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1. A. A.

Monroe County Courtho Name of Property	<u>)us</u> e	• Madison County and	ville, Monroe Co State	<u>.,</u> TN
5. Classification		***		
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Re (Do not include pr	sources within Prop eviously listed resources in	erty n the count.)
<ul> <li>☐ private</li> <li>☑ public-local</li> <li>☐ public-State</li> <li>☐ public-Federal</li> </ul>	I building(s) ☐ district ☐ site ☐ structure		Noncontributing	-
· ·	🗆 object	1	1	structures
		· 2	: 1	Total
Name of related multiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of	operty listing f a multiple property listing.)	Number of con in the National	tributing resources Register	previously listed
Historic County Court	nouses of TN	0		
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) GOVERNMENT: courthouse	2	Current Functions (Enter categories from GOVERNMENT: c	instructions)	
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from ir	structions)	
MIXED: with Class	ical Revival,	foundation <u>BRICK</u>		
Italianate, and Romanesque influences		walls <u>BRICK</u>		
		roof ASPHALT SH	HINGLE	
		other <u>CONCRETE;</u>	LIMESTONE	
Narrative Description				

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

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See continuation sheets.

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#### 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.)

N/A

- Property is:
- □ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- $\Box$  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.

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

#### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibilography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.) Primary location of additional data: Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A □ State Historic Preservation Office preliminary determination of individual listing (36 □ Other State agency CFR 67) has been requested □ Federal agency previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National I Local government University Register C Other designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey Name of repository: Monroe County Archives, Madisonville # recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_

Madisonville, Monroe Co., TN County and State

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
POLITICS/ GOVERNMENT
ARCHITECTURE
Pariod of Significance
Period of Significance
1897-1945
Similiant Datas
Significant Dates
1897
Significant Person Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A
Cultural Affiliation
N/A
Architect/Builder
Baumann Brothers and Company, arch.
Gaylon Seldon Company, contractors

Monroe County Courthouse Name of Property	Madiso County and	nville, Monroe Co., TN nd State	
10. Geographical Data		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Acreage of Property less than one acre UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	Madisonvi	lle 131 SE	
1     1     6     7     3     9     1     4     0     3     9     3     3     7     0     0       Zone     Easting     Northing       2     1 </td <td>3 Zone 4</td> <td>Easting Northing</td> <td></td>	3 Zone 4	Easting Northing	
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 Batte and Carroll Van West			
organization MTSU Center for Historic Preservation	date	8/30/1994	
street & number PO Box 80, MTSU	telephone	615-898-2947	_
city or townMurfreesboro			
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form:			
Continuation Sheets			
Maps			
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the pro	perty's location.		
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having	large acreage or	numerous resources.	
Photographs			
Representative black and white photographs of the prop	perty.		
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)			
Property Owner			
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)			

street & number <u>Monroe County</u> Courthouse	telephone _	615-442-3981
city or town <u>Madisonville</u>	state TN	zip code

name J. Allan Watson, county executive

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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 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.

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Section number7 Page1^	INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION	

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Monroe County Courthouse, Madisonville, Monroe Co., TN

#### VII. DESCRIPTION

The Monroe County Courthouse sits in the middle of a courthouse square facing a row of commercial buildings on College Street in Madisonville (pop. 3,033). The hipped roof, red brick and white trimmed building has a rectangular plan with bays to the rear and sides. The eclectic-styled building has decorative detail reminiscent of earlier Italianate courthouses in the state as well as a commanding Classical Revival-influenced portico. Its impressive size and styling make it an important architectural landmark in downtown Madisonville. Designed by Baumann Brothers and Company of Knoxville and built by contractors Galyon Seldon Company in 1897, the building is the fourth courthouse to serve Monroe County.

