

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Section number _____ Page _____

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 100002748

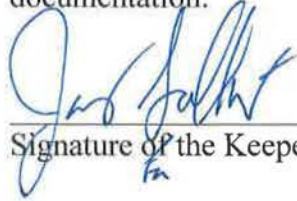
Date Listed: 7/30/2018

Property Name: Tullahoma Municipal Building

County: Coffee

State: TN

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



Signature of the Keeper

7-30-2018

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8:

- COMMERCE is hereby deleted as an area of significance
- The period of significance is hereby changed to: 1954-1968
- Criteria Consideration G is hereby deleted.

The location of the local public utility in the building does not justify commercial significance. The utility's operations are tied to commerce, as well as industry, and all other electricity-using activities, and the utilities growth is a natural product of a growing economy. The continued use of the space up to 1977 is not of exceptional importance, so criteria consideration G is not met and the period of significance ends at the 50 year point.

The Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

MP 2748



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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Tullahoma Municipal Building
Other names/site number Tullahoma Power Building; Tullahoma City Hall
Name of related multiple property listing N/A
(Remove "N/A" if property is part of a multiple property listing and add name)

2. Location

Street & Number: 201 W Grundy Street
City or town: Tullahoma State: Tennessee County: Coffee
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A Zip: 37388

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this 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 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 local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Claudia Sforza 6/14/18
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
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 of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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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) _____

Janet Salter
 Signature of the Keeper

7-30-2018
 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/Government Office

GOVERNMENT/Correctional Facility

GOVERNMENT/Fire Station

COMMERCE/Business

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/Government Office

GOVERNMENT/Correctional Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property:

BRICK; STONE/Marble; METAL/Aluminum; GLASS;
SYNTHETICS/Vinyl

Narrative Description

The Tullahoma Municipal Building is located in the downtown commercial area of Tullahoma, Tennessee, a low-density city in southern Middle Tennessee. The mid-century modern building was constructed in 1954 to house municipal and utilities offices. It is oriented on a northwest axis and is steel-framed construction with a non-visible concrete foundation. A Georgia marble veneer features prominently on the northwest façade and secondary northeast elevation, while the remainder of the building has red brick cladding set in running bond.¹ The slightly U-shaped building has three sections: two two-story sections (the northeast section and southwest section) connected by a one-story hyphen, all of which have a flat roof. The flat roof is hidden by a parapet wall on the northeast section but is otherwise visible. A courtyard is to the rear of the hyphen. A non-contributing brick storage building with a hipped roof sits along the southeastern edge of the courtyard. The Tullahoma Municipal Building retains the majority of its integrity.

¹ Georgia Marble was so-named for the Georgia Marble Company that extracted and sold it in Pickens County, Georgia.

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Setting

The Tullahoma Municipal Building is located at the southern corner of the West Grundy and North Jackson Street intersection in the downtown commercial area of Tullahoma, Coffee County, Tennessee. All elevations are highly visible except the rear, southeast elevation, which is only visible from a parking lot and partially obscured by adjacent buildings. Except for the rear courtyard, the building's footprint covers the entire lot. Concrete sidewalks surround all sides of the building except the rear, southeast elevation. A flagpole is set in a small brick section of the sidewalk, near the corner of the façade and the northeast elevation.

To the northwest across Grundy Street is a Colonial Revival-style bank constructed in 2009. To the northeast across Jackson Street is a mid-century modern style bank, built in 1973. On the opposite corner of the intersection is a church constructed in 1876. Adjacent to the Municipal Building on Jackson Street are early and mid-20th century one and two-part commercial block buildings. There is street parking along the northwest façade and northeast elevation. A parking lot is to the south and southwest of the building. The commercial setting of the area is consistent with the building's historic setting.

Exterior

Façade

The building's character-defining three-section massing is most evident on the northwest-facing façade. The most significant architectural section is the northeast two-story section, closest to the intersection of West Grundy and North Jackson Streets. Most of the section is clad in square slabs of Georgia marble. In the top, northern-most edge is "TULLAHOMA MUNICIPAL BUILDING" in black lettering in two rows. Originally, raised white lettering said "TULLAHOMA POWER BUILDING" across the entire section in one row (Figures 1 and 2). This change likely occurred after the Tullahoma Power System moved out of the building around 1977.²

The recessed main entry is at the southern edge of the section. There is an aluminum-framed, glass double door and seven varied-sized aluminum-framed, single-pane windows. The entrance is protected from rain by a flat roof, which is level with the roof of the adjacent hypen section. The second story of the entryway has nine equally sized recessed glass windows. The flat roof on this section is obscured by a parapet wall, clad in Georgia marble, except for above the entryway where the flat roof projects slightly.

² "TUA History." *Tullahoma Utilities Authority*. 2018. Accessed January 23, 2018. <http://www.tub.net/ABOUT-US/TUB-HISTORY>.

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Figure 1. An early rendering of the Tullahoma Municipal Building. It hangs in the lobby of the building today. Photograph of the rendering taken by Carolina Eller on April 21, 2017.

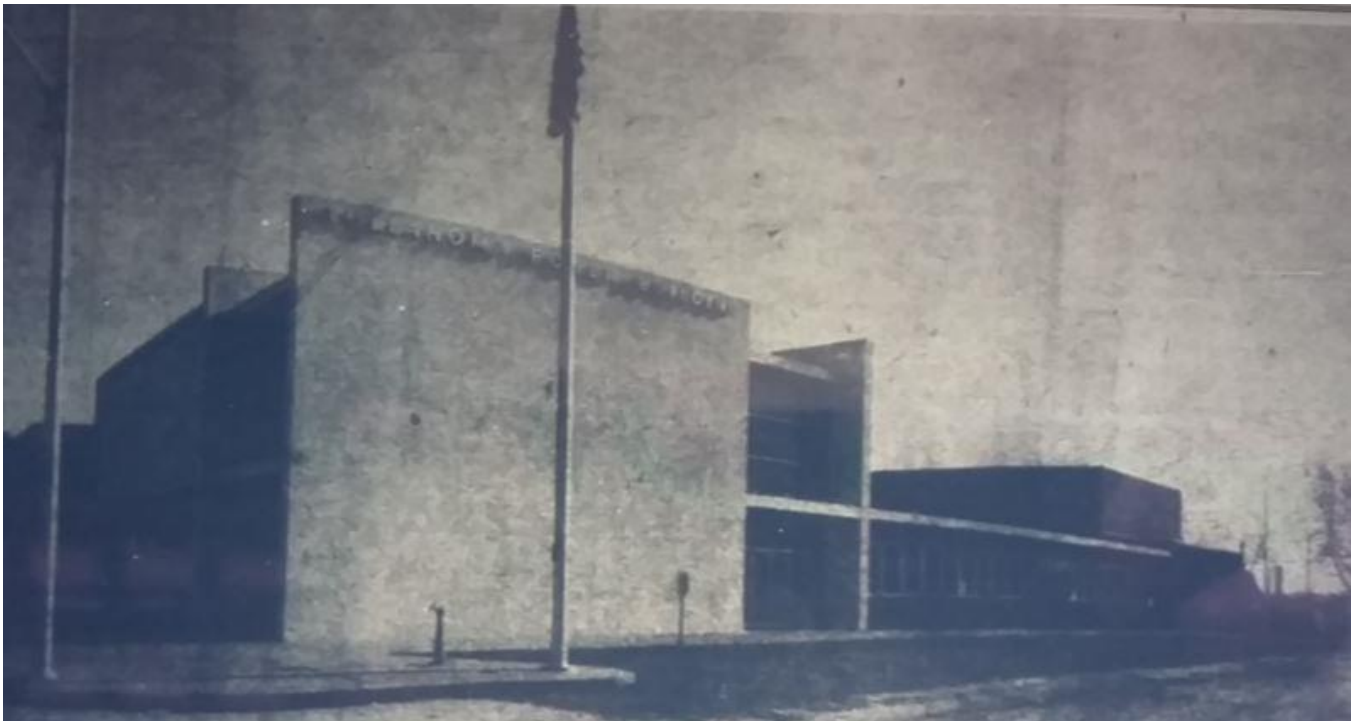


Figure 2: Photograph of the Tullahoma Municipal Building on its dedication day. From *The Tullahoma News and Guardian*, March 12, 1954.

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The one-story hyphen is clad in red brick laid in a running bond pattern. A series of twenty-two one-over-one non-original vinyl windows run the length of the hyphen with no separation. Originally the window series had three-light windows, which were replaced at an unknown date. The flat roofline projects over the exterior wall of the hyphen, matching the projection above the entryway on the north section of the building.

The southwest end of the façade is two-story with the second story recessed to two different depths. The first story has two sections with different heights. The first level of the northern-most part originally held two large garage doors for fire trucks; these were bricked-in when the fire department moved out of the building in 1981.³ The infill of both bays is delineated by vertical, gray, metal beams on its outer edges and by a projecting element in the middle of the two bays. The southern infilled bay contains an aluminum framed, single-pane glass door near its southern boundary. Above the bay is "POLICE DEPARTMENT" in white lettering. The southern-most part has less height than the other sections. It only features a metal paneled door with a single light. The second stories on both sections have no windows or ornamentation.

Southwest Elevation

The first level of the southwest elevation on the southwest section has nine one-over-one non-original vinyl windows with concrete sills. At the southern-most edge is an elevated entry door accessed via concrete steps and sheltered by brick walls and a projecting flat roof. To the south of the door is a window opening infilled by vinyl and a small sliding two-pane window.

The second story is recessed on the western side. This portion has seven non-original vinyl windows. From west to east, the first, fourth, and seventh window are one-over-one. The second, third, fifth, and sixth windows are single-paned fixed windows. The eastern, non-recessed portion has two single-pane fixed windows.

