## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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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 Main by (marking) \*\* This percentage by the property being documented, enter "NA" for "half plantage by the property b

1. Name of Property
historic name _ Dickson County War Memorial Building
other names/site number Lucien Berry Post No. 115 of the American Legion
2. Location
street & number 225 Center Avenue
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this important in normal normal necessary 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property important in meets in does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant in nationally in statewide in patients. It is not
State or Federal agency and bureau
4. National Park Service Certification
I hereby certify that the property is:  I hereby certification in the property is:  I
determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National
Register.  Other, (explain:)

5. Classification  Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)    private   building(s)   Contributing   Noncontributing     public-local   district     public-State   site   1     public-Federal   structure   1     sites	Dickson County War Mem Name of Property	orial Building	Dickson County, TN  County and State				
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Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Dickson County War Memorial Building Name of Property	Dickson County, TN County and State		
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.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)		
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	ARCHITECTURE SOCIAL HISTORY RECREATION/CULTURE		
■ 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 who's components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance 1932 - 1948		
□ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.			
Criteria Considerations N/A (Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)  Property is:  A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Dates 1933		
☐ B removed from its original location.	Significant Person (complete if Criterion B is marked) N/A		
☐ C moved from its original location.			
☐ D a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation N/A		
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.			
☐ F a commemorative property	Architect/Builder		
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Woolwine, Emmons H., Architect  Cowan Lumber Company, builders		
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets	3.)		
9. Major Bibliographical References			
<b>Bibliography</b> (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on c	one or more continuation sheets.)		
Previous documentation on file (NPS): 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 #	Primary location of additional data:  State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal Agency Local Government University Other Name of repository: MTSU, Center for Historic Preservation		

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name	City of	Dickson c/o Alton	E. Brown, City Adm	inistrator				
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city or t	own _D	lickson			state	TN	zip code	37055
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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 listing. 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 20303

NPS FORM 10-900-A (8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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#### 7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Dickson War Memorial is a Colonial Revival-style building that was constructed in 1932-1933. Designed by Emmons H. Woolwine, the War Memorial was built for the Lucien Berry Post No. 115 of the American Legion. The building was constructed by the Cowan Lumber Company for a total cost of \$32,945.39. It is located on a prominent city lot, with the front facing Center Avenue the and rear facing South Main Street. This block once housed the Dickson County Courthouse.

The two story Colonial Revival building is constructed of brick with an asphalt roof. The brick is arranged in a Flemish bond pattern. Brick which has a purple cast to it is used throughout the building. Normally this brick was thrown away, however, it was utilized throughout the war memorial building and identifies the brick as that made by W. G. Bush. The building consists of a central auditorium section flanked by two administrative sections. The lower level, or basement, contains meeting rooms, kitchen, mechanical support rooms and an apartment. The building retains all of the original exterior windows, doors, and light fixtures.

The facade of the building faces west and consists of a recessed symmetrical three bay center section flanked by identical projecting one-story wings. The center section has a gable roof with three symmetrically placed eyebrow dormers. A cupola and weather vane top off the building in the center of the roof. The three bays of the center section consist of three symmetrically placed French doors surmounted by a window. The windows consist of six-over-three panes and radiating panes topped with round-arched voussoirs with a concrete keystone. Centered over each bay, under a portico, hangs an original working metal and glass light fixture. Eight Roman Doric columns line the porch of the central section. The underside of the porch roof consists of a thin, wood panel ceiling. At either end of the center section porch there is a wood panel door with a storm door leading into the north and south ends of the building. Asymmetrically hung between the French doors are four bronze plaques that function as historical or memorial plaques. On either side of the central section are brick wings; both have flat asphalt roofs and contain a centered eight-over-twelve double-hung window. A flat arch with a keystone tops each window. Below each of these windows is an eight-over-eight double-hung basement window. Encircling the building is a concrete belt course which runs above the basement level windows. A similar belt course wraps around each projecting wing between the roof and the windows.

The north elevation of the building is symmetrically arranged around a central, gable end section. Projecting asymmetrically from the primary center section and aligned with the west wall of the facade is a symmetrically composed two story section which contains the exterior chimney. The second story of this projecting section contains two symmetrical six-over-six double-hung windows. One of these windows contains a window air conditioner. On the main story of the projecting section there are two symmetrically placed eight-over-twelve double-hung windows. Each window is topped with a flat arch and keystone. The basement level of the projecting

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section contains two symmetrical eight-over-eight double-hung windows. On the eastern portion of the primary center section there are two six-over-six double-hung windows, one above the other. At the top of the primary center section there is a vent. On either side of the center section there is a flat roofed one-story wing. The wing on the east side contains two symmetrically placed four-over-four double-hung windows with flat arches and keystones on the main level and one six-over-six double-hung window with flat arch and keystone on the main level and one six-over-six double-hung window on the basement level.

