

**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 Cumberland County Courthouses

and/or common Same

**2. Location**

street & number Main Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Crossville \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district Fourth

state Tennessee code 047 county Cumberland code 035

**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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 Cumberland County

street & number Cumberland County Courthouse

city, town Crossville \_\_\_ vicinity of state Tennessee 38555

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registrar's Office

street & number Cumberland County Courthouse

city, town Crossville \_\_\_ vicinity of state Tennessee 38555

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date October 11, 1979 \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission, 4721 Trousdale Drive

city, town Nashville \_\_\_ vicinity of state Tennessee 37219

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Cumberland County Courthouses are located in the heart of the Crossville business district. The Old Courthouse, or County Education Building, and present Courthouse are located west and east, respectively of U.S. Highway 127. The moderately wooded Cumberland Plateau terrain slopes downward either side of the highway.

The rectangular Old Courthouse has a crab orchard stone foundation; two-story, coursed crab orchard stone walls; one over one windows with fine single stone lintels and sills; wooden perimetric bracketed cornice and frieze intervalled at the chimneys; and a tin gabled roof with twin front, hipped pediments. The original roof supported a square front, vented turret with a pyramidal spire. (See accompanying 1886 photograph)

The facade or east elevation, of the Old Courthouse has the main entrance and a covered porch with wooden Doric columns. Each of the long north and south elevations, has two interior stone chimneys with brick caps. The west elevation has an exterior brick chimney. Offices radiate from the central first and second floor hallways which are connected by an interior dogleg stairwell at the northeast corner. Crab orchard stone is a local variety of sandstone ranging of hue from green to pink.

The rectangular present Courthouse has a sandstone foundation and two story coursed walls of cut Bedford limestone. The hipped composition shingle roof radiates from a square wooden platform. The platform supports a wooden Doric columned, octagonal tower which is capped by a rare domed, four faced clock. Six limestone chimneys, two on each side, rise above the original north, west, and south elevations.

Each of the original elevations also has a Romanesque entrance and second story one over one windows with six-panel transoms. The facade or west elevation has twin Romanesque entrances, a stepped gable, and first story two over one windows with four panel transoms. Each original corner of the building constitutes five sides of an octagon with alternating bays of one over one windows. The original upstairs courtroom has been modernized with carpeting, paneling and an acoustical ceiling. A brick addition, supported by a limestone foundation projects from the original rear, east elevation. (See accompanying 1978 drawing)

## 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In 1855, the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee established the County of Cumberland with parts of White, Bledsoe, Rhea, Morgan, Fentress, and Putnam counties. In 1856, the Cumberland County Court was organized and Crossville was laid out to be the county seat "within five miles of the centre of said county." In 1857, the first courthouse, "a one story frame building of three apartments" was constructed. In 1887, the county sold the first courthouse for \$25 due to the completion of the second courthouse.

The (second) Old Courthouse was designed by Architect J. F. Bowman of Knoxville and constructed by Contractor D. G. Brown, Stone Masons W. J. McGuire and Lewis Bennett, and Carpenter W. J. Andrews of Crossville for \$5,200 in 1886. The building functioned as the Cumberland County Courthouse until February of 1905 when the interior and roof were destroyed by fire. The building was repaired and served as the first Cumberland County High School and Normal School during 1908–29. It has since housed numerous government offices including the first offices of the Cumberland County Board of Education.

The (third) present Courthouse was designed by W. Chamberlin and Company of Birmingham, Alabama, and constructed by Lewman and Company of Louisville, Kentucky, for \$23,000 in 1905. The building has functioned as the Cumberland County Courthouse since it was constructed. In 1978, the east addition was designed by Architects Hart-Freeland-Roberts of Nashville and constructed by the Flynn Construction Company of Crossville with EDA funds. The architects, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer designed and located the rear addition in order to retain the integrity of the building to the fullest extent.

The old and present Cumberland County Courthouses, constructed fully and partially, respectively, with sandstone mined within the county, are among the most significant structures to be found in Cumberland County, located in an area that possesses relatively few eligible buildings. The Courthouses have served as the centers of government-keeper of records, collector of taxes, administrator of education, maintainer of law and order for the people of Cumberland County since 1886.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Crossville Chronicle, Centennial Edition, "Our County Courthouses, July 12, 1956.  
 Crossville Times, "County Museum Seeks Local Items" August 16, 1978.  
 Kirkemide, Patricia Barclay, Crossville Newspapers 1878-1888, Vol. 1, 1977.

