

PH002 3574

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia	
COUNTY: White	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.13.0050	DATE 10/28/70

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Old White County Courthouse

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
GA 115

CITY OR TOWN:
Cleveland

STATE Georgia	CODE 10/13	COUNTY: White	CODE 311
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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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments Historical Society Headquarters

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
White County, leased by White County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Cleveland

STATE: Georgia	CODE 10/13
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Courthouse, Clerk of Superior Court, White County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Cleveland

STATE: Georgia	CODE 10/13
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

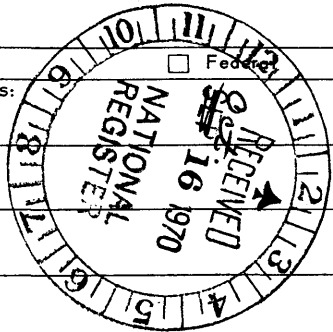
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Georgia

COUNTY: White

ENTRY NUMBER: 70.10.13.0050

DATE: 10/28/70

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

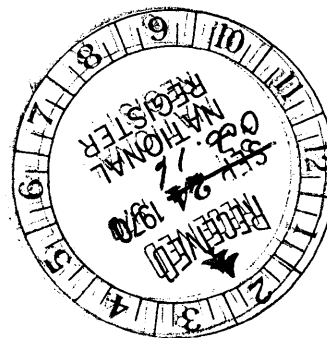
With the exception of the removal years ago, of an outside stairway at the south end and consequent closing of the entrance to the second floor, there have been no important changes to the exterior of the building. The physical appearance of the interior is basically unchanged except for the installation of inside stairs, replacing those removed outside, and the addition of inside toilets and electricity. The two-story building was started in 1859 and completed in 1860. It is of locally made red bricks, laid up in 12" thick walls. 54' long by 39' wide, it lies in the center of the town square. The two ends are alike except for 8 windows at the north end and only 4 at the south end, due to the aforementioned outside stairs. The east and west sides are identical, each with 5 windows above and 4 below, 2 each side of the central doors. Two distinguishing features are the cornice of molded bricks forming a sort of corbel, and the twin end chimneys forming the end walls. The interior lower floor has 4 large corner rooms, each 18' square and used as county offices. Each room had fireplaces, 3 or 4 windows and one door opening onto the central hall, 14' wide, running the full width of the building.

As stated earlier, there is now a two-way stairway leading from the north side of the hall to the upper floor for entrance to the main courtroom, 38' long by 37' wide. There are two small rooms at the north end for offices. These rooms also have fireplaces and the courtroom has openings in the chimneys to connect large stoves.

The floors on both levels are heart-pine boards, 2" by 6" while the ceilings are 10" to 12" pine boards, 1" thick. The brick partitions between the rooms and the hallway on the lower floor are full 12" thick. The structure supporting the roof is a splendid design of wooden pine beams.

The structural integrity of the building is considered excellent - it has been in constant and uninterrupted use for well over a century and requires only reasonable care and protection to continue its long life of usefulness. The beauty of the building is its simplicity both outside and in. Even though built just prior to the Civil War, it may be fairly described as a very good example of the Georgian Colonial style, and indeed it is similar in some respects to Independence Hall and certain New England college buildings.

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) 1860; 1965, Historical Society; 1970-71, Restoration

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Throughout Georgia after 1803 courthouse town plans followed a similar pattern. Courthouses were set off from towns by being surrounded on four sides with lawns and streets to create a square. Bordering the square were stores, offices, residence, hotels, etc. This nucleated plan which seems to have started in Virginia in the 17th Century was used when the courthouse town of Cleveland came into being in 1857. The courthouse itself also follows the usual rule by being elevated on a rise.

The contractor for the building was Edwin Pore Williams, a large landowner from Nacoochee Valley and the contract for the woodwork was given to William Houston from Cleveland. (It is interesting to note that descendants of both are prominent citizens who continue living in White County.) It is said that Williams was paid \$10,000 for the job after the Civil War started, and thus received Confederate currency.

The building continued the medieval practice of combining in one structure the functions of court and market house. The upper floor was the courthouse and the lower floor was available for various uses. It was in effect the county civic center but sometimes it was simply a sort of office building. For a short time there was a shoe shop in one first floor room; a doctor had his office in another; a printing shop for a weekly newspaper, "The Advertiser," operated for a while; and classes for the public school were held there one winter, 1870-71.

Closer to our own day it took on the character we expect in a courthouse devoted entirely to county business. The four rooms on the lower floor served as offices - Clerk of the Court (first Inferior then Superior; Public School Superintendent; Tax Commissioner; and County Ordinary, this last office being one of the oldest and most important in the governmental system of the counties of Georgia. The large area on the upper floor was the courtroom and the two small rooms for the Jury and the Sheriff. Circuit judges and other prominent people came during Court Week which was also a time for trade. Then in May 1965 all county offices moved into a new building and the old Courthouse was leased to the Historical Society. The Society now has an active membership of about 150 and issues a monthly News Letter, mailed to over 200 persons and organizations in Georgia and other states. Regular meetings are held every month with papers frequently being presented by members telling of the history of a person, place or event in White County. In 1968 the Society received a Certificate of Commendation from the American Association for State and Local History for its performance in that field.

A Welcome Center is being considered for one of the rooms on the lower floor and on certain occasions, an "Open House" is held, when native handicrafts and kitchen products, as well as prized personal collections, artifacts and

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Memoirs of Georgia, Vol. II, (Atlanta: Southern Historical Association, 1895).
Minute Book "A", Office of Superior Clerk, White County.
 Mitchell, William R., Jr., Personal Inspection, April 1970.
Records of the Ordinary's Office, White County.
 Sears, Joan N. "Town Planning in Georgia, White and Habersham Counties,"
Georgia Historical Quarterly, Vol LIV, No. 1, Spring 1970.
 White County Centennial Committee, "Historical Facts and Legends of White
 County, 1857-1957," August 1957.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

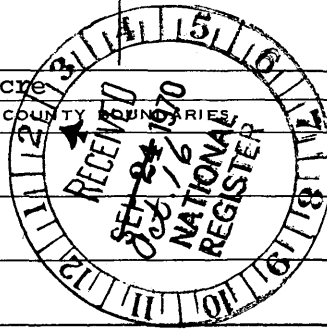
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	34 °	35 '	53 "
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	83 °	46 '	53 "
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: (a) Edgar Everhart, Jr., President
 (b) William R. Mitchell, Jr., Director, Georgia Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: (a) White County Historical Society
 (b) Georgia Historical Commission

DATE: October 14, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: (b) 116 Mitchell Street, S.W.

CITY OR TOWN: (a) Cleveland
 (b) Atlanta

STATE: Georgia CODE: 10

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: Mary Gregory Jewett
 Title: State Liaison Officer
 Date: October 15, 1970

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

Ernest Allen Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: OCT 28 1970

ATTEST:
William J. Ventulett
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: OCT 28 1970

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Georgia	
COUNTY White	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.13.0054	DATE 10/28/70

(Number all entries)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

historical items are displayed. Thus the Historical Society continues to allow the old Courthouse to function as it has since 1860, and as buildings such as this have functioned since the Middle Ages: as "civic centers" in the centers of towns to which all roads in the county led.

