

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: 95000721

Date Listed: 6/8/95

Troup County Courthouse, Annex and Jail Troup
Property Name County

GEORGIA
State

Georgia County Courthouses TR
Multiple Name

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.

Ma J. M. [Signature]
for Signature of the Keeper

6/13/95
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 8

This nomination is amended to delete 1936, the date the previous courthouse burned, as a significant date. This date is outside of the period of significance, which begins with the construction of the present courthouse in 1939.

This change has been confirmed with the Georgia SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

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

721

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 Troup County Courthouse, Annex, and Jail
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number East Haralson Street
city, town LaGrange () vicinity of
county Troup code GA 285
state Georgia code GA zip code 30240

() not for publication

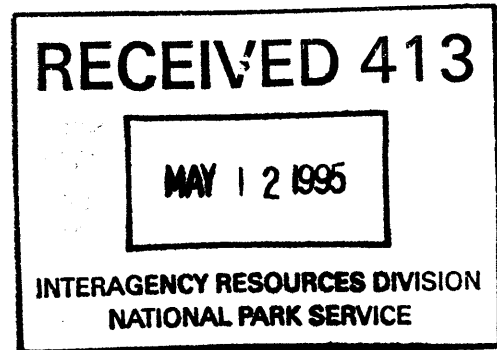
3. Classification

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	3	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	3	0

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

5/05/95
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 M. [Signature]

6/8/95

() 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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

GOVERNMENT: courthouse
GOVERNMENT: correctional facility

Current Functions:

GOVERNMENT: courthouse
GOVERNMENT: correctional facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER: Stripped Classical

Materials:

foundation	concrete
walls	marble
roof	asphalt/gravel
other	n/a

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Troup County Courthouse, Annex, and Jail are located in the county seat of LaGrange in Troup County in West Georgia, seventy miles southwest of Atlanta. The three buildings were constructed in 1939 and designed by William J. J. Chase (1884-1967), a prominent architect from Atlanta. The buildings were funded by the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (commonly known as PWA).

The courthouse is a Stripped Classical-style, two-story building with a basement totalling 30,000 square feet of office space. It has a flat roof and white marble block exterior siding. The main central portion is taller but narrower than the side wings so that the building is more I-shaped rather than rectangular. The central block's bays are separated by fluted pilasters. Decorative bands of etched marble are on the cornice and above the pilasters with "TROUP COUNTY COURT HOUSE" etched in the center. The main entrance is recessed with double doors, a single light transom, and a clock above it. There is a patio on the front with a solid, marble balustrade and original globe on fluted-base fixtures.

There are panels of etched green marble in between the first and second floor windows on the front facade and on the rear of the side-wing facades. All of the windows are vertically oriented with aluminum and glass, geometrically-designed sashes. The north and south side entrances are similar to the main entrance with the double doors, green marble panels, and windows above. There is a ramp for the physically disabled on the south facade. The rear facade is simpler with two single door entrances into the basement.

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The interior layout of the courthouse is a main hallway running the length of the building, perpendicular to the entrance foyer. On each side of the hallway are offices. There is a single staircase on the north side of the hall and a double staircase on the south side. The courtroom is on the second floor, taking up the whole central portion of the floor. The office space on the second floor is on the north and south ends of the building. The basement is used for juvenile court, office space, and storage.

The first floor hallways have marble covered walls, terrazzo flooring, plaster ceilings, and original fixtures. The first floor women's bathroom door is marbleized. The staircases are marble with iron and brass railings in a geometric design. The second floor and basement halls have marble and plaster walls, plaster ceilings, and terrazzo flooring. The offices have plaster walls and ceilings and carpeting. There are original light fixtures in some of the offices.

The courtroom public entrance on the south side has double-doors with engraved eagles and detailing on each door. The courtroom is ornate with marble walls, fluted pilasters with engraved stars at the top, a clock above the main entrance, and original fixtures. There are three sections of public seating, plaster ceilings, and carpeted floors.

The annex is a two-story building with a basement, flat roof and marble block exterior siding. It has a recessed, double door entrance, single light transom, aluminum and glass windows with geometrically-designed sashes, and a large panel of glass blocks on the north facade that lights the stairwell inside. The interior floor plan is one long hall running down the center of the building from the main entrance. The walls and ceilings are plaster and the floors are synthetic tile. There are transoms above some of the office doors. The interior and exterior detailing is much simpler than the courthouse's.

