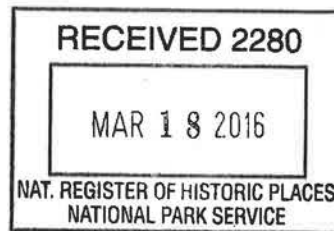


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name ESSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 7551-7559 COURT STREET

	not for publication
	vicinity

city or town ELIZABETHTOWN

state NEW YORK code NY county ESSEX code 031 zip code 12932

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Ruth Purpont DBAPO 3/11/16
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

 other (explain) _____

Lee Edson W. Beall 5-3-16
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
 (Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: government office, courthouse,
 correctional facility

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: government office, courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th & 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical
 Revival, Colonial Revival

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE, CONCRETE

walls: BRICK

roof: SLATE, ASPHALT, MEMBRANE

other: METAL, WOOD, GLASS

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

Synopsis

The Essex County Municipal Complex is the seat of municipal government for Essex County, New York, and houses those facilities which are necessary for the dispensation of county-sanctioned business. Given the function that it satisfies and the manner in which that function has evolved and expanded over time, it comes as little surprise that the facility has a complicated, multi-phase construction chronology. The facility consists of a series of buildings located on a rectangular-shaped landscaped parcel bounded to the south by Court Street (U.S. Route 9) and to the west by Park Street (NY Route 9N). Prior to 1906, the complex consisted of the ca. 1824-43 courthouse—a temple-fronted brick building that was built in two stages before being aggrandized ca. 1880-81 with an office wing to the west—in addition to the county clerk’s building and a jail facility. Of these, only the original courthouse and wing survive to present times. In 1911, the complex was expanded with the construction of a new temple-fronted brick county clerk’s office, oriented like the courthouse to present its freestanding classical order towards Court Street, in addition to a large brick jail with an attached domestic/administrative block, known in period architectural renderings as the sheriff’s cottage. At this time the three buildings—the courthouse with wing, the office block, and the two-building jail complex—were each freestanding units within the larger grounds of the complex, which on its Court Street side presented as a park-like landscaped expanse. In 1928, the facility was again expanded, this time with the construction of additional office space in a two-room block that served as a hyphen between the courthouse and clerk’s office blocks, thereby creating a single building of irregular footprint. Since that time a third building with freestanding portico was added, ca. 1964-67, this time attached to the wing of the old courthouse, it forming the facility’s terminal feature on the west side of the complex and fronting directly on Park Street. This addition created a roughly “E” shaped plan with a series of three porticoed pavilions on the principal elevation, joining those of the courthouse and clerk’s office; referred to in this documentation as the “main building grouping,” it and the jail complex constitute this nomination’s two principal features, along with the associated landscaped park that fronts on Court Street. Other expansions have taken place since that time, including the construction of a newer and much larger courthouse facility on the complex’s east side, a feature that while located within the boundary has been deemed non-contributing to the significance of this nomination. It nevertheless speaks to the continuing evolution of the facility in response to need.

The nominated complex’s various components include those designed by the firm of Coulter & Westhoff and the office of William G. Distin, both well-known architectural offices in the region during the first decades of the twentieth century. Both Distin and Max Westhoff worked for a time with William L. Coulter and were sometime partners in the firm of Westhoff & Distin. Coulter & Westhoff were responsible for the work constituting the 1910-11 building campaign—though by this time Coulter had died, leaving Westhoff as the firm’s principal figure— inclusive of the new county clerk’s building and the jail with attached sheriff’s cottage; the 1928 addition that formed a hyphen between the two formerly freestanding buildings was by Distin; and work undertaken between 1964-65 and in 1967 was by Distin & Wareham, including the present westernmost section of the main building grouping. Of the earlier buildings, local builders Hand & Marks oversaw the 1843 reworking of the courthouse.

Narrative Description

Location & Setting

The Essex County Municipal Complex is located in the hamlet of Elizabethtown, itself located within the eponymously named town, near the intersection of State Route 9N and U.S. Route 9, in Essex County, New York. The hamlet is located approximately halfway between Westport, located to the east on the shore of Lake Champlain, and Keene Valley, located to the west on State Route 73. The nominated property consists of a rectangular-shaped strip of largely flat land which is bounded to the west by Park Street and on the south by Court Street, which at that point corresponds with both routes 9 and 9N; these routes split off from one

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another a short distance to the northeast, and from that point Route 9N follows an easterly alignment towards Westport, while Route 9 continues its northward course towards distant Keeseville. The buildings that form the complex, and which occupy roughly half of the land that forms their setting, are aligned on a southwest-to-northeast axis and oriented to present their principal elevations towards Court Street. The area between the buildings and sidewalk aligning Court Street is treated as an open park area, modest in conception, which is characterized by a flat grassy expanse punctuated by a scattering of deciduous and coniferous trees and crisscrossed by pedestrian walkways; a number of park benches are present, as is a flagpole and a circular, stone-walled raised flower bed that is incorporated into the pedestrian circulation pattern. All of the buildings are accessed almost at grade on the Court Street side except the newer courthouse, which was built on a high raised basement, thereby necessitating access via either a flight of steps from or by means of a graduated ramp. The rear of the municipal complex is utilitarian in disposition and characterized by additions made to the facility in more recent times, which in some measure screen the older historic rear elevations from view (and in some cases subsume them). A vehicular access road aligns this elevation and leads to a large parking area on the east side of the new courthouse. Behind the facility, to the north, is the Elizabethtown Community Hospital, a rambling low-slung building with a large parking area between its western elevation and Park Street. It is not contained within the nomination boundary.

Main Building Group [Old Courthouse/County Clerk's Building/Office hyphen/Westernmost block], ca. 1824/1843/1880-81; 1910-11; ca. 1928; ca. 1964-65; 1967; ca. 1980 (contributing building)

The main building group evolved during no fewer than eight building campaigns. This grouping's oldest component is the original courthouse, which forms the central of three porticoed pavilions; originally a one-story brick building built ca. 1824, it was raised to its present height in 1843 and then expanded again 1880-81. The easternmost part of this group, the county clerk's building, was completed in 1911 and was originally a freestanding edifice which also featured a monumental portico. These two distinctive and once unattached buildings were unified in 1928 with the construction of a two-story addition that served as an office block and which acted as a hyphen linking the two. To this was added, in the mid-1960s, the present westernmost block, which followed the precedent of the other two buildings by employing a monumental portico, thereby giving this part of the facility its distinctive Neoclassical disposition and triple-pavilion arrangement. An addition has since been added to the rear of this building, spanning most of the rear wall of the old courthouse and its wing and a portion of the hyphen.

The design precedent for this elevation was established with the original courthouse, which is three-bays wide and fronted by a tetrastyle portico sustained by unfluted Tuscan columns, above which rises a two-stage bell tower that straddles the roof ridge. The 1910-11 clerk's building followed this general precedent; it, too, is three bays wide with a tetrastyle portico with unfluted Tuscan columns. A prominent feature of this building is the raised porch that corresponds with the two innermost columns of the portico, which, by means of a metal staircase, allows for access to this building at both first and second-story level from the Court Street side. The third and final of the three porticoed pavilions, the westernmost block—the side elevation of which fronts on Park Street—again followed this precedent, combining a three-bay façade with Tuscan portico, though in this instance the portico fails to span the full width of the façade; this treatment is in keeping with Palladian precedents. These three porticoed blocks project forward as pavilions from the remainder of the grouping.

Moving west to east, the 1960s-era westernmost block will be described first; it currently serves social services functions. Two stories in height, it has a rectangular footprint the long axis of which corresponds with Park Street, and is covered by a hipped roof which the portico engages on the south elevation. It is 11 bays wide on the Park Street side; three of these bays are situated within a slightly projecting entrance pavilion, the gable roof of which intersects the main hipped roof. The brick is laid in running bond and the detailing, which is austere, is limited to the enrichment of the door with a Colonial Revival surround and a moulded wood frieze and cornice; the gable of the pavilion is fitted with clapboard and punctuated by a circular motif. Window

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openings have cast stone sills, plain heads, and are fitted with one-over-one sash. A small rectangular-plan addition abuts the rear elevation and accommodates an entrance on its narrow south side. Returning to the principal south-facing elevation, the treatments correspond with those on the Park Street side, in terms of the nature of the brick and woodwork. A Colonial Revival motif identical to that on the Park Street side is used to call the central entrance to notice; it features pilasters that give way to a pediment, in which a fanlight is located. The east elevation extends northwards, by four bays, before engaging what was originally the 1880-81 office block.

The 1880-81 office block, which is aligned between the 1960s block and the original courthouse section that it formed an extension from, is four bays wide with an offset entrance. The brick on this elevation, which is redder and more irregular than that of the adjacent 1960s section, was laid up in common bond. Windows are segmentally arched and feature decorative brick crowns and retain two-over-two wood sash. The entrance has a Colonial Revival surround added at a later date to integrate this section more fully with the larger architectural program; in that vein, the frieze that forms a continuous part of this building group had to be “scaloped” at its bottom to accommodate the segmental-arched crowns.

The west wall of the original courthouse extends forward from the office block. Evident in its fabric are changes made to it during the period 1824 to 1881, inclusive of work executed in 1843; originally one story in height, it was later raised to its present two stories. Brick is laid in a common bond pattern, with two tall window bays punctuating the wall; nevertheless evident is an earlier history of fenestration with smaller windows at first and second story level. The two windows, fitted with tall four-over-four wood sash, are treated like those on the adjacent office block (segmental arched with decorative brick crowns), and above them is continued the unifying wood frieze. Moving to the south elevation, the central entrance is fitted with double-leaf doors which exhibit chamfered rails, stiles and diagonals. A segmental arched transom light spans the doors; painted on the glass is “COURTHOUSE 1824.” The four unfluted Tuscan columns that support the portico are widely spaced and attenuated in character. From the roof ridge rises the two-stage bell tower, the uppermost stage of which has louvered openings with segmentally arched heads and which is terminated by an intersecting gabled roof. The east wall of this section extends northwards two bays before engaging the south wall of the 1928 block. Fenestration and other treatments match those previously described on the building’s other two elevations.

The 1928 block, which created a hyphen between the original courthouse and county clerk’s building, presents as a symmetrical five-bay building with center entrance. It is fronted by a two-story portico that is sustained by four freestanding unfluted Tuscan columns; engaged pilasters mark where it meets the side walls of the courthouse and clerk’s building, and a gable rises above it and intersects the main gabled roof of this section. Noticeable, as was the case in contrasting the 1960s section with the central courthouse, is the difference in color and texture of the brick, which was laid up in Flemish bond above a soldier course. Windows are first-story level are paired and have transoms, while those at second-story level are single units; decorative marble panels are present between the lower and upper windows, and the entrance is called to notice by a Colonial Revival surround consisting of pilasters, pediment and fanlight; the fanlight features delicate leading. Windows are fitted with six-over-one sash at first-story level (transoms are divided into three lights), while the upper windows are eight-over-one. The door was crafted from quarter-sawn oak and features a large glazed panel.