The building sits on a slight slope to the rear so that the basement is more exposed on the east elevation than the west facade or north and south elevations. The front or west facade is dominated by a central square tower with hipped roof and prominent eave. The three bay facade has a limestone watertable below which are two original sets of two light double hung sash windows with limestone sills, with one set in the north bay and the other in the south The central bay on the first floor and basement levels bay. is dominated by an entrance. This entrance rises above street level by means of concrete stairs. These stairs are flanked by stepped brick walls topped by limestone. The central entrance is a large double wooden door set in a Romanesque arch with stone arch surround and fanlight below. The entrance is set below a flat roofed portico supported by square brick and round Ionic columns. Above the modillions of the portico the square brick columns are continued, one on each corner connected by a balustrade. A long ramp for disabled access, added in about 1978, meets the entrance landing at the top of the stairs on the north bay. On either side of the entrance, in the north and south bays of the first floor, are a set of round arched two light with stained glass fanlight double hung sash windows. These windows have limestone sills and brick arch surrounds. The second floor has a set of square two light double hung sash windows in the north and south bays in alignment with the

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Monroe County Courthouse, Madisonville, Monroe Co., TN

windows of the first floor and basement. In the center bay are three windows of the same configuration. The cornice of the building on all elevations begins with a Greek Key design topped by modillions and a wide eave. The tower which fronts on this facade begins with the same set of windows as the center bay of the second floor above which is some brick patterning then three vents of the same scale. The corners are marked by brick pilasters with Ionic capitals topped by a heavy dividing cornice. Above this interim cornice the pilasters continue topped by the same Greek Key design then egg and dart molding. In between these corner columns is a clock face; the clock probably dates to 1919 when the building was wired for electricity. The same decorative pattern is continued on all four sides. A heavy cornice beginning with egg and dart molding followed by modillions and a wide eave topps the hipped roof tower.

The north elevation, though not the front facade, is the most elaborate of all the elevations of the building. A large hipped roof five sided center bay dominates this elevation. On either side of this bay sits a small porch with cornice and balustrade mimicing the east facade porch. At the basment level are eight two light casement windows. On the east end of the elevation one of the windows is boarded over. A more formal panelled door with four lights above and small gable canopy supported by brick and wood piers that opens to the basement level is placed in the center west half of the front facade of the bay projection. The windows and doors sit directly below the windows on the first floor level. The first floor has the same original round arched two light windows with stained glass transom as other elevations of the building. These windows are paired closely together in four of the bays. The center bay, being the center of the projecting bay, has two of these windows set farther apart. Original panelled doors with square transom windows sit beneath the small porches already mentioned on either side of the center projecting bay. On the second floor are six two light square set double hung sash windows. In the east and west bay are a pair of these windows set closely together. One of these windows is set on the farthest edge of the center projecting bay closest to the wall of the main facade. On the other three sides of the center projection are four square set two light double

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Monroe County Courthouse, Madisonville, Monroe Co., TN

hung sash windows with original stained glass transom set directly above the windows of the first floor. The cornice of the center projecting bay rises above the cornice of the west facade. The detail of the cornice is consistent with the rest of the building.

The east or rear elevation is narrower than the west facade. The center bay is set forward with a hipped roof. At the basement level of the south two bays is a small square window and wooden door below the water table. In the north two bays are a set of plain double wooden doors and two light casement windows. A small square brick structure abuts this elevation next to the casement window to house mechanical functions. The center bay has concrete stairs with stepped brick walls in the same manner as the other stairs leading to a set of double wooden doors with three light transom entrance. Above the transom is set a molded brick blind arch surround below which is a decorative brick pattern. On either side of this entrance is an original square set two light double hung sash window. In the each of the two north and south bays are two of the original round arched windows. The second floor of the rear facade has two original square set two light double hung sash windows set directly above the round arched windows. The center bay has three original windows of the same pattern with transoms above set close together. The center bay rises above the cornice of the building and is topped with a hipped roof and the same cornice detail as is present on the rest of the building. A square brick chimney sits in the roof of this facade.

The south elevation has a middle three bay section that pushes forward with a hipped roof. The rhythm of windows closely mimics the front facade on all three other elevations. At the basement level of the south elevation are four sets of two light casement windows set below the limestone water table. In the center bay at the basement level are stairs leading to a set of double wooden round arched doors with molded brick surrounds. Four sets of double round arched two light double hung sash windows with molded brick surrounds, one in each of the four remaining bays, finish off the detail for this level. In the center

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Monroe County Courthouse, Madisonville, Monroe Co., TN

bay of the second floor are two original double hung one over one windows set next to each other. In each of the other four bays is a set of original double hung two light windows. In the center projecting bay just below the cornice are small square stained glass windows, one above each window. The cornice detail remains the same as the west facade.

