

712

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 Brantley County Courthouse
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 117 Brantley Street
city, town Nahunta () vicinity of
county Brantley code GA 025
state Georgia code GA zip code 31553

() not for publication

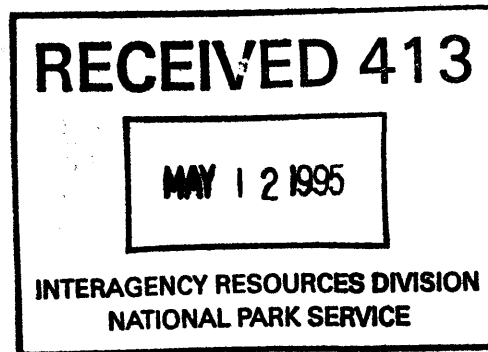
3. Classification

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	1
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	1

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

5/09/95
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

Edson H. Beall
Entered in the
National Register

6/14/95

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

Beall

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: Colonial Revival

Materials:

foundation brick
walls brick
roof asphalt
other stone

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Brantley County Courthouse is located in Nahunta, Georgia in southeast Georgia. Completed in 1930, the courthouse was designed by prominent South Georgia architect Thomas J. Darling of Waycross, Georgia. The contractors for the project were Ledsinger and Turner.

The courthouse is a two-story, brick, Colonial Revival-style building with a hipped, asphalt-shingled roof and brick foundation. On the front and rear facades, the central entrance bay is projected with recessed adjacent bays and the outer two bays projected so that they are flush with the central bay. The front entrance bay has a gable-front roof, clock, small tower, second story arched french doors and balcony, and recessed arched entrance with double doors and semi-elliptical fanlight. The rear entrance bay is identical except, it does not have the clock or the tower.

The windows are paired, 1/1, double hung with stone lintels and stools. Two one-story wings were added to the east and west facades in 1978. The wings have hipped roofs, 1/1 double-hung windows, and double glass and aluminum doors.

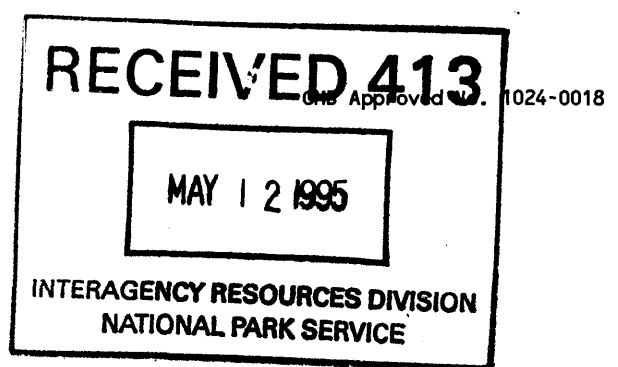
The interior layout of the courthouse is a cross plan with hallways radiating from the center to each entrance. County offices are on the first floor with a double staircase on the east end of the hall and a single staircase on the west end. The courtroom and more offices are on the second floor.

Intact interior features include pressed metal ceilings in the public spaces, vertical board wainscoting, turned wood banisters and posts, arched passageways, some fixtures and hardware, plaster walls, office

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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doors and transoms. The wood floors have been replaced by linoleum tile in the public spaces and carpeting in the offices and courtroom. Some ceilings have dropped acoustical tile and at least one office has wood paneling.

The double wood and glass door public entrance to the courtroom is on the east side of the building at the top of the double staircase. The courtroom has pressed metal ceilings, plaster walls with pilasters, transoms over the doors, original light fixtures, classical-detailed judges bench, and two sections of ornamental iron and wood flip-down public seating. Overall, the courthouse, especially the exterior, courtroom, and public spaces, have undergone little change.

The courthouse lawn includes palm trees, pines, shrubbery, crepe myrtles, and sidewalks radiating from the entrances to the street. There is parking on all sides of the courthouse with a parking lot in the rear of the building which also serves the Brantley County Jail.