Due to the one-story hyphen, the northeast section's southwest elevation is partially visible from West Grundy Street, but all windows and doors are only visible from the rear of the building. The first level has two non-original vinyl windows on either side of a metal door. Above the door is a metal awning. The second story has three one-over-one windows beside a metal entry door. It is also covered by a metal awning and a metal staircase extends down into the courtyard.

Southeast Elevation

The two-story southwest section has two centered square single-light fixed windows near the roofline. It has no other windows or ornamentation on its southeast elevation.

The building's U-shape is visible on the southeast elevation due to the fact that the one-story hyphen does not extend to the same depth as the northeast and southwest two-story sections. A courtyard is to the rear of the hyphen, as is a non-contributing brick storage building with a hipped roof and rectangular footprint. A non-historic chain-link fence extends from the southern building section to the northern section, restricting access to the courtyard.

³ Bill Carbine, "Tullahoma Moves Fire Department to New Location," *The Tennessean*, Jul. 8, 1981.

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A metal, covered walkway extends from the hyphen, over an entrance and a single-paned window, into the courtyard. A metal awning extends from the southwestern portion of the one-story hyphen and overlaps the metal, covered walkway. The hyphen has eight vinyl windows with concrete sills. From left to right (south to north), the second, third, and fifth windows are one-over-one while the first, fourth, sixth, seventh, and eighth windows have single panes of glass.

The first level of the northeast section's southeast elevation is obscured by an adjacent building. The second level has no windows or ornamentation.

Northeast Elevation

The northeast elevation faces North Jackson Street. The elevation is similar in appearance to the northeast section of the façade. A thin, vertical strip of running bond red brick runs along the northeastern edge. The majority of the first floor is clad in red brick and features a series of thirteen non-original one-over-one vinyl windows. The original windows had three panes. The windows are sheltered by a slightly projecting roof, supported on the east edge by a brick wall. The majority of the second level is clad in square Georgia marble slabs. At the top eastern edge is "TULLAHOMA MUNICIPAL BUILDING" in large black lettering in two rows.

At the northern side of the elevation is a recessed section. The first level contains six equally-sized glass panels with aluminum frames. Historically, there was an entrance here that led into the lobby of the municipal offices (Figure 3). This entrance was likely removed after the Tullahoma Power System moved out of the building around 1977, and the municipality took over their space.⁴ Adjacent to the windows is a bronze dedication plaque. The recessed second level contains nine equally-sized glass windows with aluminum frames.

Due to the one-story hyphen, the northeast elevation of the southwest section is partially visible. On the first level is a metal door with a narrow single-pane glass window. Next to the door is a one-over-one non-original vinyl window. The second level has eight single-pane windows. Behind the glass are metal bars. There is also a metal door with a small single-pane window that allows access onto the roof of the hyphen.

Interior

Municipal Offices

The municipal offices are in the two-story northeast section of the building as well as the one-story hyphen. The entrance is along West Grundy Street, and it leads into the lobby through two sets of glass double doors and a small vestibule. Historically, this was the entrance into the Power Systems section of the building (Figure 3). The lobby is a two-story space. From the floor to the height of the doorways, the lobby is clad in a Georgia marble veneer. Painted sheet rock extends above the Georgia marble veneer to the ceiling. The ceiling contains a mixture of recessed lighting and suspended light fixtures. Original black terrazzo tile covers the floor. At the entrance into the lobby, "TPS" is arranged diagonally on the floor in light terrazzo with an orange terrazzo lightning bolt that cuts through the "P." The "TPS" refers to "Tullahoma Power

⁴ "TUA History." *Tullahoma Utilities Authority*. 2018. Accessed January 23, 2018. <http://www.tub.net/ABOUT-US/TUB-HISTORY>.

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Systems,” the original occupant of the space. To the west of the lobby entrance is the cashier’s counter. It consists of a waist-high counter with a large opening above the counter. The opening and counter are framed in wood. Above the counter, the word “CASHIER” is attached to the wall in black lettering, with a vent on either side. The cashier counter marks beginning of the one-story hyphen. Behind the cashier’s counter is open office space which is carpeted, with dropped ceilings. Cubical partitions divide employee work stations.

The southern corner of the lobby is bordered by two doors. The western door leads into the one-story hyphen’s corridor. Walking into the corridor from the lobby, on the left are a women and men’s bathroom, a vault, offices, and a kitchen. On the right side of the corridor is the large open office space being the cashier’s counter, along with a storage closet and offices. The corridor and all of the offices along it contain carpeted flooring. The eastern door leads into a carpeted conference room that has dropped ceilings. The northern side of the lobby has an open doorway leading to a hallway containing the staircase and elevator, as well as access to offices.

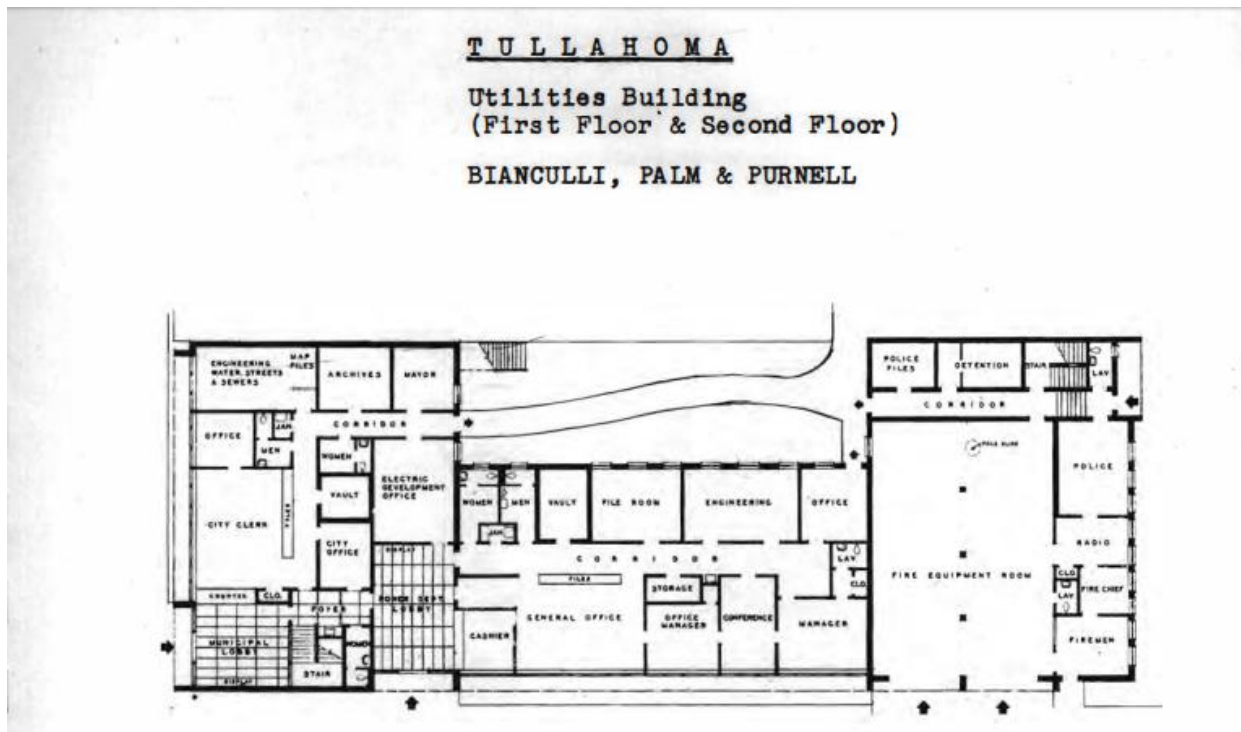


Figure 3. An original plan of the building that shows the two separate lobbies. Figure Source: Hobday, Victor C. “Documents Relating to Joint Electric System Municipal Buildings.” (1953) *MTAS Publications: Full Publications*. Accessed January 23, 2018. http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_mtaspubs/4/.

On the second floor, directly across from the elevator to the southeast is the video room. Adjacent to the elevator to the southwest is the staircase. To the southwest of the staircase is a restroom. Directly across from the staircase to the southeast is a landing that serves as a corridor to the court room/public meeting room. This landing contains the same dark terrazzo flooring that exists in the lobby. East of the court room is the board of mayor and alderman room which contains a storage closet. The entrance to this room is located on the southwest wall. This leads into a corridor that connects to the courtyard entrance and to the second-floor kitchen. To the northwest of the kitchen is the boiler room. This corridor and kitchen have laminate tile flooring; the corridor has a lighter beige tile while the kitchen has a darker burgundy tile. The board of mayor and alderman room contains a wood, U-shaped desk for the members of the board to proceed over

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meetings. The walls behind all three sides of the desk are wood paneled, and a wood, square arch frames this space with the city seal in the center of the arch.

Police Department

The police department is in the two-story southwest section of the building. Historically the fire department and police department were housed in this section. All floors are non-historic tile. Walls are cement block or painted drywall, except for a gym and locker room on the second level that has wood paneled walls. There are drop ceilings throughout.

Public access is from the façade into a lobby. The area that had historically housed the fire trucks was converted into six offices. To the south of these offices is a corridor that connects to the city offices in the hypen. There are two offices to the south of this corridor. There are offices along the exterior southwest and southeast walls. Level with the exterior access on the southwest elevation is a corridor that extends to a door that allows access into the courtyard. The staircase to the second level is in the southern corner of the building. The second level contains a weight room, locker room, bathroom, and storage space.