The west wall of the county clerk’s building extends forward from the 1928 block and is three bays deep with asymmetrical fenestration. At first-story level is a door with gabled hood, a double window with transom, and a single window; the upper windows are all of the single type. The windows feature decorative surrounds which are shouldered, or “eared.” The windows are hung with one-over-one wood sash. The frieze is carried forward from the adjacent section and is denticulated, unlike the sections from the courthouse west, which have no embellishment save for a simple architrave moulding. The façade of this section is contained beneath

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the roof of the portico, the ceiling of which is coffered. The central entrance at first-story level is set within a brick projection that helps sustain a balcony above, which is reached via a metal staircase; the doorway features a Colonial Revival surround which is eared and has a broken pediment motif. Wood consoles extend from the projecting brick wall and the two innermost columns as part of the upper balcony treatment; the railing that encloses the stair and balcony is formed of metal balusters that, while square in plan, are spiral turned. The pediment of the portico is fitted with clapboard and punctuated at its center by a keystone oculus window. This section features a cut-marble water-table that aligns the perimeter of the building just above foundation level. The east elevation features asymmetrical fenestration that includes, at first-story level, a large tripartite window contained within a shouldered surround that is terminated by a broken pediment with urn. This wall returns slightly to the east in the form of a two-bay section that formed an amendment to the original construct; the distinction between this older and newer section is more pronounced on the north elevation, where the differences are apparent. The mostly blind east wall of this adjunct (there are three second-story windows) terminates the main building group's eastern extent.

A large expanse of the rear of the south building grouping is screened by a non-historic two-story, brick-walled block with gabled roof, which has round arched and segmentally arched fenestration. From this block extends southwards a flat-roofed section that subsumed portions of the rear wall of the courthouse, office block, and the hyphen that connects the original courthouse and county clerk's building. Of the visible earlier portions of the building is the rear section of the county clerk's building, which presents as a symmetrical gable-front block from which the hyphen extends to the west (and an addition in the opposite direction). The gabled section has symmetrical fenestration, with five windows at first-story level and two tripartite groupings at second story level. The gable is fully pedimented and characterized by a denticulated frieze and associated raking frieze. Two bays of the attached hyphen are visible before the remainder of the elevation is obscured by the addition.

There is a ca. 1980 non-historic addition—a two story gable-roofed building with a flat roof—that engages the rear wall of the earlier building; it appears contemporary with the small addition made to the north elevation of the 1960s section. Portions of the walls of the earlier buildings are visible from within this section.

Main Building Grouping Interior

Most of the south building grouping's interior space is occupied by compartmentalized office spaces and circulation corridors typical of a municipal complex. Finishes largely reflect the period in which a specific component of the facility was erected, though not without more recent and typical changes, such as is the case with the introduction of dropped ceilings in some areas. The finishes employed are generally modest and indicative of the largely functional nature of the complex, with a few notable exceptions.

The keynote space of this part of the complex is without question the old courthouse space, which now functions as the meeting room for the Essex County Board of Supervisors. It is a rectangular-shaped room with a tall coffered ceiling and is punctuated on the east and west walls by tall windows; a gallery, accessed by means of staircases that align the walls, is situated on the building's south side, over the entrance; it is sustained by a pair of columns that flank the central aisle that bisects the room and has a moulded frieze. The transition between the wall and ceiling is marked by a prominent pressed-metal cavetto cornice, while the ceiling itself is fitted with pressed metal suggesting coffering. Walls have a paneled dado above which is plaster to cornice level. The rear (north) wall has two large blind bays, originally windows, between which is set a Neoclassical treatment consisting of paneled pilasters, entablature, and round-headed fanlight; a six paneled door is centered within this composition. Other details include the runs of railing, with heavy turned balusters and moulded hand railings, that separate the audience area from the remainder of the plan at ground level and which also enclose the front of the gallery, where additional seating is located. Window and door mouldings feature elaborated and complex profiles, while the four-panel doors feature chamfered rails and

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stiles. The bulk of these treatments seem representative of the 1880-81 and 1910-11 building campaigns, the pressed metal ceiling treatments presumably corresponding with the latter era.

The offices within the 1928 office hyphen linking the original courthouse and county clerk's building exhibit both original and later features. The surrounds of the paired windows at first floor level, which each have three-light transom units, were left unpainted so as to express the natural grain, as is the case with the glazed and paneled door that opens from the hallway. The ceiling has been dropped from its original height. As for the hallway, it contains a fireproof metal staircase of Neoclassical inspiration and is of a closed-stringer type; the wood handrail is terminated by a metal newel post in the form of a fluted column with brass newel cap.

The 1960s-era social services building, the westernmost section of this grouping, is characterized by simple finishes and compartmentalized rooms aligned along central circulation corridors.

Essex County Jail and Sheriff's Cottage Grouping, 1911 & Later (contributing building)

The county jail and sheriff's cottage consists of two principal buildings, both of which have rectangular plans: the jail, the larger of the two, and the sheriff's cottage. The jail is three-stories high and flat roofed, while the sheriff's cottage is one and one-half stories with an end gabled roof. The two buildings are separate, freestanding entities linked by small hyphen. The so-called cottage is the southernmost of the two, with the walls of the jail rising behind it. It consists of the original three-bay section with central entrance and a two-bay extension to the east, both with brick walls in a Flemish bond pattern (there is a noticeable difference in hue/texture between the brick used on these sections). The original portion features a projecting center portico that shields the entrance; the portico is sustained by four unfluted Tuscan columns, rendered as pairs, and corresponding engaged wall pilasters. Both the columns and pilasters exhibit distinctive entasis in their execution. The entrance has two separate doors set within a moulded surround; the doors are glazed and paneled. Flanking windows at first-story level have sills incorporated into a belt course, while those at the upper level break are gabled wall dormers that pierce the building's denticulated frieze and moulded cornice; these have bracketed sills. The building was originally hip-roofed, as indicated in period images; the change to a gable format is apparent when viewing the building from the west, as there is a clear seam in the brick corresponding with the superstructure and the gable field. This elevation has two windows apiece at first and second-story level in a stacked arrangement, all hung with six-over-one sash. The foundation, visible to a level slightly above grade, is mortared stone. Fenestration on the east elevation is asymmetrical. The roof is clad with slate shingles excepting the extension, which has asphalt shingles.

The jail's principal elevation, largely screened by the cottage, is that which faces southwards towards Court Street. This elevation is defined by two pedimented corner pavilions that project forward and frame the remainder of the elevation, which is punctuated by seven evenly spaced bays with windows at first, second and third-story level. Detailing such as the marble belt coursing, denticulated frieze and brickwork echoes that of the cottage. The roofline is terminated by a raised parapet wall into which the pediments of the pavilions (on both the south, east and west sides) are integrated. The side elevations feature a central pedimented pavilion motif echoing those employed on the principal elevation. The rear elevation is largely concealed behind a low modern addition which is clad with corrugated metal. Visible behind it are the third story windows, which are spanned by marble lintels and secured with metal bars; the easternmost one corresponds with a metal fire escape and thus is fitted with a solid metal door and not a window. A tall brick chimney and radio tower rise from the flat roof of the jail.

There is a non-historic addition at the rear of the jail. Rectangular in plan, it has a flat roof that aligns the entire north elevation, thereby screening the first story (and, depending on vantage point, the second story) from view.

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The interior of the sheriff's cottage appears to retain its early room configurations; however, finishes have been modified in more recent times, and are characterized on the first story by office spaces with faux wood-paneled walls and dropped ceilings with inset lighting. As for the jail's interior, it features the expression of brick walls and retains the holding cells, which are aligned adjacent to circulation corridors and which have original plumbing fixtures and suspended bed frames. Vacant cells are now used in part for the storage of county archival materials. In the cell areas both the corridor ceiling and cell walls and ceiling are formed of sections of metal panel. Vertical circulation between the various levels is by means of fireproof metal staircases.

New Essex County Courthouse, ca. 1997 (non-contributing)

This large, two-story, brick clad building with flat roof was built on a raised concrete block foundation that is largely expressed as a feature of the design. The building was rendered in a contemporary Neoclassical idiom and its entrance is set within a projecting pavilion motif consisting of attenuated and paired Tuscan columns which sustain a shallow frieze and simple pediment. Distinguishing characteristics of the façade include bilateral symmetry and a five-part composition. A prominent block parapet aligns the roofline of the center entrance block and is extended from there to the flanking sections. The approach to the building from Court Street requires scaling a flight of stairs.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca. 1824- 1967

Significant Dates

ca. 1824; 1843; 1880-81; 1910-1911; ca. 1928; 1964-67

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Coulter & Westhoff; William G. Distin; Distin &

Wareham; Hand & Marks

Period of Significance (justification)

The cited period of significance, ca. 1824-1967, encompasses the nominated facility's physical development during this time frame, inclusive of the 1964-67 work. It additionally reflects the complex's longstanding and continued use as the seat of Essex County, New York government.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Essex County Municipal Complex represents a history of continuous use of this site by Essex County, New York government dating back to 1824. It was in that year that a new courthouse was erected at Elizabethtown, following the destruction by fire of an earlier building the previous year; the 1824 edifice, which has been expanded and modified many times in its history, nevertheless forms the oldest, core section of the nominated facility. Following Essex County's establishment in 1799, at which time it was formed from land previously contained within the bounds of Clinton County, limited government infrastructure was established in Essex, on the shores of Lake Champlain, prior to being removed to Elizabethtown around 1811. The nominated complex represents the growth and expansion of the facilities established at Elizabethtown, inclusive of the courthouse and subsequent office wing built between 1824 and 1881, in addition to major building episodes undertaken in 1910-11, ca. 1928 and 1964-67. While the earliest buildings were provincial constructs executed under the auspices of local builders, the later work of 1910-1967 was built to plans developed by some of the more prominent Adirondack region architectural practitioners of the period, namely Max H. Westhoff and William G. Distin, both of whom had worked for a time in the office of William L. Coulter. The work executed in the twentieth century was largely cast in a Neoclassical idiom and was in that sense dictated by the design of the 1824 courthouse, which, following modifications ca. 1843, assumed a temple-front configuration that defined the architectural motif of future expansion campaigns. The original courthouse and wing were aggrandized so as to eventually form a large grouping characterized by three pavilions each with monumental porticos, while a new jail and support building were erected to the east, these being the principal historic resources contained within the boundary. Of note in the history of the facility is the date December 6, 1859, the day that the body of the abolitionist John Brown lay in state in the courthouse, on its way for burial at Brown's farm in North Elba following his execution for orchestrating the raid on the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. In more recent times, the facility has seen a new and sizeable addition, that being a new county courthouse, located to the east of the other buildings; it has been deemed non-historic in the context of this nomination. The Essex County Municipal Complex is being nominated in association with NRHP Criterion A, in the area of Politics/Government, for its longstanding association with Essex County government dating to 1824; it is additionally being nominated under Criterion C, in the area of architecture, particularly given the association of the work undertaken in the twentieth century by architects Max H. Westhoff and William G. Distin.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historical Background & Context

Essex County, New York assumed its present boundary in 1799. At the time the first counties were established in the Province of New York in the 1680s, Essex County was part of Albany County, which at that time was a far larger entity than it is presently; at that time it incorporated within its bounds the northern part of New York State, the present State of Vermont and, in theory, extended westward to the Pacific Ocean. Albany County was reduced in size in 1766 with the creation of Cumberland County and further in 1770 by the creation of Gloucester County, both containing territory now within the State of Vermont. In 1772 what was left of Albany County was split into three parts, one of which was christened Charlotte County, within which present-day Essex County was located. In 1784 Charlotte County assumed a new name, Washington County, and in 1788 Clinton County, at that date much larger than it is today, was formed from it. Essex County as it now exists was raised as its own entity from Clinton County in 1799. The county's eastern boundary abuts Lake Champlain and it additionally borders on Washington, Warren, Hamilton, Franklin and Clinton counties; the Adirondack Mountains and Lake Champlain constitute its principal geographic and topographical features. Essex County was named for the county of the same name in England, which took its name from Robert Devereux, the Earl of Essex.