Constructed in 1938-39, the Brantley County Jail is a two-story, brick building that has undergone extensive alterations. Some of the alterations include changing the flat roof to a gable roof, bricking up the windows, and expansion of the building. It is a noncontributing resource.

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:

1930-1945

Significant Dates:

1930 - Courthouse constructed

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

1930 Courthouse - T.J. Darling, architect
1930 Courthouse - Ledsinger & Turner, contractors
1978 Courthouse Addition - O'Steen & Suttles, architects
1978 Courthouse Addition - Watson-Yeagan, Inc., contractors

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

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Brantley County Courthouse is significant is architecture as a good and intact example of a Colonial 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 Brantley County Courthouse, the classical elements became more understated after the 1910s, as seen in its unadorned entrance bay and absence of columns. 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.

The intact architectural features on the interior, such as the doors, fixtures, and classical detailing in the courtroom, enhance the architectural significance of the courthouse.

Like other community landmark type of buildings, the Brantley County Courthouse is freestanding and, when built, it was the most elaborate and modern in Nahunta 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.

The courthouse is also significant in architecture as a design of Thomas Jefferson Darling (1868-1943). From Waycross, Georgia, Darling was a prominent architect in South Georgia who was known for his designs of schools, churches, depots, and residences. He was also a successful lumberman in the area.

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 1930 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 Brantley County's second courthouse.

The Brantley County Courthouse is one of 19 Georgia courthouses built from 1930 to 1945. It is one of 7 courthouses that are not documented

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as being funded by the federal government through one of its Depression Era relief programs.

National Register Criteria

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

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification)

The courthouse was constructed in 1930 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. The Jail has undergone extensive alterations and is therefore noncontributing.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

Brantley County was established August 14, 1920 by Act of the Georgia Legislature from parts of Wayne, Pierce, and Charlton Counties. The county was named for Benjamin D. Brantley, who was a mercantile businessman from Pierce County.

Hoboken was originally designated as the county seat; however, it was not going to be for long. The residents of Nahunta lobbied for their town to be the county seat. In 1922, the county took a vote to move the county seat, but it was defeated. Later that same year, another vote was taken. Because those who favored the change chartered a railroad car to transport citizens from Nahunta to Hoboken to vote, the results came out in favor of Nahunta.

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Hoboken challenged the outcome and the case went all the way to the Georgia Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of Nahunta in June of 1923. Coincidentally, on the same day as the Supreme Court decision, the Georgia General Assembly named Nahunta as the county seat.

The first Brantley County Courthouse was built in Hoboken in 1921. In 1929 after the county seat was moved to Nahunta, the county purchased the land for the present courthouse from J. B. Lewis, C. R. Britt, and C. T. Britt for \$2,500. It was also this same year that the county assumed a bond indebtedness of \$35,000. The bonds were sold for \$1,750 a piece and were to be paid out in gold coins.

The Brantley County Courthouse was started in 1929 and completed in 1930. The total cost of construction was \$29,286 and the furnishings cost \$5,714.00. The courthouse was designed by architect Thomas J. Darling from Waycross, Georgia and constructed by Ledsinger and Turner. In 1978, the two side wings were added. The architects for the project were O'Steen & Suttles from Douglas, Georgia. The contractor was Watson-Yeagin, Inc. The construction superintendent was William V. Keith.

The first Brantley County Jail in Nahunta was built in 1932, one-half mile from the present jail's location. The present jail was constructed in 1938-39. It has undergone a series of alterations, including changing the gable roof to a flat one.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Morgan, Hilton, Former Clerk of Superior Court and Local Historian.
Telephone interview by Leslie N. Sharp. Atlanta, Georgia,
September 16, 1994.

