

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 95000717

Date Listed: 6/8/95


Hall County Courthouse  
Property Name

Hall  
County

GEORGIA  
State

Georgia County Courthouses TR  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

6/13/95  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 8

The nomination is amended to delete 1976, the date a major addition to the courthouse was constructed, as a significant date, since it falls outside the period of significance being claimed for the resource.

This change has been confirmed with the Georgia SHPO.

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DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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**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 Hall County Courthouse  
other names/site number n/a

**2. Location**

street & number Corner of Spring Street and Green Street  
city, town Gainesville ( ) vicinity of  
county Hall code GA 139  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30503

( ) not for publication

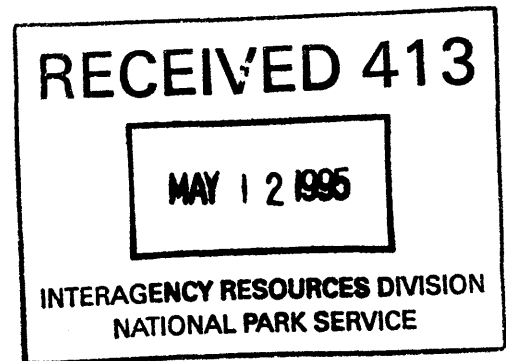
**3. Classification**

**Ownership of Property:**

- ( ) private
- (X) public-local
- ( ) public-state
- ( ) public-federal

**Category of Property**

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



**Number of Resources within Property:**

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	1	1
total	2	1

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 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.

*Mark R. Edwards*

Signature of certifying official

*5/09/95*  
Date

Mark R. Edwards  
State Historic Preservation Officer,  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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

*Ma J. McWay*

*6/9/95*

( ) determined eligible for the National Register

( ) determined not eligible for the National Register

( ) removed from the National Register

( ) other, explain:

( ) see continuation sheet

*for*

Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

GOVERNMENT: courthouse

### Current Functions:

GOVERNMENT: courthouse

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

OTHER: Stripped Classical

### Materials:

foundation	concrete
walls	stone: marble
roof	gravel
other	n/a

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Hall County Courthouse is located in Gainesville, Georgia which is in northeast Georgia at the foot of the North Georgia mountains. The courthouse was constructed in 1936 with federal money from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) after the old courthouse was destroyed by the April 6, 1936 Gainesville tornado.

Designed by the Atlanta architectural firm of Daniell & Beutell, the courthouse has two stories and a basement, hipped-roof central portion topped with a clock tower, flat-roof wings, and symmetrical facade. It is of masonry construction with marble facing and marble bas relief detailing along cornice, and above side entrances. The ornamentation along the cornice includes gargoyle-like figures and floral-motif finials. "Hall County Courthouse" is engraved above the second story windows and below the cornice on the central block with bas-relief eagles on either side of the words.

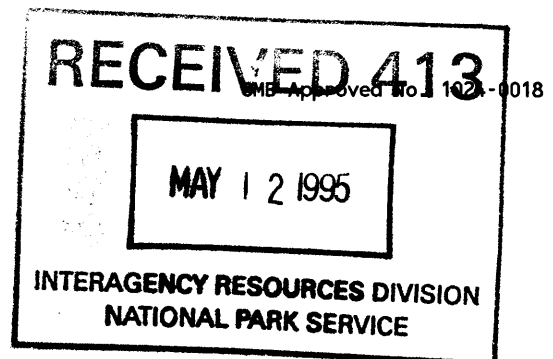
The courthouse represents the Stripped Classical style with its understated classical features, such as the pilasters between the windows suggesting columns on the central portion and the pedimented recessed main entrance and pedimented rear entrance. The side wings do not have the pilasters but do have a vertical emphasis due to the elongated windows and panels between the windows. The windows are aluminum double hung, sash and the doors are metal and glass.

The first floor of the courthouse is used for office space which surrounds a T-shaped hall. There is a double, marble stair case on the west end and a single, marble stair case with wrought iron and brass rail on the end of the hall which leads to the State Courtroom in the central portion of the second floor. The judges' chambers, jury rooms, witness rooms, and other offices are also on the second

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floor. In the basement there are more county offices, a deed room with vaults for safe-keeping, and storage.

The interior has terrazzo flooring in the public spaces and carpeting in the offices. The walls are marble and plaster in the main hallway and plaster everywhere else except for where changes to reorganize office space have been made. The ceiling is plaster in the public areas and hung acoustical tile in the offices.