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Following its separation from Clinton County in 1799, the seat of Essex County government was established in the Town of Essex, on the shore of Lake Champlain across from Charlotte, Vermont. It was there that the general business of the county was transacted and the courts first held, with Daniel Ross serving as the first county judge.¹ In the absence of dedicated infrastructure for the dispensation of county business, court was held in a small block-house that remained from the days of military strife in the region. The county seat remained at Essex until after 1807 and public business continued to be transacted there until about 1811. Plans to establish a new county seat had been initiated in 1807, at which time Peter Saille, of Clinton County, and David Thomas and John Savage, both of Washington County, were appointed as commissioners to select a location at which to build Essex County's first purpose-built courthouse—as noted wryly by one source, local residents had no more to do with deciding upon the location “than men in the moon.” It is presumed that this arrangement was in some measure meant to ensure impartiality in the selection of the site. In 1811 it was also mandated that the county gaol, or jail, would be established no farther than one-half mile from the courthouse.² Thus the first permanent, dedicated county facility began to take shape, at least in the conceptual realm.

The appointed commissioners soon chose Elizabethtown, at that time a developing hamlet, as the seat of the new county government. It was described as situated within a “beautiful valley in the northern part of this town, where an incipient village was already located, and to which nature directly pointed by having formed ‘passes’ through the circumjacent hills, as well as the nearest practicable site to the center of the county.” The original seat of government, located in the block-house at Essex, was on the extreme eastern side of the county—albeit on the shores of Lake Champlain, which remained a vital transportation artery for the region—a geographic situation which put those residing in the interior areas of the county at a disadvantage relative to travel.³ Land for the new facility in Elizabethtown was secured by the county from Simeon Frisbee and his wife, Lucy, who sold one acre of property to Essex County for “\$150, “for the use of a courthouse and a gaol forever.”⁴

The new county courthouse and jail were built in Elizabethtown in the general proximity of the nominated facility. The earlier building was completed in 1811 and by all indications was placed in service the following year. Its construction came with requirements, among them that the county clerk was directed by law to maintain an office within one mile of the courthouse. Unfortunately the courthouse, a wood frame edifice, burned soon after its completion; it was rebuilt on a similar plan but burned yet again in March 1823. This was the impetus for a new and more extensively built facility, of brick construction, for which a total of \$5,000 was raised, in two separate actions, by the county. The following account is quoted directly from the 1885 history of Essex County edited by H.P. Smith:

The first installment of the present brick building was accordingly erected in 1824. It was but one story high. In 1843 the second story was added, in which the court-room was established. The last addition was made in 1880-81, by which the main part was enlarged and the wing put on for the county offices.⁵

The above passage references the oldest part of the nominated facility, which evolved during the period 1824 to 1881 and which now forms the core of the main building grouping. In 1832 the county supervisors were authorized to raise \$500, for the purpose of constructing a fire-proof office for the county clerk; the threat of

¹ H.P. Smith ed., *History of Essex County* (Syracuse: D. Mason & Co., 1885), 273.

² *Ibid.*, 273-74.

³ *Ibid.*, 470.

⁴ Liber A, Essex County Deeds, 450.

⁵ Smith, *Essex County*, 275.

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fire and its potential to destroy documents vital to the dispensation of county business was well understood and greatly exacerbated by the fires that had already destroyed the first of the two court houses at Elizabethtown. An additional \$300 was later raised, again towards this purpose. In 1885 the facility was thus described in the county history of that year: “The county buildings are now creditable to the community, pleasantly situated and sufficiently commodious for the purposes for which they were erected.”

The removal of the county seat from Essex to Elizabethtown in the 1810s helped spur new growth and stimulate development in the hamlet. It also came shortly after the establishment of a state arsenal at that location, which occurred in 1809, a few years before animosities with Great Britain boiled over into outright military conflict—and one which would directly impact the Champlain Valley and northern New York. The lands within Essex County had been sparsely settled during the years before the Revolution, and by the end of the eighteenth century the county boasted but three towns, Ticonderoga, Crown Point, and Willsboro (inclusive of Essex), all of which communicated directly with Lake Champlain, at that time the central transportation feature of the region. Land to the interior, west of these towns, was a vast and unbroken wilderness punctuated by the rugged and largely impenetrable landmasses of the Adirondack Mountains. Elizabethtown, located in a distinctive valley of the Boquet River—the so-called “Pleasant Valley”—saw its first permanent settlers arrive during the 1790s, many of whom hailed from Vermont. These first settlers endured tremendous hardships as they carved out a foothold on the forbidding northern New York frontier. The Town of Elizabethtown, in which the hamlet is located, was named for the wife and daughter of William Gilliland, the preeminent land owner in the region at the time of settlement.

Among the more notable events in the history of Essex County’s courthouse occurred on December 6, 1859. It was on that date that the body of the abolitionist John Brown lay in state on its journey to his farm in North Elba for interment. Brown had moved to the Adirondacks in 1849 to assist black settlers at the Timbuktu settlement near North Elba; it was there—on holdings granted by notable New York State abolitionist Gerrit Smith—that land had been allocated for African Americans, in order that they could provide for their families and quality to vote. Brown had orchestrated the failed raid on the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, in the fall of 1859 a few weeks following his last visit to Elizabethtown, at which time he worshipped at the Baptist Church with Levi DeWitt Brown, of whom he was a guest.⁶ His goal of providing arms to slaves for the purposes of a large-scale slave revolt had failed. On December 2, Brown was hanged for his crimes; his body was transferred to his wife, prior to being conveyed northward to Essex County by way of Vermont. The cortege arrived in Elizabethtown on December 6, attended by a party that included the abolitionist Wendell Phillips, and Brown’s remains were laid out in the courtroom, where four local men kept vigil for the night. Period histories indicate that many turned out to greet the cortege in Elizabethtown and that the event inspired further anti-slavery feeling among the population, which was already palpable by the 1840s; some traveled with Brown’s remains to the burial site in North Elba, where Phillips delivered a stirring graveside eulogy.⁷

The facility continued to function as designed until the next major period of expansion, which came early in the second decade of the twentieth century. This came following a period of debate between 1905 and 1908 in which Essex County citizens considered the merits of removing the county seat from Elizabethtown to Westport, and then to Port Henry, both on the county’s eastern, Lake Champlain side; the issue taken up at the time was the accessibility of the existing location. As noted by one source, “After having been on the move for several years, the county seat of Essex county is where it was in the first place—at Elizabethtown—and now appears to have been firmly anchored there.”⁸ The same source characterized the situation at that time:

⁶ George Levi Brown, *Pleasant Valley, A History of Elizabethtown, Essex County, New York* (Post and Gazette Print, 1905), 387.

⁷ *Ibid*, 392.

⁸ “The Essex County Seat,” *The Rome Daily Sentinel*, 13 June 1910.

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The moving of the county seat from Elizabethtown to Westport, to Port Henry and back to Elizabethtown was attended by a great deal of litigation, and public fickleness must have cost a pretty penny in lawyer's fees, etc. Westport and Port Henry were each the county seat in name only, the old public buildings [at Elizabethtown] continuing to be used all the time for all county purposes.

That the "war" is really over is indicated by the fact that the Board of Supervisors has appropriated \$50,000 which will be used in building a new jail, sheriff's residence and county clerk's office, and in remodeling the court house in Elizabethtown. But still more important in the matter of anchoring the county seat is the fact that the recently organized Elizabethtown Terminal Railroad Company is building a gasoline motor road between Westport and Elizabethtown...

When it has been made accessible the main objective against Elizabethtown will have been removed and probably it will not again be menaced by a county seat removal project. People nowadays demand that public business shall be transacted at places which can be reached by a speedier means of transit than that provided by the stagecoach...⁹

With the issue at last resolved relative to the location of the county seat at Elizabethtown, a major phase of expansion occurred in the 1910-11 period, led by the architectural firm of Coulter & Westhoff. Bids for the project—"the alteration, reconstruction and repair at the Essex County Buildings at Elizabethtown"—were advertised widely, including in newspapers in Troy, Rensselaer County, in May 1910.¹⁰ The contract for the work was awarded to Lincoln & Burnham of Glens Falls, who had entered a successful sealed bid of \$37,320.¹¹ Work progressed until completion in the summer of 1911. A news item in the *Warrensburgh News* noted on June 1, 1911 that "The Essex county buildings at Elizabethtown have been completed and accepted by the board of supervisors."¹²

A second period of expansion followed in the 1920s, at which time additional space was created for county functions by creating an office hyphen between the old courthouse and the newer clerk's building. As noted in May 1928 in the *Troy Times*, "The new addition to the Essex County buildings in the village is rapidly being placed in shape and this will greatly increase the office room in the public buildings without detracting from the attractive architecture of the building[s] which have been in use for some years."¹³ The drawings for this addition provide some sense of how the new space was to be used; towards the front at first-floor level were large offices for the county treasurer and the highway department, with smaller offices and a vault behind.

The last period of development at the complex for which significance is claimed occurred in the mid to later 1960s. This work was overseen by the architectural firm of Distin & Wareham and hinged on the construction of the western portion of the main building grouping. Surviving drawings indicate that the scheme originally did not include a portico on the principal elevation; one was instead added subsequently, as an amendment to the originally submitted design. This period of work encompassed 1964-65 with a series of amendments drawn in 1967. In more recent times a new large-scale courthouse had been erected on the east side of the facility, thereby removing this function from the historic courthouse of 1824-1881.

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰"PROPOSALS," *Troy Times*, 18 May 1910.

¹¹*Engineering Record*, vol. 61, no. 23 (June 4, 1910), 74.

¹²"LOCAL AND VICINITY," *Warrensburgh News*, 1 June 1911.

¹³"Enlarging Essex County Buildings," *Troy Times*, 16 May 1928.

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Builders & Architects of the Essex County Municipal Complex

More is known of the later, twentieth century epoch of the Essex County Municipal Complex's architecture than of its earlier buildings and their physical development. Among the established details of the earlier history is the modification of the original one-story courthouse, in 1843, under the auspices of Hand & Marks, presumably local builders. As noted in 1905, "About the same time or a little later [1842-43], Hand & Marks were serving as a committee to fix over the Court House. They raised the Court House to a two-story building. The Court House remained, substantially, as Hand & Marks arranged it till 1880."¹⁴ Given that the building was a one-story affair in 1824, and in an 1858 rendering is depicted as a multi-story building with portico, it appears the portico was also introduced at this time. Earlier views, such as one by the well-known photographer Seneca Ray Stoddard, depict the west elevation before additions and the alteration of the windows; at this time, windows were grouped separately at first and second-story levels. At that time an exterior staircase, shielded from the elements by the portico, provided direct access to the upper gallery inside.

