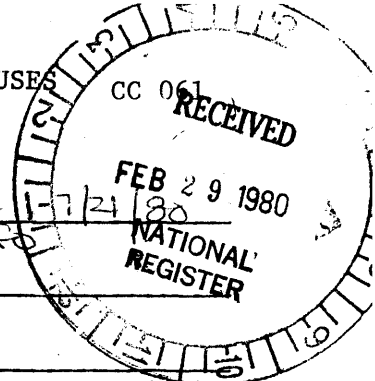


THEMATIC NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION - GEORGIA COURTHOUSES

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY FORM



Name of Structure: Clay County Courthouse *see address dem for additional info*

Location: Fort Gaines, Ga. 31751

Cost: Unknown Date of Construction: 1871-73

1970 - some remodeling

Architect/builder: Unknown

Contractor: _____

Subsequent architects: _____

TAX MAP/PARCEL NUMBERS

Fg-9 52

DESCRIPTION:

Style: Carpenter Style with Classic details

Facade Material: Brick

Condition: [] Excellent [] Good [X] Fair

UTM NO.

Zone 16 E685020 N3498130
 Boundary: As shown on the enclosed map. The jail is historic as well.
 Acreage: one acre

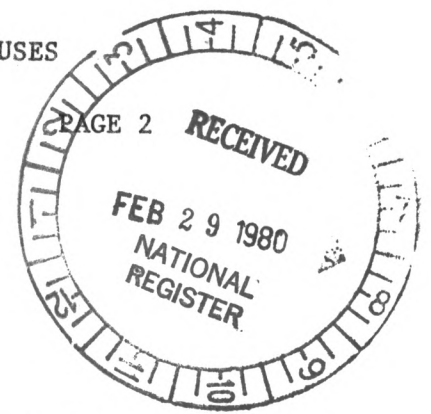
This two-story hipped roof brick building, now painted white, with heart of pine floors, looks more like an antebellum plantation house than a courthouse. The square columned, distyle portico has a balcony on the second floor, and colossal pilasters on each end of the facade. The main entry is a double doorway with square transom and side lights, opening into a hallway passing straight through the building, much like an early dog trot cabin. The outside doors are removed in summer leaving only screen doors so that summer breezes flow through the building.

The small courtroom is reached by a double staircase at the entrance or a single stairway at the rear of the building.

In the courtroom the modest bench in the eastern end is a narrow counter rather than the usual desk. Directly in front of it, the witness box is enclosed by a separate railing (see photograph). Although now heated by gas space heaters, four fireplaces remain in the room with mantels intact. The seven spectator benches on each side of the single aisle have only fleur-de-lis end posts relieving their plainness (see photograph).

THEMATIC NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION - GEORGIA COURTHOUSES

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY FORM CLAY COUNTY COURTHOUSE



SIGNIFICANCE:

This is the oldest courthouse in the Pataula Judicial Circuit. Architecturally, it has been changed little. The courthouse looks more like a residence than a public structure, thereby revealing community cultural traditions.

As a repository of official records it is a focal point in the life of every citizen.



CLAY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

SEP 18 1980

MAILING ADDRESS:

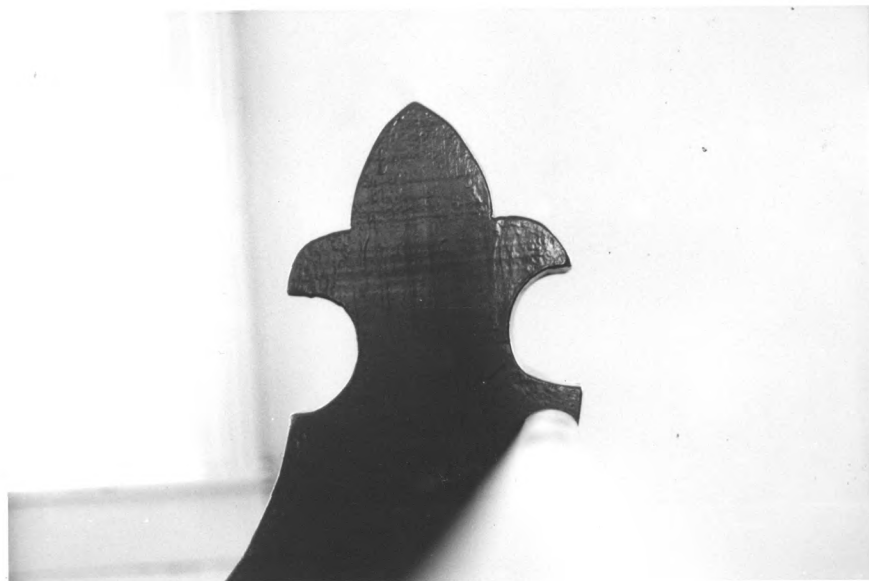
Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Clay County Courthouse
Fort Gaines, Georgia 31751