The interior of the Monroe County Courthouse is much less elaborate than its exterior. The interior plan for the first floor is based around a long corridor running from west to east with offices on the north side and offices and a court room on the south side. There is no space dedicated to a formal lobby; all space is allocated to the efficient functioning of the government. The building committee, who selected the design for this courthouse, specified the limited budget and a desire for plain, functional interior spaces. Clearly the design for this building gives little attention to any decorative use of space but focuses on the stated needs of the county.

The west entrance of the Monroe County Courthouse opens to a small foyer with staircase on the right descending to the basement floor. In this foyer, the original tile floor remains. In the rest of the first floor, the original floor was covered with linoleum in the early twentieth century. An elevator, added about 1979, opens at this level for access to all levels for disabled citizens. The ceiling is original, but the florescent light fixtures date to circa 1979. After leaving the foyer visitors encounter a hallway. On the south side are offices including those of the county executive, a men's restroom, and a closet. The county executive offices have faux pine paneling and have been carpeted. The original wooden mantle of the executive's office remains exposed as does the original wooden framing of the doorway. The men's restroom is largely unchanged since its installation in 1904. On the north side of the first floor hallways are the offices for the clerk and master, a courtroom, and women's restroom. The clerk and master office had dropped ceilings and carpet installed in 1979. A faux pine paneled partition has been added to

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Monroe County Courthouse, Madisonville, Monroe Co., TN

create additional office space. This section of the first floor, however, has intact original mantles and original wall treatments. The first floor courtroom was altered during the 1979 renovation when floor to ceiling faux pine paneling was added to the walls and carpet was installed. Another stair at the east end of the first floor hallway leads to the second floor. Under the stairwell, which sits against the south wall, is a women's restroom. The east stairwell to the second floor has its original paneled newel post, wooden hand rail and machine turned wooden balusters.

The second floor of the courthouse is reached from the stairs at either the west or east end of the building. The east stairs reach a small landing and face the double doors to the main courtroom. To the left of the courtroom is a Ushaped hallway off of which are additional original office spaces for court officials including those of the circuit court, the general sessions court, and the jury room. The second floor has been altered (substantially more than the first floor) with the addition of faux pine paneling, carpeting, and dropped ceilings in all rooms. The alterations made in 1979 to the cost of \$50,000 have changed the interior second floor spaces. These alterations were fought by some citizens in the county. Fortunately the low budget for these renovations meant that little to none original material or woodwork were removed from the building; rather paneling was placed over walls and original doorways were left exposed. This floor could be easily restored in the future to its original historic appearance.

The basement is reached from stairs on the front elevation on the first floor. The basement spaces are exposed brick with a carpeted floor. On this level are offices for the county archivist and storage rooms. Little of the original configuration of the basement has been changed, except for the addition of modern electrical systems.

The bell tower of the courthouse also remains intact. The original bell is still in the belfry and can be operated.

At the northeast corner of the courthouse grounds is a war memorial monument, erected in about 1948 by the American

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Monroe County Courthouse, Madisonville, Monroe Co., TN

Legion and citizens of Monroe County. This is a noncontributing object (NC, due to date). Another war memorial, constructed in about 1939 by the American Legion and the citizens of Monroe County, is at the southwest corner of the courthouse lot. This monument is contributing (C), due to its historic association with the commemoration of World War I.

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Monroe County Courthouse, Madisonville, Monroe Co., TN

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VIII. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present Monroe County Courthouse sits in the county seat of Monroe County, Madisonville and is the fourth courthouse to serve the county. This distinctive piece of Victorian eclectic architecture, combining elements of Italianate, Romanesque, and Classical Revival style, was built in 1897 and designed by Baumann Brothers and Company of Knoxville. The courthouse makes an important architectural contribution to the county and symbolized the role of progressive government in the development of Madisonville and Monroe County in the first half of the twentieth century. It is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its role in the politics and government of Monroe County and under Criterion C for its distinctive architectural imprint upon Madisonville and Monroe County. It is nominated under the registration requirements set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation form for Historic County Courthouses in Tennessee, 1865-1945.

