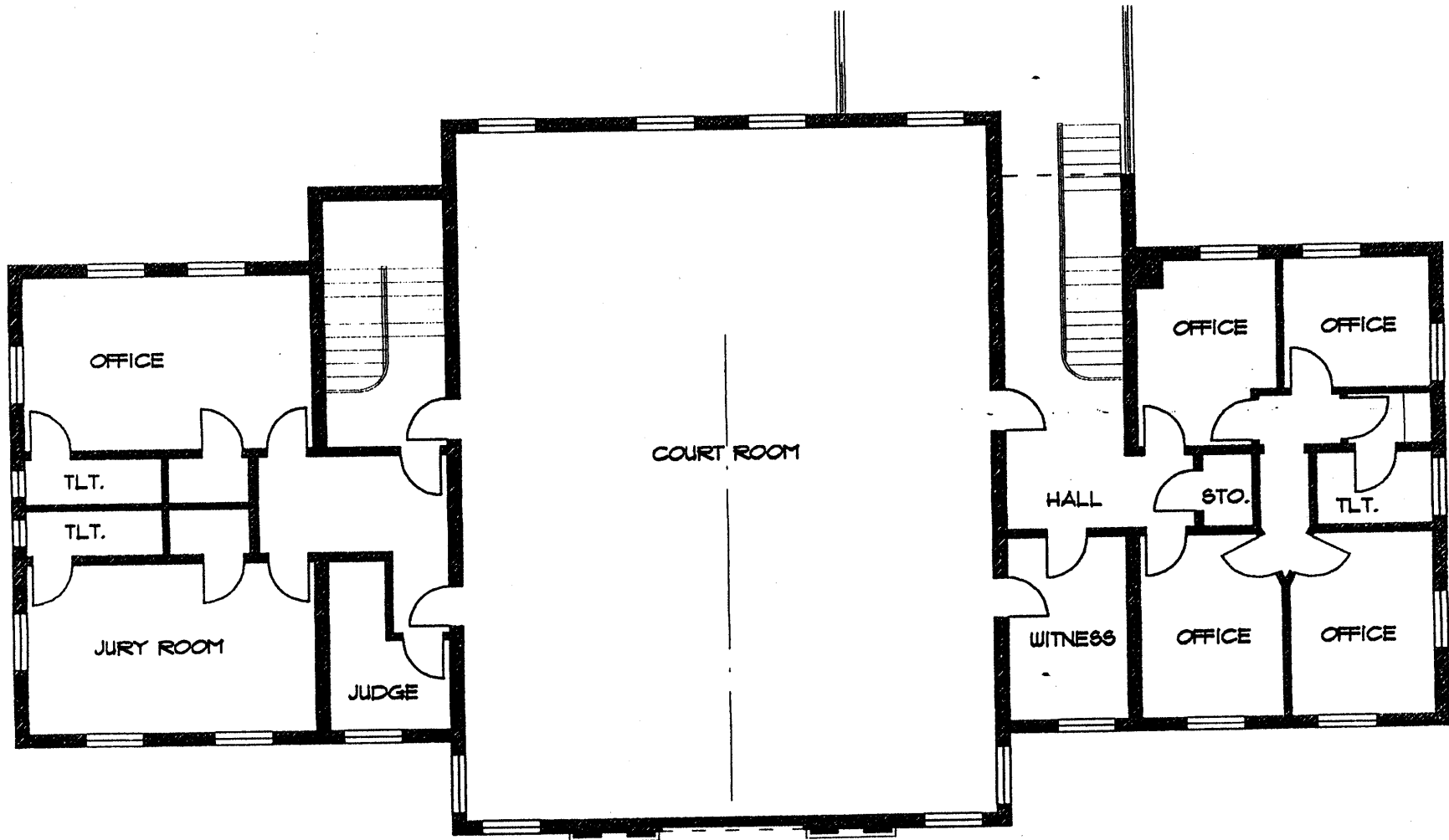
**CATOOSA COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
CATOOSA COUNTY, GEORGIA  
FIRST FLOOR PLAN**


NORTH: ↙

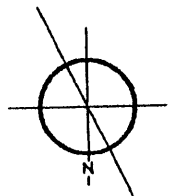
SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

SOURCE: KILLIAN CLARK PARTNERSHIP, 2004





**CATOOSA COUNTY COURTHOUSE**  
**CATOOSA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SECOND FLOOR PLAN**  
 NORTH:   
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE  
 SOURCE: KILLIAN CLARK PARTNERSHIP, 2004



**SECOND FLOOR PLAN**

3/32" = 1' - 0"



CATOOSA COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
CATOOSA COUNTY, GEORGIA  
NATIONAL REGISTER MAP/TAX MAP  
NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY: —  
NORTH: ↑  
SCALE: 1" = 100'  
SOURCE: CATOOSA COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

200.3'(D) (402)