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 Approximately 1.5 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 406470 Northing 3452290

Verbal Boundary Description

This nomination encompasses the Brantley County Courthouse and the Brantley 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 Brantley County at this location 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

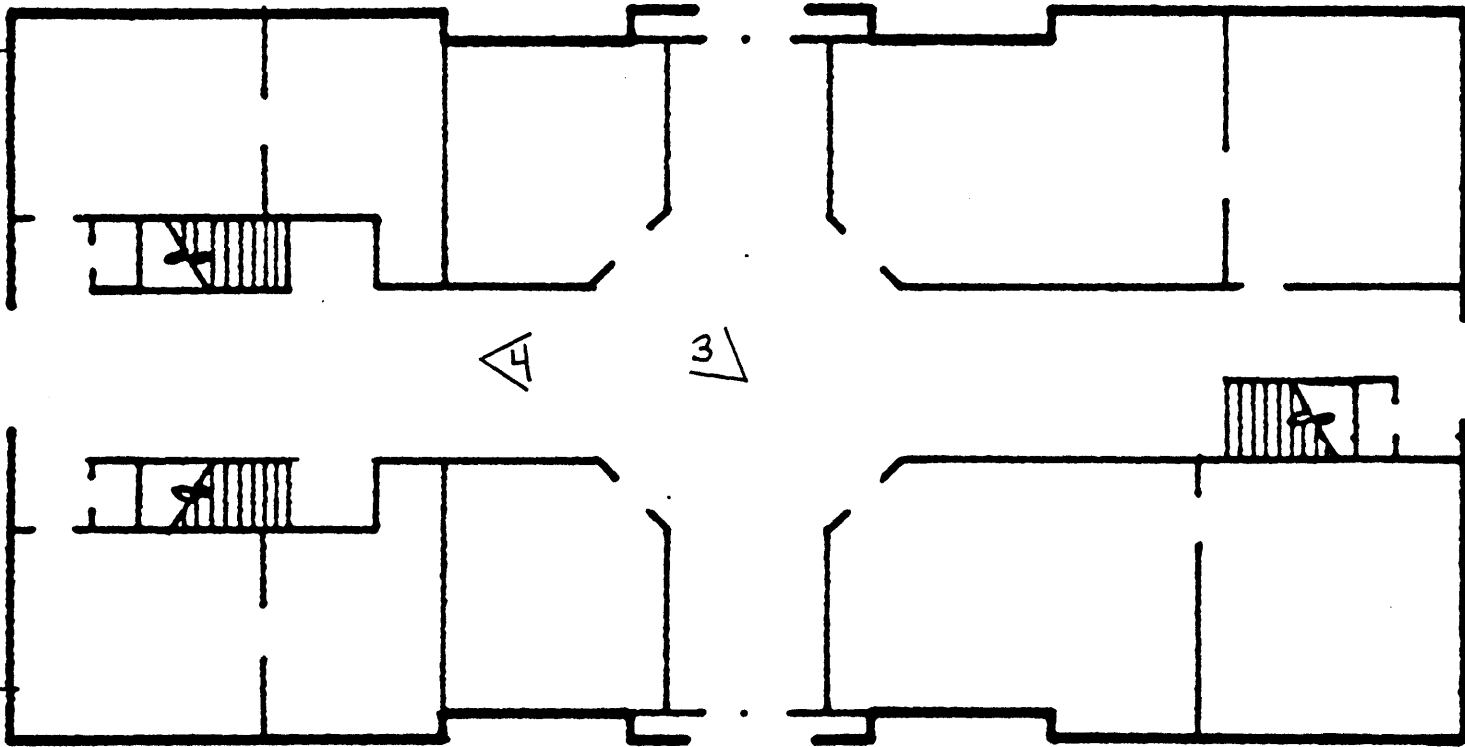
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Photographs

