

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY FORM

RECEIVED

FEB 29 1980

NATIONAL
REGISTERName of Structure: Monroe County CourthouseLocation: Courthouse Square, Forsyth, Ga. 31029Cost: \$24,000Date of Construction: 1896Architect/builder: Bruce & MorganContractor: Knoxville Building &
Construction Co.Subsequent architects: _____

_____Work has been completed
recently - an elevator was
added, etc.

DESCRIPTION:

Style: High VictorianFacade Material: BrickCondition: Excellent Good Fair

TAX MAP/PARCEL NUMBERS

F-26 Par. 77Zone 17/E225500/N3658740
UTM NO. _____Boundary: The entire block or
square upon which the courthouse
sits.

Acreage: approx. 2 acres

This building has a cross plan with the main entrance on the east. When the building was constructed, a newspaper article made note of several interesting features. It had a reception room for female witnesses who were required to "attend upon the court" and, "a spacious room on the third floor 'fitted up' to meet the emergencies of 'tied-up juries'! The ventilation in the building was quite modern for the time in Georgia and was installed by Peck and Williamson of Cincinnati. (see photograph)

The courtroom is one of the most impressive in Georgia. Even though the stained glass was removed from the transoms of the windows and new steel framed glass windows were added during renovation, the grandeur of the room remains. The coved ceiling of pressed metal has a patina of bronze and burnt orange, the only colored metal ceiling (courthouse) in Georgia. The design of this ceiling is reminiscent of those of Pompeii that so influenced the Adam Brothers of England. (see photograph) The large litigation area has chairs with leather seats for the lawyers. A bow shaped railing separates the litigation and spectator areas.

The bench is large and impressive. The judge enters directly behind the bench which is centered in front of an apse defined by a segmental arch with decorative keystone. Hand painted in the pediment is a cartouche which swirls around the Georgia State seal.

On the exterior there are four corner pavilions that are pyramidally capped and a domed clock tower that sits astride the main entrance. Stone stringcourses,

THEMATIC NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION - GEORGIA COURTHOUSES

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lintels and quoins offer contrast to the brick. Round arched and rectangular windows are used throughout. Dutch stepped gables provide an additional eclectic touch to the structure.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See general statement of significance about the architects, Bruce & Morgan.

This Bruce and Morgan building has a solid character in spite of its eclecticism. Because of its cross plan, the courthouse serves an economic function. Through their proximity to the courthouse, businesses on all four sides of the square prospered.

On the interior, the pressed metal ceiling in the courtroom is the only colored metal ceiling in a Georgia courthouse. The courtroom has been changed little and still has its 1896 character.



MONROE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

MAILING ADDRESS:

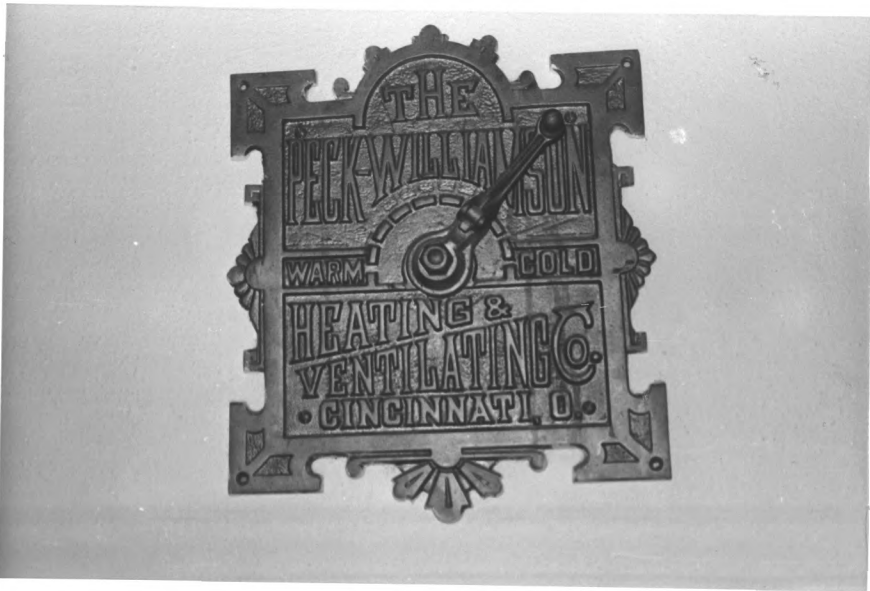
Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Monroe County Courthouse
Courthouse Square
Forsyth, Georgia 31029

SEP 18 1980

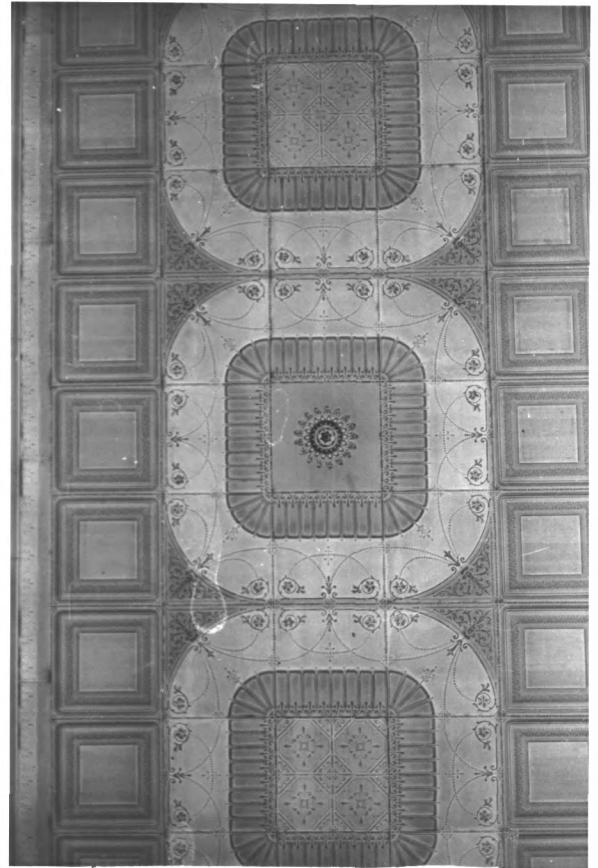


DETAIL - PAINTED CARTOUCHE OVER JUDGES BENCH

SEP 18 1980



DETAIL - COURTROOM HEATING CONTROL



DETAIL - PAINTED. PRESSED METAL COURTROOM CEILING