The east (rear) elevation consists of a three bay center section with a gable roof flanked by projecting one story wings with flat roofs. Like the facade of the building, there are three symmetrically placed eyebrow dormers, without glass, along the gabled roof. The center section's main level or auditorium level contains three symmetrically arranged French doors identical to the ones on the front facade with round arched windows and voussoirs with keystones. Symmetrically mounted on the wall between the three bays are two original light fixtures. From the main level into the north wing there is a wood, four panel door with attached storm door. Along the open porch in front of the center section, there is a rod iron railing with a Colonial Revival-influenced decorative design. Leading up to the auditorium level is a concrete stairway with a rod iron railing. The basement level of the center section has a symmetrical four bay plan with nine-over-nine double-hung windows. In front of these windows and below the auditorium level's open porch is an arched porch supported by radiating voussoirs with keystones. These four radiating voussoirs are symmetrically arranged around the concrete stairway to the auditorium level. On either side of the center section, each one-story wing contains two symmetrical six-over-six double-hung windows on the main level and the basement level. The main level windows are topped with flat arches and keystones.

A center gable end section, symmetrically flanked by two one-story wings with flat roofs comprises the south elevation. Projecting from the center gable end, there is a two-story section which contains a plain exterior chimney. On the main level of this section there are two symmetrically placed six-over-six double-hung windows with flat arches and keystones. Asymmetrically placed on the basement level is a vent and a six-over-six double-hung window. The gas line attachment for the building is against the outside of this wall. Along the side of the projection is a vent for the kitchen which was added in 1952. The wing on the right has one four-over-four double-hung window with flat arch and keystone on the main level and one six-over-six double-hung window on the basement level. The left wing contains three asymmetrically arranged windows on the main level: two four-over-four and one eight-over-twelve double-hung window. The basement level has a symmetrically placed four-over-four double-hung window.

There are two primary floors on the interior of the Dickson County War Memorial Building. Both of these floors are centered around large public rooms. The multi-purpose auditorium dominates the

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interior space of the main level. Flanking the auditorium are administrative spaces and offices. In addition, there are two bathrooms on the main level.

The auditorium is a large rectangular room with a convex ceiling. It is painted white with a sea foam green-colored Colonial Revival-styled pineapple motif painted along the length of the east and west walls below the ceiling. The original floor is tongue and groove hardwood and in excellent condition. The six French doors have round arched windows and line the east and west sides of the auditorium; three on each side. The original dark green velvet curtains hang on the lower portion of the windows over the door. A wood chair rail molding runs around the north, west and east sides of the auditorium above a wood panel wall. Dark green velvet curtains frame a large stage at the south end of the auditorium. The stage lighting is original and consists of a row of large, round, clear glass light bulbs running down a v-shaped channel along the front of the stage. At the top of the north wall there is a rectangular shaped projection opening. The Colonial Revival-style wall light sconces are also original. They are symmetrically arranged between the bays on the east and west walls.

Located on each side of the stage are wood panel doors. These doors provide access to the stage and backstage area, as well as to three small offices arranged along the outside walls of the building. The first office through the west side door contains a small bathroom and storage closet. The side door exiting the auditorium on the east side of the stage leads to a mechanical room and then into the hall accessing the small back offices. The hanging light fixtures throughout these hallways are original metal and glass cylindrical fixtures decorated with a gold star design.

At the north end of the auditorium two doors, one on either end of the wall, lead to the main office area. There are two small offices and one large office in this administrative area in addition to a bathroom. Connecting doors link all three of these offices. The bathroom is entered through the small office on the west end, it contains all original tile and fixtures. The wall tiles are white with a sea foam green tile border. The tile extends about halfway up the wall. The most distinguishing feature of this office space is the original Colonial Revival-styled fireplace and mantle located in the large central office. The facade and mantle are decorated with paneling and wood trim painted white and sea foam green.

