

**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 Moore County Courthouse and Jail

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Court Square not for publication

city, town Lynchburg vicinity of congressional district Fourth

state Tennessee code 047 county Moore code 127

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> 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
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> 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, Moore County

street & number Moore County Courthouse, Court Square

city, town Lynchburg vicinity of state 37253

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Moore County Courthouse

street & number Court Square

city, town Lynchburg state Tennessee 37253

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historical and Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date January 18, 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission, 4721 Trousdale Drive

city, town Nashville state Tennessee 37220

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Moore County Courthouse stands in the court square in Lynchburg. Located in south central Tennessee, Moore County is the state's smallest, and Lynchburg, with a population of about 400, ranks among the smaller county seats.

The rectangular, two-story, Italianate, brick courthouse was erected in 1885 by S.L.P. Garrett at a cost of \$6,875. The twenty-inch thick walls stand on a cut and coursed limestone foundation, and the building is covered with a hip roof, which now has composition shingles. A square cupola, with a bellcast pyramidal roof and finial and ornamented with a bracketed cornice, surmounts the courthouse. Tall brick chimney stacks are located at each corner of the original building. In 1967-68, wings were added to the northeast and southwest elevations; these additions exactly match the original in appearance and detail.

The southeast and northwest facades are identical. The 1885 section of each contains five bays, and the 1967-68 wings increase this number to seven. An ornate, bracketed cornice girds the entire building. In all the bays, except the center, the window treatment is the same; six over six sashes and heavy molded hoods. The center bays of the facades each have a pavilion surmounted by a broken-based pediment; the first-story, double-leaf, glazed doors are topped with a fanlight and a heavy, round-arched mold outlines the entrance as do the large six-pointed star tie rod cleats. (This entrance treatment repeats on all four elevations.)

At the second level the center bay has paired, round-headed windows and an especially ornate hood mold with a finial-like element in the key stone position. The northeast and southwest elevations are the same; each has three bays: the windows duplicate those found throughout the building and the entrance treatment has been described above.

The interior has been extensively remodeled. Only vestiges of the original treatment, such as a few doors and their painted transoms, and a portion of the balustrade remain.

Approximately 150 feet southwest of the courthouse stands the Moore County Jail. This building predates the courthouse by almost 10 years. A contract for the jail building, including the jailer's residence, in the amount of \$2,550 was awarded to Bobo and Stegall. The contractos completed the project in January 1876.

The two-story brick jail stands on a cut and coursed limestone foundation and has a T plan. The present roof is covered with composition shingles and six chimney stacks bristle from it. The main section of the building has a gable roof, while the ell has a gable roof.

The three-bay facade (northwest elevation) has a small porch sheltering the round-arched entrance; the porch trim is well preserved and a characteristic nineteenth-century feature. A decorative brick cornice girds the entire building. The northeast and southwest elevations are nearly identical; each has four bays (two in the main section and two in the ell). A small shed-roofed addition has been attached to the southwest wall. Another, similar element has been added to the southeast elevation; this wall has no second floor windows.

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

Specific dates 1885 **Builder/Architect** S.L.P. Garrett - Bobo and Stegall

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Tennessee General Assembly created Moore County on December 14, 1871, from fractions of Lincoln, Franklin, and Bedford Counties. Named for Major General William Moore, who served during the War of 1812 and was a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives (1825–27), Moore County was formally organized at Tolley and Eaton Hall in Lynchburg on June 3, 1872; a month later Lynchburg was selected as the county seat. The county court met in the Christian Church and later in a schoolhouse until a courthouse could be built.

S.L.P. Garrett was awarded a contract in 1884 by the court to erect a substantial two-story, brick courthouse. The 40' x 60' building was to have the county offices located on the first floor and the courtroom on the second. The \$6,875 courthouse was completed in April, 1885.

Prior to constructing the courthouse, the county had already built a jail on a town lot southwest of the courthouse purchased from Col. J. M. Hughes for \$200. The contract for this project was awarded to Bobo and Stegall for \$2,550 and covered construction of a jail and jailer's quarters combined. The jail when constructed had two 8' x 8' cells built of heavy oak timbers. The contractors completed the project on June 7, 1875.

Moore County has traditionally had the smallest population of the 95 Tennessee counties. With 124 square miles, it is also one of the smallest in area. The county has had only one permanent courthouse and jail, and these buildings are being nominated.

Only four Tennessee courthouses built in the 1880s survive. The Moore County Courthouse is the last courthouse in the state built in the Italianate style; moreover, it is one of the finest examples of this style extant today. When the county government was faced with the problem of expanding its office space, it chose to add wings to the original building, and these wings were completely sympathetic to the 1880s design and duplicate its details exactly.

The Moore County Jail retains, with minor exceptions, its original appearance. With its fine Victorian porch and ornamental brick cornice, the building is not simply utilitarian in design.

Together the jail and courthouse illustrate a rare surviving combination of the only essential public buildings required in a nineteenth century rural Tennessee county. Both buildings are in excellent condition and retain, in large measure, their original appearance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Sophie and Paul Crane, Tennessee Raproots, Old Hickory, Tenn: Earle-Shields, Publishers, 1976.
 Jack Daniels Distillery Public Relations Office, Nashville, Tennessee.
The Goodspeed Histories of Giles, Lincoln, Franklin, and Moore Counties of Tennessee,
 Columbia, Tenn.: Woodward and Stinson Printing Co., 1972.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Courthouse tract: .53 approx. Jail tract: .344
 Quadrangle name Cumberland Springs Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References

A	1 6	5 5 7 0 4 0	3 9 0 4 3 5 0	B	1 6	5 5 7 0 0 0	3 9 0 4 2 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 6	5 5 6 9 0 0	3 9 0 4 2 5 0	D	1 6	5 5 6 9 4 0	3 9 0 4 4 0 0
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property consists of two tracts which are outlined in red on the accompanying map, Lynchburg, Moore County, No. 32-H-D, which is drawn to the scale of 1 inch = 400 feet. The entire tracts on which the courthouse and jail stand, and which are owned by Moore County, are included in this nomination.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

Barbara Hume Church, Architectural Historian
 name/title Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services

organization Tennessee Historical Commission date January 18, 1979

street & number 4721 Trousdale Avenue telephone (615) 741-1628

city or town Nashville, state Tennessee 37220

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

Robert E. Dalton

Executive Director and
 State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/24/79

For HCRS use only

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

William H. Brasham

date 9-26-79

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Beth Garrison*

date 9/26/79

Chief of Registration