The work undertaken in the twentieth century on the Essex County Municipal Complex was largely executed under the professional guidance of two architects, Max H. Westhoff and William G. Distin. Both shared strong professional associations with architect William L. Coulter, from whom each worked in Coulter's office during the early stages of their careers. Following Coulter's death in 1907, Westhoff, continued to work under the firm name Coulter & Westhoff for a time, including during the work on the county facility (1910-11). Distin, meanwhile, executed work at the facility (1928) with an associate, Arthur Wilton, and later under the office name of Distin & Wareham (1964-65; 1967). A review of these various architects and their professional associations follows in this section. Coulter, and possibly Westhoff too, came to the Adirondacks—and Saranac Lake in particular—seeking a cure for tuberculosis.

The architecture of the Essex County Municipal Complex is largely cast in Neoclassical terms, determined in large measure by the configuration of the earliest courthouse section, which boasted a freestanding order added to the 1820s building during the 1843 building campaign. The main building grouping, with its three projecting pavilions, each fronted by a freestanding order, provides a distinctive though not entirely cohesive classical feeling. By the 1910s, at which time the first new additions were added to the 1824-1881 complex, a new wave of classicism had swept the nation, in large measure spurred by the so-called "White City" at the Columbian Exposition of 1893, which reinvigorated American interest in classically derived architectural forms. At one time, prior to the construction of a linking hyphen, the 1911 county clerk's building stood alone at the center of the composition, its monumental portico echoing that of the earlier courthouse and serving as the fulcrum of the complex. So far as functionality most of the complex is given over to office/administrative functions, save for the earlier courthouse, which now serves as a meeting room for the Board of Supervisors; most of the office spaces featured restrained and cost-effective treatments. The jail, which was also erected in 1911 with the adjacent sheriff's "cottage," represents a specialized building type with a different set of requirements; a number of period accounts documenting jail breaks by those being held there suggest that the building was not without its deficiencies.

Both Westhoff and Distin gained experience in the office of William L. Coulter (1865-1907). A native of Norwich, Connecticut, Coulter gained his earliest professional experience in architecture as a teen in the New York City office of William Halsey Wood, where he worked as a draftsman.¹⁵ Around 1893 Coulter began an association with the New York City architectural firm of Renwick, Aspinwall & Renwick, the office of nationally prominent architect James Renwick (1818-1895), who was then nearing the end of a productive life

¹⁴Brown, *Pleasant Valley*, 370.

¹⁵The majority of biographical information on Coulter included in this nomination has been drawn from Mary Hotaling's 1995 Master's Thesis from the University of Vermont, "W.L. Coulter, Adirondack Architect."

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and career. After a brief period of employment in Renwick's office, Coulter was diagnosed with tuberculosis, necessitating a paid leave of absence that saw him remove to Montana. Returning east in 1896, Coulter relocated his family to Saranac Lake, in order to recuperate from his illness and field a commission for the firm.¹⁶ Saranac Lake provided an ideal location for the young architect, as it was then emerging as the preeminent national center for the study and treatment of tuberculosis, under the leadership of Dr. E.L. Trudeau, a cousin of Lawrence Aspinwall. Aside from offering a therapeutic environment, Saranac Lake offered Coulter the opportunity to continue in practice with Renwick, Aspinwall & Renwick, which was fielding multiple commissions there. During the summer of 1896 Coulter was involved with a number of these projects, including pro bono work for the design of an administration building at Trudeau's Adirondack Cottage Sanitarium.¹⁷ Around this time Coulter also appears to have designed a modest home for himself and his family, "Perch Cottage," built in 1896.¹⁸

By early 1897 Coulter had discontinued his formal association with the Renwick office, though it appears he continued for a time to act as a liaison for the firm's work in the region.¹⁹ Beginning that year, Coulter established his own architectural practice in the village and began fielding commissions for "cure cottages," and that summer he appears to have engaged in his first Adirondack camp design, for W.W. McAlpin on Spitfire Lake. Other early camp commissions gained by Coulter included designs for Mrs. Robert Hoe, John S. Ward, and William H. Penfold on the St. Regis Lakes.²⁰ It was also during this period that Coulter provided drawings and specifications for St. Eustace-By-The-Lakes, a modest Shingle Style seasonal church located in Lake Placid. Around 1899 Coulter fielded at least two projects on Upper Saranac Lake— Moss Ledge for Isabel A. Ballantine and modifications to Camp Pinebrook, commissioned for Levi P. Morton, who subsequently engaged Coulter for the design of Eagle Island—among his preeminent works in the rustic Adirondack camp vein. Architectural commissions continued to be fielded by Coulter at a considerable pace as his professional reputation and client network expanded. Additional commissions prior to 1900 included the Ladd Cottage at the Sanitarium and two large-scale camp projects, the Otto Kahn camp on Upper Saranac Lake and the Knollwood Club, a camp complex on Lower Saranac Lake. The Kahn and Knollwood commissions represented Coulter's first work for Jewish clientele, who, having been largely excluded from public resorts and hotels in the region, sought instead to construct their own retreats.²¹

Sometime in 1902 Max H. Westhoff (1870 - 1954) began working with Coulter, joining William G. Distin and likely George F. Schrader in the office.²² Westhoff arrived with respectable professional credentials, having worked in the New York City office of Eidlitz & McKenzie. The specifics of Westhoff's arrival in Saranac Lake remain unknown; he may have arrived, like Coulter, seeking treatment for tuberculosis.²³ Westhoff's precise contribution to the firm and its designs remains a matter of speculation. Although the finished Eagle Island plans carry both his name and that of Coulter, it wasn't until 1905 that the firm name of "Coulter & Westhoff" appeared on a building contract or the office's stationery.²⁴

William G. Distin (1884-1970) worked out of Saranac Lake and is today considered among the premier architects active in the Adirondacks in the first half of the twentieth century. Born in Plattsburgh, Clinton

¹⁶Hotaling, "Coulter," 4-6.

¹⁷Ibid, 6-7.

¹⁸Ibid, 8.

¹⁹Ibid, 9.

²⁰Ibid, 14-15.

²¹Hotaling, "Coulter," 30-31.

²²Ibid, 66.

²³Ibid.

²⁴Ibid, 104.

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County, Distin moved to Saranac Lake after graduating from high school and there gained a draftsman's apprenticeship in Coulter's office. As such, Distin had the opportunity to work with a leading Adirondack architect at the beginning of his career and one at the leading edge of contemporary rustic camp design at the turn of the twentieth century. Following Coulter's death Distin attended Columbia University in New York, graduating from that institution's architecture program in 1910; he was in Chicago for a stint, where he worked in association with S. S. Beekman designing houses for a development in Highland Park, prior to travels in Europe. Around 1912 he returned to Saranac Lake, where he joined the successor to Coulter's architectural firm and the latter's sometime partner, Max Westhoff, in the firm of Westhoff & Distin. During the First World War, Distin was for a time in Washington, D.C. and, following the war and his return to Saranac Lake, assumed the principal position in the former Coulter-Westhoff office, as Westhoff had removed to Massachusetts.²⁵ Major commissions came to Distin during the 1930s, among them Adirondack camps for William Rockefeller, Walter Hochschild and R.M. Hollingshead, ca. 1934-48. In addition to his domestic work, Distin also designed a number of notable churches, among them St. John's in the Wilderness Episcopal Church in Paul Smiths and the Island Chapel on Upper Saranac Lake. He is also credited with the design of the Olympic Ice Arena at Lake Placid, ca. 1932. During the 1950s Distin formed a partnership with Arthur Wareham, at which time the office assumed the name Distin & Wareham.

Distin's career was launched during the heyday of Adirondack "Great Camp" design, of which his mentor, William Coulter, was a sizeable contributor. During this era wealthy patrons developed seasonal camps, oftentimes of considerable scale, following the example set forth by William West Durant, whose Camp Pine Knot on Raquette Lake, begun in 1877, formed the prototype for the decentralized Adirondack camp. The rustic style developed in large measure by Durant was subsequently taken up by other professional architects in the Adirondack region, notably Coulter. Other architectural influences, among them Japanese, also helped inform this style. This rustic aesthetic was widely disseminated throughout the region by the early twentieth century and employed for camps of both modest and substantial scale and character.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Brown, George Levi. *Pleasant Valley, A History of Elizabethtown, Essex County, New York*. Post & Gazette Print, 1905.

Gilborn, Craig. *Adirondack Camps: Homes Away From Home, 1850-1950*. The Adirondack Museum/Syracuse University Press, 2000.

Hotaling, Mary. "W.L. Coulter, Adirondack Architect." Master of Arts Thesis, University of Vermont, 1995.

Smith, H.P., ed. *History of Essex County*. Syracuse: D. Mason & Co., 1885.

²⁵Craig Gilborn, *Adirondack Camps: Homes Away From Home, 1850-1950* (The Adirondack Museum/Syracuse University Press, 2000), 256-59.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.47 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>612246</u>	<u>4896683</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary for this NRHP nomination is shown on the three enclosed maps, all of which are entitled "Essex County Municipal Complex, Elizabethtown, Essex Co., NY." The maps were drawn at a scale of 1:24,000, 1:12,000 and 1:4,000.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary as drawn reflects historic conditions and the cited period of significance, ca. 1824 to 1967; no additional or "buffer" land has been included within the boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William E. Krattinger

organization NYS Division for Historic Preservation date November 2015

street & number PO Box 189 telephone (518) 268-2167

city or town Waterford State NY zip code 12180

e-mail William.Krattinger@parks.ny.gov

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Photographs by William E. Krattinger, TIFF format, August 2015; digital files at NYS Division for Historic Preservation, Waterford.

- 0001 EXTERIOR, general view looking to northeast showing complex and landscaped grounds
- 0002 EXTERIOR, general view looking to southwest showing complex and landscaped grounds
- 0003 EXTERIOR, view to northwest showing the portico westernmost block, main building group
- 0004 EXTERIOR, view to north showing central courthouse block, main building group
- 0005 EXTERIOR, view to north towards office hyphen, main building group
- 0006 EXTERIOR, view to northwest showing clerk's office block, main building group
- 0007 EXTERIOR, view to west showing sheriff's cottage with clerk's office block behind, main building group
- 0008 EXTERIOR, view to northeast showing new Essex County Courthouse
- 0009 EXTERIOR, view to northwest showing Park Street elevation of westernmost block, main building group
- 0010 EXTERIOR, detail view of entrance frontispiece and door, office hyphen, main building group
- 0011 EXTERIOR, detail view showing balcony, clerk's office block, main building group
- 0012 EXTERIOR, detail view showing main entrance, central courthouse block, main building group
- 0013 INTERIOR, view showing balcony and pressed-metal ceiling, central courthouse block, main building group
- 0014 INTERIOR, view in central courthouse block from balcony, main building group
- 0015 INTERIOR, office area, county clerk's office block, main building group
- 0016 INTERIOR, detail view of staircase, office hyphen, main building group
- 0017 INTERIOR, jail building, view showing fireproof construction
- 0018 INTERIOR, jail, view showing cells

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Essex County
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