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

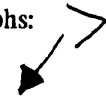
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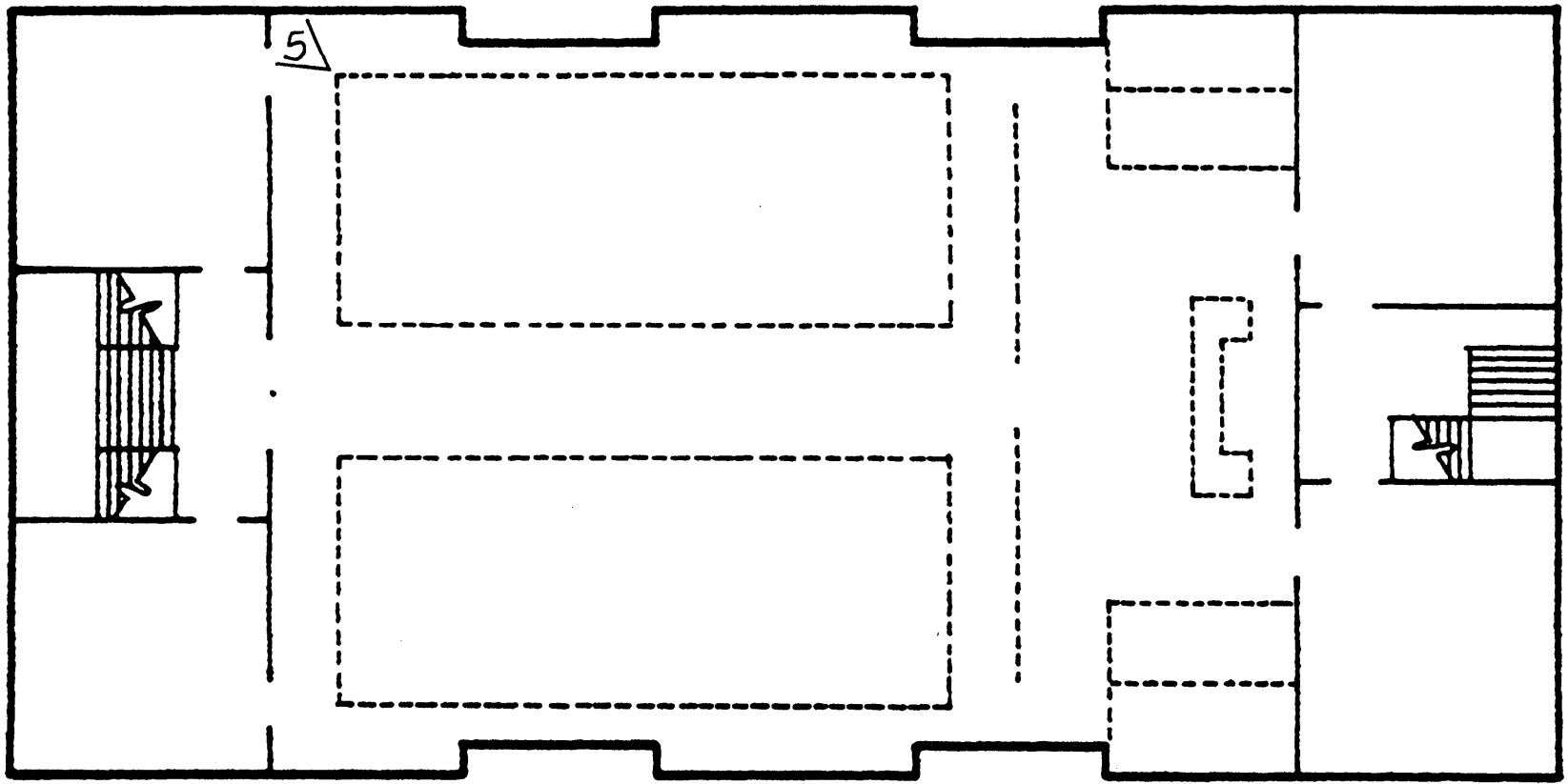
- 1 of 6: Brantley County Courthouse, front facade; photographer facing west.
- 2 of 6: Rear facade; photographer facing east.
- 3 of 6: First floor hallway; photographer facing west-northwest.
- 4 of 6: Staircases; photographer facing east-northeast.
- 5 of 6: Courtroom; photographer facing west.
- 6 of 6: Courthouse and jail; photographer facing north.