The courtroom is elaborate with marble pilasters on the walls, three sections of public seating, and original fixtures. The classical detailing in the courtroom is more apparent than on the exterior. A woodworker with the Davis and Washington Lumber Company in Gainesville hand-built the judge's bench and carved the eagles and stars on the bench.

The Hall County Courthouse Annex was constructed in 1976 at the rear of the 1936 courthouse facing Spring Street. The orientation of the courthouse was at that time changed so that the main entrance was into the annex portion and the front of the 1936 courthouse became the rear of the complex. The annex portion is connected to the 1936 courthouse by two enclosed walkways. There were no changes to the exterior of the old courthouse besides adding the walkways.

The Annex is a two-story building designed by the Gainesville architectural firm of Jacobs, Matthews, and Parker, Inc. The Annex was designed so that it is sympathetic to the old courthouse. Although of greater proportion, it has a marble covered exterior, flat roof, smooth facade, symmetry, and vertical emphasis like the 1936 design. There is also a nonhistoric county administration building to the east of the courthouse complex which is not included in this nomination.

The landscaping which once surrounded the 1936 courthouse was extensive and is still impressive. Originally, the courthouse was the only building on the block encompassed by Spring, Green, Broad, and Main Streets. The landscape design still consists of a system of sidewalks, shrubs, and trees. There are double sidewalks extending out from the original main entrance of the courthouse that lead to a contributing marble monument memorializing President Franklin D. Roosevelt's visit on August 9, 1936 to Gainesville three days after the tornado. The monument is in the center of a set of marble steps that once led to the Broad Street sidewalk and parking in front of the courthouse. There is a nonhistoric monument on the north corner of the courthouse which was erected in 1958 honoring the veterans of 1898-1902.

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The landscaping was part of the WPA project and probably designed by a landscape architect. There are "WPA" medallions in the sidewalk in front of the courthouse and in front of the Gainesville City Hall, which was built at the same time. Not included in the nomination, the city hall is located southeast of the courthouse and was also designed by Daniell & Beutell. At one time, it also had its own city block with a landscaping design similar to the courthouse's. These two blocks are referred to as "Roosevelt Squares."

In 1978, the two blocks were joined and Broad Street, which formerly separated the blocks, became a dead end at Main Street. The landscaping between the courthouse and city hall were merged so that they now appear to have been a part of an overall design.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**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  
Landscape Architecture

**Period of Significance:**

1936-1945

**Significant Dates:**

1937 - Courthouse completed  
1976 - Major Addition to the courthouse

**Significant Person(s):**

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation:**

n/a

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

1936 Hall County Courthouse - Daniell & Beutell, Atlanta  
1976 Courthouse Annex - Jacobs, Matthews, & Parker, Inc., Gainesville

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**Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:**

**Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The Hall County Courthouse is significant in architecture as a good and intact example of a Stripped Classical-style community landmark type of building built during the 1930s. The classical style of architecture became popular for use in public buildings after the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 which featured the "White City," which was made up of classical-style buildings that housed the exhibits. The use of classical elements in public buildings continued until the mid-20th century. As reflected in the Hall County Courthouse, the classical elements became more understated after the 1910s, as seen its lack of ornamentation. This more straight forward style can in part be attributed to the higher cost of building and the lessening of available public funds during and after the Depression, as well as to the rise of modern architecture which favored function over form and a lack of stylistic elements.

The Stripped Classical-style courthouse, with its suggestion of columns and pilasters, simple cornice, has understated classical detailing underlying an otherwise unadorned building. This building represents a transition between classical influenced architecture with pediments and pilasters and modern architecture which is characterized by plain wall surfaces and no stylistic detailing as seen in Art Deco style buildings. This Stripped Classical style or "starved classical" style was commonly used for governmental buildings from the 1920s through the 1940s and represents the synthesis of the "traditionalists," who favored the use of classical details, and the "modernists," who favored streamlined, smooth, unadorned buildings and rejected historical antecedents.

The intact architectural features on the interior, such as the marble, terrazzo flooring, and classical detailing in the courtroom, enhance the architectural significance of the courthouse.

Like other community landmark type of buildings, the Hall County Courthouse is freestanding and, when built, was one of the most modern in Gainesville and reflected the architectural trends of the period. As a centerpiece for public gatherings, the courthouse provides a sense of place and cohesiveness for the citizens and symbolizes the permanence, stability, and strength of a county.