Reached via a staircase in the northwest corner of the building, the projection room, currently an office, lies above the north end of the auditorium. This is the only room in the War Memorial Building that was not decorated in a Colonial Revival style. Instead, the room has a decidedly Arts and Crafts feel. The gabled roof is open with exposed beams and the whole room is paneled with original dark stained wood. The light fixtures which hang from the ceiling are original. Centered on the north wall of the room is a fireplace with an exposed brick facade and original rustic wood mantle. Two windows flank the fireplace; one contains a window air conditioner. The room has traditionally served as the office for the commander of the American Legion Post.

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The basement of the building serves primarily as a secondary meeting space. The space is organized as a central open meeting room with a caretaker's apartment on one end and a kitchen on the other end. The stairway leading to the basement is in the southwest corner of the building and opens into the meeting room. The meeting room's east side is lined with four windows which look out onto the brick arched porch of the rear elevation. Plain, square columns function as supports and run down the center of the room. The room is furnished with the original wood folding tables and folding chairs with the American Legion emblem on the chair backs. The west and north walls of the building are covered with photos and memorabilia of the Lucien Berry Post No. 115 of the American Legion. The ceiling mounted white glass light fixtures are original.

In the center of the south wall of the meeting room is a doorway leading into the kitchen area. This door is flanked by two open pass-throughs into the kitchen used for serving food. The kitchen is one of the few areas in the building affected by a minor renovation effort in 1952. These additions included cabinetry in the kitchen and new linoleum. The furnace room is also located in the kitchen area. The building is heated by a gas furnace. Along the north wall of the meeting room there is a single doorway which accesses the caretaker's apartment.

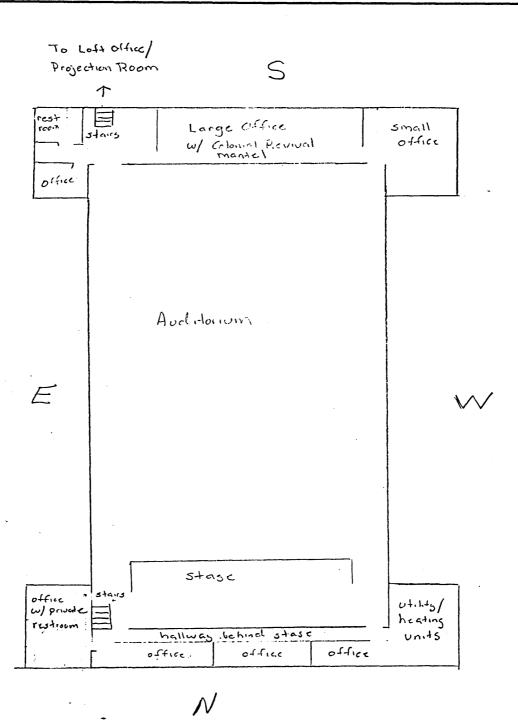
Behind the stairwell in the southwest corner and next to the apartment in the northwest corner are ladies and men's rest rooms. These also contain the original fixtures.

The landscaped grounds of the War Memorial building are a contributing feature to the building as it sits atop a small knoll. (C) Built at the same time as the building is the concrete and metal flagpole. (C) The most recent addition to the grounds is the Memorial Flame constructed in 1975 on the front lawn of the building to commemorate servicemen who have died in all foreign wars. (NC)

The Dickson War Memorial Building is a cohesive Colonial Revival style building that retains a high degree of historical integrity and has been well maintained. Since its construction, it has served as an integral part of the town of Dickson. The Dickson County War Memorial Building is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival movement in the region.

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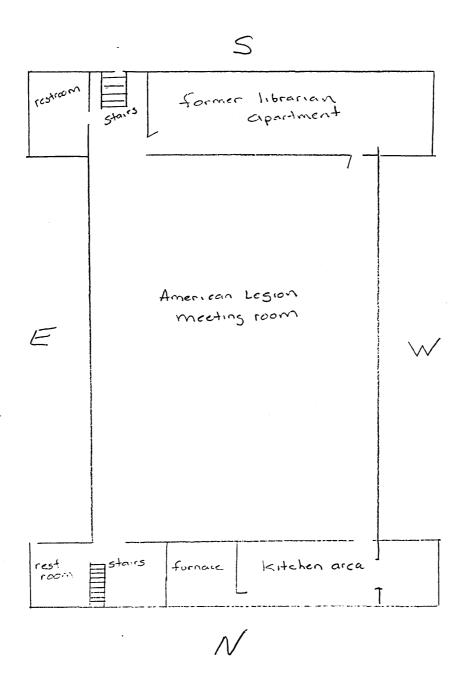
First Floor - Not to Scale

