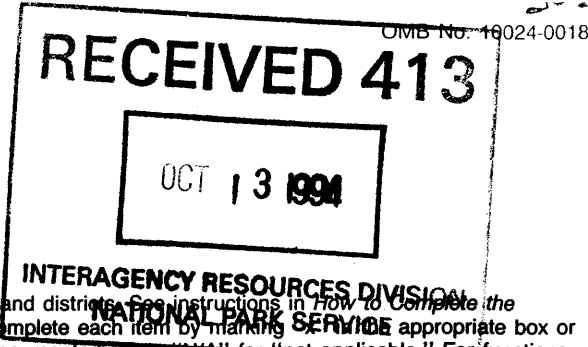


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Walthall County Courthouse and Jail

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 200 Ball Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Tylertown N/A vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Walthall code 147 zip code 39667

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility 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  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Pearl October 4, 1994  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

for  
Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper  
Entered in the National Register 11-10-94 Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
	1	objects
2	2	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government/Courthouse

Government/Correctional Facility

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government/Courthouse

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italian Renaissance

Prairie School

Classical Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

\_\_\_\_\_

roof ceramic tile

other stone (pilasters and trim)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1916-17

**Significant Dates**

1916-17

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Architect: Kramer, Xavier A.

Builder: Little-Cleckler Construction Company

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- 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:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property .2 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1   5	7   7   2   6   2   0	3   4   4   5   8   7   5
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Todd Sanders, Architectural Historian

organization Mississippi Department of Archives and History date June 20, 1994

street & number P.O. Box 571 telephone (601) 359 - 6940

city or town Jackson state MS zip code 39205

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Walthall County Board of Supervisors

street & number P.O. Box 351 telephone (601) 876 - 3553

city or town Tylertown state MS zip code 39667

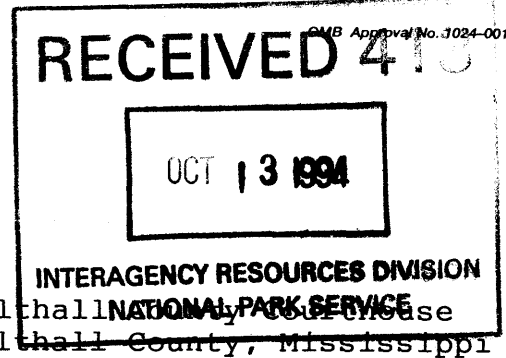
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1



Situated on Ball Avenue near the center of the downtown commercial district in Tylertown, Mississippi, the Walthall County Courthouse is a large public building constructed in 1916-1917 of red brick with classical motifs of stone. Set on a low basement story and capped by shallow, red-tiled, hipped roofs with broad overhanging eaves, the facade is symmetrically composed of a dominant central block which is broader and higher than the two flanking wings.

The three-bay central facade is distinguished by an attic story, a deeply bracketed cornice, four giant-order Ionic pilasters of stone set in antis between brick pseudo-pilasters and windows framed as single units but lighting the upper two stories. Across the width of the block is a broad, stepped plinth in the center of which a handicap access ramp has been constructed. The central entrance doorway is surmounted by stone consoles, cornice and acroteria. In the center of this cornice is a cartouche which contains the intertwined initials "W C" for Walthall County.

On the two-story wings, brick pseudo-pilasters support a full entablature with plain brick frieze and deeply modillioned cornice. The pilasters divide the elevations into large recessed bays which contain two-over-two sash windows with fixed transoms. In the center of the western elevation is a doorway at the first floor level which opens into a covered walkway leading to the 1963 jail. There originally was a door in the same location on the eastern elevation that has since been replaced with a window. The original bracketed hood still survives over this window.

The composition is unified by materials and decorative elements common to all three blocks. These elements include stone panels serving as caps to the brick pseudo-pilasters, a stone water table, diamond inserts of stone set in the brick panels between the first and second story windows, and stone window sill corner blocks. The building is further decorated by Sullivanesque floral decorations consisting of a stylized bell flower within a Greek cross-like shape located near the top of the two outermost pseudo-pilasters of the facade. Another version of this ornament without the cross-like shape is found near the top of the other pseudo-pilasters on the center block of the facade and on the east and west elevations.

A remodeling in 1974-75 resulted in some loss of integrity, most notably on the interior. Major changes to the exterior include the replacement of the original main door with a bronze glass and metal

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Walthall County Courthouse  
Walthall County, Mississippi

Section number 7 Page 2

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frame double-leaf door with fixed sidelights and transom. Also the side door on the eastern elevation was removed. A handicap access ramp was constructed in front of the building and bars placed over the first floor windows of the main block. A one-story addition for the chancery clerk's office was built to the rear of the main block of the building. Changes to the interior include the installation of a dropped acoustical tile ceiling and replacement of some office doors. The main interior change was the complete reworking of the courtroom. The changes to the courtroom apparently include the removal of the balcony, the addition of vestibules (leading from the western staircase into the courtroom), and the installation of new fixtures and furniture. Apparently the courtroom was reduced in size from the entire center block to only the eastern two-thirds to accommodate the new vestibules, law library and additional offices which are located in the western third.