Integrity

The building retains the majority of its significant features on the exterior including its massing, U-Shaped footprint, Georgia marble cladding, flat roof, parapet wall on the northeast section, recessed entryway on the façade, and overall mid-century modern style. Though the entryway on the northeast elevation is no longer used, it still retains its recessed appearance. The interior lobby space has retained its terrazzo flooring and Georgia marble cladding. The interior configuration still conveys the nature of the building as a municipal office building and police department. Modifications, such as the replaced windows and infilled fire department garage doors, do not significantly affect the building's overall integrity. The property retains its historic location and setting. It also retains its overall feeling and association as a mid-century-style municipal building. Therefore, the building retains enough integrity to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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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.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1954-1977

Significant Dates

1954, 1977

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bianculli, Palm, and Purnell

- 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.

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

Property is:

N/A

- 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.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Tullahoma Municipal Building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level of significance in the area of Commerce and Politics/Government for its association with the governance and growth of the City of Tullahoma and the expansion of the availability and demand for electricity in the region. Tullahoma experienced a population boom as a result of the creation of Arnold Engineering Development Center, just outside of the city, in 1951. Due to the growing population and growing demand for electricity by individual homes and industry, the City of Tullahoma and the Tullahoma Power System commissioned the Tullahoma Municipal Building to serve as the center of functions for local government and the power system. The mid-century modern building was built in 1954. Municipal offices and the power system operated out of the building until 1977 when the power system outgrew the space and relocated. The building's period of significance is from its construction in 1954 to 1977 when the power utility moved to a new building. As the center of government and the offices for the power system's activities of selling and promoting the use of electricity, the building fulfilled the key functions that allowed the city to operate and continue to grow. Furthermore, it is the best physical representation of Tullahoma's exceptional mid-twentieth century growth. Therefore, the Tullahoma Municipal Building meets the exceptional local significance requirement for Criterion Consideration G.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Development of Tullahoma

Located in southern Middle Tennessee, the community of Tullahoma formally began as a railroad town in 1851 with a population of more than 400 people. The railroad drove much of the town's development. Its layout is typical of rapidly developed nineteenth century railroad towns: a symmetrical plan with one side residential in character and the other commercial and industrial. Tullahoma's commercial area developed just south of the railroad tracks along Atlantic and Jackson Streets, which became major thoroughfares. By 1890, the town's population had reached 1,600. The population continued to grow, and by 1930 Tullahoma had a population of 4,025 people.⁵

Up until World War II, Tullahoma's greatest influence was the railroad, but this changed in 1941 with the establishment of the Camp Forrest military base just southeast of the town. An estimated 250,000 soldiers passed through Camp Forrest for training, and the town's temporary population during the war was estimated at 75,000. This incredible population growth translated to the growth of the built environment as well, particularly with the construction of new residential neighborhoods.⁶ Although Camp Forest closed in 1946, the United States Air Force announced just three years later that it would redevelop the Camp Forest site into a new air engineering development center. The Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC) was formally dedicated by President Harry S. Truman on June 25, 1951 and is still in operation today as the Arnold Engineering Development Complex.⁷

⁵ Carroll Van West, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form: Historic and Architectural Resources of Tullahoma, Coffee County, Tennessee, Nashville, TN: Tennessee Historical Commission, 1993, 2, 9, 16; "Tullahoma-1852 Population Totaled: 469," *Tullahoma News*, Jul. 2, 1952.

⁶ West, 17.

⁷ "TV Strengthens Claim to Being Nation's Arsenal." *Jackson Sun*, Nov. 11, 1949; West, 18; United States Air Force, *An Album: Arnold Engineering Development Center*, 1980, On file at the Tennessee Historical Commission.

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A major factor in the decision to build AEDC in Tennessee was the availability of power.⁸ Created as part of New Deal legislation in the early 1930s, The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) had the largest power system in the South by 1939. By the end of World War II, TVA had become the nation's largest electricity supplier.⁹ TVA supplied much of Tennessee's electricity needs, and this was no different for Tullahoma, which began contracting with TVA for electricity in 1947.¹⁰

Less than a year after Camp Forrest was chosen as the site for AEDC, Tullahoma and its citizens began preparing themselves for the inevitable growth. At least 150 new houses were under construction, as well as new businesses such as restaurants, grocery stores, and service stations (Figure 4). The city constructed new schools and prepared for the extension of the water and sewer systems.¹¹ Tullahoma was rapidly growing, and its power supply needed to keep up.



Figure 4. An example of new development in preparation for the expected population increase as a result of the construction of AEDC. Photo Source: Allen Pettus, "AEDC May Reach Mammoth Scope," *Tennessean*, Jun. 16, 1950.

A growing population was only one factor in the increasing use of electricity in Tullahoma. Societal changes contributed to new and increased use of electrical appliances, such as refrigerators, washing machines, irons,

⁸ United States Air Force, *An Album*; "Engineering Development Center to be Erected at Camp Forrest," *Kingsport Times*, Nov. 10, 1949 & "Expansion at Tullahoma." *The Tennessean*, Aug. 5, 1950.

⁹ Patricia Bernard Ezzell, *TVA Photography: Thirty Years of Life in the Tennessee Valley*, Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 2003, 9; "The 1950s." *Tennessee Valley Authority*. Accessed January 23, 2018. <https://www.tva.gov/About-TVA/Our-History/The-1950s>.

¹⁰ "Tullahomans Reject Power Plant Plan," *Tennessean*, May 23, 1947.

¹¹ Allen Pettus, "AEDC May Reach Mammoth Scope," *The Tennessean*, Jun. 16, 1950.

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ranges, and water heaters. Business often marketed these wares through demonstration shows (see Figure 5). TVA encouraged this growing demand for electric appliances by setting up the Electric Home and Farm Authority (EHFA) in 1933 to help citizens in rural areas purchase electronic appliances.¹² Between 1947 and 1948, more than \$50 million was spent in the TVA region on electric appliances.¹³ Residential uses of electricity doubled from 1950-1954 across the TVA region, and this use doubled again during the second half of the same decade.¹⁴



Figure 5. Frozen foods demonstration and Frigidaire exhibit at the Thomas Furniture Company, Lexington, Tennessee. Appliance demonstrations were common to show what these new electric appliances could do and how they could make life easier. Photo Source: Ezzell, Patricia Bernard. *TVA Photography: Thirty Years of Life in the Tennessee Valley*. Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 2003, 133.

Joint Municipal and Utilities Building for Tullahoma

As cities across Tennessee realized their need for new utilities buildings, they also recognized their need for new or larger buildings to accommodate growing municipal governments. A popular technique was for cities to commission joint municipal and utilities buildings. In combining the two entities under one building, cities were often able to save money as the utility systems were responsible for a portion, if not all, of the cost of

¹² Ezzell, 11; Jamie Woodcock, "TVA and rural electrification, 1933-1950s: motives, methods, and consequences for rural Tennessee Valley people and homes," *Border States*, no. 15, 2005, p.11+. *Academic OneFile*. Accessed January 24, 2018. <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/A258817339/AONE?u=fran1630&sid=AONE&xid=7e58d4dd>; Tim Culvahouse, *The Tennessee Valley Authority: Design and Persuasion*, New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2007, 90-91.

¹³ Ezzell, 133.

¹⁴ Mason Willrich, *Modernizing America's Electricity Infrastructure*, Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2017, 72.

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construction, maintenance, repair, and operations. The utilities systems were also responsible for making an annual payment, either as a tax or in some other form, which went into the cities' funds and helped to supplement the loss of profit from providing its citizens with power since TVA required all profits go towards lowering rates and expanding the availability of electricity.¹⁵

Tullahoma followed that model and commissioned a joint utilities and municipal building in 1952. Tullahoma's electric system was responsible for funding most of the construction of the new building, but it could not pay for the entire construction cost due to the city's power contract with TVA. The city agreed to pay approximately \$16,000 towards the project's cost and a monthly rent after its completion. The City also acquired property for the building, at the corner of Jackson and Grundy Streets in the city's commercial area, for \$32,500 in April of 1952.¹⁶

In May of 1952, the Tullahoma Utilities Board announced the selection of Chattanooga-based architects Bianculli, Palm and Purnell. Mr. A.H. Sanders, the manager of the Tullahoma Power System, stated that it was the firm's experience in designing similar municipal buildings in Lewisburg and Sweetwater, Tennessee that had led to their selection.¹⁷ The firm was not just familiar with joint municipal and utilities buildings, but was also familiar with a vast array of power and municipal architecture. Mario Bianculli, the firm's founder, had previously worked for TVA from 1936-1944 as an assistant architect under the Chief Architect of TVA, Roland A. Wank.¹⁸ After Wank left in 1944, Bianculli served as TVA's principal architect until 1945.¹⁹ Before going to work for TVA, Bianculli worked in New York designing power plants for the Electric Bond and Share Company. While with TVA, he assisted with twenty-six large projects such as dams and powerhouses. He worked on fifteen more such projects between leaving TVA and 1970, making him very familiar with power architecture.²⁰

Bianculli believed in TVA's mission to improve life and bring prosperity to everyone within the Tennessee Valley region. He called his time with TVA "very rewarding," and he enjoyed meeting with local officials and his planning colleagues to fulfill TVA's mission.²¹ In fact, during World War II, he served as a consultant for the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), a program administered by TVA which sought to bring electricity into rural areas. During his work with REA, he aided in the design of 75-80 buildings such as rural community centers, shops, and municipal buildings. After becoming partners with George Palm in 1949, Bianculli turned his attention even more fully on municipal buildings and hospitals.

¹⁵ Hobday, 3-105.