The 1897 courthouse is the fourth to serve Monroe County, but its construction was not assured even after the third courthouse, which dated to 1868, was condemned as unsafe by three consecutive grand juries in the early 1890s. In August 1893, the local newspaper noted: "The Monroe County Court House has been condemned by the last three juries. Our undertakers should keep a large supply of coffins on hand, for when the old building comes tumbling down, there will be a sudden demand for wooden overcoats -- then we will have a new court house, but at what cost." (1) The economic depression that began in the summer of 1893, however, stopped any plans to build a new building. As the economy began to improve in 1895-96, the need for new office space combined with a new sense of local boosterism to reopen the courthouse question. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad was planning to take over existing companies and build a new line between Knxoville and Atlanta--called the Atlanta division--that would meet competitive pressures from the nearby Southern Railway empire. Madisonville had never had a rail connection and its commercial and industrial development in the nineteenth century had suffered accordingly. With the prospect of a railroad at hand,

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Monroe County Courthouse, Madisonville, Monroe Co., TN

county political and economic leaders realized that the county seat needed new signs of civic pride and community prosperity to encourage future investment and expansion. -----

In April 1896, a courthouse building committee consisting of T. W. Peace, C. A. Lowry, Paul F. Kefauver, E. W. Harrison and W. T. Lenoir decided that the new courthouse should sit on the site of the old and the cost should not exceed \$17,000. The building committee also decided the contractors should use suitable material from the old courthouse in constructing the new building. After deciding to levy a direct tax and issue interest-bearing county warrants to finance the new courthouse, the committee approved and accepted the plans of Baumann Brothers and Company,

because, of their plain, substantial structure with no useless ornamentation on the outside and well arranged on the inside, with proper and necessary vaults, being fireproof for the protection of county records.<sup>2</sup>

The contractors were Galyon Selden Co., of Knoxville, who bid \$16,475 for the project. The courthouse was completed and dedicated May 15, 1897.

Baumann Brothers and Company, established after the Civil War by Joseph Baumann, was one of the most prolific architectural firms of the late nineteenth century in East Tennessee. The firm's Knoxville commissions included such important buildings as the Kerns Bakery Building, the Masonic Temple, and the Church of the Immaculate Conception. The Monroe County Courthouse was the firm's first courthouse commission in Tennessee.

The building committee chose Baumann Brothers and Company because the company promised a building that would be a simple plan with no useless ornamentation. This statement, when read today, seems at odds with the resulting building which is not grand but certainly well decorated and imposing for a rural county seat. One must keep in mind the Victorian period in which this building was designed and constructed and the firm who created the architectural

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NPS Form 10-900-a (8-85)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Monroe County Courthouse, Madisonville, Monroe Co., TN

designs. Heavy ornamentation was guite common for architectural trends of the day, especially in rural areas like Monroe County, and represented an architectural theme common in the work of Baumann Brothers. The Monroe County Courthouse employs some of this eclectic style-approach and decorative techniques in a conservative manner. Its porches, tower, large side bay, rear and side cross bays with hipped roofs, stained glass, round arched windows, decorative brickwork and cornice ornamented with Greek Key designs, dentils and egg and dart molding set it apart as a carefully designed building clearly a part of the Victorian period. Interestingly, Baumann Brothers set off their largely Victorian building with a classical portico, which perhaps represents a nod toward the emerging Classical Revival movement in American architecture. The Chicago World's Fair of 1893 introduced Beaux-Arts Classicism in American public architecture. Baumann Brothers would certainly be aware of this new architectural trend and their Monroe County Courthouse demonstrates how quickly this new national style became influential.

The courthouse, therefore, is an interesting mixture of architectural styles popular in the Late Victorian period. Its massing, dark red brick, heavy entrance arches, and subtle decorative brickwork associate it with the Romanesque style. Its modillioned cornice with substantial eaves are details found in earlier Italianate courthouses around the state. The commanding classical columns reflect the newly popular Classical Revival style.

The courthouse also represented a new era in government for the people of Monroe County. After its dedication in 1897, county officials asserted that the new building must be reserved solely for the business of government. The county court agreed in January 1898 to prohibit "any shows, or public entertainments, or lectures of any kind in the court house and that only county officials be permitted to have offices in the court house and that the offices in the court house not be rented to any person or persons." (3) The county court's decision was in keeping with the wave of

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governmental reform, often described as the progressive movement, then sweeping through the country. A place like the courthouse, to progressives, should not be a place where the resources of the public are used for an individual's private gain.

The courthouse became the scene for all of the city's major political speeches and debates in the early twentieth century. In 1902, for example, Robert Love Taylor gave a major political address at the courthouse. Later twentieth century politicians, especially Estes Keafauver of Madisonville who served in the United States Congress during the 1940s, used the courthouse as the setting for important political addresses.