The courthouse is also significant in architecture as a design of Daniell & Beutell, a distinguished Atlanta architectural firm known for their designs of schools, hotels, churches, and hospitals. Russell Lee Beutell (1891-1943) and Sidney Shalar Daniell (1889-1956)



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met during World War I and both studied in France after the War. They came back to Georgia and practiced together from 1919 until 1941 when Beutell went away to war a second time. Beutell died in 1943 during his World War II service. They also designed the Gainesville City Hall which was completed in 1937 and is similar to the courthouse.

The Hall County Courthouse is significant in terms of landscape architecture due to the courthouse grounds which feature a designed land-plan with a large lawn, shade trees, system of sidewalks, monuments, and benches. The landscape design dates to 1936 when the courthouse was constructed. Funded by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), it was probably designed by a landscape architect. Traditionally the focal point for county-seat communities is the courthouse and its lawn. This area does not only provide green openspace, but it is also the setting for community events, such as parades, rallies, and festivals. This open space contrasts to the density of the surrounding commercial development and serves as a park-like setting.

In terms of politics and government, the courthouse is significant because it has been the center for county governmental activity since it was built in 1936. It also houses county government offices and the state courtroom. In Georgia and throughout the South, county government has traditionally been the strongest form of local government. The present courthouse is the sixth Hall County Courthouse.

The courthouse is also significant in government because it was built with Federal monies from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) program during the New Deal era. The courthouse represents the federal government's efforts to provide employment and assist communities during the Depression as a part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's economic stimulus programs and a major Depression-era public works project for Hall County.

The Hall County Courthouse is one of 19 Georgia courthouses built from 1930 to 1945. It is one of 12 documented courthouses that was funded by the federal government through one of its Depression Era relief programs.

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**National Register Criteria**

The Hall County Courthouse is eligible under Criterion A for its significance in the political and governmental history of Hall County and in Georgia. It is eligible under Criterion C as a good example of the Stripped Classical style of architecture built during the New Deal Era, as well as for the landscaping design around the courthouse.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

n/a

**Period of significance (justification)**

The courthouse was built in 1936 and the fifty-year cut-off for historical significance is 1945.

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

The contributing building and object (Roosevelt monument) retain their integrity and were erected during period of significance. The noncontributing object was erected after the period of significance.

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

Named for Dr. Lyman Hall Delegate to the First Continental Congress and one of Georgia's three signers of the Declaration of Independence, Hall County was formed in 1818 from the lands ceded to the State of Georgia by the Cherokee Indians in accordance to the Treaty of 1817. The lands from this treaty were surveyed and given away through the land lottery of 1820. Also in that same year, the city of Gainesville was laid out in grid pattern by state and federal surveyor Timothy Terrell IV on fifty acres of land donated to the county by Duke Williams. Downtown Gainesville's original town plan is still evident.

The first Hall County Courthouse was a log building along the Athens Road. The second courthouse was a wooden building built in the 1820s on the public square in Gainesville. After five years it was rolled away and used as the Methodist meeting house. The first brick courthouse was built in 1832 and burned in 1851. The fourth courthouse also burned, it stood from 1852 to 1883. The fifth courthouse stood near the site of the present-day City Hall, southeast of the current courthouse from 1884-1936. Built in a Victorian eclectic style, this brick courthouse was destroyed by the April 6,

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1936 tornado which hit downtown Gainesville and destroyed numerous buildings including city hall, commercial structures, houses, and churches.

Three days after the disaster struck President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited Gainesville, spoke words of encouragement, and promised federal assistance. A monument memorializing Roosevelt's visit on April 9, 1936 was placed by the Hall County Board of Commissioners in front of the courthouse. The monument also declared that the blocks on which the City Hall and Courthouse now stands will be known as "Roosevelt Squares."

The aid came from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) which supplied the necessary funds to build a new government complex which included the present courthouse, city hall, and federal building which is across Spring Street from the courthouse. President Roosevelt again visited Gainesville on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 1937 to dedicate these public buildings. Then Governor of Georgia, E. D. Rivers and U.S. Senators Walter F. George and Richard B. Russell, Jr. all participated in the dedication ceremonies. The courthouse was designed by the Atlanta architectural firm of Daniell & Beutell.

The annex to the courthouse was constructed in 1976 and designed by the architectural firm of Jacobs, Matthews & Parker from Gainesville. In 1978 the courthouse square and the city hall square were joined to form one large square which now contains the courthouse and annex, the city hall, the administration building, the Georgia Mountains Center, and parking.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Bates, Mrs. James. "Gainesville's First 150 Years," GM, 14 (May 1971), 14-16.