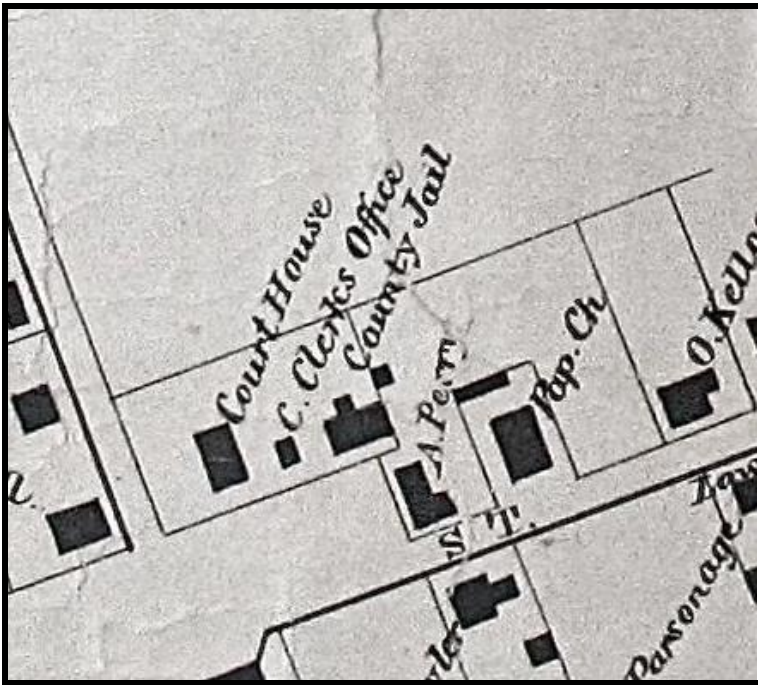
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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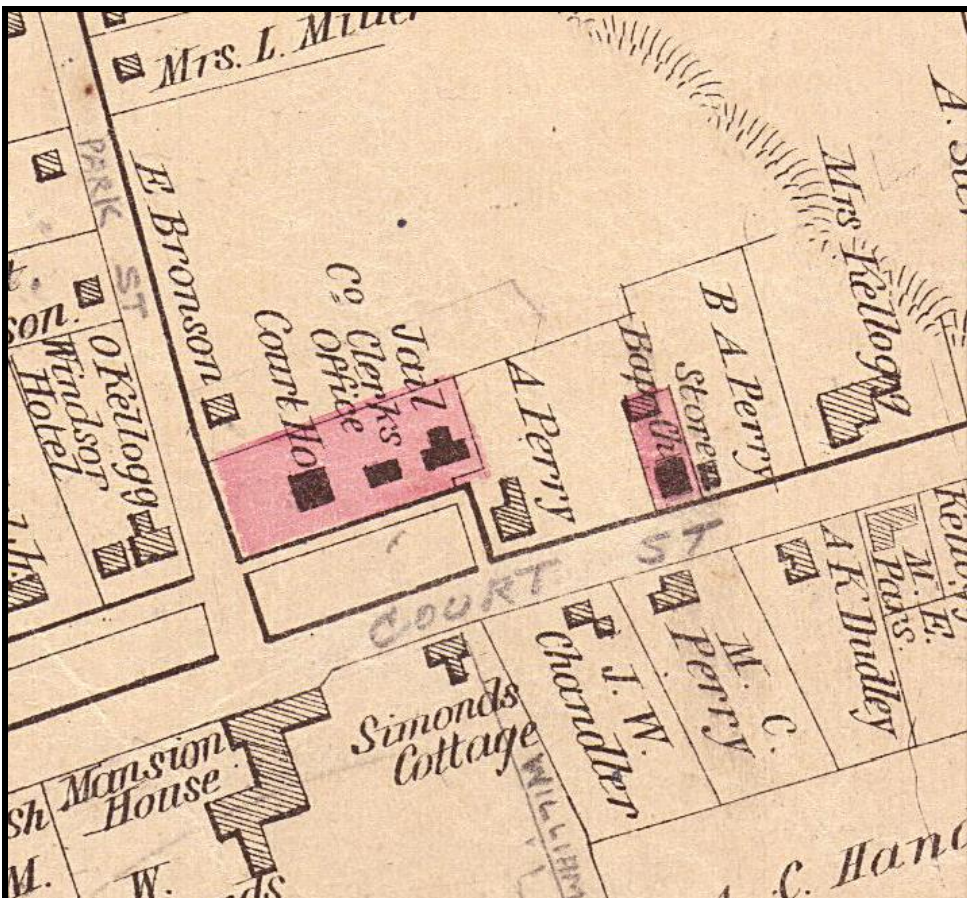
Name of Property

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ABOVE, facility in 1850; BELOW, facility in 1876



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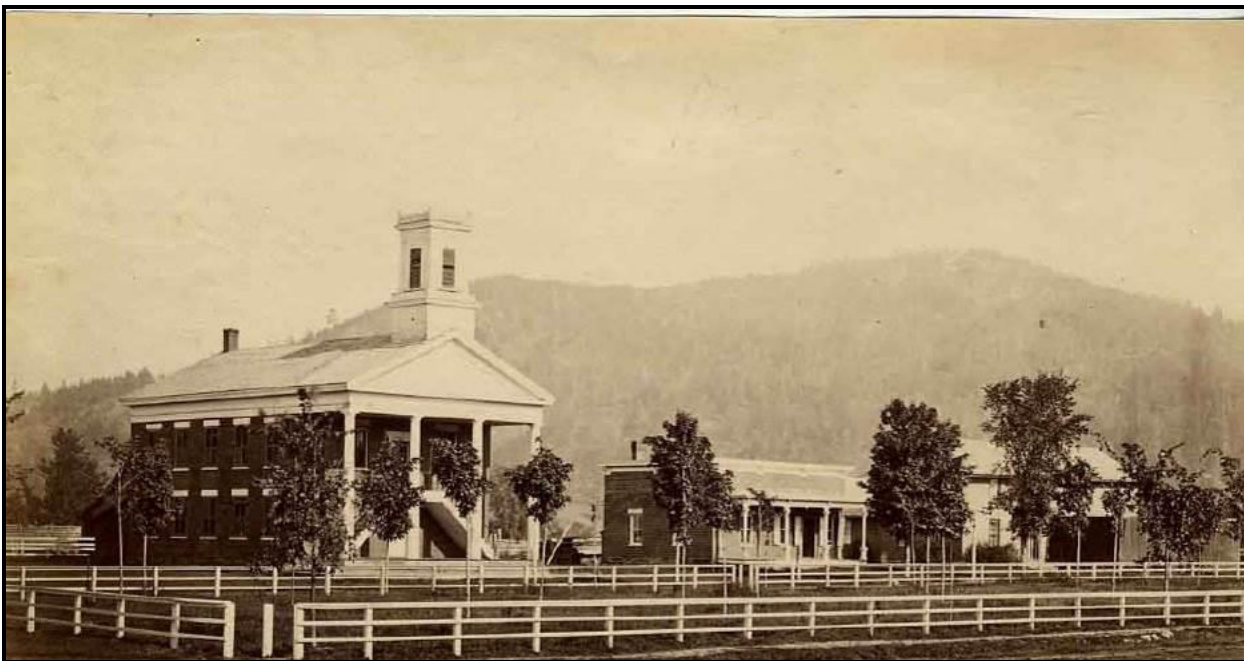
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ABOVE, municipal complex prior to ca. 1910-11 expansion; BELOW, ca. 1880 view (only courthouse, at left, survives from the time of this photograph)



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ABOVE, composite historic view before construction of office hyphen (pre-1928); BELOW, following completion of hyphen