The jail is a three-story building with flat roof and marble block exterior siding. Its entrance is also recessed. The window openings are rectangular with small, security-type panels. The interior has synthetic tile floors and plaster walls and ceilings in the entrance area. It also has the security-oriented features. The jail has no apparent stylistic elements. When built, the jail could house sixty-three prisoners.

The courthouse, annex, and jail are extremely intact. The exterior of the three buildings are essentially untouched. There have been only minor changes on the interior and no additions.

The landscaping design includes a system of sidewalks, steps and terracing that links the courthouse, annex, and jail with each other.

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There are some magnolias, oak trees, and shrubbery on essentially a plain lawn. There are also several nonhistoric monuments and historic markers on the front lawn.

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
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance:

1939-1945

Significant Dates:

1936 - Previous courthouse burned
1939 - Present courthouse, annex, and jail completed

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

William J. J. Chase - architect of courthouse, annex, and jail
A.J. Honeycutt, Co. - Builder

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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 Troup County Courthouse, Annex, and Jail are significant in architecture as good and intact examples of the Stripped Classical-style community landmark type buildings built during the 1930s. The classical style of architecture became popular for use in public buildings after the 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 Troup County Courthouse, Annex, and Jail, the classical elements became more understated after the 1910s, as seen their in 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 fluted pilasters, simple cornice, and symmetry has understated classical detailing underlying an otherwise unadorned building. The annex and jail are even more simple. These buildings represent 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 of the courthouse, such as the marble walls, terrazzo flooring, the original hardware and fixtures, the unaltered floor plan and classically detailed courtroom, enhance the architectural significance of the courthouse.

Like other community landmark type of buildings, the Troup County Courthouse is freestanding and, when built, was one of the most modern in LaGrange 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, annex, and jail are also significant for architecture as a design of the prominent Atlanta architect William J. J. Chase

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(1884-1967). Chase designed over 100 schools and at least 11 county courthouses in Georgia. He also designed hospitals, jails, apartments, and residences. His designs are recognized for their symmetry, flatness of facade, and restrained decoration. As with his Troup County designs, the heavy massing of the buildings conveys a sense of importance and hierarchy. During the 1930s, Chase also designed courthouses in Cook, Oconee, Mitchell, and Rockdale Counties. Locally Chase designed the West Point Grammar School (pre-1928) and the Callaway Memorial Auditorium (1941).

The Troup County Courthouse is significant in terms of landscape architecture due to the courthouse grounds which feature a designed land-plan with a lawn, shade trees, system of sidewalks, steps, and terracing, and monuments. The landscape design dates to the late 1930s when the courthouse was constructed. Funded by the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (commonly known as the PWA), 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, annex, and jail are significant because this area has been the center for county governmental activity since 1939. It houses the county government offices and jail. In Georgia and throughout the South, county government has traditionally been the strongest form of local government. The present courthouse is the fourth Troup County Courthouse.

The courthouse is also significant in government because it was built with Federal monies from the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works 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 Troup County.

The Troup 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 Troup County Courthouse, Annex, and Jail are eligible under Criterion A for their significance in the political and governmental history of Troup County. They are also eligible under Criterion C as excellent, extremely intact examples of a Stripped Classical-style community landmark buildings and correction facility.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification)

The courthouse was constructed in 1939 and the fifty-year cut-off of historical significance is 1945.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The contributing resources, the courthouse, annex, and jail, were built within the period of significance and retain their integrity. There are no noncontributing resources.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

Troup County was established on December 16, 1826 during the tenure of Governor George Michael Troup (1780-1856) for which it was named. The original boundaries of Troup County extended from the Flint River on the east to the Chattahoochee River on the west. In 1827, the county was opened for settlement with the land lots being distributed by lottery to citizens of Georgia who had lived within the state for at least three years. Also that same year, the county's southern boundaries were reduced to its present size. In 1828, LaGrange was incorporated as the county seat.