¹⁶ Board of Mayor and Alderman Meeting Minutes, August 27, 1952, Book C, City of Tullahoma Records, Tullahoma Municipal Building, Tullahoma, Tennessee, 53-54; Board of Mayor and Alderman Meeting Minutes, August 28, 1952, 57; "Anthony Site is Purchased for City Hall," *Tullahoma News*, April 23, 1952; "City to Pay \$16,000 on Utilities Building," *Tullahoma News*, Aug. 29, 1952; "Power System Bond Sale to Include Funds for New Municipal Building," *Tullahoma News*, Mar. 19, 1952.

¹⁷ Hobday, 66, 95; "Municipal Building Architects Named," *Tullahoma News*, May 2, 1952.

¹⁸ Gavin Townsend, "Tennessee Valley Authority." *The Grove Encyclopedia of American Art, Volume I*, Edited by Joan M. Marter, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011, p. 27-28.

¹⁹ Townsend, Gavin. "Mario Bianculli, Chattanooga's First Modernist." *ARRIS*, vol. 21, 2010, 6-8.

²⁰ Mario Bianculli, "Oral History of the TVA: Interview with Mario Bianculli," Interview by Charles W. Crawford, March 25, 197, Transcribed by Brenda Meier, Oral History Research Office, Memphis State University, Accessed January 23, 2018, <https://archive.org/details/oralhistoryoften00bian>, 3, 11.

²¹ Bianculli, 7.

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He even designed the AEDC in Tullahoma, making him a prime candidate for the Tullahoma Municipal Building commission.²²

The city approved Bianculli, Palm, and Purnell's plans on August 28, 1952. The design of the new municipal building clearly evoked mid-century modern architectural techniques used on various other power projects. For example, the powerhouse and control building at the Watts Bar Hydroelectric Project (NR Listed 8/14/2017) also feature varied-height massing and paneled modern exteriors with serial windows. The powerhouse at the Douglas Hydroelectric Project (NR Listed 8/14/2017) also features a paneled exterior, flat roof, and a prominent entryway with multiple single-light windows. Given that Mario Bianculli was a participating architect on both of these projects, it is clear that he brought many of these features to the Tullahoma project. The architectural design therefore serves as physical representation of the link between TVA, Tullahoma Power Systems, and Tullahoma City Government.

Ground was broken in November of 1952.²³ The new municipal building was dedicated on Sunday, March 14, 1954 with an open house.²⁴ The March 12, 1954 edition of the *Tullahoma News* covered all aspects of the joint municipal and utilities building, detailing the modernity of the building and its ability to serve a growing Tullahoma, while at the same time promoting services of the Tullahoma Power System. The newspaper described the building as a "handsome modern structure," and city officials, business leaders, and utility chiefs in Tullahoma seemed to agree that the building was "a definite asset to the city and [was] symbolic of the community's growth and progress."²⁵

The Tullahoma Municipal Building housed municipal offices, the power system's offices, the fire department, and the police department (Figures 6 and 7). Municipal and power system offices shared the hyphen section and the first floor of the northeastern two-story section of the building. The power system occupied the northeast section's second floor, with the exception of an auditorium which was jointly used by the city and power system. The city used it for large meetings, and the power system used it for demonstrations on the uses of electricity in the home.²⁶ The auditorium also contained a fully-equipped electric kitchen, only to be used for demonstrations of the appliances.²⁷ An array of colors, from Regency blue to Swedish red, decorated the walls throughout the municipal building. Terrazzo floors and Georgia marble were also incorporated throughout portions of the building.²⁸ The municipal and power system offices were all air conditioned, and the entire building employed electric heat.²⁹

²² Townsend, "Mario Bianculli," 10, 14.

²³ Board of Mayor and Alderman Meeting Minutes, August 28, 1952, 57; "Ground is Broken for City Structure," *Tullahoma News*, Nov. 26, 1952.

²⁴ "To Dedicate Power Structure Mar. 14," *Tullahoma News*, Feb. 26, 1954.

²⁵ Ibid.; "Building is Described as Major City Asset," *Tullahoma News*, Mar. 12, 1954.

²⁶ Hobday, 111; "Large Auditorium in Power Building," *Tullahoma News*, Mar. 12, 1954; "We're Tullahoma's Fastest Growing 5 Year Old!" *Tullahoma News*, Mar. 12, 1954.

²⁷ "All-Electric Kitchen Featured in Building," *Tullahoma News*, Mar. 12, 1954.

²⁸ "Rainbow Full of Colors Used in City's New Power Building," *Tullahoma News*, Mar. 12, 1954.

²⁹ "City and Power System's Offices Air-Conditioned," *Tullahoma News*, Mar. 12, 1954; "Rainbow Full of Colors Used in City's New Power Building," *Tullahoma News*, Mar. 12, 1954.

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The fire and police departments shared the southwestern two-story section of the building. The fire equipment room, which was big enough to store the firetrucks, was located on the first floor with garage bay doors opening towards West Grundy Street. The fire department only had one full-time fireman, the fire chief, and volunteers, but living space for twelve full-time firefighters was provided, indicating that the city anticipated staff growth. A sliding pole connected the upstairs quarters with the fire hall on the first floor.³⁰ The police department was outfitted with a new jail on the second floor that met federal requirements for prisoners. Touted as “just as escape-proof as any in the nation,” the jail could hold up to four women and sixteen men at any given time. The women’s cells were separated from the men’s by heavy steel doors and a corridor to insure privacy. A holding cell was downstairs, and each cell was outfitted with knobs in the wall for water and a shower.³¹

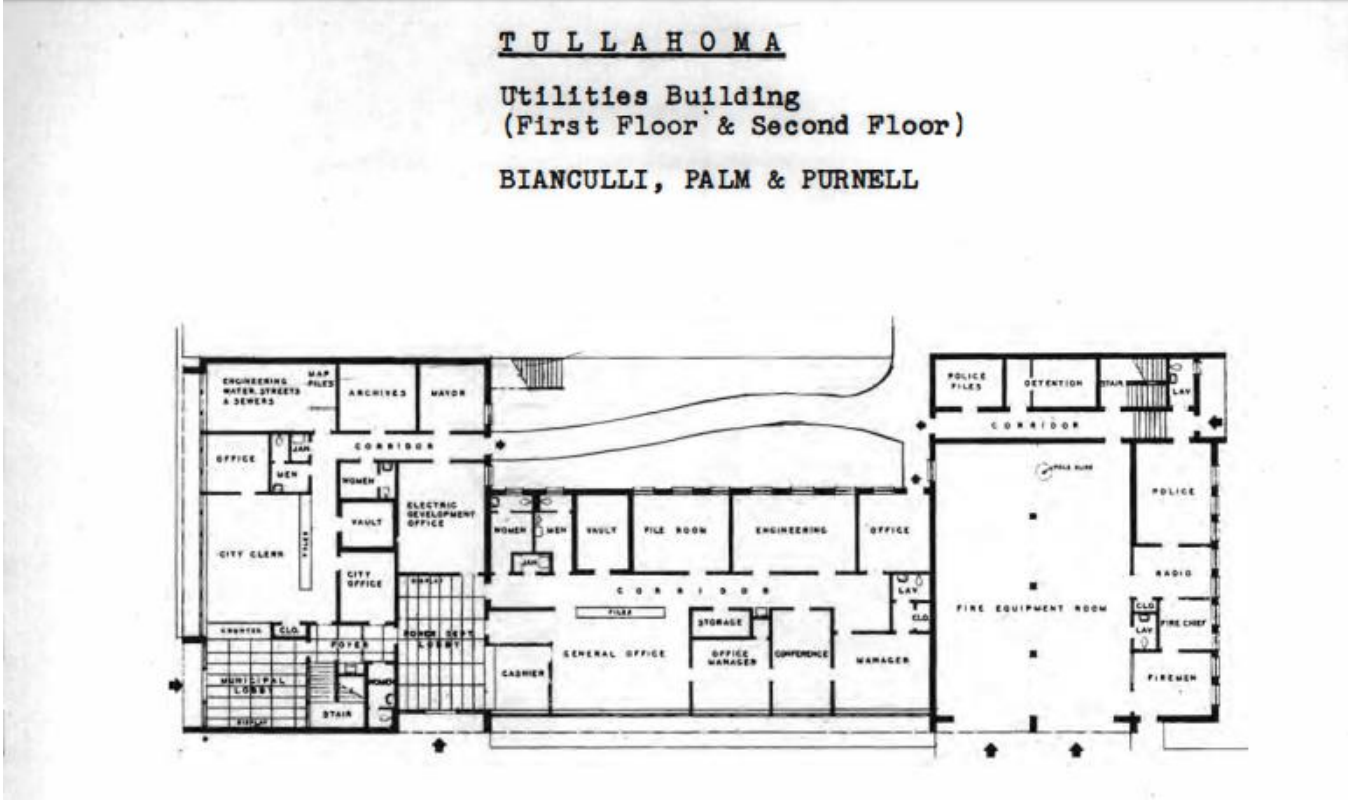


Figure 6. Original First floor plan of the Tullahoma Municipal and Utilities Building. Photo Source: Hobday, Victor C. “Documents Relating to Joint Electric System Municipal Buildings.” (1953) *MTAS Publications: Full Publications*. Accessed January 23, 2018. http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_mtaspubs/4/. 111.

³⁰ “New Building Has Quarters for City’s Fire Department,” *Tullahoma News*, Mar. 12, 1954.
³¹ Hobday, 111; “Jail in New Municipal Building Meets Federal Requirements for Prisoners,” *Tullahoma News*, Mar. 12, 1954.

