

PH0141208

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: ALABAMA	
COUNTY: LOWNDES	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 716.01.0010	DATE 6/24/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
Lowndes County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hayneville

STATE Alabama	CODE 01	COUNTY: Lowndes	CODE 085
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Lowndes County Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
Lowndes County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Hayneville	STATE: Alabama	CODE 01
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Lowndes County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hayneville	STATE: Alabama	CODE 01
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

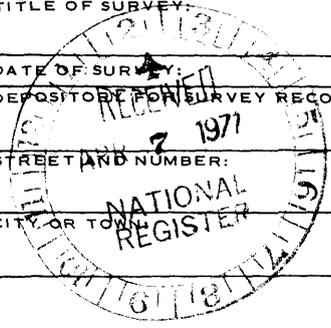
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: _____

DEPOSITED FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Federal State County Local

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:
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DATE

716.01.0010
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lowndes County Courthouse was built in 1856 in the Greek Revival style and underwent considerable alteration around 1905, although its basic design remains the same. It is located in the center of the county seat, Hayneville, and faces west, overlooking the town square.

The courthouse is basically a two-story structure of load-bearing masonry walls with stucco exterior and wood entablature. The first floor is directly on grade and may be assumed to be brick, judging from other examples from the same period. The upper floor and roof construction is wood frame and the courtroom floor is wood covered with tile. Interior walls and ceilings are plastered throughout, except in the courtroom where a stamped metal tile has been added to the 19' high ceiling.

The building was originally a rectangle 56' x 67' with pediments on all four sides and a raised portico on the front approximately 29' wide and staircases curving up each side of a massive podium base. Four fluted Doric columns fronted the portico with heavy cast iron railings between. The frieze and pediment were undecorated except for the dentils that remain intact on the main building.

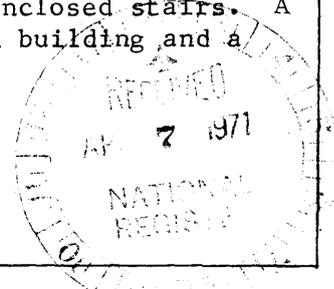
The front of the main body of the building was divided into three bays by engaged pilasters with the entrance in a wide center bay and windows in the narrow side bays. The back of the building was divided by these pilasters into three equal bays with a doorway in the first floor center, and windows in all others. Both sides of the building were divided by pilasters into five equal window bays with the pediment extending over the three center bays. All first floor windows were 16 lite wood double hung with heavily rusticated granite lintels and the taller second floor windows were 24 lite double hung with flush stone lintels.

The portico opened directly into a large courtroom which occupied the entire second floor. Existing base and wainscot conditions indicate that there was a six-inch step-up across the entire room occurring 23' inside the front door. In the southwest corner of the courtroom there remains a small steel-barred cell in which the prisoners awaited their trials.

The first floor was entered through a small door in the massive podium base of the portico. A 10' wide center hall ran from front to back with two large offices and one smaller one on each side of the corridor. The center hall had a barrel-vaulted ceiling and the offices had segmental groin-vaulted ceilings, all about 14' high and still intact.

When the courthouse was remodeled, the front portico with the curving staircases was replaced with an entrance that provided enclosed stairs. A two-story office wing was added to each side of the main building and a domed cupola placed on top.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Civil Rights</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lowndes County Courthouse is one of only four antebellum courthouses still in use in Alabama. It was built in 1856 after the 1832 courthouse was condemned as unsafe.

Hayneville, the sleepy village where the courthouse is located, is in the rich Black Belt farming area. But it was not always so quiet. During antebellum days, according to Mildred B. Russell, "Hayneville was said to have been the greatest gambling town of its size in the United State." It had a racetrack, eight gambling houses, and cockpits in the square.

The probate judge at the time the courthouse was built was Edward Hampton Cook, who was second cousin to Lieutenant General Wade Hampton of the Confederate army. Judge Cook was elected to the county judgeship in 1848 and successfully defended his office when the state changed to the probate system in 1850.

Among the other lawyers who argued at the Lowndes County Courthouse was Charles Levi Woodbury, who came to Hayneville from New Hampshire. His father, Levi Woodbury, was Secretary of the U. S. Treasury, Secretary of the U. S. Navy, and Associate Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court.

