

PH 36163x

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 11 1976

DATE ENTERED JUN 22 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Cleburne County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Cleburne County Courthouse

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Vickory Street

CITY, TOWN

Heflin

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Alabama

CODE

01

COUNTY

Cleburne

CODE

029

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Citizens of Cleburne County

STREET & NUMBER

Vickory

CITY, TOWN

Heflin

VICINITY OF

STATE

Alabama

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cleburne County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Vickory Street

CITY, TOWN

Heflin

STATE

Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Not mentioned in any existing survey.

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1907</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cleburne County Courthouse is a good example of the Neo-Classical style of architecture that was used extensively for public buildings throughout the United States in the early 20th Century. Designed by C.W. Carlton, it was completed in 1907 by the F.B. Hull construction company and is located on Vickory Street in Heflin.

The architect created a classical, unified design effectively combining the elements of a central pavilion with wings and a temple on podium design. The two-story brick structure is painted off white and is approximately 145 feet long. It appears actually to be three stories with the first floor of the central pavilion acting as a triple arched podium supporting the temple form with its two smooth Ionic columns and shallow pediment. Two pilasters frame the columns and assist in supporting the pediment. Columns and pilasters are joined at the pedestal by a stone balustrade. Simplicity of design continues in the entablature which is ornamented only with dentil and egg and dart molding under the architrave and cornice while the frieze bears the county name. The pediment also has the same simple moldings as well as a three-light lunet. This central portion of the building has three bays with single-light, double-hung sash windows; the top window of each bay is arched, the bottom window is rectangular.

All of the elements of the building come together in the metallic domed bell tower which is elevated on a balustraded platform. The four sided tower contains chimes; and four-way clocks are adorned with acanthus finials. Pilasters flank louvered Palladian windows on each side of the tower. It is the most ornate portion of the building providing an interesting contrast to the flat roof and simple style of the wings.

The central pavilion is flanked by wings which are recessed approximately two feet. Additions made in 1938 are also recessed giving the feeling of gradual progression toward the main entrance and the area of the courtroom. The flat roof increases in height from the newest wings to the central pediment which points to the dome. The wings also repeat the podium effect through the use of deep banded brickwork and a beltcourse that is the width of the column pedestals. As in the central pavilion the windows are single-light, double-hung sash.

The simple rear elevation reinforces the central pavilion with wings concept, but abandons the brick work and belt course. However, this portion of the building also reveals that the additions are only $\frac{1}{2}$ the width of the original building. The window treatment is the same as the front elevation.

The interior floorplan of the courthouse is basically T-shaped. However, with the first floor given over mainly to offices and the second floor primarily occupied by the courtroom, the central portion of each floor differs significantly. A cruciform hall way provides access to the large and small offices on the east wall and the base of the T of the first floor. Stairs leading to the second floor and courtroom are located at what used to be the end of the halls before the additions were made. The courtroom dominates the second floor and runs perpendicular to the wings. A few large offices comprise the remainder of the floor.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 11 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUN 22 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Interior detailing includes the use of mosaic tile flooring and heavy, darkly stained wooden balustrades on the stairs and in the courtroom. The exterior arches are repeated in the first floor lobby. Dark wood is used again in the courtroom to interpret the classical motif behind the bench. This takes the form of a carved pediment supported by four fluted Corinthian pilasters. Strong vertical emphasis is provided by the architrave molding connecting the two-tiered windows. One of the highlights of the room is a fine, pressed tin ceiling and cornice molding.

The courthouse is pleasantly situated on a small elevated lot and accented with shrubs and several trees. It is in good condition, needing only minor repairs and continues to serve as the focal point for the political life of Cleburne County.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1907

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

C.W. Carlton

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cleburne County Courthouse, built in the town of Heflin in 1907, is an excellent example of Neo-Classic architecture and serves as the center of political life in this primarily agricultural and rural community. Location of the county seat and courthouse was crucial in these areas and assured the ascendancy of one town over another thus causing some controversy if the seat of county government was moved.

Such was the case in March 1905 when the citizens of Heflin and the lower end of the county petitioned Governor William Jelks to authorize an election to relocate Cleburne's county seat from Edwardsville to Heflin, 8 miles to the southwest on the Tallapoosa River. A considerable amount of money was spent before the December 1905 election and Heflin managed to win by 88 votes. The law even to have such an election was challenged by the Edwardsville faction in the case of State ex rel Brown and Porter, but the case, as well as a request for court orders to recount the votes were unsuccessful despite the fact that they were carried as far as the State Supreme Court. The population of Edwardsville declined rapidly thereafter, from over 800 in 1880 to less than 200 at present. Conversely, Heflin had only 300 citizens in 1880 and has since grown to a town of over 2500. The location of the county seat did indeed effect the growth and prosperity of the towns in Cleburne County.

Despite the initial, legal battles over the move, the Courthouse was constructed in 1907 while some court orders were still pending. The cornerstone was laid on the Fourth of July and occasioned a "monster celebration" which three thousand people attended. The Masonic Lodge was instrumental in organizing and conducting the ceremonies.

In 1938, the Courthouse and Heflin joined the ranks of many other cities and states by participating in the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works. Project No. Alabama 1328-F made possible the extension of both wings of the Courthouse to provide additional office space and jobs for the unemployed through construction. Ogletree Construction company executed Horace M. Weaver's sympathetic design. Retaining the original character of the building, it added the needed space, but also enhanced the original quality of progression to the central pavilion. Roofline, brick work, cornices and arched windows all serve to give the impression of a unified structure constructed at the same time.

The Neo-Classic character of the building has not been altered in any way and it is without a doubt one of the finest structures in the county.

The courthouse continues in use today and county officials wish to preserve its original character and function.