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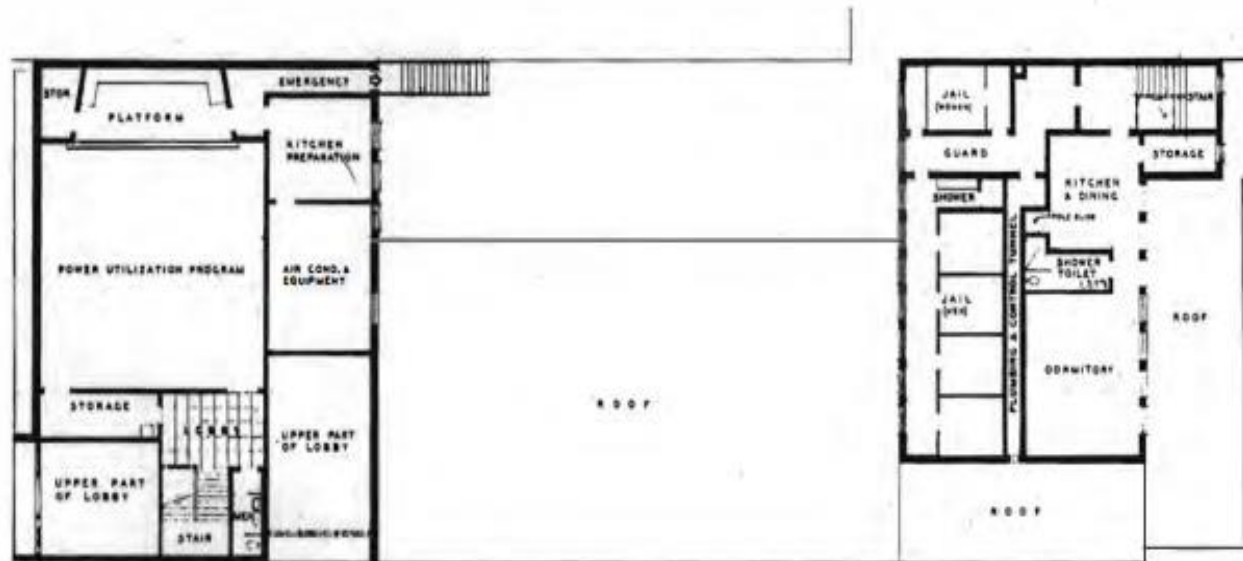


Figure 7. Original Second floor plan of the Tullahoma Municipal and Utilities Building. Photo Source: Hobday, Victor C. "Documents Relating to Joint Electric System Municipal Buildings." (1953) *MTAS Publications: Full Publications*. Accessed January 23, 2018. http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_mtaspubs/4/. 111.

The Municipal Building is locally significant in Politics and Government because it has been the center of Tullahoma's governmental activities since 1954. The building historically and currently houses all city government offices, including elected officials' offices and city departments, such as finance and planning. It has also housed essential government functions of fire and police protection. The police department is still housed in the municipal building today. The historical presence of the fire department is evident by the large infilled doors on the facade. Public meetings of the Board of Mayor and Alderman are held in the second floor auditorium, which can accommodate two hundred people. This auditorium is also used as a courtroom, thus fulfilling another essential governmental function.

Furthermore, the historic and current multi-use nature of the building represents the mid-twentieth century economical decision of municipalities to combine multiple government functions into a single building. At the local level, the Tullahoma Municipal Building is a unique building. From 1954 to 1977, it was the sole government and utilities office building in the community. At the regional level, few other municipal building has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Chattanooga Municipal Building (NR 2/29/1980) in Hamilton County, built earlier than Tullahoma's building, was listed for architectural significance and does not appear to have had as many functions as Tullahoma's Municipal Building.

The Municipal Building has local significance in Commerce as the administrative and sales offices for the power utility, which is representative of the exceptional growth of Tullahoma itself. The year of the building's completion marked the fifth year anniversary of Tullahoma's power contract with TVA.³² The

³² "Power System Figures Show Phenomenal Growth During First Five Years of Operation Under Contract with TVA," *Tullahoma News*, Mar. 12, 1954.

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Tullahoma Power System proclaimed that they were the city's "fastest growing 5 year old" and went on to describe how in just five years the power system increased its plant value from \$232,000 to \$918,000, added 1,167 customers, and increased its kilowatt hour sales to six times its 1949 numbers.³³ Tullahoma's industrial power use quadrupled in the same five year span, and the availability of electric power was a factor in attracting more industry to the area. The growth of industry resulted in growth in the town, which again meant the growth of the city's power system.³⁴ Tullahoma's Power System was prepared and even encouraged the growth. In the March 12, 1954 Municipal Building edition of the *Tullahoma News*, many articles featured advertising and information on electric appliances and services. Tullahomans could see an all-electric kitchen home demonstration at the new municipal and power building, and they read about how electrical appliances saved days of time and effort, how electric fences were a guaranteed way to keep the cows at home, and how in just five years, twenty percent of Tullahoma homes were heated electrically.³⁵ With their new office space, the Tullahoma Power System showcased and sold its modern services and indicated that it was prepared for further Tullahoma growth and a larger demand for electricity.

By fiscal year 1957, Tullahoma was using three times the national average of electricity per customer. It was only exceeded in per customer power consumption in the TVA area by four larger cities: Chattanooga, Tennessee; Clarksville, Tennessee; Murray, Kentucky; and Muscle Shoals, Alabama.³⁶ One reason for Tullahoma's greater than average use of power was that essentially all the homes built in the previous ten years to accommodate growth from AEDC were electrically heated, which drove up electricity consumption.³⁷

Tullahoma's power consumption was not all that was growing. By 1952, Tullahoma's population reached 10,686, an increase of 150%, or approximately 6,000 people, in just twelve years.³⁸ As the city continued to grow, the Municipal Building continued to serve its citizen's governmental and electrical needs. By 1960, Tullahoma had "outgrown its short britches"³⁹ with a population of about 12,000 people, 25 percent of whom were AEDC personnel and their families.⁴⁰ By 1975, the population exceeded 15,000 people.⁴¹

In 1977, ground was broken for a new and larger Tullahoma Utilities Authority building on South Jackson Street. The utility moved to the larger building shortly thereafter and it is still housed there today.⁴² The City of Tullahoma took over the Power system's former space at the Municipal Building. The fire department moved to a new location, also on South Jackson Street, in 1981, in order to accommodate the growing staff

³³ "We're Tullahoma's Fastest Growing 5 Year Old!" *Tullahoma News*, Mar. 12, 1954.

³⁴ "City's Industrial Power Use Quadruples to 5,647,160 Kilowatt Hours During 5 Years," *Tullahoma News*, Mar. 12, 1954.

³⁵ "All-Electric Kitchen Featured in Building," *Tullahoma News*, Mar. 12, 1954; "Electrical Appliances Save Time and Effort," *Tullahoma News*, Mar. 12, 1954; "Electrical Fences Keep Cows at Home," *Tullahoma News*, Mar. 12, 1954; "Many Homes in City Heated by Electricity," *Tullahoma News*, Mar. 12, 1954.

³⁶ "Clarksville Has Average Power Cost of 82cKWH," *Leaf Chronicle* (Clarksville, TN), Feb. 3, 1958.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ "Tullahoma-1952 Population Reaches: 10,686," *Tullahoma News*, Jul. 2, 1952.

³⁹ Rudy Abramson, "Tullahoma Meets Civic Obligations," *The Tennessean*, Mar. 21, 1960.

⁴⁰ Jerry Bennett, "Breeze Blows 15,000 M.P.H. in Tennessee," *The La Cross Tribune*, Feb. 21, 1961.

⁴¹ Bill Carbine, "Tullahoma Count Backfires," *The Tennessean*, Dec. 7, 1978.

⁴² "TUA History." *Tullahoma Utilities Authority*. 2018. Accessed January 23, 2018. <http://www.tub.net/ABOUT-US/TUB-HISTORY>.

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and equipment.⁴³ The Police Department, which had also been expanding, took over the fire department's former space. Today, the City of Tullahoma still operates out of the Tullahoma Municipal Building. The city offices are located on both floors of the northeastern section of the building as well as the one-story hyphen. The building also still houses the city's police department, which is located on both floors of the southwestern section of the building.

Tullahoma's joint municipal and utilities building is significant as a physical representation of Tullahoma's growth and progress in the mid-twentieth century as federal projects and industry moved into the area. It also represents the growing availability and demand for electricity in Tullahoma as society adopted more electric technologies. The building served as the center of operations for the City of Tullahoma's government, as well as the center of operations for the Tullahoma Power Systems. As the power systems office, it played an integral part in the sale and promotion of electricity in the city. The building still serves as the central operation for city government and the city's police department. The Period of Significance ends in 1977 to reflect the departure of the power utility from the Municipal Building. As the center of Tullahoma's government, the center of Tullahoma's sale and promotion of electricity, and as the best physical representation of Tullahoma's growth during the mid-20th century, the Municipal Building meets the exceptional significance requirements of Criterion Consideration G.

⁴³ Bill Carbine, "Tullahoma Moves Fire Department to New Location," *The Tennessean*, Jul. 8, 1981.

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http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_mtaspubs/4/.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)	X	State Historic Preservation Office	
previously listed in the National Register		Other State agency	
previously determined eligible by the National Register		Federal agency	
designated a National Historic Landmark		Local government	
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #		University	
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #		Other	
recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #		Name of repository:	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):			

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 **USGS Quadrangle** Tullahoma 86-SW

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:

N/A

1. Latitude: 35.362249 Longitude: -86.212341

Verbal Boundary Description

The Tullahoma Municipal Building is bounded to the northwest by West Grundy Street and to the northeast by North Jackson Street. It is bounded to the southwest by a parking lot. It is bounded to the southeast by a commercial building and a parking lot. These boundaries follow the legal boundaries of the properties, as depicted on the accompanying tax map for Parcel 124OBD 002.00 and on the aerial view map.