#### United States Department of the Interior

**National Park Service** 

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#### 8. NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dickson War Memorial Building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C for its social history and architectural significance. Since its construction it has served as a social, recreational, and educational community center for the citizens of Dickson and has played an important role in the social history of the town. In addition, as one of two Depression-era War Memorial Buildings constructed with the aid of the Tennessee State government, the building is significant at the state level as well as the local level. The other War Memorial Building, located in Cocke County, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 11, 1997. Constructed in the popular Colonial Revival style of the Depression era, and associated with the work of architect Emmons H. Woolwine, the Dickson County War Memorial Building is also significant in terms of its architecture. Having been well maintained and altered little, it still retains the majority of its original architectural features including: windows, doors, hardwood floors, bathroom fixtures, light fixtures, rod iron railings, mantles, and even some of the furnishings. All of these features combine to give the building a high degree of historical integrity and represent an outstanding interpretation of Colonial Revival style in a public building.

Completed in 1933, the Dickson War Memorial Building was built as the meeting place for the local chapter of the American Legion; The Lucien Berry Post No. 115. As statewide American Legion membership steadily rose since its initial charter in May, 1919, state officials saw the need to construct new meeting facilities to satisfy the growing demand. Despite budgetary restraints, the Tennessee State Legislature approved the funding necessary in 1929 to build two War Memorial Buildings: one in Dickson; and the other in Newport, Cocke County. Both buildings are of the Colonial Revival style, a popular public building style in this era.

Construction began on the Dickson War Memorial building in 1932 on a site donated by the town of Dickson for the consideration of \$1.00 paid by the American Legion. The lot and landscaping around the memorial building comprise a contributing site due to the integrity of setting, and the planned sidewalks, etc. The War Memorial Building sits on the former site of the early county courthouse and this is significant that the War Memorial Building would soon assume many of the civic functions in the town which were once associated with the original courthouse.

The building was designed by architect Emmons H. Woolwine for a commission of \$1,202.70, and constructed by the Cowan Lumber & Planing Mill Company for the cost of \$25,447.02. The total cost of the project as detailed on the complete financial statement of the Dickson County Memorial Commission was \$32,945.39. This includes the money necessary to build the concrete and metal flagpole built at the same time. The Dickson County War Memorial Commission received its funding from state, county and city resources. The building was completed in 1933. This date suggests that some assistance in the labor and construction of the property may lie with such

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early New Deal agencies as the Tennessee Emergency Relief Administration (the state agency associated with the Federal Emergency Relief Administration that was the precursor to the Works Progress Administration) and the short-lived Civil Works Administration. No surviving documents or oral interviews, however, uncovered any evidence linking the final completion of the building with the New Deal relief programs of 1933.

The building, however, is clearly associated with the early career of architect Emmons H. Woolwine (1899-1951), who was later associated with such major Public Works Administration projects in Nashville as the Davidson County Courthouse (NR 3/23/87) and the John Sevier State Office Building. A native of Nashville, Woolwine graduated from Sewanee Military Academy in 1917 and took his undergraduate degree at The University of the South in 1922. He received his professional architectural training at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating in 1926. Woolwine returned to Nashville in 1928 and joined the firm of Marr and Holman. Within a year, however, Woolwine established his own private practice. The Dickson War Memorial Building is his first known design for a public building in Tennessee. His creative interpretation of Colonial Revival style not only pleased his patrons in Dickson County, it also introduced his skills to officials in Nashville who later would choose him to design important public buildings during the New Deal era. The Dickson War Memorial Building is the best example of Colonial Revival style in either the public or commercial architecture of Dickson, the largest city in Dickson County. Among examples of public architecture from the 1930s found in the rural counties of Middle Tennessee, only Nashville architect George Waller's striking design for the Cannon County Courthouse (NR 4/14/92) in Woodbury matches the balance and overall effect of Colonial Revival style found in the Dickson War Memorial Building.

Throughout its period of significance from 1933-1947 the War Memorial Building has served the town of Dickson as an important center of social and civic activity. As the headquarters of the local American Legion Post it has held numerous meetings for not only the local chapter but also district, divisional and state chapters of the American Legion. During the New Deal, several agencies located their offices in the building, including the Social Security Administration. In World War II the building served as the local Red Cross office, site for War Bond Drives, and a local gathering point for the USO. The Draft Board located its offices there as well. In 1946 the local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was organized there. Even after World War II the building continued to serve the retired military community by providing meeting space for the Disabled American Veterans and the Korean War Veterans in addition to the American Legion. Throughout its history the building has been the site of local Memorial Day and Armistice Day services.