All of the public spaces, with the exception of the courtroom, retain a high degree of integrity. The first floor corridor is elaborated by a series of pilasters, the tops of which are unfortunately obscured by the dropped acoustical tile ceiling. The walls are further trimmed with molded bases and by a high molded chair rail. Many of the original interior office doors remain along with their shouldered architraves and transoms. The original terrazzo floor is also intact. The main stairway located in the southwestern wing features a square metal newel with molded cap and decorative metal balusters. This stair connects all of the floors of the building from the basement to the third floor. A secondary stair leading only to the second floor is located in the northeastern wing of the building. The detailing of this stair is similar to that of the main stair. The corridor spaces on the second and third floors have excellent integrity. Original wood floors are still intact along with original doors and door and window trim in these areas. The door and window trim of the jury room and jury dormitory, located in the western block, is also intact. The original holding cell used while court was in session is still located in the eastern wing near the courtroom.

Located to the north of the courthouse is the old jail which was built at the same time and in the same style as the courthouse. The two-story, five-bay building with basement is constructed of red brick and has a red-tile, hipped roof with broad overhanging eaves and a deeply bracketed cornice. Each corner of the building is decorated with a pseudo-pilaster with Sullivanesque bell flower

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Walthall County Courthouse  
Walthall County, Mississippi

Section number 7 Page 3

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decorations near the top like those of the courthouse. A stone water table, which encircles the building, serves as the sill for the first floor windows. The jail interior has a remarkable degree of integrity, retaining all of the original cells and apparatus installed by the Pauly Jail Company. Unfortunately, the building has been allowed to deteriorate and is in dire need of repair.

Connected to the west end of the courthouse by a covered walkway is the new (1963) jail. This one-story with basement, red brick, flat-roofed building is a non-contributing element.

On the lawn in front of the Courthouse is a noncontributing monument to veterans of all wars. The monument consists of a vertical inscribed stone tablet. This monument is not dated but was apparently erected within the last twenty years.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Walthall County Courthouse  
Walthall County, Mississippi

Section number 8 Page 1

The Walthall County Courthouse, built in 1916-1917, is a locally important work of early twentieth century public architecture, and is a well-executed example of the classical eclectic courthouses built in Mississippi in the late 1910s and 1920s. The Courthouse and its accompanying jail are the only notable examples of this sort of eclectic architecture in Walthall County and are the county's principal architectural landmarks. Walthall County is one of the youngest counties in Mississippi, having been created in 1910. Construction was begun on the courthouse and jail only six years later.

The Walthall County Courthouse retains a relatively high degree of integrity. This type of classical eclectic architecture incorporated the most common elements of various popular architectural styles into one building. The Walthall County courthouse draws on several of the most popular styles of its day to produce a building that cannot be clearly defined as being any one style. The wide overhanging eaves and brackets of the courthouse were derived from the Italian Renaissance style; the Ionic pilasters of the facade came from the Classical Revival; and the decorative brick work and stone detailing were inspired by the Prairie Style.

The Walthall County Jail, built at the same time as the Courthouse, incorporates the same architectural elements as the Courthouse. The jail has a remarkable degree of integrity and retains the old cells installed by the Pauly Jail Company. This building is a very good example of the relatively few jails built in Mississippi county seats in the first two decades of the twentieth century.

The dominant architectural fashion for public buildings in Mississippi during the first two decades of the twentieth century was the Classical Revival. Although some important public buildings were built in the Victorian Romanesque style as late as 1902, by the time the New State Capitol was built in 1903, the preference for classical public buildings had swept the state. Of approximately 35 county courthouses built between 1903 and 1920, about 30 were of Classical Revival design, with the remainder displaying a loosely classical eclecticism. The Walthall County Courthouse is one of these.

The Walthall County Courthouse and Jail are locally notable examples of the classical eclectic civic architecture of Mississippi during the first two decades of the twentieth century and retain a relatively high degree of architectural integrity.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Walthall County Courthouse  
Walthall County, Mississippi

Section number 8 Page 2

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The courthouse and jail were designed by Xavier A. Kramer, an architect and businessman from McComb, Mississippi. Other courthouses in Mississippi designed by Kramer include the Stone County Courthouse at Wiggins (1917); the Humphreys County Courthouse at Belzoni (1921); and the Bolivar County Courthouse at Rosedale (1922).

The Walthall County Courthouse is a near twin to the Franklin County Courthouse at Meadville, Mississippi, built in 1913-14, but, curiously, it was designed by a different architect, N.W. Overstreet. (The Franklin County Courthouse was placed on the National Register in 1981).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Walthall County Courthouse  
Walthall County, Mississippi

Section number 9, 10 Page 1

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9 - Bibliographical References

Historic Resources Inventory Files. Historic Preservation Division,  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

Mississippi Landmark Files. Historic Preservation Division,  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

Site visit, February 8, 1994, by Todd Sanders, Architectural  
Historian, Mississippi Department of Archives and History,  
Jackson.