FIRST FLOOR

Brantley County Courthouse
Brantley County, Georgia
First Floor Plan
Not to Scale
Photographs:
North:



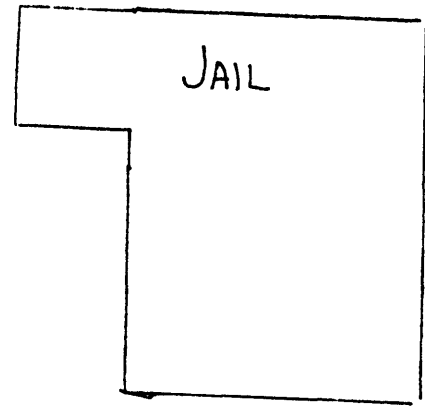
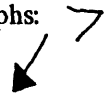


SECOND FLOOR

Brantley County Courthouse
Brantley County, Georgia
Second Floor Plan
Not to Scale
Photographs: >
North: >

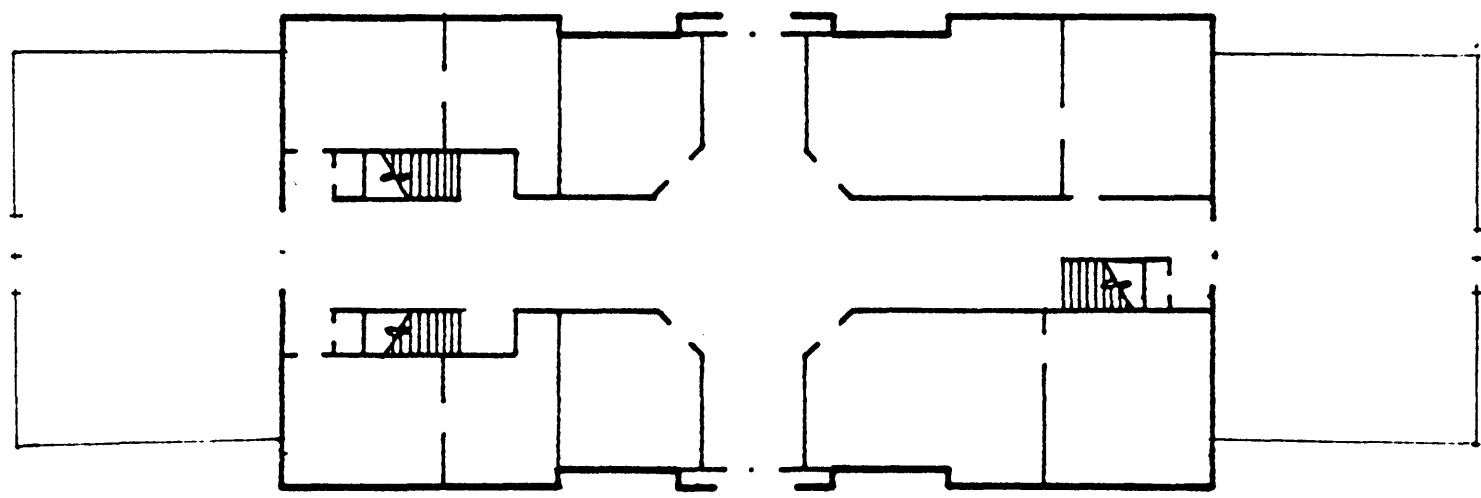


Brantley County Courthouse
Brantley County, Georgia
Site Plan
Not to Scale
Photographs:
North:

