

713

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bryan County Courthouse
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number College Street
city, town Pembroke () vicinity of
county Bryan code GA 029
state Georgia code GA zip code 31321

() not for publication

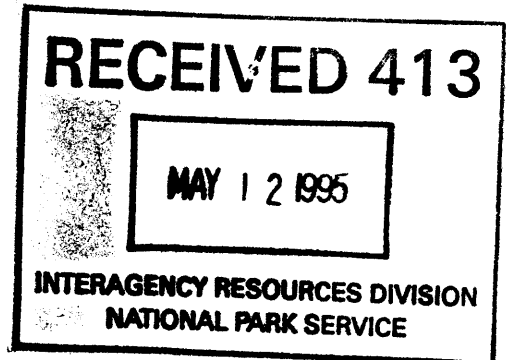
3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- () private
- (X) public-local
- () public-state
- () public-federal

Category of Property

- (X) building(s)
- () district
- () site
- () structure
- () object



Number of Resources within Property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: n/a

Name of related multiple property listing: County Courthouses In Georgia

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards
Signature of certifying official

5/05/95
Date

Mark R. Edwards
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, explain:
- see continuation sheet

Edson A. Beall 6/14/95

Entered in the
National Register

Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

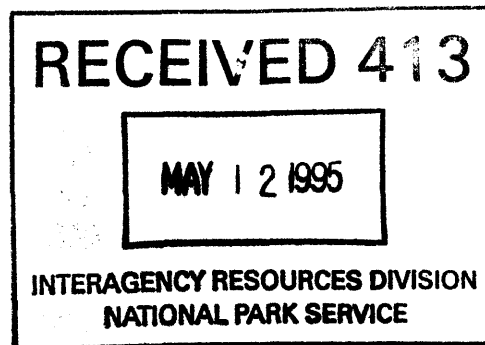
6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

GOVERNMENT: courthouse
GOVERNMENT: correctional facility

Current Functions:

GOVERNMENT: courthouse
GOVERNMENT: correctional facility



7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Neoclassical Revival

Materials:

foundation brick
walls brick
roof asphalt
other wood

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Bryan County Courthouse is located in Pembroke, Georgia in southeast Georgia, approximately twenty-five miles from the coast of Georgia. The Bryan County Courthouse was built in 1938 and designed by Walter P. Marshall, an architect from Savannah, Georgia.

The two-story, brick, Neoclassical Revival-style courthouse has a side-gable central mass and hipped roof side wings. The roof has asphalt shingles and the foundation is brick. The central portion contains a pedimented portico with four Corinthian columns, two pilasters, dentils, engraved "Bryan County Courthouse," and clock. The main double door entrance with single-light transom is pedimented with brackets. The windows are either 6/6/6, triple sash or 6/6, double hung. The side entrances are recessed with double, glass and aluminum doors.

The interior layout of the building is a cross plan with hallways radiating from each entrance to the center. County office space is on the first floor and the courtroom and more office space is on the second floor. There used to be double staircases on the north and south ends of the first-floor halls; however, the interior has been extensively remodeled. Now there are doors nearing the end of the north and south ends of the halls that lead to single staircases. The interior arrangement of the offices has also been altered. There is little historic material or architectural detailing left on the interior, except for some wainscoting on the second floor. The courtroom has also been remodeled.

In 1969, 1990, and 1993, annexes were built and/or added to the rear of the courthouse so that all of the buildings are now connected.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7

Built at approximately the same time as the courthouse and immediately behind it, the jail has been connected to the other annexes and is still in use. The other buildings are one-story brick buildings with classical detailing.

The Bryan County Courthouse is on a flat 1.69 acre lot with pines, oaks, and holly bushes. Sidewalks extend from each entrance to the street.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Architecture
Politics and Government

Period of Significance:

1938-1945

Significant Dates:

1938 - Courthouse constructed

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

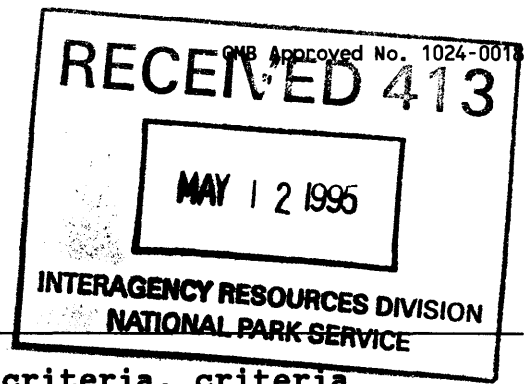
n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

1938 Courthouse - Walter P. Marshall, architect (Savannah, GA)
1938 Courthouse - B. Josselson & H.F Gregory, contractors
1990 Courthouse Renovation - Edwin C. Eckles, architect
1990 Courthouse Renovation - Stewart & Associates, contractors

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8



Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Bryan County Courthouse is significant in architecture as a good and intact example of a Neoclassical Revival-style community landmark type of building built during the 1930s. The classical style of architecture became popular for use in public buildings after the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 which featured the "White City," which was made up of classical style buildings that housed the exhibits. The use of classical elements in public buildings continued until the mid-20th century. As reflected in the Bryan County Courthouse, the classical elements became more understated after the 1910s, as seen in its unadorned portico and simple facade. This more straight forward style can in part be attributed to the higher cost of building and the lessening of available public funds during and after the Depression, as well as to the rise of modern architecture which favored function over form and a lack of stylistic elements.