The first session of the Troup County Court was in a private residence west of Lagrange in 1827. The first Troup County Courthouse was a brick building built in 1830. In 1845, it was replaced by another brick building built by Benjamin H. Cameron. In 1904, this brick building was torn down and the third courthouse was built in the center of downtown LaGrange. This courthouse was a three-story, brick building with an elaborate clock tower, a rotunda-like central portion, brick pilasters, and an *in antis* portico with columns. It was an eclectic-style building with both late Victorian and classical

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detailing. The contractors were C. C. Thotherow and Company and it cost \$52,000 to build.

On November 5, 1936, the third courthouse burned. The courthouse was full of people and two women died in the fire as they tried jumping to safety. The site of the old courthouse is now a park. Located away from the center of downtown at the corner of East Haralson Street and Ridley Avenue, the present courthouse complex was completed in 1939. It cost \$240,000 to build. The Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (PWA) provided \$190,000 to the cost and Troup County matched it with \$150,000 cash. J. J. Milam, the chairman of the Board of Commissioners at the time, declared, "As far as we know, Troup County is one of the few [counties] which have not needed a bond issue to build a Courthouse or any other building."

The courthouse, annex, and jail were designed by the prominent Atlanta architect William J. J. Chase and constructed by A. J. Honeycutt Company, Inc.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Minshew, Kay, Troup County Archives Director. Troup County Archives, LaGrange, Georgia. Informal Interview with Leslie N. Sharp, August 31, 1994.

Sharp, Leslie N. "County Courthouses in Georgia," Multiple Property Documentation Form, amended submission, 1994. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Troup County Courthouse Vertical File. Troup County Archives, LaGrange, Georgia.

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

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):

n/a

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 1.5 acres.

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 683900 Northing 3657280

Verbal Boundary Description

This nomination encompasses the property which includes the Troup County Courthouse, Annex, and Jail, as indicated by the heavy black line on the attached tax map, drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the all of the property owned by Troup County at this location which includes the Troup County Courthouse, Annex, and Jail.

11. Form Prepared By

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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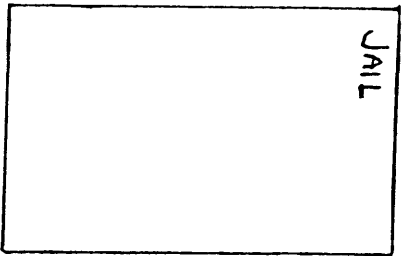
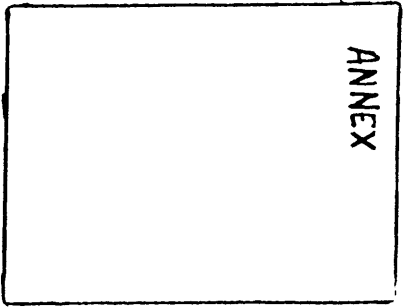
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Photographs

Name of Property: Troup County Courthouse, Annex, and Jail
City or Vicinity: LaGrange
County: Troup
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: March 1995

Description of Photograph(s):

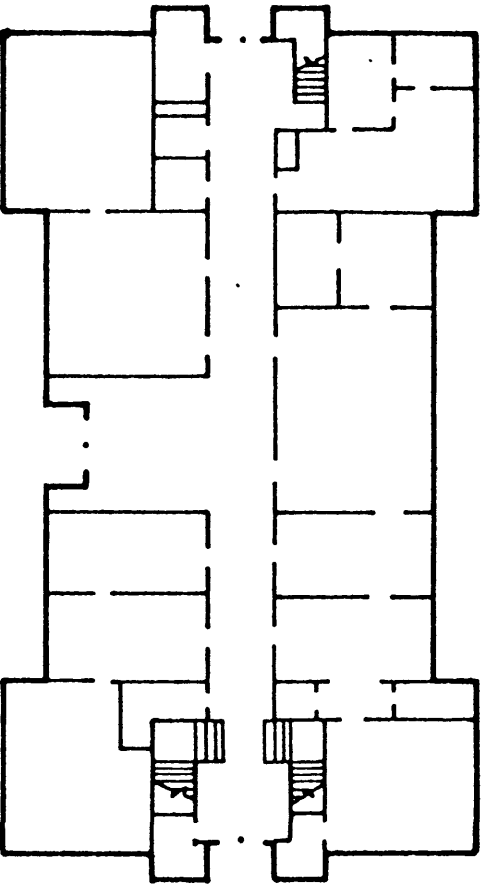
- 1 of 12: Troup County Courthouse, front facade; photographer facing northeast.
- 2 of 12: Front facade; photographer facing northeast.
- 3 of 12: Detail of cornerstone marker; photographer facing southeast.
- 4 of 12: South facade; photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 12: Hallway; photographer facing north.
- 6 of 12: Stairway; photographer facing west.
- 7 of 12: Second floor landing; photographer facing northeast.
- 8 of 12: Courtroom doors; photographer facing northeast.
- 9 of 12: Courtroom; photographer facing northwest.
- 10 of 12: Courtroom detail; photographer facing southwest.
- 11 of 12: Annex and Jail; photographer facing northeast.
- 12 of 12: Jail and Courthouse; photographer facing northwest.