As a local center for culture and recreation, the War Memorial has served as the site for local dances, concerts, piano recitals, and public speaking competitions. The building also has been a popular place on the local political stump speech tour including the 1948 Tennessee Governor's

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race with Roy Acuff. Noted mid-twentieth century Tennessee Governor and public speaker, Frank G. Clement, a native of Dickson, gave his first important public speeches as a young man at the auditorium. The building continues to serve the community in many of these same areas. Since 1960 the building has been the site of the Old Timers Day celebration on the first Saturday each May and it continues to host community meetings, American Legion meetings, piano recitals and Kiwanis Heart Fund dances.

From the time of its construction until about 1960 the building served an important educational function in the community by serving as the town library. An initial disbursement of \$157.04 is shown on the Memorial Commission's financial statement for library equipment. The basement served as the primary site for book storage and the basement apartment was alternately the home of the librarian or the buildings caretaker.

The Dickson War Memorial now serves as the office of Zoning and City Planning and as the office for the County Parks and Recreation Department. Offices are located on the stage and in the former office areas.

This building, thus, is significant not only for its architectural integrity and Colonial Revival design, but for its intact thread of social purpose as a civic center for the Dickson community. The building stands out as a symbol of Dickson's social history in addition to its stature as a local architectural landmark. It also holds statewide significance as one of only two war memorial buildings funded by the state.

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#### 9. BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Brown, Alton. Interview by Julie Coco and Carroll Van West, October 14, 1997, Dickson, TN.

Unpublished Documents on the history of the building and its site, provided by George E. Jackson, Dickson County Historian.

Jackson, George E. Interview by Julie Coco and Carroll Van West, October 14, 1997, Dickson, TN

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A Knopf, 1996.

Medley, Warren. Interview by Julie Coco and Carroll Van West, October 14, 1997, Dickson, TN.

Reynolds, John. Interview by Julie Coco and Carroll Van West, October 14, 1997. Dickson, TN.

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#### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property occupies lot 5C, a city block, as marked on the attached Dickson County Tax Map.

#### **Boundary Justification**

The nominated boundaries contain all of the historic property associated with the Dickson War Memorial Building.

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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#### United States Department of the Interior

**National Park Service** 

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Dickson County War Memorial Building Dickson County, TN

#### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Dickson War Memorial Building 200 Center Street Dickson Co., TN

Photos by:

Carroll Van West

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

PO Box 80

Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Date: October 14, 1997

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

2941 Lebanon Road Nashville, TN 37243

West facade, facing east 1 of 32

West facade, facing south 2 of 32

North elevation, facing south 3 of 32

East elevation, facing west 4 of 32

East elevation auditorium level, facing north 5 of 32

East elevation, detail of rod iron railing, facing east 6 of 32

East elevation basement level, facing northeast 7 of 32

Southeast elevation, facing northwest 8 of 32

South elevation, facing north 9 of 32

Southwest elevation, facing northeast 10 of 32

**Dickson County War Memorial Building** 

Dickson County, TN

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

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Southwest elevation, facing northeast 11 of 32								
Interior auditorium, facing northeast 12 of 32								
Interior auditorium, detail stage lights, facing west 13 of 32								
Interior auditorium, facing south 14 of 32								
Interior auditorium, facing west 15 of 32								
Interior auditorium, detail stage, facing southeast 16 of 32								
Interior auditorium, facing south 17 of 32								
Interior basement meeting room, facing southwest 18 of 32								
Kitchen entrance, facing south 19 of 32								
Projection room/office, facing north 20 of 32								
Projection room/office ceiling 21 of 32								
Projection room/office facing east 22 of 32								
Basement men's rest room facing east 23 of 32								
Basement women's rest room facing east 24 of 32								

Main level rest room, facing south

25 of 32

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Main level hallway, detail of light fixture 26 of 32

Stairway to second floor, facing north 27 of 32

Large office main level, Colonial Revival mantel detail, facing north 28 of 32

Hallway behind stage main level, facing west 29 of 32

Office in southwest corner with rest room, facing south 30 of 32

Detail of furnace, facing southwest 31 of 32

Detail of modern central air system facing east 32 of 32