\_\_\_\_\_. History of Gainesville, Georgia, 1964.

Dorsey, James E. The History of Hall County, Georgia, Volume I, 1818-1900. Gainesville, GA: Magnolia Press, 1991.

Hall County Newsclipping Files. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia.

McRay, Sybil and James Dorsey, eds. Windows of Memory: The Hall That Was: A Photographic History, Volume II of a Pictorial History of Hall County. Published by the Hall County Research Foundation in Cooperation with the Chestatee Regional Library. Gainesville, GA, 1989.

McRay, Sybil, comp. and ed. Pictorial History of Hall County to 1950. Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Company, 1985.

McRay, Sybil, comp. This 'N That: History of Hall County, Vol. I. Gainesville, GA: Peoples Printing Service, 1973.

"Official Program, Roosevelt Squares Dedication." Gainesville, GA, November 25, 1937 (Files of Leslie N. Sharp).

Sharp, Leslie. "County Courthouses in Georgia," Multiple Property Documentation Form, amended submission. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia, with supplemental information.

Tumlin, Rickey E., Hall County Deputy Sheriff. Hall County Courthouse, Gainesville, Georgia. Informal interview by Leslie N. Sharp, August 25, 1994.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) 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 #

**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):**

1975 Gainesville/Hall County Survey #G-1

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** Approximately 1 acre.

**UTM References**

A) Zone 17 Easting 239940 Northing 3798710

**Verbal Boundary Description**

This nomination encompasses the Hall County Courthouse and Hall County Courthouse Annex, as indicated with a heavy black line on the enclosed tax map, drawn to scale.

**Boundary Justification**

This nomination includes the property owned by Hall County which includes the courthouse, its lawn, and the Hall County Courthouse annex.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**name/title** Leslie N. Sharp, National Register Consultant  
**organization** Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG)  
**street & number** 50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 1000  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 522-5022 **date** April 13, 1995

(OHP form version 12-08-93)

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Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Hall County Courthouse  
**City or Vicinity:** Gainesville  
**County:** Hall  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** March 1995

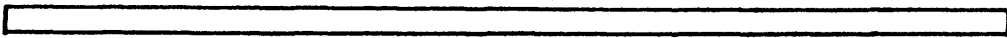
**Description of Photograph(s):**

- 1 of 7: Hall County Courthouse, front facade; photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 7: Front facade; photographer facing north.
- 3 of 7: East facade; photographer facing south-southwest.
- 4 of 7: East facade; photographer facing southwest.
- 5 of 7: Hallway; photographer facing east-northeast.
- 6 of 7: Main stairway; photographer facing south-southwest.
- 7 of 7: Courtroom; photographer facing northeast.



Hall County Courthouse  
 Hall County, Georgia  
 Tax Map  
 National Register Boundary:  
 Scale: 1" = 50'  
 North:

SPRING



2  
-  
□

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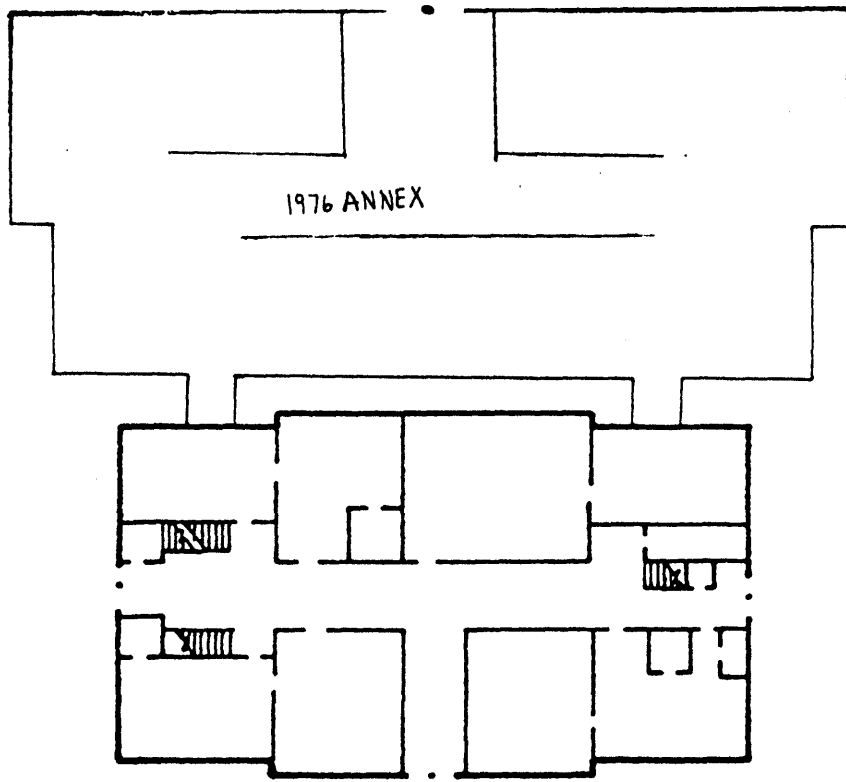
HALL COUNTY' COURT HOUSE

