



ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY FORM

Name of structure: Seminole County Courthouse

Location: Courthouse Square, Donalsonville, Georgia 31745

Cost: \$85,000 (for courthouse & jail), Date of construction: 1922
\$140,695 (renovation) 1978-79 - renovation

Architect/builder: William J. Chase Contractor: Opelika Construction Co.

Subsequent architects: _____

TAX MAP/PARCEL NUMBERS

Map D9 Parcel 5-1

UTM NO. Zone 16/E701870/N3435960

DESCRIPTION:

Style: Beaux Arts: Classical

Facade Material: Brick/ limestone trim

Condition: () Excellent (x) Good () Fair

Boundary: The oval "block" upon which the courthouse sits. Also on this property is a non-historic government services building. *see 7/21/80 addendum for info on other building*
 Acreage: 2 acres

This is a two story rectangular building with a central core flanked by wings. On the rear, there is an addition. The projecting entrance is Ionic tetrastyle with columns rising two full stories. They are capped by an entablature which has the words, "Seminole County Courthouse", and a balustrade with a clock centered over the main entrance. On each side of the clock is a lengthy Latin inscription. The front entrance has a round arched doorway. The double windows on each side of it are also round arched. In the arches are decorative foliate designs. Above each arch are pairs of garlands swagged in the Roman manner. Other windows have flat arches with the keystones and end voussoirs emphasized. On each side of the columns on the second story are circular tablets that contain sculptured Indian heads.

There has been some alteration on the interior. The vaults have been enlarged and doors have been installed in each end of the hallways for fire safety.

The interior of the courtroom is not altered. Behind the judge's bench is a small pediment with coupled columns on each side. Circular medallions containing Roman numerals I - X, symbolizing the Ten Commandments are in the four corners of the courtroom. One is over an exit used by jurors as they leave the courtroom to deliberate. Walls and ceilings are of plaster; the old ceiling fans remain. The wooden spectator benches were refinished during the 1978-79 renovation.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This is the most outstanding building in Donalsonville, a town of 3,500 people. Architecturally it is one of the more outstanding 1920's courthouse structures in the state, because of the plan and the interior and exterior detailing.



SEMINOLE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

MAILING ADDRESS:

Chairman
County Commissioners
Seminole County Courthouse
Courthouse Square
Donalsonville, Ga. 31745



SEP 18