Like other community landmark type of buildings, the Bryan County Courthouse is freestanding and, when built, it was the most elaborate and modern in Pembroke and reflected the architectural trends of the period. As a centerpiece for public gatherings, the courthouse provides a sense of place and cohesiveness for the citizens and symbolizes the permanence, stability, and strength of a county.

In politics and government, the courthouse is significant because this area--containing the county courthouse and county jail--has been the center for county governmental activity since 1938 when the courthouse was built. In Georgia and throughout the South, county government has traditionally been the strongest form of local government. The courthouse is Bryan County's third courthouse.

The Bryan County Courthouse is one of 19 Georgia courthouses built from 1930 to 1945. It is one of 7 courthouses that have not been documented as being funded by the federal government through one of its Depression Era relief programs. However, because of the establishment of Fort Stewart in Bryan County which caused the county seat to be changed to Pembroke in 1937, the Department of Defense probably underwrote the cost of the move and the building of a new courthouse.

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Section 8

National Register Criteria

The Bryan County Courthouse is eligible under Criterion A for its significance in the political and governmental history of Bryan County. It is eligible under Criterion C as a good example of a Neoclassical Revival-style community landmark building.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification)

The courthouse was constructed in 1938 and 1945 marks the fifty-year cutoff for historical significance.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The courthouse retains its integrity and was built within the period of significance. There are no noncontributing resources.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

Bryan County was created by Act of the Georgia Legislature on December 19, 1793 from parts of Effingham and Chatham Counties. The county was named for Jonathan Bryan who was a Revolutionary War patriot and a member of the Crown's Royal Executive Council of the Colony of Georgia in 1777. Hardwicke, which was on the Ogeechee River and is no longer in existence, was named the first and temporary county seat. In 1797, the county seat was moved to Cross Roads and later to Clyde which was located in the center of Bryan County. Clyde remained the county seat till 1937 before World War II when Fort Stewart was established during the late 1930s military build-up. Fort Stewart utilizes 105,200 acres of the 289,900 acres in Bryan County, which is one of the largest counties in Georgia.

Pembroke developed when the Savannah and Atlanta Railroad reached the thirty-second mile post of its extension west of Savannah. A few people began to establish residences in this area and in 1905 the town was incorporated. Pembroke was named the county seat when Fort Stewart took over Clyde. Pembroke was the largest town in Bryan County until the 1980s when it was surpassed by Richmond Hill.

**National Register of Historic Places
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Section 8

The first permanent courthouse was a wooden structure built in 1854 in Clyde. Another wooden building was erected in 1910 in Clyde, but it was razed in 1942 for the building of Fort Stewart. The Federal Government and the Department of Defense probably provided the funds to move the county seat to Pembroke, as well as to build the courthouse. The present courthouse was completed in 1938. It was designed by Walter P. Marshall and constructed by B. Josselson and H.F. Gregory.

An annex was added to the courthouse in 1969. In 1990 and 1993, major renovations of the courthouse were completed. The funds for this renovation were from a one percent special purpose sales tax which also paid for further additions at the rear of the building. Edwin C. Eckles was the architect for the project and Stewart and Associates were the contractors.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Partners in Progress: Bryan County, Georgia. Pembroke, GA: The Bryan County Commissioners, c.1969.

The History of Bryan County, Georgia, 1793-1985. Sponsored by The Bryan County Historical Society, 1985.

Sharp, Leslie N. "County Courthouses in Georgia," Multiple Property Documentation Form, amended submission. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A

- () preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- () previously listed in the National Register
- () previously determined eligible by the National Register
- () designated a National Historic Landmark
- () recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- () recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- (X) State historic preservation office
- () Other State Agency
- () Federal agency
- () Local government
- () University
- () Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

n/a

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.69 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 442390 Northing 3555200

Verbal Boundary Description

This nomination encompasses the Bryan County Courthouse and the Bryan County Jail, as indicated with a heavy black line on the enclosed tax map, drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

This nomination includes the property owned by Bryan County which includes the courthouse, its lawn, and the Jail.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leslie N. Sharp, National Register Consultant
organization Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG)
street & number 50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 1000
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 522-5022 **date** April 13, 1995

