

PH0073300

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Florida
COUNTY: Bradford
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE DEC 27 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Old Bradford County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
209 W. Call Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Starke

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Second

STATE:  
Florida

CODE:  
012

COUNTY:  
Bradford

CODE:  
007

**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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) vacant

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Bradford County Historical Board of Trustees

STREET AND NUMBER:  
135 W. Call Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Starke

STATE:  
Florida

CODE:  
012

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Starke

STATE:  
Florida

CODE:  
012

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
N/A

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Florida

COUNTY: Bradford

ENTRY NUMBER: 100

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

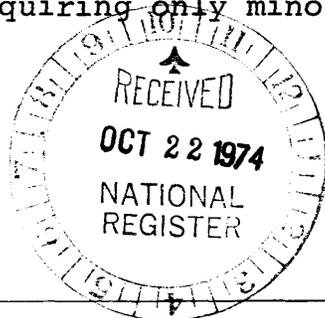
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This fine Victorian courthouse, built in the style of the Romanesque Revival, has, as the focal point of its main facade, a tall square tower with elaborate roof details. The tower roof is a steep hip with finial rising from a brick podium. Four dormers with steep gables and round arched windows project from the tower hip. Other tower fenestration includes paired round arched windows, round arched sash windows grouped in pairs with stone lintels and sills and brick corbelling and voussoirs. The building is constructed of a dark red brick with Bedford limestone and terra cotta trim. The limestone serves to contrast with the brick and the terra cotta, used for arches, spandrels, in entrance and gable ornaments and tower details, is colored to blend with the brick. Set into the base of the tower is the main entrance, defined by a wide expanse of archway cut out of a porch, one bay wide and one bay deep. Side bays are defined by smaller arches. Steps lead up to the porch where the arch springs from brick piers. Symmetrically arranged fenestration flanks the entry and tower. All windows are double-hung sash. Those on the first floor are hung in pairs and set into common round arched surrounds. They are topped with lunettes, with continuous labels and keystones. Second floor windows are paired sash in plain surrounds with flat stone lintels.

The building has a steep hipped roof with intersecting gables on the east and west and two dormers on the south front. Dormers have paired round arched windows with brick labels beneath a steep gable. Four tall brick chimneys are located in the four corners of the roof. The building has a fine architrave and dentilled cornice beneath the eaves, brick water table and stone inset inscribed BRADFORD COUNTY atop the central bay of the porch. Access to the building can also be gained through round arched entrances in both the east and west elevations. These entrances are set into the base of pavilions topped by the intersecting gables. On side elevations, fenestration is regular, all windows being double-hung sash with flat-topped lintels.

The building, one of the largest and finest Victorian structures in the state, is being prepared for restoration. It is at this time not in use, although it is structurally sound and in good condition, requiring only minor repairs.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**3. 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) **1902**

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/Phi-        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | osophy  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Bradford County Courthouse, constructed in 1902 at a cost of \$12,500, is one of the few original courthouses of architectural and historical significance remaining in the state of Florida. It is the only public building of major historic value left in Bradford County.

Recognizing the importance of this structure, not only to the community, but to the state, the 1973 session of the Florida Legislature passed House Bill No. 2094 creating the Bradford County Board of Historical Trustees and designating the courthouse as an historic site.

Bradford County was created by the partitioning of New River County in 1861. It was named for Capt. Richard Bradford of Tallahassee, a Florida officer killed in the Civil War at the Battle of Santa Rosa Island.

Bradford County then included what is now Union County, and since Lake Butler had been the county seat of New River County prior to partitioning, it remained the first county seat of Bradford County. Due to construction, in the late 1850's, of the famous Atlantic to Gulf Railroad, passing through Starke, this community began to outgrow Lake Butler and in 1874 its citizenry petitioned the County Commission to hold a county seat election. The election was held January 18, 1875 and Starke was declared by the canvassing board to be the winner. Because of irregularities, however, Lake Butler citizens took the matter to court, and the election was voided by court order three years later. On the basis of evidence presented at the trial, the county seat was moved back to Lake Butler, and there followed a series of three more elections, approximately every ten years, with the county seat moving back and forth between Starke and Lake Butler four times.

After Starke won in the last election in 1898, it was decided to build a new courthouse in that town. It was completed in May of 1902. The argument still continued between the two sections of the county, however, and finally to settle the dispute, legislation was introduced in 1921 dividing the county. New River was the dividing line, and the western part of the county became Union County.

(con't.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

45  
17 / 3312990  
392730

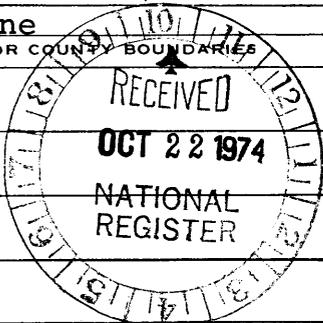
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N29° 56' 40"	W82° 06' 41"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than one**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Diane D. Greer, Historic Sites Specialist**

ORGANIZATION: **Division of Archives, History & Records Mgt.** DATE: **June, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Department of State, The Capitol**

CITY OR TOWN: **Tallahassee** STATE: **Florida** CODE: **012**

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 *Robert Williams*  
**Robert Williams**  
Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date October 14, 1974

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

*R. R. Montrose*  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/27/74

ATTEST:  
*W. Montrose*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date DEC 26 1974

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(Continuation Sheet)

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COUNTY	Bradford	
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(Number all entries) 8. Significance

The old courthouse is located in the original "downtown" section of Starke and is already serving some adaptive uses, with plans to devote a portion of it to a county museum. This will assist in "renewing" the old business district of Starke.

Architecturally, this is one of the finest Victorian buildings in the state. It is on a scale comparable with few others and possesses fine details associated with the Romanesque Revival style.



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(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries) 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bradford County Courthouse, Starke, Florida. Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Bradford County Records. (Subgroup: Deed Book 4, p. 348, Bk. D, p. 347).

\_\_\_\_\_. (Subgroup: Minutes of the County Commissioners for the year 1902, pp. 122-134).

\_\_\_\_\_. (Subgroup: Minutes of the County Commissioners; original specification for construction of the courthouse.

Eppes, Susan Bradford. Through Some Eventful Years. 1926, pp. 159-160.

Florida Statutes, December, 1861. Supreme Court Library, Tallahassee, Florida.

Original photographs of the courthouse taken in 1902, 1904 and 1910. Copies in possession of Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Department of State, The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida.