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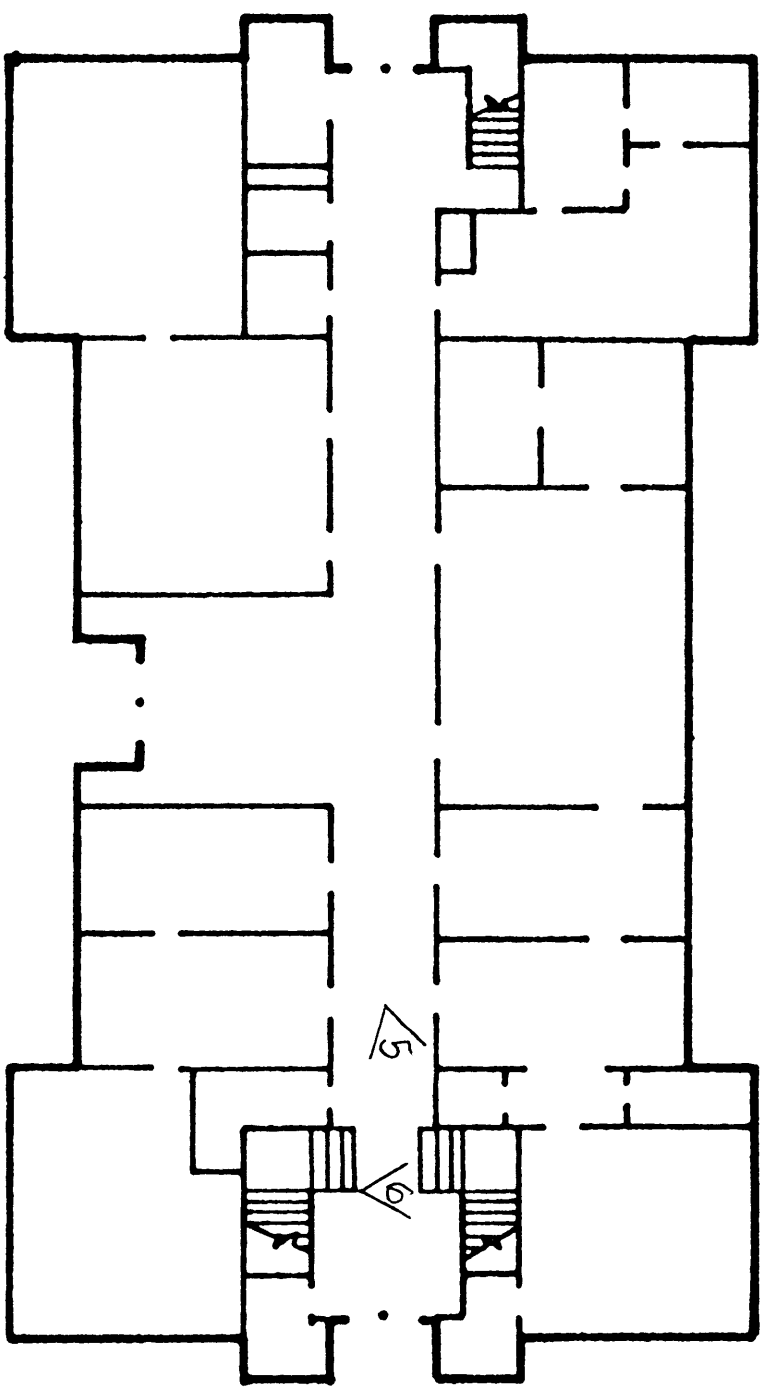