The Lowndes County Courthouse was the center of much of the political activity leading up to the election of secessionist delegates at the Democratic State Convention in Montgomery, June 4, 1860. David Baine, one of the town's most prominent lawyers, had been a delegate at the Democratic convention in Charleston which had rejected the "Yancey Platform" calling upon the government to protect slavery in the territories. Upon his return, he was active in organizing the several political meetings at the courthouse, where county citizens elected delegates to the state convention and adopted, among others, a resolution endorsing a Southern rights convention at Richmond. Baine wrote these resolutions as well as another set later adopted, among others, a resolution endorsing a Southern rights convention at Richmond. Baine wrote these resolutions as well as another set later adopted at the Democratic State Convention.

Reconstruction was not kind to Lowndes County. In 1868, Probate Judge James Whitfield Graham was, says Mrs. Russell, "ousted by federal bayonets." He left office, but first he entered on the records a notation that he had been driven out by force.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Russell, Mildred Brewer. Lowndes Court House. (Paragon Press: Montgomery) 1951.
 Watson, Elbert L. "Lt. Colonel David W. Baine: A Confederate Hero from the North," Alabama Historical Quarterly, XXX, (1968), 27-38.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		32°	10'	58"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		86°	34'	43"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/16 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Janice P. Hand, Information Specialist

ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: 3/31/71

STREET AND NUMBER:
305 South Lawrence Street

CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Miss B. Toward, Jr.

Title SLD Alabama

Date April 2, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Janet A. Connolly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JUN 24 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:
William M. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date MY 12 1971

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(Continuation Sheet)

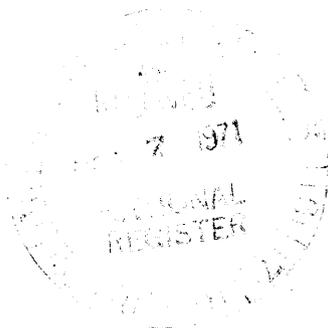
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7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The roofline and pediment of the entrance structure was dropped much lower than the original pediment, and the eave strikes the main building at about the mid-point of the second-story windows. The roof pitch is steeper than the main roof. The engaged pilasters have Ionic capitals, and the windows here and in the side wings are much smaller than those in the main structure. The side wings have a cornice line that corresponds to the entrance structure, but above this is a low parapet rather than a gable roof. The side wings, approximately 26' x 44', provide office space on both levels.

The base of the cupola is approximately 10' square with double disengaged columns, on the diagonal, at each corner. A cornice divides the base from the dome and latter is octagonal with long chords corresponding to the sides of the base and short chords at the corners. On four sides of the dome, provisions were made for clocks which were never installed. The ribbed dome is topped with a large scale finial giving the entire cupola a height in excess of 20' above the roof.



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3. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

In 1872, in a notorious "Index Swindle," Lowndes County paid \$1000 for two books which could be printed for one dollar each.

A fine of \$100 was imposed during this period on Robert W. Dacus, a local citizen, for being one minute late for jury duty.

The courthouse was poorly kept by the new regime. Mrs. Russell says the "liberal-minded citizens of Hayneville permitted a flock of goats to roam at will" through the courthouse, and "the hall, portico, and steps reeked with the scent of them."

The most unpopular of the courthouse incumbents was Sheriff J. E. Bruner who had taken over the sheriff's office when the elected sheriff, Leander J. Bryan, was out of town for several months. He was shot by an irate citizen on the flimsy pretext that he "did not give Miss Bettie Cook her share of the sidewalk." Bruner recovered from his wounds, but left Hayneville.

The court caller during reconstruction was Adam Lundy the elder, nicknamed "Snip" because part of his nose had been bitten off. His voice was so loud that "visiting lawyers claimed they could hear Adam Lundy calling court when they stepped from the train at Letohatchee, seven miles away."

Probably the most famous case in the court's history was the 1965 trial of Collie D. Wilkins, accused slayer of Detroit civil rights worker Viola Gregg Liuzzo. She was shot while traveling through rural Lowndes County during the time of the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery. After two well-publicized trials, Wilkins was acquitted.

In another civil rights case, Tom Coleman was tried for the murder of an Episcopal minister and acquitted.