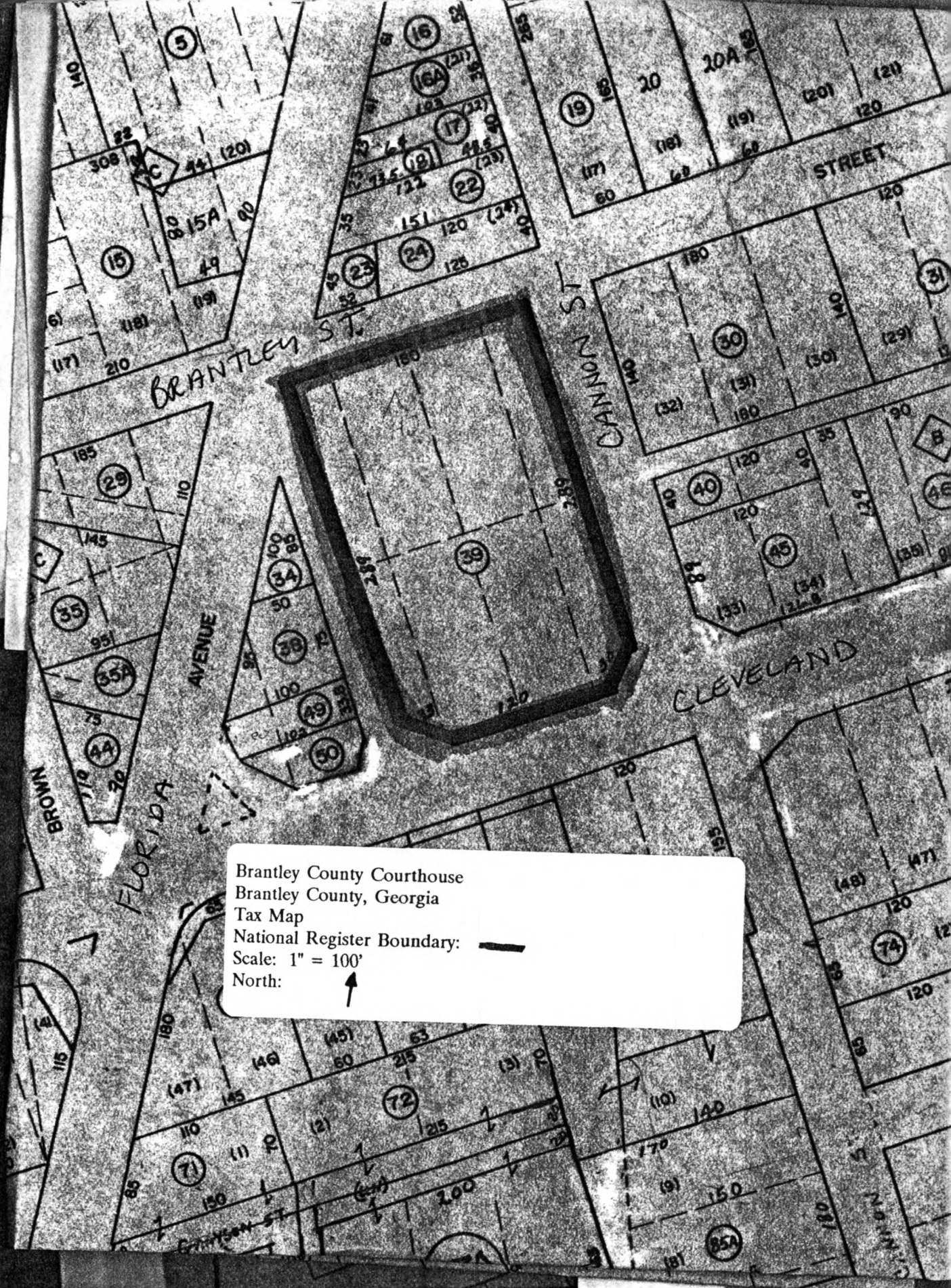



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Brantley County Courthouse
Brantley County, Georgia
Tax Map
National Register Boundary: 
Scale: 1" = 100'
North: 