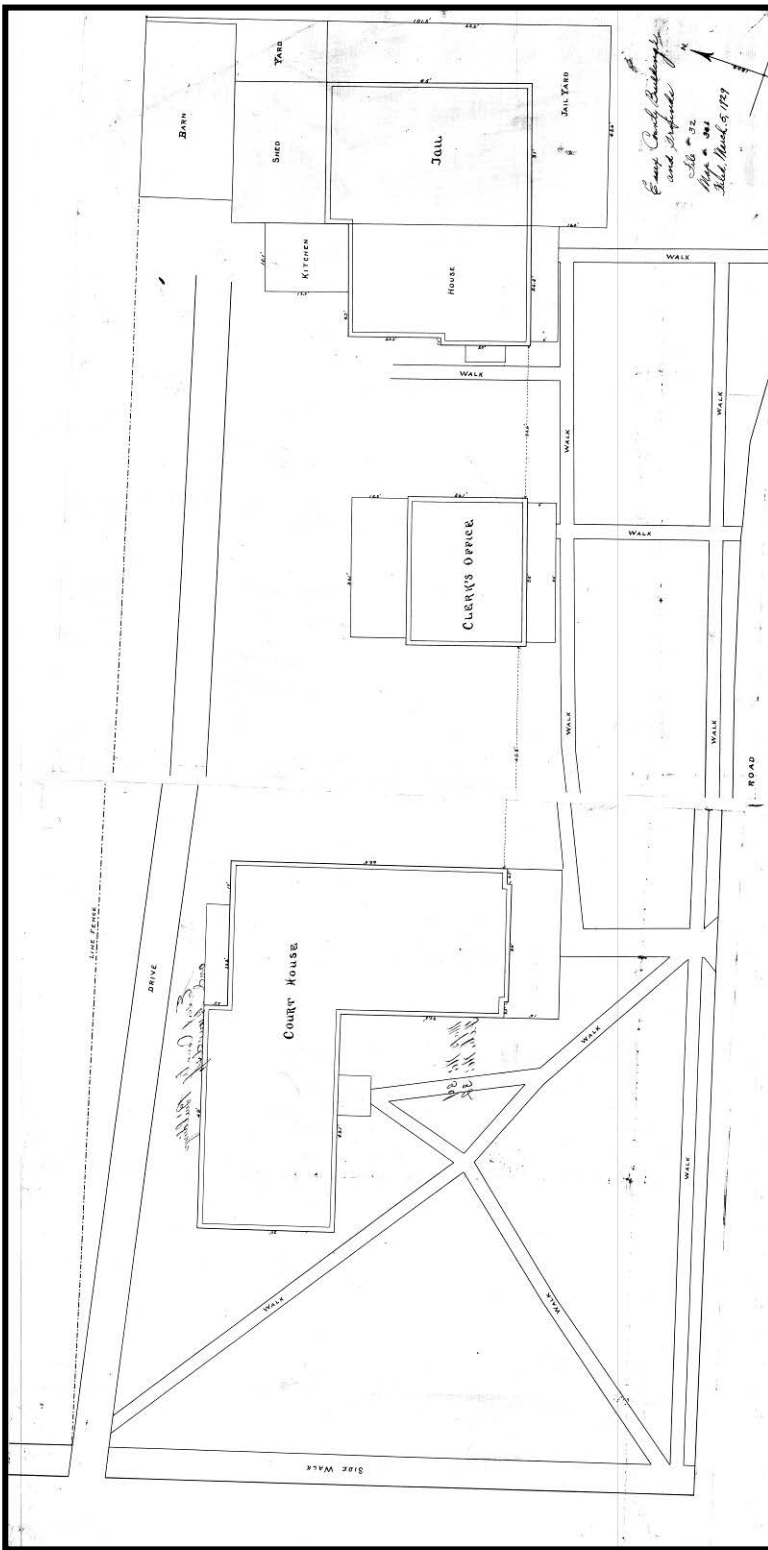


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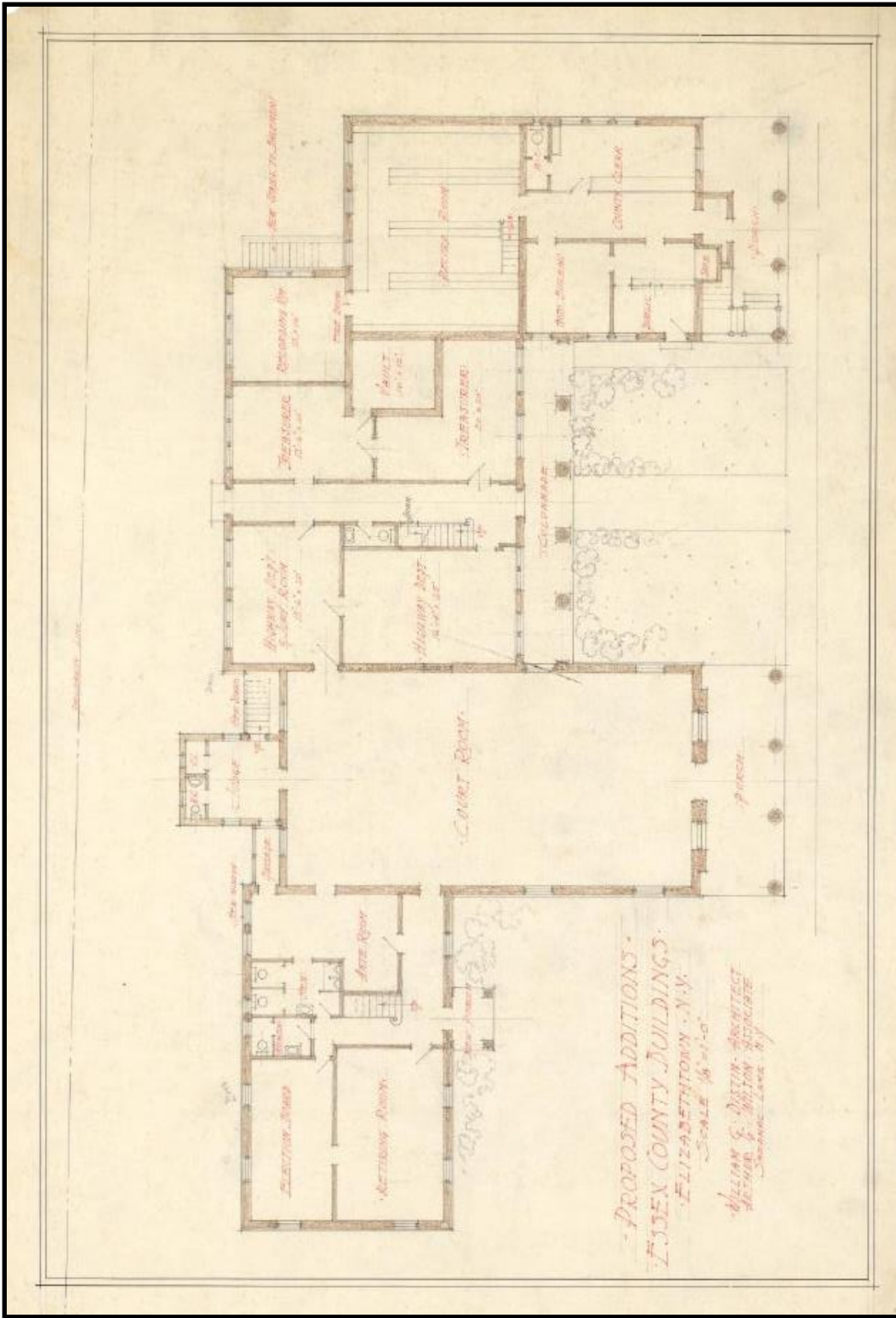
Plan showing complex as it appeared prior to 1927 (although dated March 1929, the map does not correspond with the facility as depicted on the 1929 Sanborn map, and is therefore earlier)

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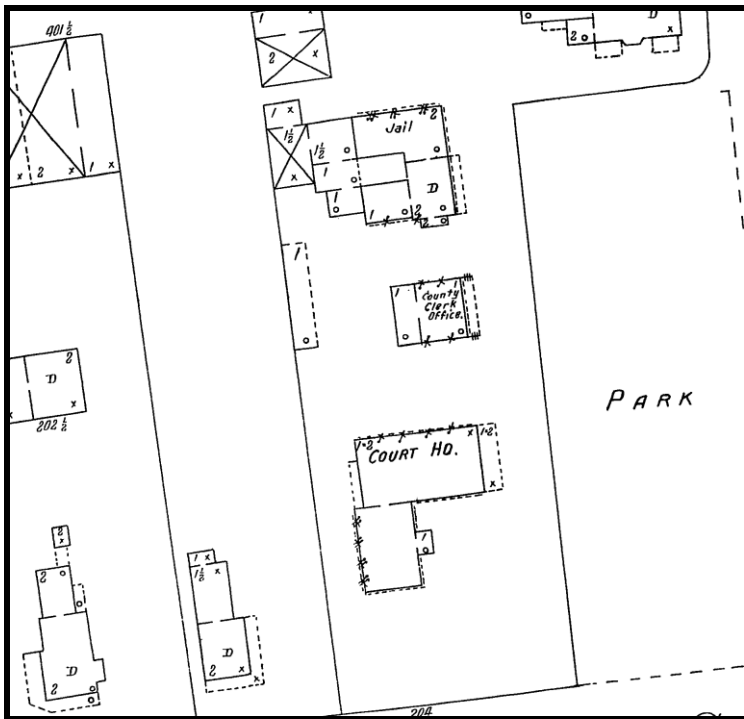
Drawings for additions (construction of office hyphen), William G. Distin with Arthur Wilton, ca. 1928

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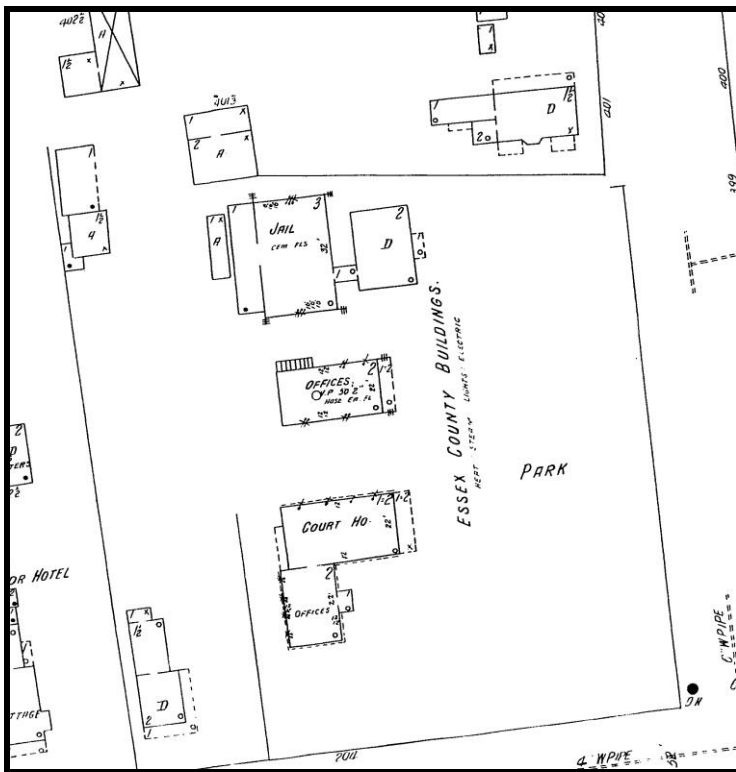
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Above, 1906 Sanborn map; of the buildings depicted, only that marked "COURT HO." and its wing survives in the present manifestation; BELOW, 1927 Sanborn; map shows new office building at center and new jail with attached "sheriff's dwelling" (replacing the clerk's office and jail shown above in 1906), all three remaining as freestanding units