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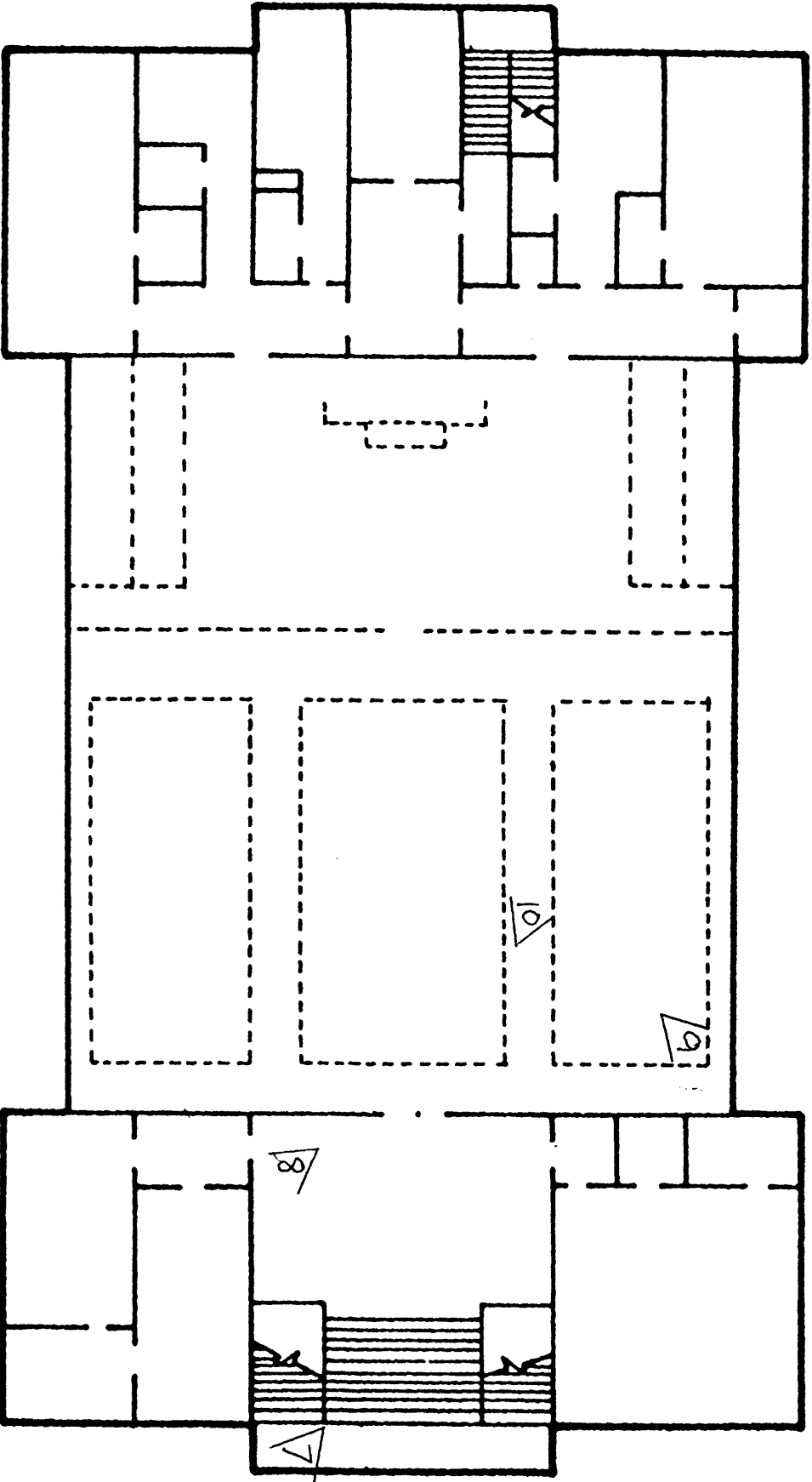
11

Group County Courthouse, Annex & Jail
Group County, Georgia
Site Plan
Not to Scale
Photographs:
North:



FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

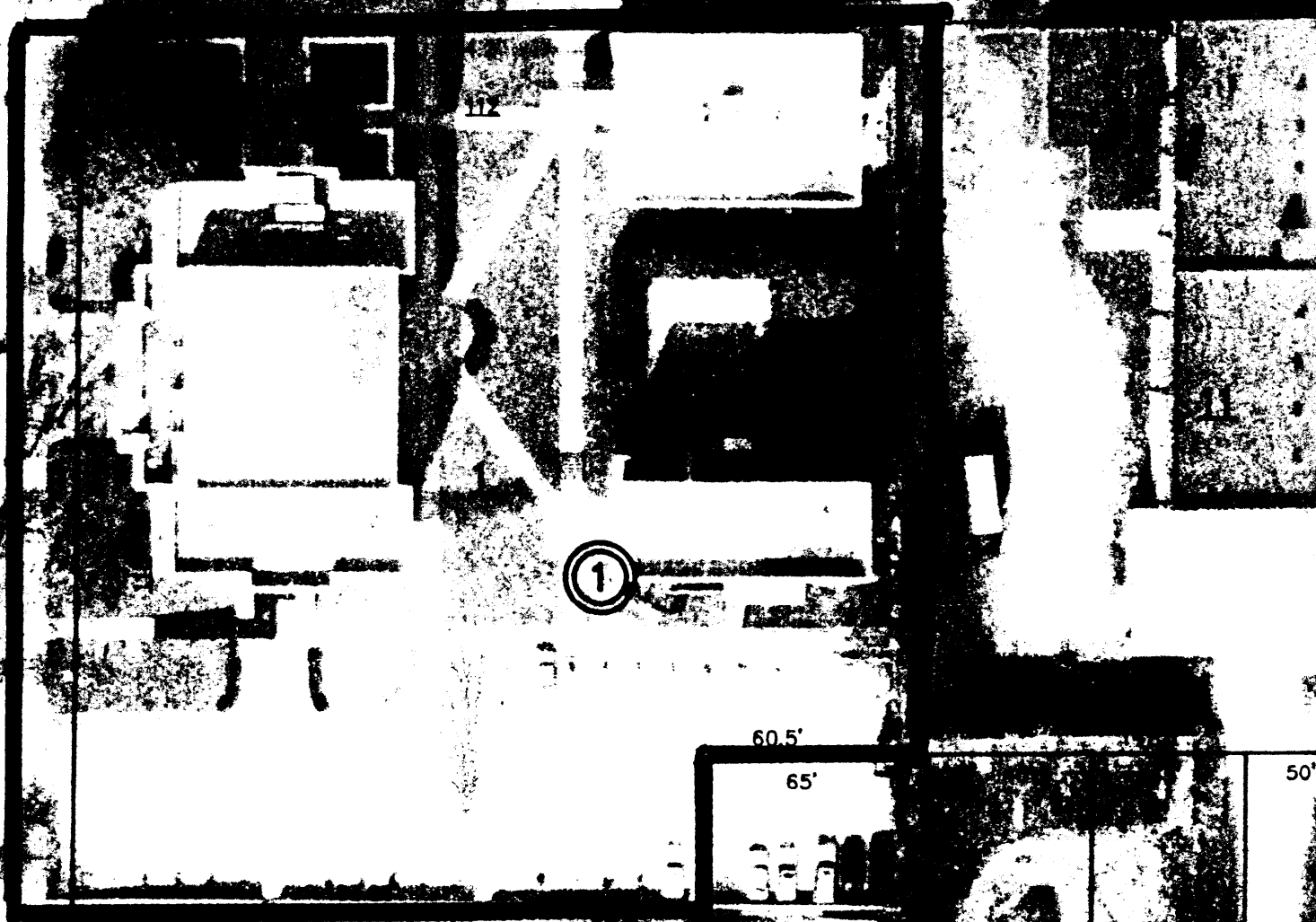


Troup County Courthouse
Troup County, Georgia
Second Floor Plan
Not to Scale
Photographs: >
North: —



1-4A

HATLSON STREET



60.5'

65'

50'

82.5'

120'

121.68'

Troup County Courthouse, Annex and Jail
 Troup County, Georgia
 Tax Map
 National Register Boundary: ———
 Scale: 1" = 50'
 North: ↑

100'

16

5

210'

200'

100'

203'