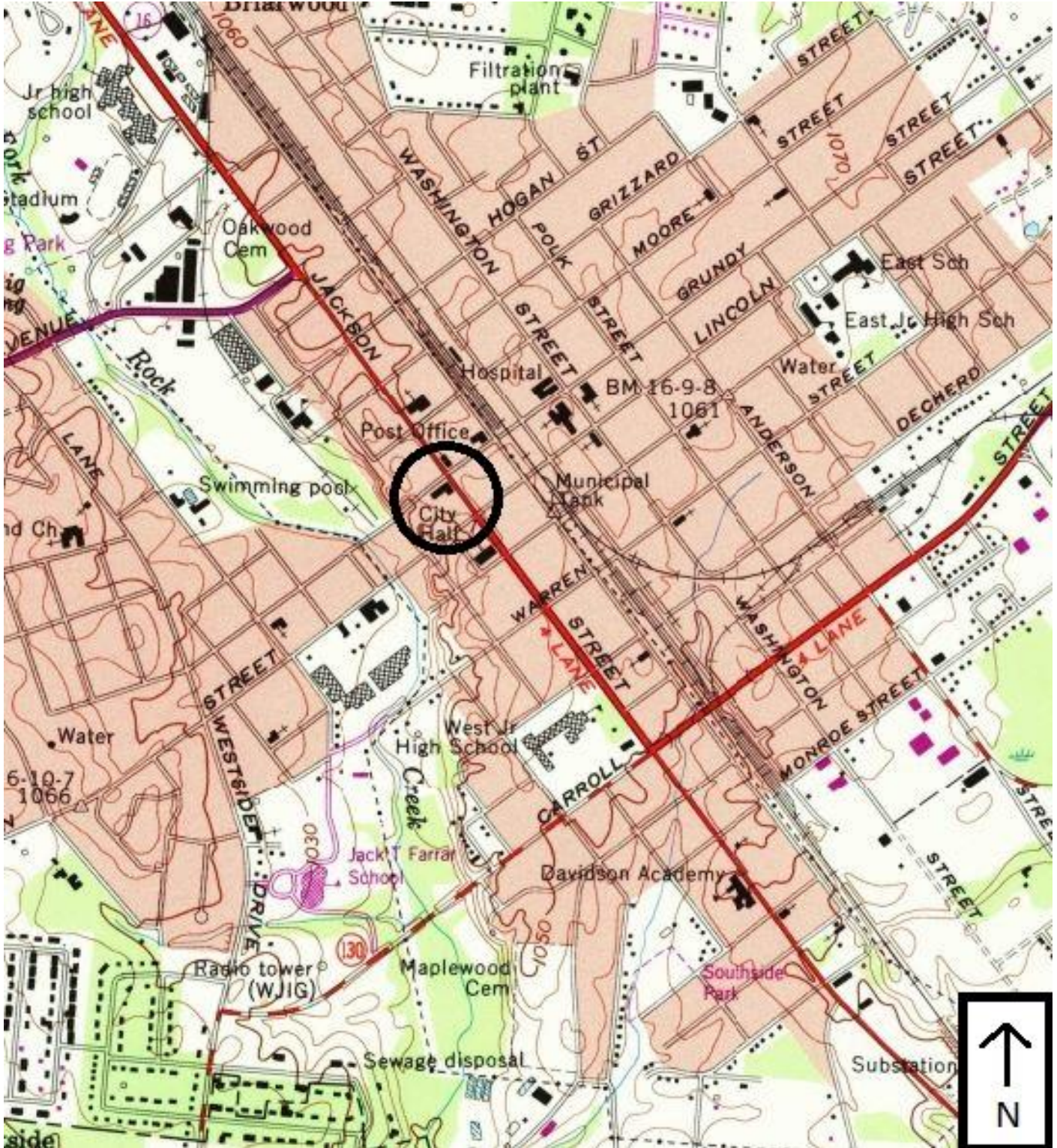
Boundary Justification

These boundaries are the historic and current legal boundaries of the property. They encompass all resources associated with the property.

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Tullahoma 86-SW USGS Quadrangle Map with the Tullahoma Municipal Building circled



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Tullahoma Municipal Building Tax Map

Coffee County - Parcel: 124OBD 002.00



Date: April 3, 2018
County: Coffee
Owner: TULLAHOMA CITY OF
Address: W GRUNDY ST 201
Parcel Number: 124OBD 002.00
Deeded Acreage: 0
Calculated Acreage: 0
Date of Imagery: 2014

TN Comptroller - OLG
State of Tennessee, Comptroller of the Treasury, Office of Local Government (OLG)
Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand),

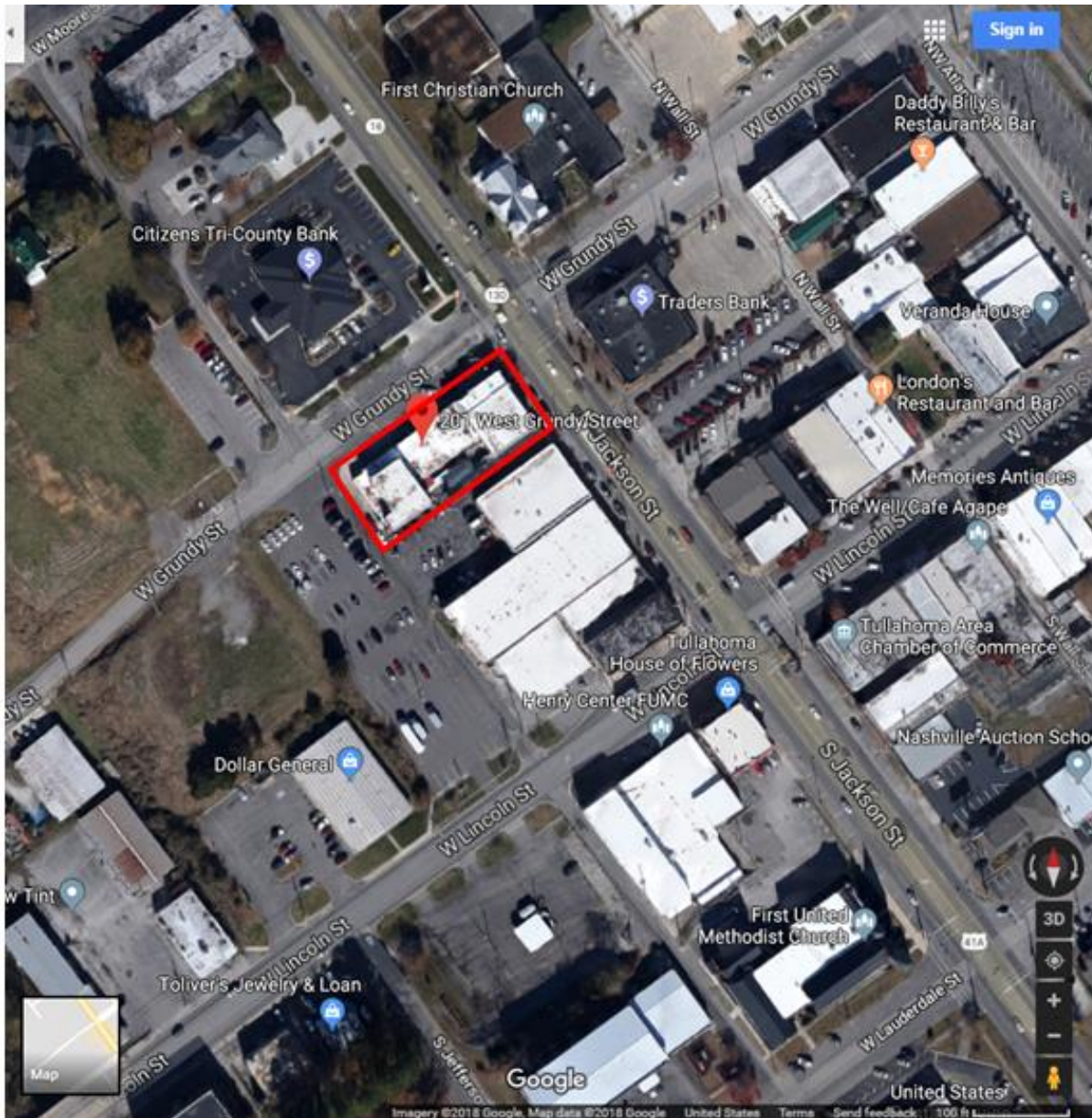
The property lines are compiled from information maintained by your local county Assessor's office but are not conclusive evidence of property ownership in any court of law.



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Aerial View of the Tullahoma Municipal Building with boundaries outlined. Image from Google Maps



Tullahoma Municipal Building
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County and State

11. Form Prepared By

Name Casey Lee & Rebecca Schmitt

Organization Tennessee Historical Commission

Street & Number 2941 Lebanon Pike Date April 3, 2018

615-253-3163/

City or Town Nashville Telephone 615-770-1086

E-mail Casey.Lee@tn.gov/Rebecca.Schmitt@tn.gov State TN Zip Code 37214

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 100 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.