STREET GREEN ST.

65' 219

115'2





1976 ANNEX

3

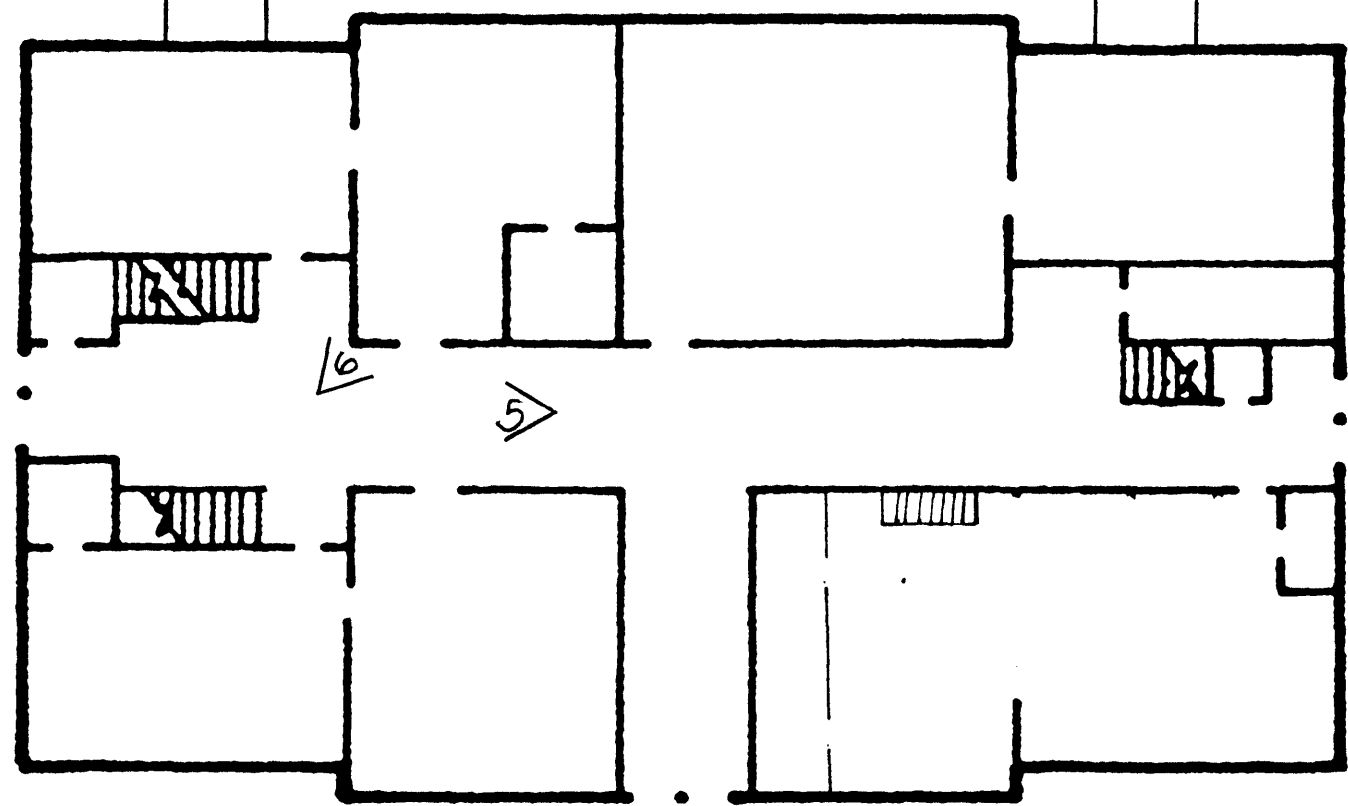
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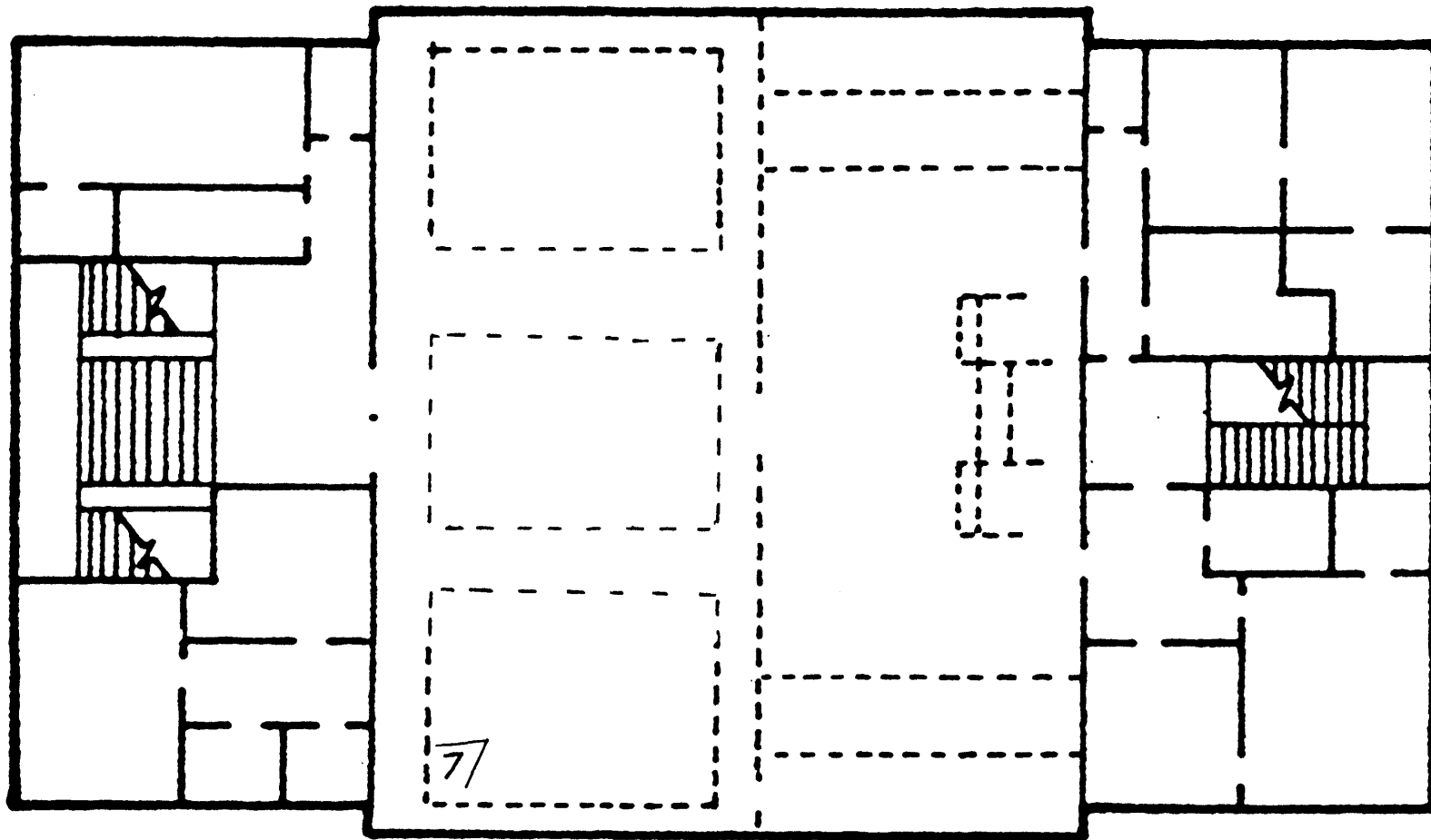
Hall County Courthouse  
Hall County, Georgia  
Site Plan  
Not to Scale  
Photographs: >  
North: ↗

1976 ANNEX



**FIRST FLOOR**

Hall County Courthouse  
Hall County, Georgia  
First Floor Plan  
Not to Scale  
Photographs: >  
North: ↗



**SECOND FLOOR**

Hall County Courthouse  
Hall County, Georgia  
Second Floor Plan  
Not to Scale  
Photographs: >  
North: ↗