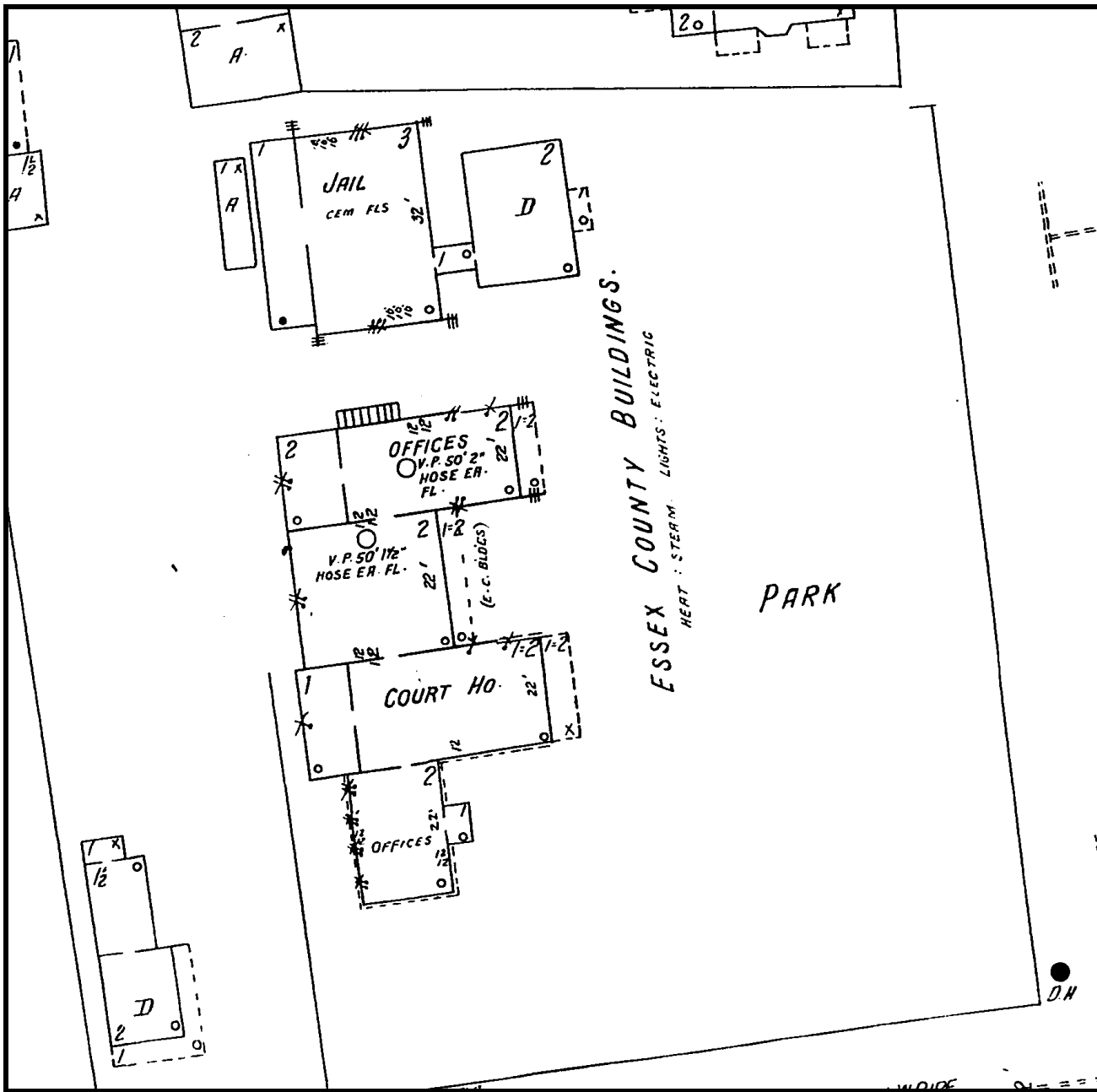


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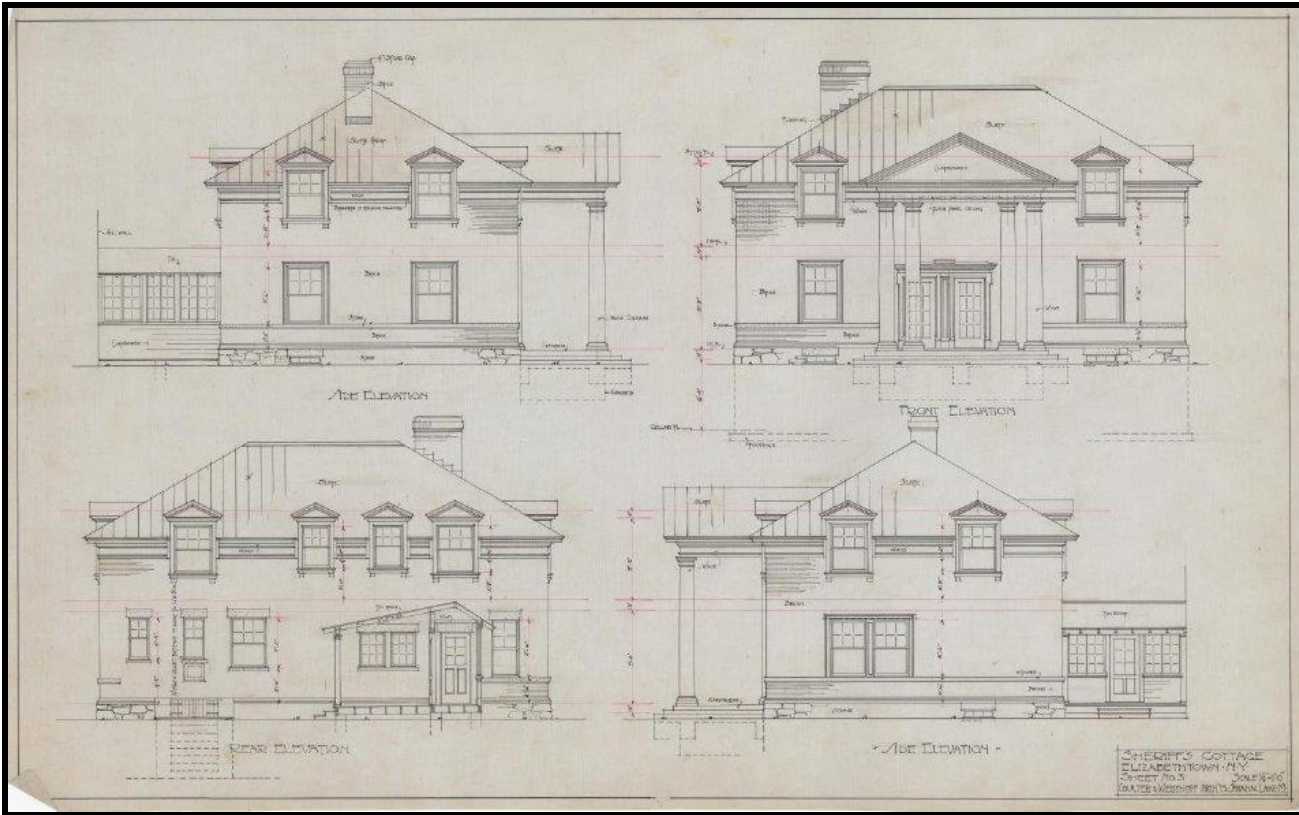
ABOVE, the facility as it appeared on Sanborn mapping in 1940; note the construction of the hyphen between the courthouse and office blocks that united them as a single construct

ESSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

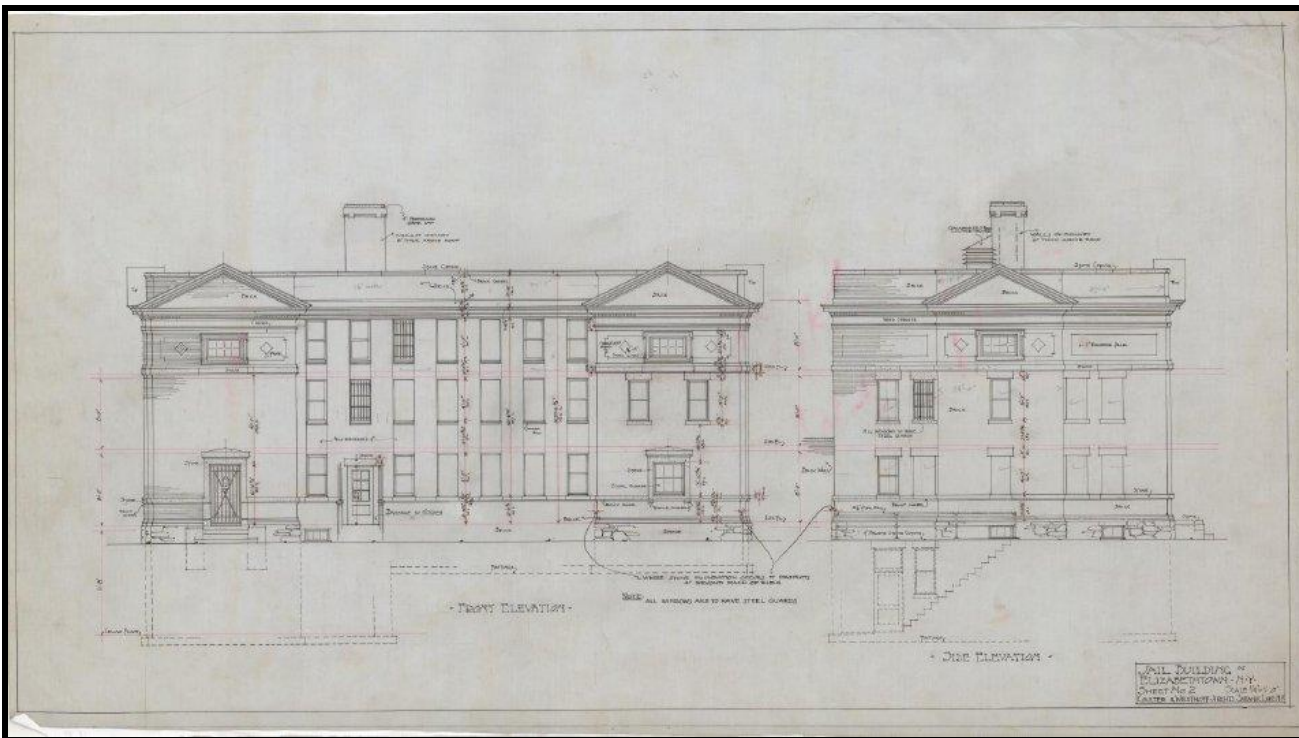
Name of Property

ESSEX COUNTY, NEW YORK

County and State



ABOVE & BELOW, Coulter & Westhoff drawings for the Sheriff's Cottage and Jail, ca. 1911