FEB 29 1980



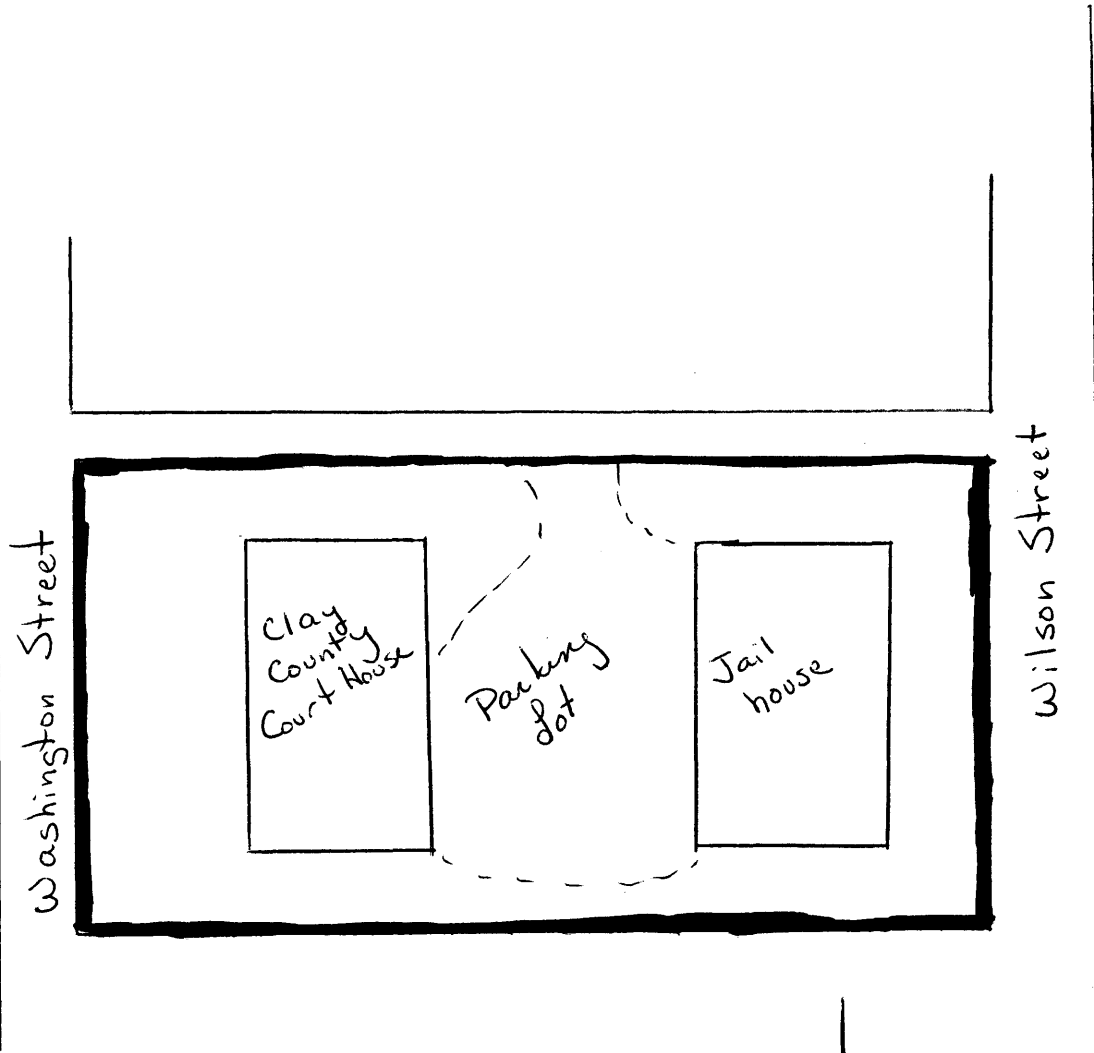
COURTROOM

SEP 18 1980



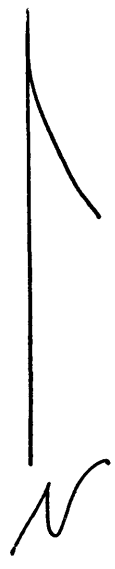
DETAIL - SPECTATOR BENCH

Clay



Sketch map of Clay County Jail in relation to Clay County Courthouse.

not to scale



Sketch Map

FEB 29 1980

CLAY COUNTY COURTHOUSE
 Fort Gaines, Clay County, Georgia
 Scale: not to scale
 Source: drawn by Nancy Alexander
 Date: Jan., 1980
 Key: nominated property outlined in black