(OHP form version 12-08-93)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

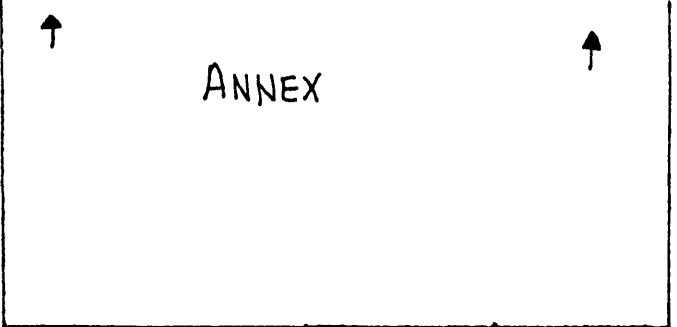
Photographs

Name of Property: Bryan County Courthouse
City or Vicinity: Pembroke
County: Bryan County
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: March 1995

Description of Photograph(s):

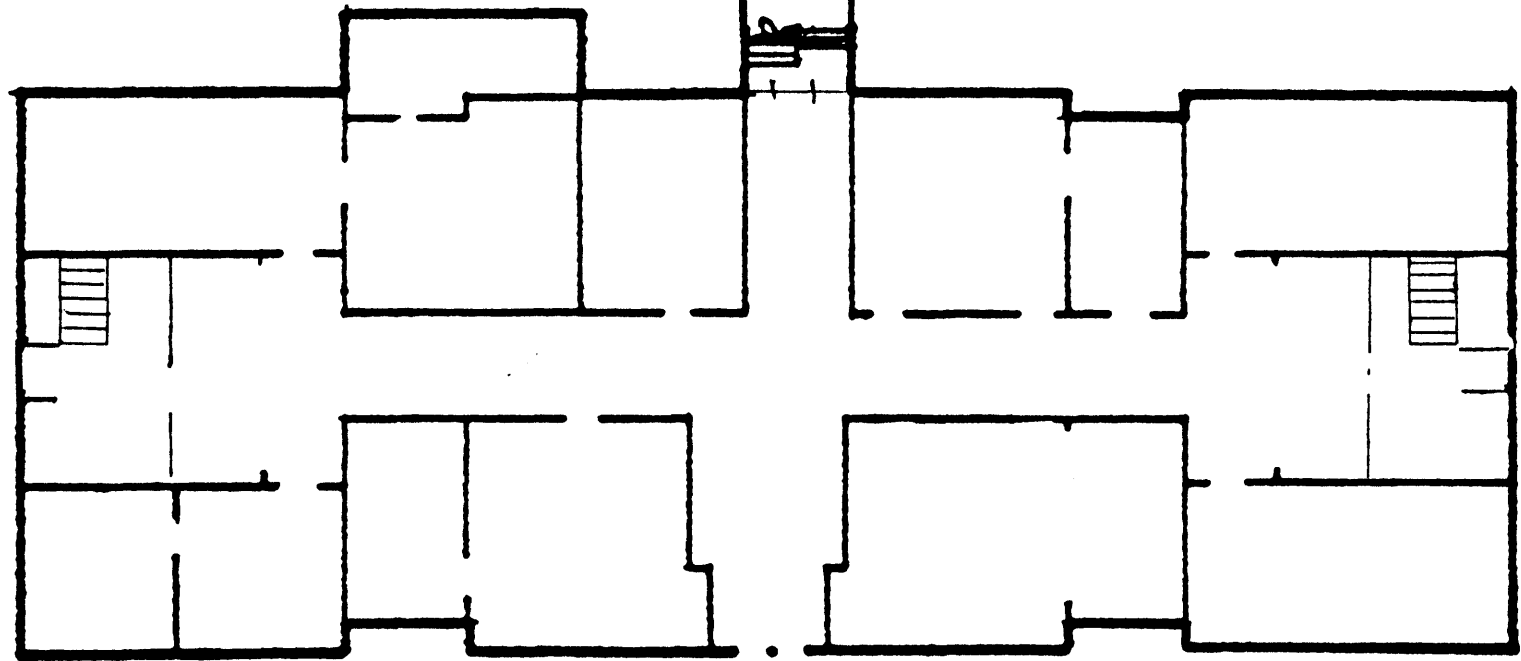
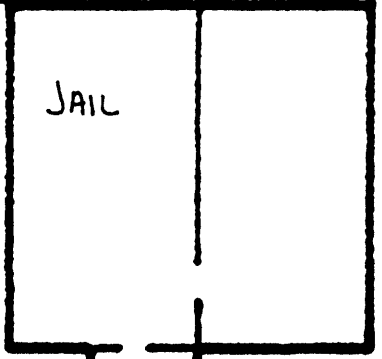
- 1 of 5: Bryan County Courthouse, front facade; photographer facing northeast.
- 2 of 5: Courtroom; photographer facing northeast.
- 3 of 5: Courthouse, Jail, and Annex; photographer facing southwest.
- 4 of 5: Courthouse, Jail, and Annex; photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 5: Courthouse, west and south facades; photographer facing northeast.

