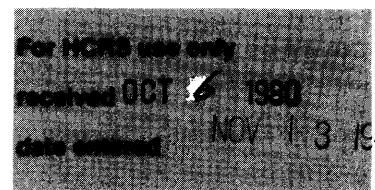


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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	Overton County Courthouse		
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and/or common	Same		
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2. Location

street & number	Court Square			not for publication
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city, town	Livingston	vicinity of	congressional district	Fourth
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state	Tennessee	code	047	county	Overton	code	133
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3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name	County Executive, Overton County		
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street & number	Overton County Courthouse, Court Square		
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city, town	Livingston	vicinity of	state	Tennessee	38570
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5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Overton County Courthouse		
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street & number	Court Square		
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city, town	Livingston	state	Tennessee	38570
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6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title	Historical and Architectural Survey	has this property been determined eligible?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
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date	January 1977	federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> state	<input type="checkbox"/> county	<input type="checkbox"/> local
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depository for survey records	Tennessee Historical Commission, 4721 Trousdale Drive			
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city, town	Nashville	state	Tennessee	37219
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7. Description

Condition		Check one		Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins			<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed				

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Overton County Courthouse, located in Livingston, a small Cumberland Plateau city, was built in 1868-69. The two-and-a-half story, rectangular brick building has an attractive, symmetrical, and graceful appearance, and it is deceptively commodious. The contractor sited the structure so that the ridge of the low gable, slate roof falls roughly along a northeast-southwest line. Erected on a cut stone foundation, all walls have common bond brickwork topped with an elongated denticulated brick frieze.

The pedimented northeast and southwest elevations are identical. Each has three bays, doubled sash and transom windows, and a recessed round-arch entrance which features a fanlight and double-leaf French doors. All window surrounds have flat arches, vertical-joint brick lintels, and plain wooden sills. The pediments have boxed, denticulated cornices and a cluster of four windows which are sized to conform to the shape of the pediment. Two chimney stacks are located near all four corners. The five-bayed northwest wall duplicates the southeast, and the fenestration and entrance treatments repeat those of the other elevations. The window openings flanking the entrances have been sealed and painted white.

The first floor of the interior has a cruciform hall which provides access to four offices. A courtroom and two small offices are located on the second floor; this area also has a mezzanine with a balcony and another small office. A public restroom is located in the attic, but the bulk of this space is used for storage.

The interior of the building underwent an extensive renovation in 1932. Concrete floors and a staircase were installed to replace the wooden originals; vaults were added to the main offices; and a balcony was constructed over the courtroom. In 1956 the county court authorized the sandblasting of the exterior, the painting of exterior woodwork, and the installation of new sashes and a slate roof. The courthouse was again remodelled in 1978-79 with funding from the Economic Development Administration. All windows were replaced but with specially made duplicates of the originals, and additional interior work was done.

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/								
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian								
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater								
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation								
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)								

Specific dates	1868-69	Builder/Architect	Joe Copeland
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Overton County Courthouse, built in 1868-69, is the eighth oldest courthouse in Tennessee. Although constructed in the post-bellum period, it is an unusual blending of the Federal and Greek Revival styles. Unlike most other Tennessee courthouses built after the Civil War, it is modest in scale and simple in plan and detail.

The Tennessee General Assembly organized Overton County in 1806 and named it in honor of John Overton, an early Nashville attorney, state supreme court justice, land speculator and confidant and business associate of Andrew Jackson. The town of Monroe was chosen as the first county seat and a log courthouse constructed there in 1808. In the same year, 1835, that the county seat was permanently moved to Livingston--a newly incorporated community named for President Jackson's secretary of state, Edward Livingston--a new courthouse was constructed. This was replaced by another building in 1850. The 1850 courthouse was destroyed in April 1865 by Confederate guerrillas led by Captain John Frances.

The present Overton County Courthouse was erected in 1868-69 by contractor Joe Copeland, and the county offices were first opened in January 1870. The cost of the building was originally set at \$9,999.99, but it was necessary for the county court to appropriate additional funds to complete the project. The building has served as the seat of government for Overton County for over 110 years. It is one of the most important and significant structures in the county, an area in which architecturally significant buildings are not abundant.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Crane, Sophie and Paul. Tennessee Taproots. Old Hickory, Tenn.: Earle-Shields, c. 1976.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property .41

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

Quadrangle name Livingston, Tennessee

UMT References See attached sheet

A [] [] [] [] []
Zone Easting

[] [] [] [] []
Northing

B [] [] [] [] []
Zone Easting

[] [] [] [] []
Northing

C [] [] [] [] []

[] [] [] [] []

D [] [] [] [] []

[] [] [] [] []

E [] [] [] [] []

[] [] [] [] []

F [] [] [] [] []

[] [] [] [] []

G [] [] [] [] []

[] [] [] [] []

H [] [] [] [] []

[] [] [] [] []

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property, on which the Overton County Courthouse stands, is outlined in red on the accompanying map, entitled Overton County, Tenn., No. 54-H,G, which is drawn to the scale of 1 inch equals 50 feet. This is the entire tract owned by Overton County.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

Cynthia Cole, Coordinator of Field Services
name/title Kay Benton, Architectural Historian

organization	Tennessee Historical Commission	date	August 27, 1980
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street & number	4721 Trousdale Drive	telephone	(615) 741-2371
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city or town	Nashville	state	Tennessee 37219
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12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Herb E. Hagan

title	Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission	date	9/24/80
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For HCRS use only

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

Herb E. Hagan

date 11/13/80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Linda Frank McClelland

date

11-12-80

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 27 1979
DATE ENTERED NOV 13 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2

Coordinates shown below.

Map has no UTM grid ticks

Latitude

36° 22' 58"

Longitude

85° 19' 23"