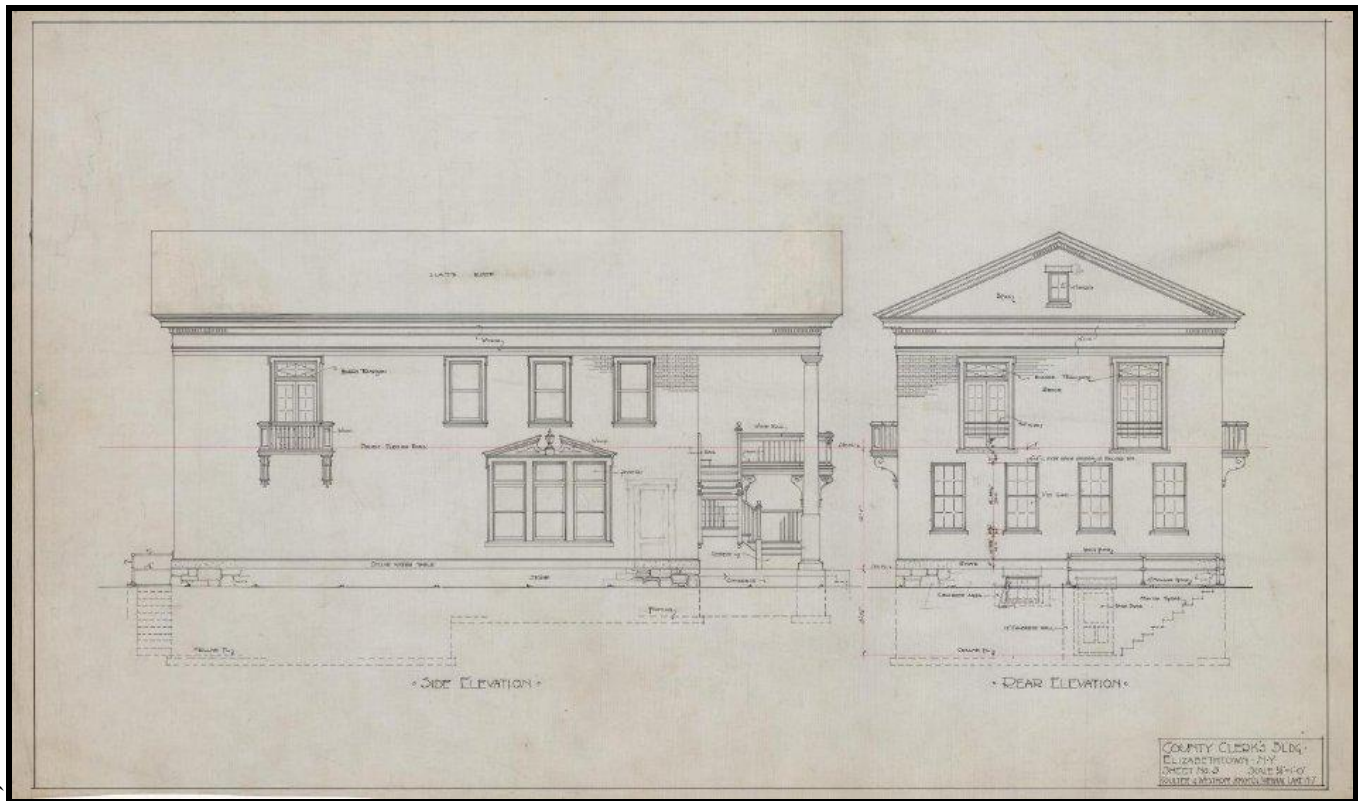


ESSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

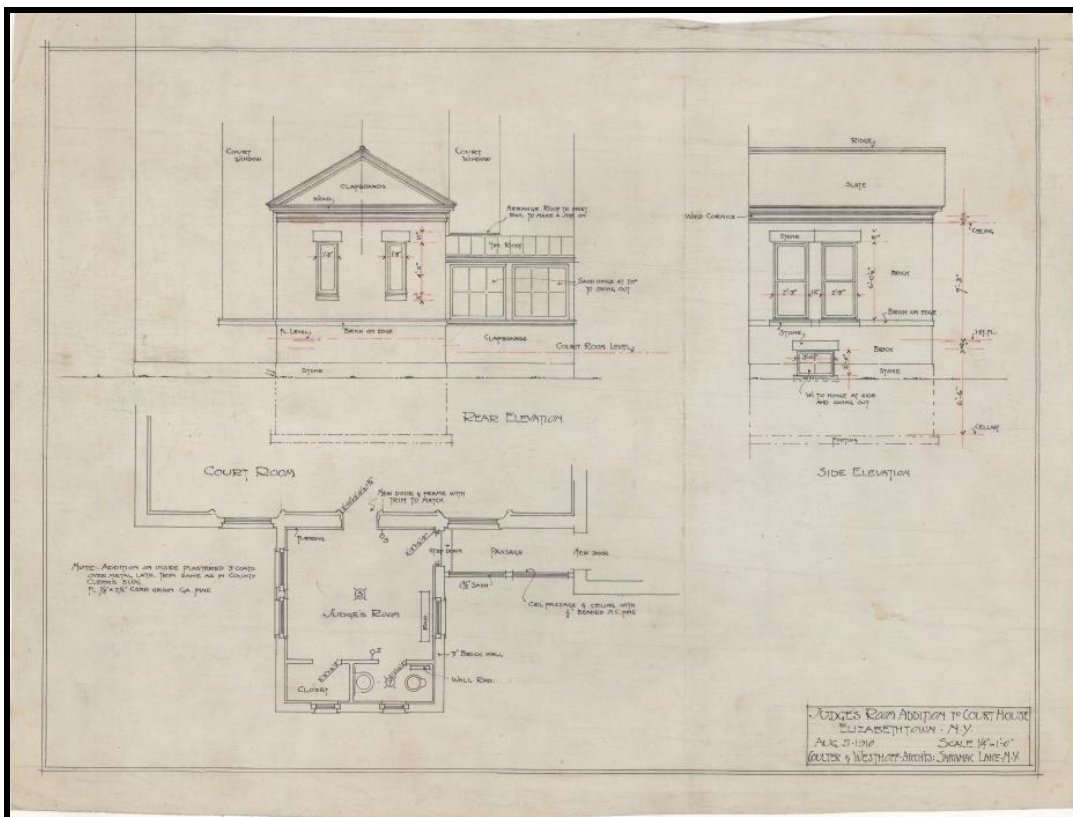
Name of Property

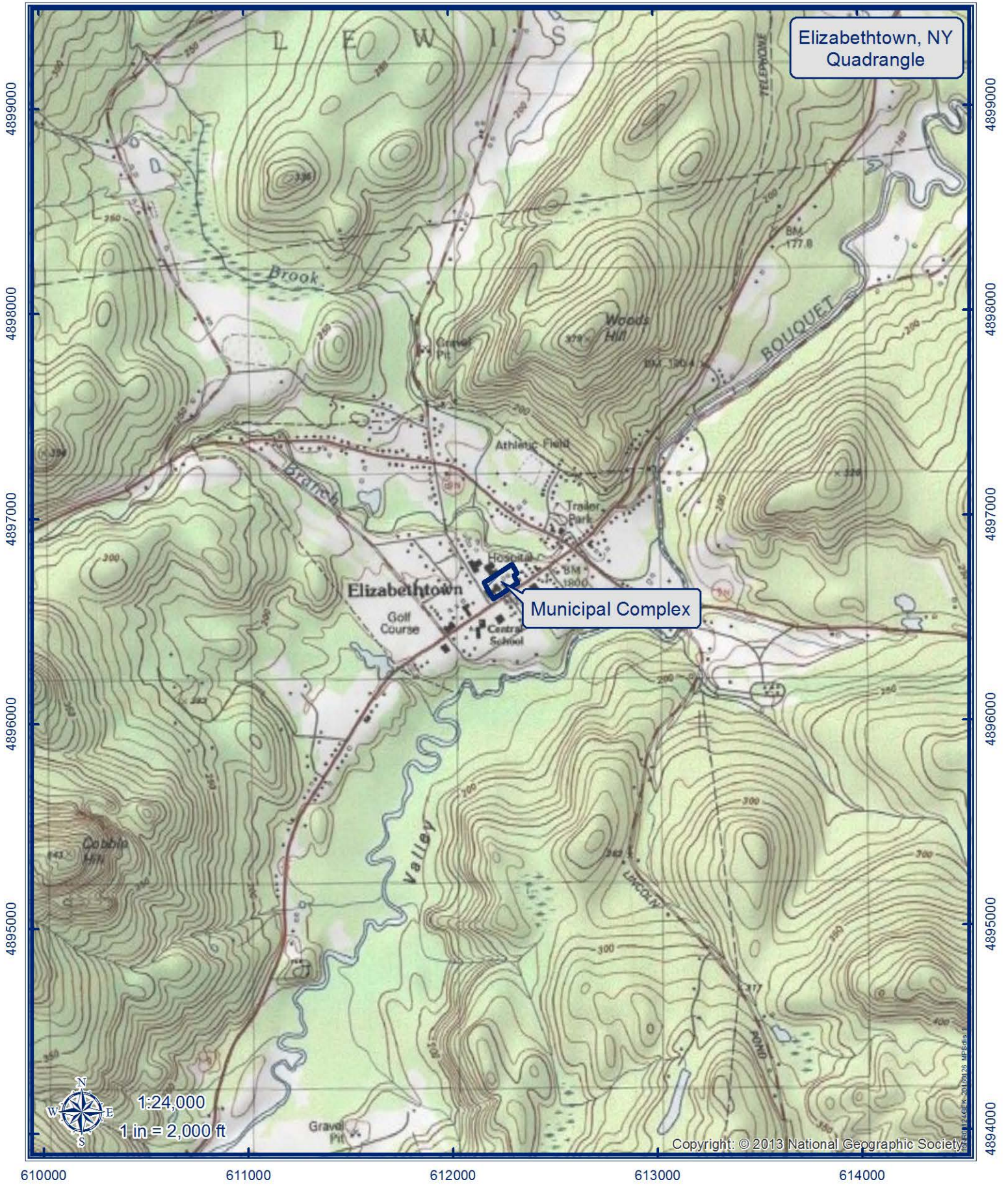
ESSEX COUNTY, NEW YORK

County and State



ABOVE, Coulter & Westhoff drawings for new County Clerk's Building and addition to courthouse, ca. 1911





Elizabethtown, NY
Quadrangle

Municipal Complex



1:24,000
1 in = 2,000 ft

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610000 611000 612000 613000 614000

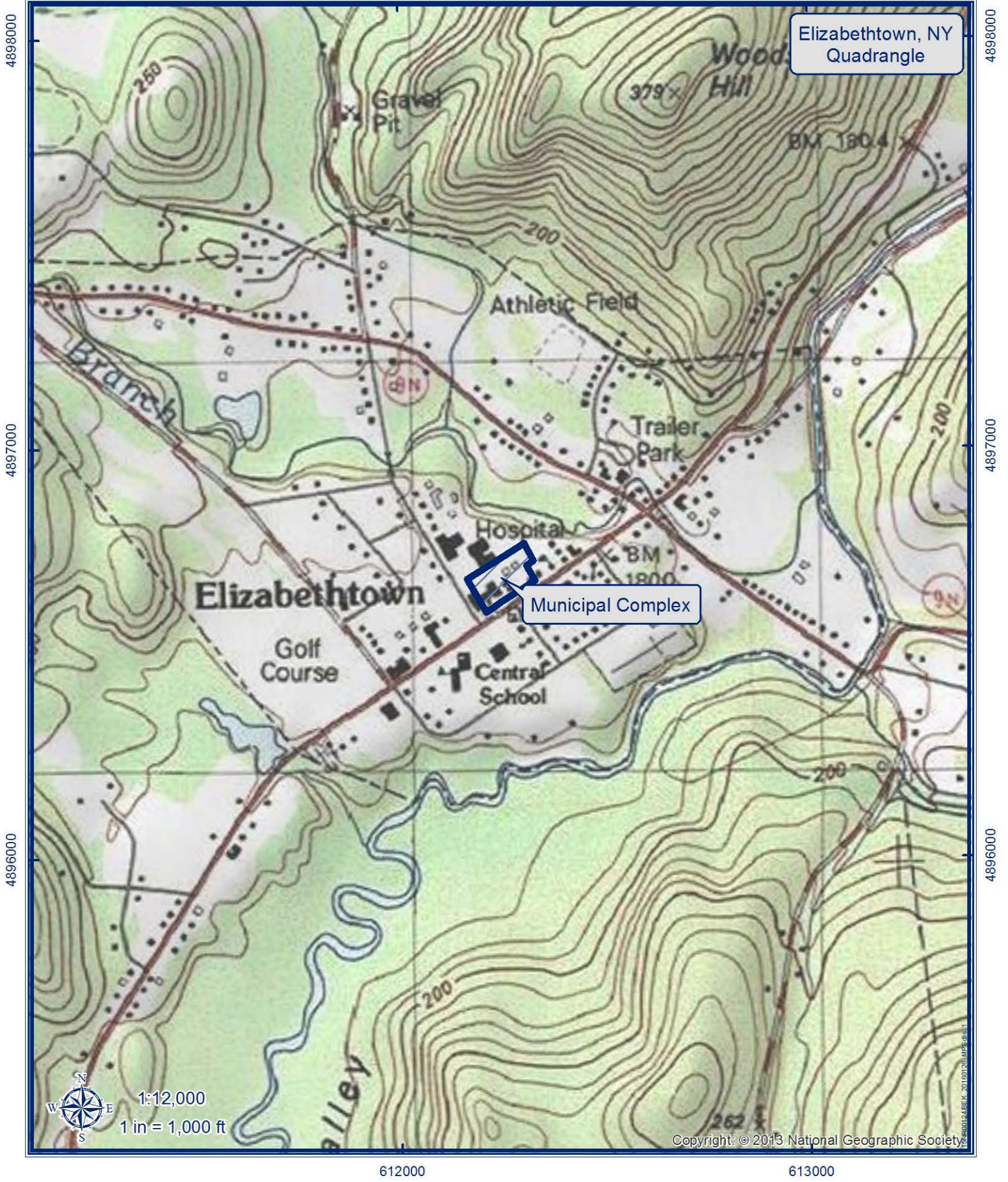
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



Municipal Complex



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



Municipal Complex



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation



4897000

4897000

$\Sigma = 3.47$ Acres

612246E 4896683N

High Street
High St
US Route 9

1:4,000
1 in = 333 ft



612000

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Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



Municipal Complex



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation













7551



NO
SKATE BOARDING
HILLER-BLADING
OR SCATING



ESSEX COUNTY COURTHOUSE



ENTRANCE
4

FINGERPRINTING SERVICES
BUILDING HOURS
MON-FRI 8AM-5PM
NO UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL
AFTER HOURS





7551

Historical Society
of
[illegible]
[illegible]

COURTHOUSE
24

ENTRANCE
3





400
1609-2009
EXPLORE NY
HUDSON • FULTON • CHAMPLAIN



EXIT













&a20CUNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
&a30CNATIONAL PARK SERVICE

&a22CNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
&a29CEVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Essex County Municipal Complex
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Essex

DATE RECEIVED: 3/18/16 &pW DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/15/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/30/16 &pW DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/03/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000224

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5-3-16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

&a4L

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner



14 March 2016

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following three nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Potsdam Civic Center, St. Lawrence County
Essex County Municipal Complex, Essex County
USCO Church, Rockland County

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office