10 - Geographical Data

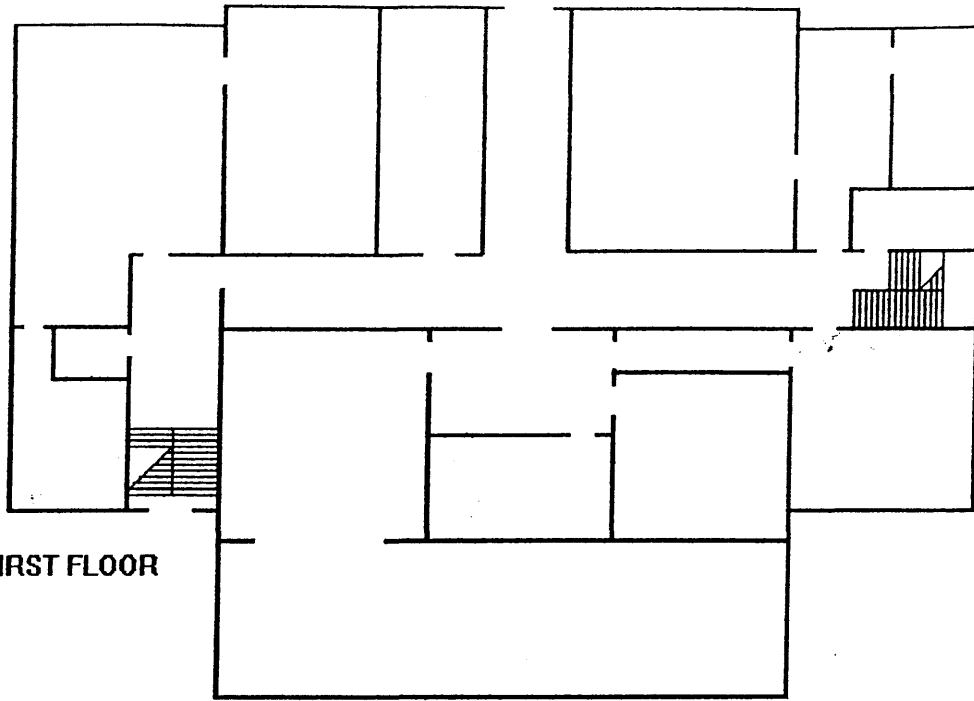
Verbal Boundary Description

That property commonly known as the County Courthouse and Old Jail,  
located at 200 Ball Avenue, Tylertown, Walthall County, and more  
particularly described as: Lot one (1) and South half (1/2) of Lot  
two (2) of Square "C" of Conerly and Ball Addition to Tylertown; also  
that portion of the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 30, Township 2  
North, Range 11 East, bounded on the West by Lot one (1), Square "C"  
of the Conerly and Ball Addition to Tylertown, on the South by Morse  
Street, on the East by Ball Avenue, and on the North by Section Line  
between Section nineteen (19) and thirty (30) and by lands owned by  
the town of Tylertown; containing 2 acres, more or less, in the NE  
1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 30, Township 2 North, Range 11 East, of  
the Meridian of Washington, as recorded in Book 18 at page 131 in the  
Office of the Chancery Clerk of Walthall County, Mississippi.

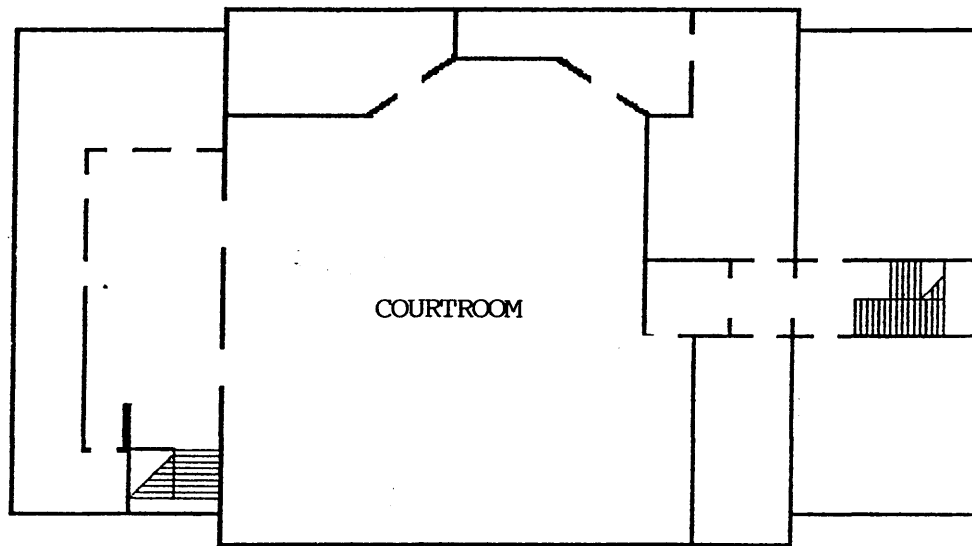
Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically  
associated with the courthouse and Jail.

WALTHALL COUNTY COURTHOUSE, TYLERTOWN, WALTHALL COUNTY, MS



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