Tullahoma Municipal Building
Name of Property

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Tullahoma Municipal Building
City or Vicinity: Tullahoma
County: Coffee State: Tennessee

Photos 1-4

Photographer: James Collier
Date Photographed: April 8, 2017

Photos 5-10, 17, 20, 22

Photographer: James Collier
Date Photographed: February 17, 2017

Photos 11-16, 18-19, 21, 23

Photographer: Caroline Eller
Date Photographed: April 21, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 23 Aerial, oblique view of the northeast elevation and northwest façade. Facing south.
- 2 of 23 Aerial, oblique view of the northwest façade and southwest elevation. Facing east.
- 3 of 23 Aerial, oblique view of the southeast elevation and northeast elevation. Facing west.
- 4 of 23 Aerial view of the building's shape and footprint. View facing straight down and slightly southeast.
- 5 of 23 Façade, northeast section. View facing east.
- 6 of 23 Main entranced on façade. View facing southeast.
- 7 of 23 Façade, all sections. View facing northeast.
- 8 of 23 Oblique view of Façade (southwest section) and southwest elevation. View facing east.
- 9 of 23 Oblique view of southwest elevation and southeast elevation of the southwest building section. View facing north.
- 10 of 23 Courtyard. View facing north from parking lot.
- 11 of 23 Courtyard. View facing southwest from interior of northeast building section.
- 12 of 23 Northeast elevation on northeast building section. View facing west

Tullahoma Municipal Building
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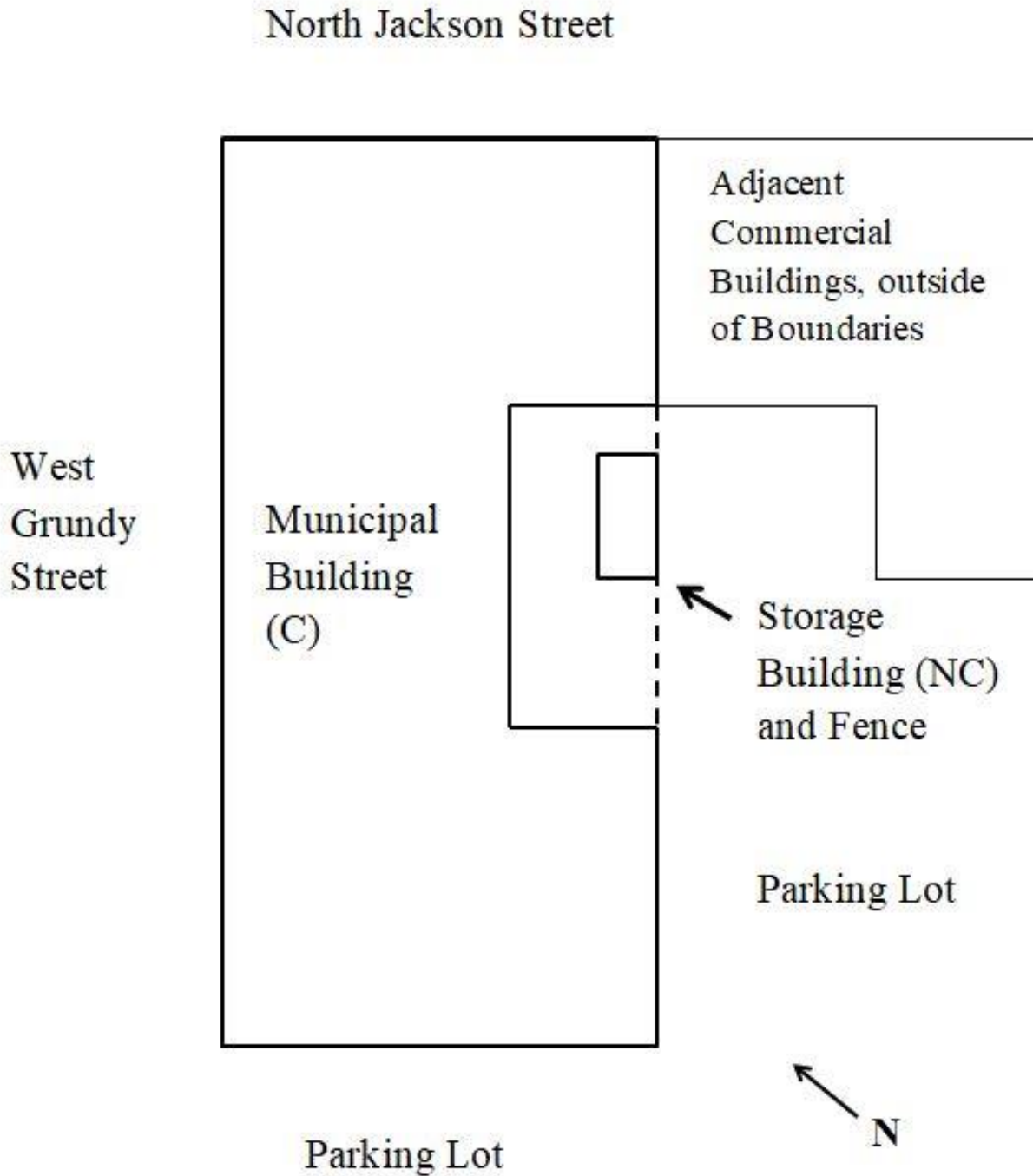
Coffee, Tennessee
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-
- 13 of 23 Lobby and main entrance. View facing northwest
- 14 of 23 Lobby and main entrance. View facing west.
- 15 of 23 Original terrazzo floor in the lobby. View facing down and southeast.
- 16 of 23 Lobby. View facing south.
- 17 of 23 Auditorium/City Meeting Room on second floor of Northeast building section. View facing north.
- 18 of 23 Conference Room, First Floor of northeast building section off lobby. View facing southeast.
- 19 of 23 Representative Office. View facing west.
- 20 of 23 Hallway in the Municipal Offices (Northeast section) portion of the building. View facing southwest.
- 21 of 23 Hallway in the Municipal Offices (Northeast section) portion of the building. View facing northeast.
- 22 of 23 Hallway in the Police Department (Southwest section) of the building. View facing southeast.
- 23 of 23 Meeting Room in the Police Department (Southwest section) of the building. View facing northwest.

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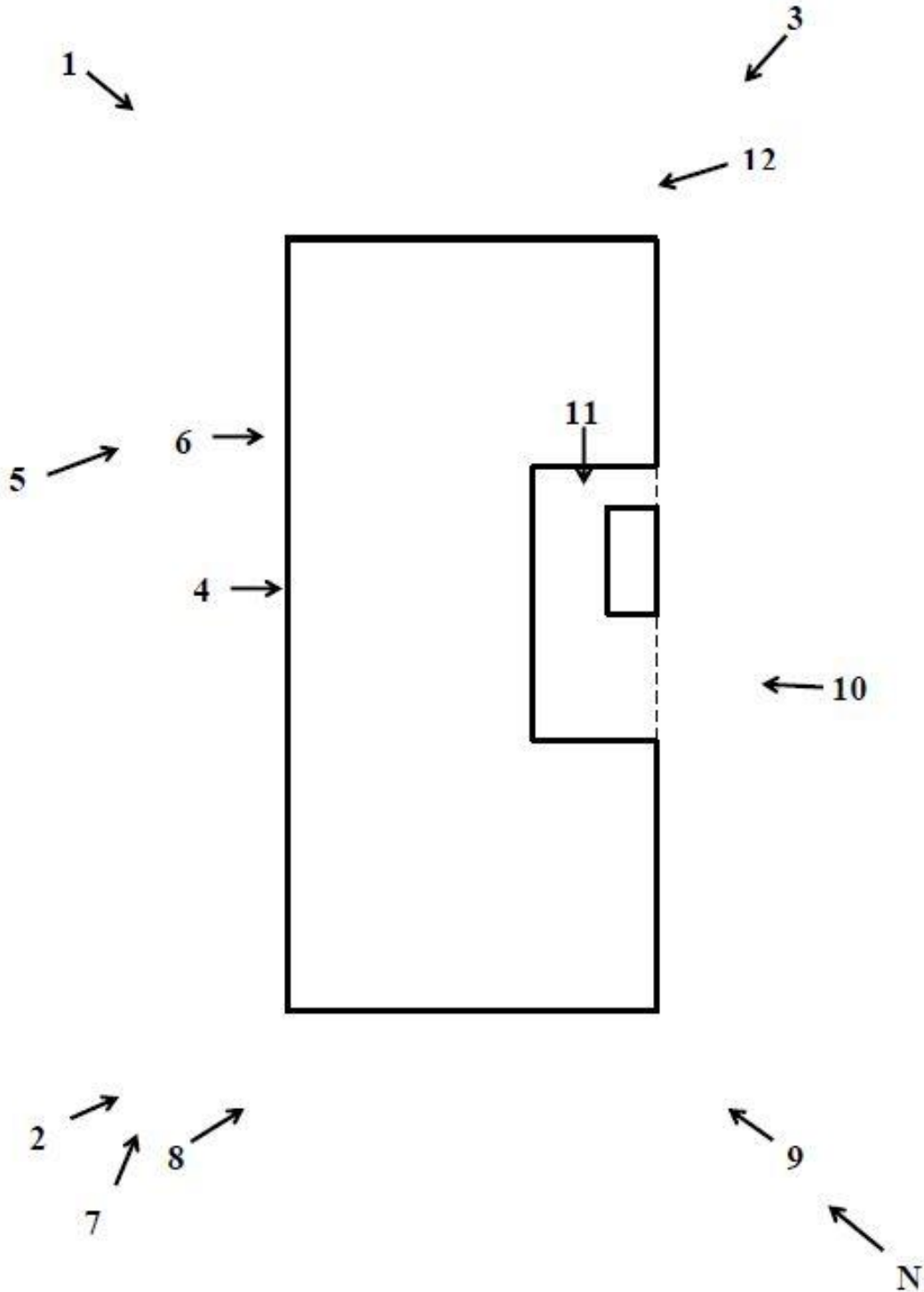
Site Plan
Not to Scale