## 10. Geographical Data **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreage of nominated property .72

Quadrangle name Crossville

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>16</u>	<u>677970</u>	<u>3979780</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The discontinuous boundaries of the Cumberland County Courthouses nomination are shown on the red lines on the accompanying map entitled "Crossville, Cumberland County, Tennessee, 113-c" and drawn at a scale of 100' to the inch.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Britt Casteel, Research Assistant

organization Tennessee Historical Commission date May, 1980

street & number 4721 Trousdale Drive telephone (615) 741-2371

city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37219

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

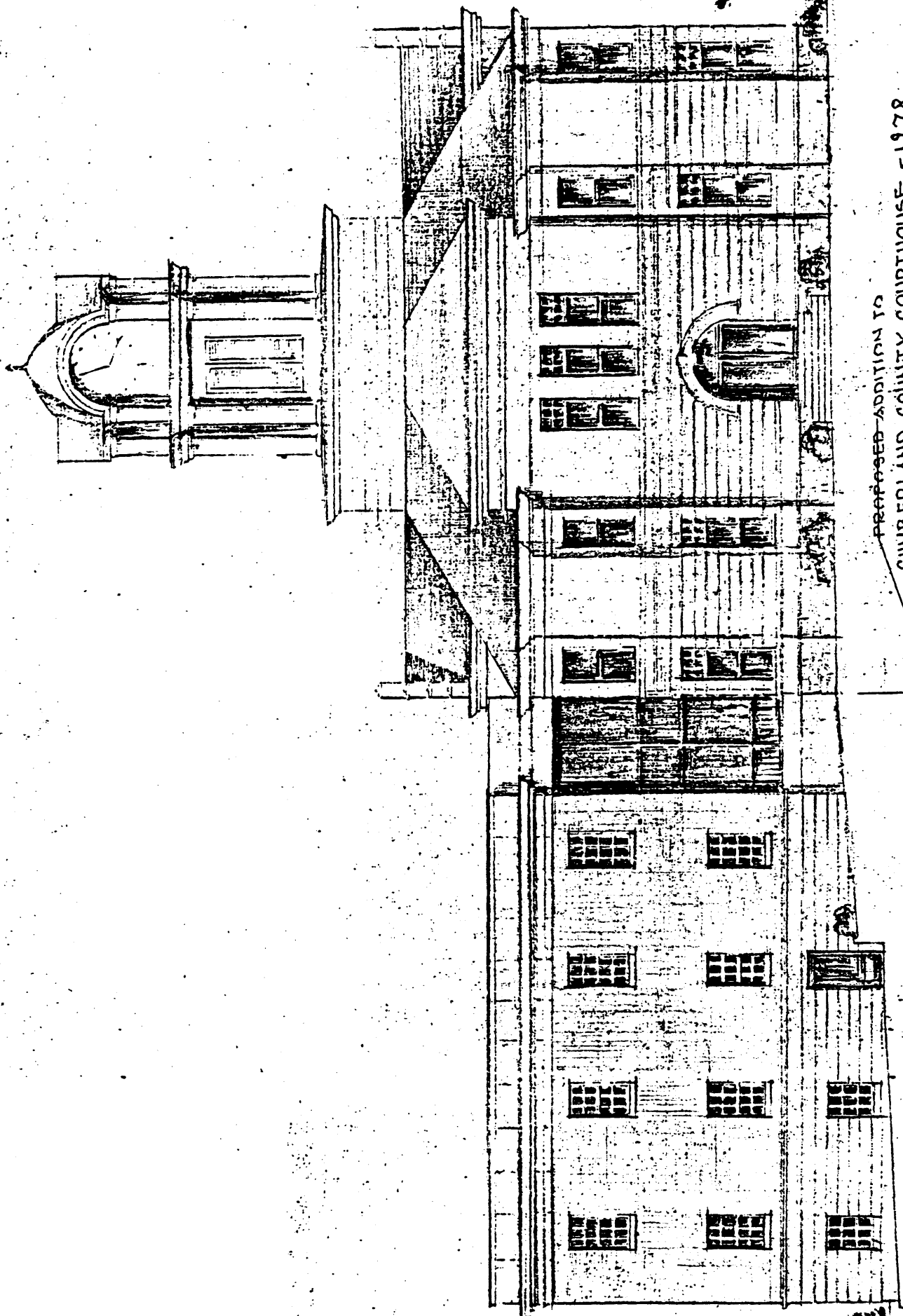
national  state  local

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 Herbert L. Hayden

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 5/30/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>John W. Ray Luce</u> Keeper of the National Register	date <u>6/17/80</u>
Attest: <u>Kristin J. O'Connell</u> Chief of Registration	date <u>6/13/80</u>



PROPOSED ADDITION TO  
CUMBERLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE - 1978  
CROSSVILLE, TENNESSEE  
HARDY FURBERLAND ROBERTS,  
ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS

← East  
Rear

Sumnerland County Courthouse - 1886. Tennessee Courthouse Survey, Tennessee State  
Archives, Nashville  
east (facade) and south elevations