3



Bryan County Courthouse
 Bryan County, Georgia
 First Floor Plan
 Not to Scale
 Photographs: >
 North: ←

4

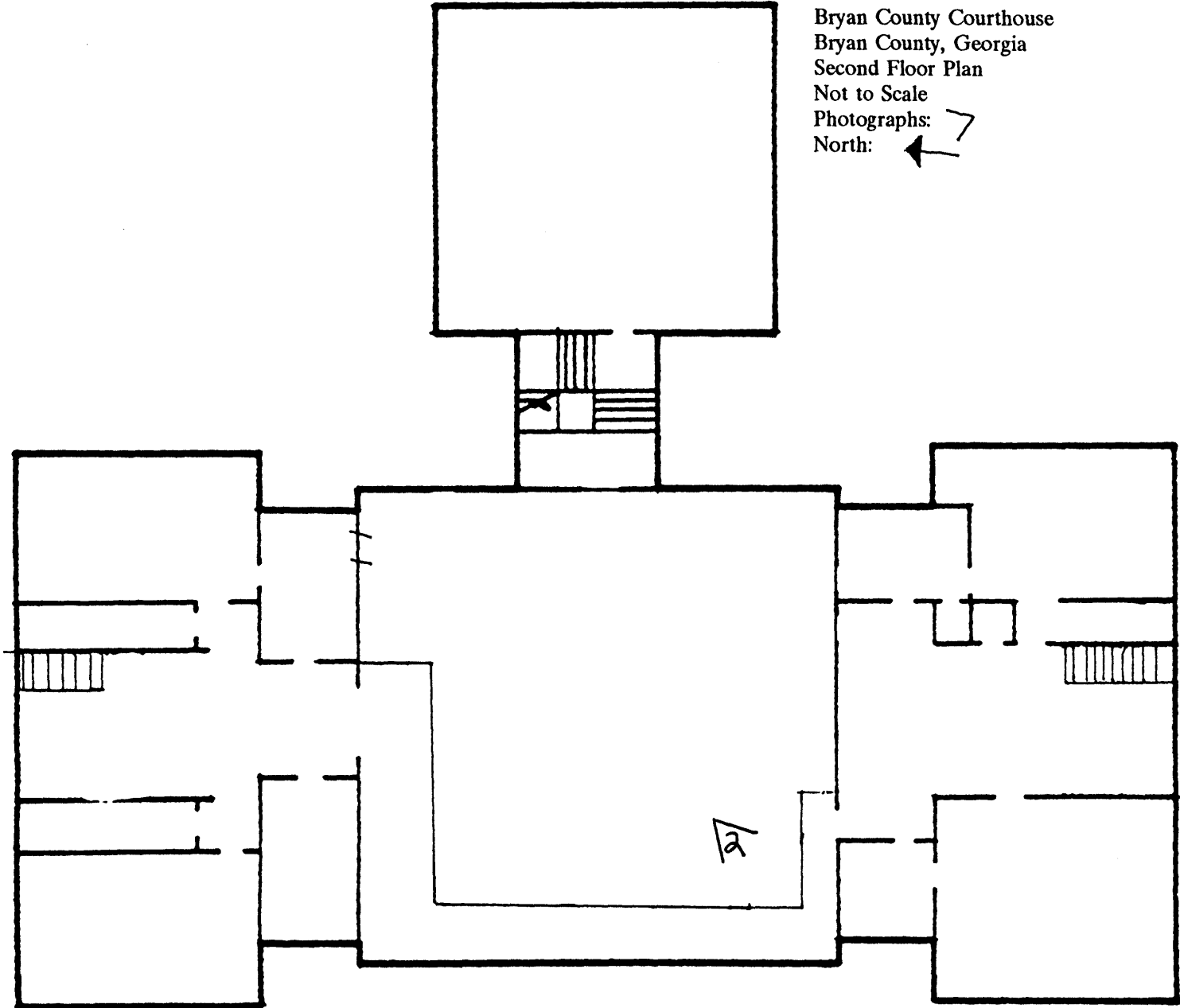


FIRST FLOOR

11

5



Bryan County Courthouse
Bryan County, Georgia
Second Floor Plan
Not to Scale
Photographs: ↗
North: ←



SECOND FLOOR

2

STREET

Bryan County Courthouse
 Bryan County, Georgia
 Tax Map
 National Register Boundary: 
 Scale: 1" = 100'
 North: 

2

3

STREET

COURTHOUSE

STREET



COUNTY COURTHOUSE

15

P12

S. COURTHOUSE STREET

2.61 AC