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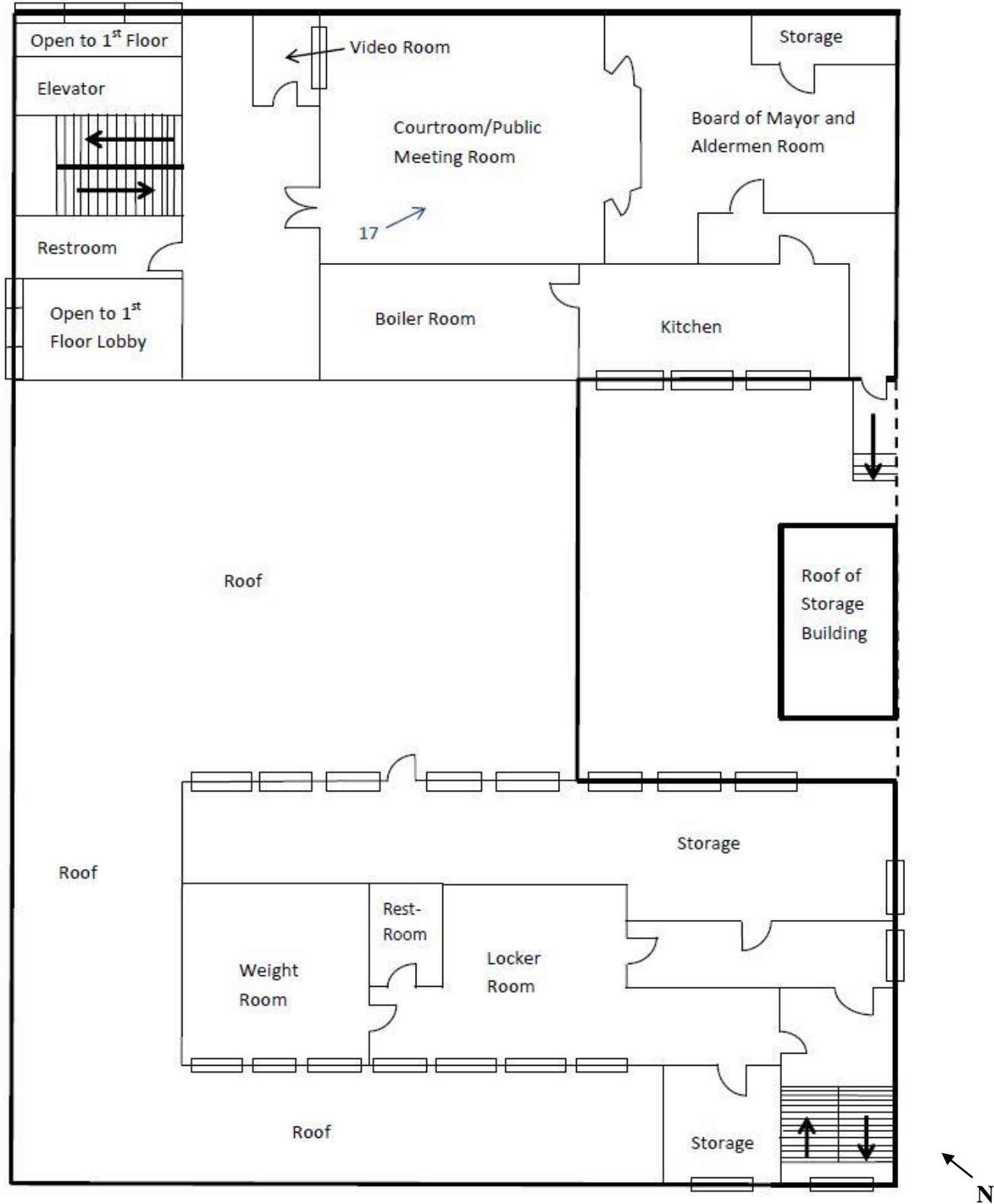
Site Plan with Photos Keyed
Not to Scale



Tullahoma Municipal Building
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Second Floor Plan with Photos Keyed (Not Scale)





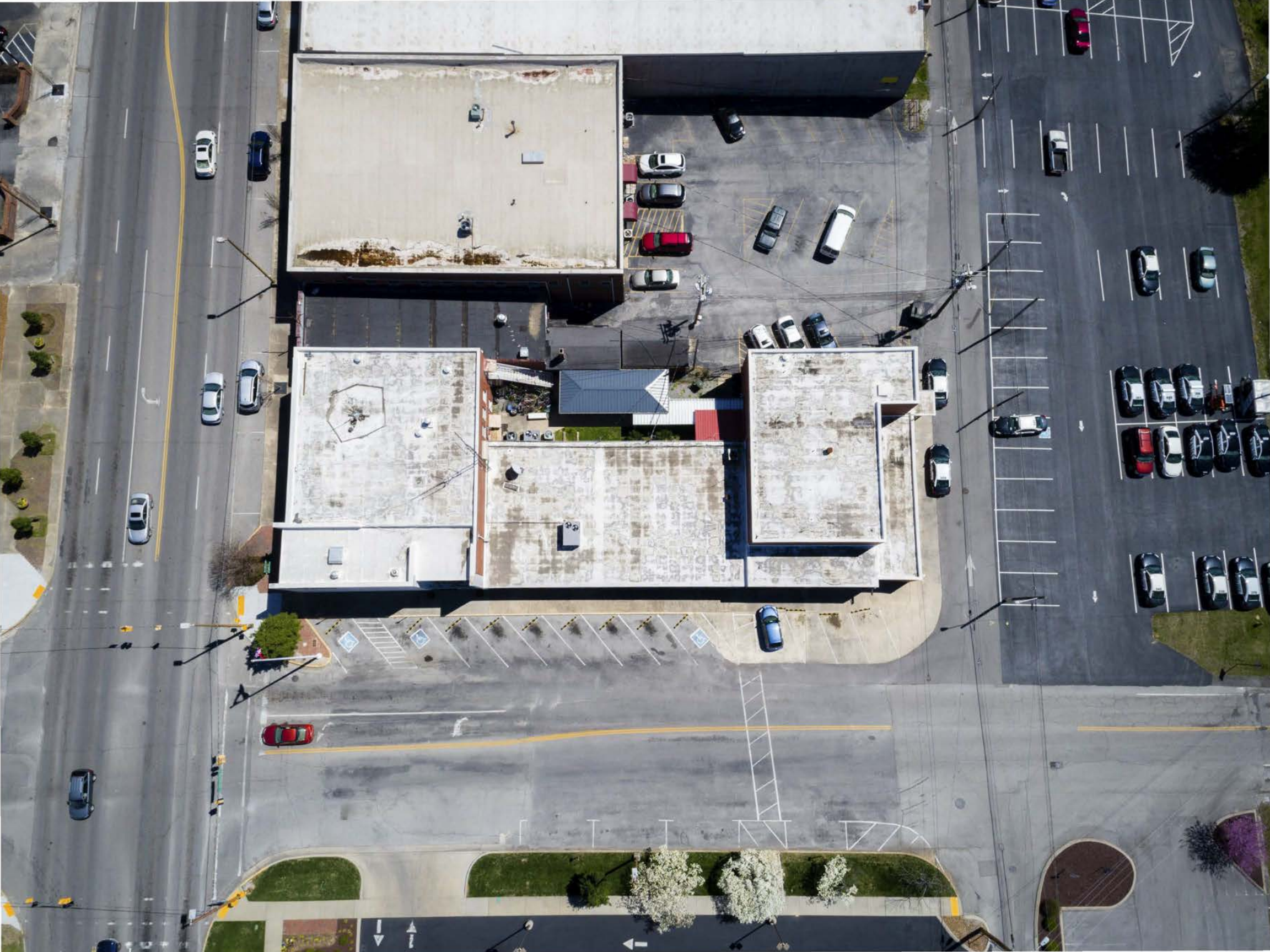
TULLAHOMA
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

TULLAHOMA
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

JACKSON







**TULLAHOMA
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**



201



NO STOPS A FREE SERVICE



Tullahoma
Est. 1852





POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLIC DEPT

ENTRANCE



POLICE DEPT.

POLICE DEPT.

ENTRANCE ←

TEMPORARY PARKING 2ND FLOOR ONLY

NO PARKING

POLICE DEPT.





THE CITY OF
TULLAHOMA

DO NOT
BLOCK
THE GATE



Donated by
Ford
Motor

INSULATED COOLER

TULLAHOMA MUNICIPAL BUILDING





CASHIER

EXIT

WELCOME TO THE BANK
PLEASE USE THE
ELEVATOR TO
REACH THE SECOND
FLOOR




TULLAHOMA
tennessee's rising star

T M
M S











STORAGE
EMPLOYEES ONLY





Casper Room



EXIT



EXIT



We ask the Lord to be with you
In a very special way.
As you conquer all the challenges
That you must face each day.

To give to you compassion
For the moment you see
And the courage to protect and serve
Our small community.

And whenever you are called to do
We will pray for you each day!
That God will walk beside you
Keeping you safe along the way.

Thank you for everything you do!
From Our Area Team #12



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 6/18/2018 Date of Pending List: 7/9/2018 Date of 16th Day: 7/24/2018 Date of 45th Day: 8/2/2018 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 7/30/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : **Yes**

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
2941 LEBANON PIKE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37214
OFFICE: (615) 532-1550
E-mail: Claudette.Stager@tn.gov
(615) 770-1089



June 7, 2018

J. Paul Loether
Deputy Keeper and Chief,
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

National Register Nomination

- *Tullahoma Municipal Building, Coffee County, Tennessee*

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct nomination for listing of the *Tullahoma Municipal Building* to the National Register of Historic Places. We received no comments.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, please contact Rebecca Schmitt at (615) 770-1086 or Rebecca.Schmitt@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

Claudette Stager
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

CS:rs

Enclosures(2)