In the early decades of the twentieth century, the Monroe County Court began to make minor changes to the building. Prison labor built a walk and curbing around the courthouse in 1902. Eleven years later, the court spent \$500 to build a concrete walk around the courthouse grounds. This walk is still extant. By 1919, the building had electricity added, but a central heating plant (although discussions began in 1928) was not completed until 1945. Three years later, the Veterans of Foreign Wars received permission to build a war memorial, which is still extant.

The major alterations to the courthouse occurred in 1979. County officials debated the future of the courthouse-should a new one be constructed to meet recent population and economic growth? The decision was made to build a courthouse annex, which is immediately south of the courthouse on College Street, and to modernize the second floor of the historic courthouse. Repair work in the sum of \$50,000 was conducted on the building in 1979. Arguments for exact restoration of the building were voiced but the result was the addition of interior panelling and carpeting which temporarily masks some of the interior detail. Otherwise details such as beaded board wainscoting, paneled doors with transoms and carved wooden handrails on the staircases are unchanged. The interior basement spaces have been unaltered.

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Monroe County Courthouse, Madisonville, Monroe Co., TN

As a center of county government activity and as a distinctivly designed and executed building, the Monroe County Courthouse has played a significant part in local government since 1897. Here the county court took action that placed local government in compliance with the major progressive initiatives in state government during the first half of the twentieth century: education, highway construction, and general welfare. For example, votes by the county commissioners to implement the General Education Laws of 1909 and 1925, the Highway Acts of 1925, and the various agricultural reform laws that established and enhanced the statewide Agricultural Extension Program helped to transform local politics and government in this county. The new education laws, for instance, introduced not only new and necessary state funding; they also required county courts to improve their physical plants for education in accordance with state guidelines, changed the educational curricula to reflect state standards, and lessened the patronage power of county courts over the hiring of teachers and administrators by establishing statewide standards and licensing procedures. These decisions by local authorities became part of a general shift in local government as local authorities exchanged part of their autonomy and power in return for funds and expertise offered by state and federal government programs.

During the 1930s, the Monroe County Courthouse served as an administrative center for New Deal associated agencies such as the Works Progress Administration, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, and the Civilian Conservation Corps. By the time of World War II, the courthouse took on additional federal responsibilities as it became the meeting place for the local draft board and the site for fundraising and scrap-collecting events that took place in the community. It is little wonder that a county historian concluded in 1982 that the Monroe County Courthouse was "where many decisions were made which helped or hindered the area's growth and changed the lives of many." (4)

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Monroe County Courthouse, Madisonville, Monroe Co., TN

ENDNOTES

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1. Cited in Sarah G. Cox Sands, <u>History of Monroe</u> <u>County, Tennessee</u> (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1982), 546.

2. Ibid., 547.

3. Monroe County Court Records, January 1898, cited in ibid., 549.

4. Ibid., 553.

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Monroe County Courthouse, Madisonville, Monroe Co., TN

X. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property includes all property in listed in tax map 67-D, block G, parcel 1, bounded by Main, College, Warren and Tellico streets, as documented in the enclosed Monroe County Tax Map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated parcel is the site of the present and past Monroe County Courthouses. The boundaries include the historic courthouse grounds that sit in the middle of the town square around which the city of Madisonville has been historically oriented.

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Monroe County Courthouse, Madisonville, Monroe Co., TN PHOTOGRAPHS Monroe County Courthouse, Madisonville, TN Photos by: Carroll Van West MTSU Center for Historic Preservation Date: December 1993 Tennessee Historical Commission Negatives: Nashville, TN West facade, facing east 1 of 15 North elevation, facing south 2 of 15 North and east elevations, facing southwest 3 of 15 East elevation, facing northwest 4 of 15 South elevation, facing north 5 of 15 First floor hallway, facing west 6 of 15 First floor east staircase, facing north 7 of 15 East staircase, facing first floor to the west 8 of 15 East staircase to second floor courtroom, facing west 9 of 15 Second floor courtroom, facing west 10 of 15 Basement, facing east 11 of 15

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Monroe County Courthouse, Madisonville, Monroe Co., TN
First floor, from east staircase, facing west
12 of 15
Jury room, second floor, facing southeast
13 of 15
World War II monument, facing northeast
14 of 15
World War I monument, facing southeast
15 of 15

(8-05)

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