

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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). Use each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name LAUDERDALE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Town Square N/A not for publication

city or town Ripley N/A vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Lauderdale code 097 zip code 38063

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Huger
Signature of certifying official/Title

2/18/95
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other. (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall

Entered in the
National Register

Date of Action

3/3/95

MAR 30 1995

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | 0 | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | | structures |
| 2 | 3 | objects |
| 3 | 3 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

0

Historic County Courthouses in Tennessee

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: courthouse

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: PWA Modern

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK; CONCRETE

roof ASPHALT

other METAL, GLASS

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheets.

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.)

Property is: N/A

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- 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

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/ GOVERNMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1936-1945

Significant Dates

1936

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Marr, Thomas and Holman, Joseph, arch.

R.M. Condra Contractors

Primary location of additional data: N/A

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Lauderdale County Courthouse

Name of Property

Ripley, Lauderdale Co., TN

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

Ripley South, TN, 414NE

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1 6 2 7 1 2 0 0 3 9 5 8 5 3 0
Zone Easting Northing

3 4
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

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 Trina Binkley

organization MTSU Center for Historic Preservation date August 30, 1994

street & number PO Box 80, MTSU telephone 615-898-2947

city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Rozelle Criner, County Executive

street & number Lauderdale County Courthouse telephone 615-635-3500

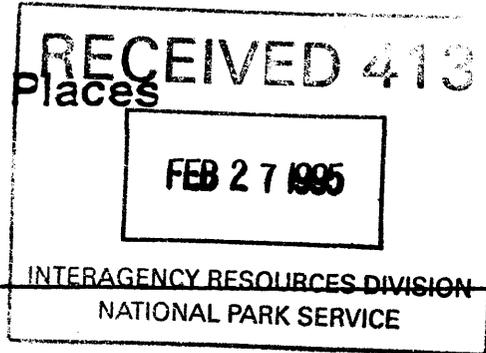
city or town Ripley state TN zip code 38063

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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Lauderdale County Courthouse, Ripley, Lauderdale Co., TN

VII. DESCRIPTION

The Lauderdale County Courthouse, located on the public square in Ripley (pop. 6,188), Tennessee, is an excellent example of PWA Modern architecture. The structure was designed by the Nashville architecture firm Marr and Holman and built by R. M. Condra Contractors in 1936. Although it and several other courthouses were begun at the same time, the Lauderdale County Courthouse was the first Public Works Administration funded courthouse to be completed in Tennessee. The two story plus a basement courthouse was designed to be fireproof, being constructed of a reinforced concrete frame with concrete exterior walls. The basement level water table is faced with plain course limestone ashlar with a beveled top course. The upper two stories are faced with buff-colored glazed brick. These exterior walls are twelve inches thick. All fenestration is metal and has always been painted medium brown. The courthouse features a flat composition roof with a decorative limestone band around the top edge of the parapet.

The courthouse is situated on raised ground in the center of the square. The grading on the south and east sides of the courthouse lawn is not as steep as the north and west. Each entrance, is accessed by a set of concrete stairs from the street level, up to a walk which leads to another set of concrete stairs. These stairs lead up to the entrance landings. All four entrance walks are connected by a concrete walk that circumscribes the entire building. The primary entrance is located on the west facade.

The courthouse is based on a central block with symmetrical wings plan. The center block is fifty feet wide, fifty-five feet deep, and forty feet high. Each wing is twenty-five feet wide, fifty feet deep, and thirty-five feet high. The most prominent exterior characteristic of the courthouse is its vertical stepped massing. The north and south facades have five bays, visible on all three floors. The middle bay projects out the farthest, with the flanking bays projecting out from the two end bays. The east and west facades have eleven bays. The center block section contains five bays

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Lauderdale County Courthouse, Ripley, Lauderdale Co., TN

with the center bay extending out two and one-half feet from the facade. The two flanking wings each have three bays. Each bay next to the center block extends out from the main wing facade. Each horizontal extended bay also extends vertically, creating a stepped roof line.

Leading up to the north elevation entrance are seven concrete steps with a central metal rail. It and the landing are framed by two stepped limestone abutments (as defined by project architect, Joe Holman). The entrance is a part of a two-story projecting bay. Painted medium-brown, the single glass pane and panel double doors are surrounded by a stepped limestone frame that flows upward to encompass a decorative door header and a panel. Original metal and glass light fixtures with half-round tops are located on either side of the entrance. The decorative header above the doorway contains two horizontal bands with a central figure above them. The lower band is plain, but the upper band contains a series of teeth-like motifs with small recessed upside down battlement shaped motifs in between. The central figure is a group of five stepped vertical bands. The outer two bands are plain with chamfered bottoms. The inner three bands are slender, with horizontal banded chamfered bottoms. The panel above contains the inscription, "LAUDERDALE COUNTY COURTHOUSE."

Directly above the panel in the recessed central bay is a window unit. This unit consists of a group of multi-pane metal windows with two hopper windows. The limestone area above the window unit contains a series of decorative banding with a panel above. The lowest band is plain. The second, plain with a central linear break partially through the band. The third, the same as the second band above the door. The fourth, plain with scalloped carved top section. And the top, a series of teeth-like motifs. Surrounding this banding and draping over the sides of the window unit is a stepped limestone band. The vertical panel above is divided into three horizontal sections, with the a vertical half-round sphere in the center section. The top of the parapet on the central bay section features a stepped

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Lauderdale County Courthouse, Ripley, Lauderdale Co., TN

limestone cap. Above this are two conical loud speakers, added probably in the 1950s.

The four other bays on the north facade are treated in a similar manner. The two bay sections directly flanking the central section extend out from and are taller than the outer two.

The typical bay consists of a visible basement level window unit consisting of a central casement window surrounded by a group of fixed panes on the bottom and sides. Above is a limestone panel with three vertical bands. The first floor window unit sill rests atop this panel. This window unit is the same as the basement, except the fixed panes are used on all sides and a metal panel is located at the base of the window unit. This medium-brown painted panel contains a series of vertical motifs. The center has three recessed half-round bands. The outer motifs are recessed and shaped like very thin elongated skyscrapers.

The metal spandrels between the first and second floors are painted medium-brown and contains a vertical series of stepped bands. The second floor window unit is the same as the first and contains decorative limestone banding above. This banding is located at the crown of the recessed bay and has thirty degree canted sides and a flat top. The lowest band is plain. The second, plain with a central linear break partially through the band. The third, a series of teeth-like motifs with upside down battlement motifs in between. And the fourth, a smaller series of teeth-like motifs. Above these four bays are three stepped, recessed vertical brick bands. Surrounding the top of the bay section is a limestone cap with stepped corners. Draping down each corner of the bay section, below the cap, is vertical stepped limestone banding.

The east elevation center block section contains five bays. Six concrete steps framed by stepped limestone abutments lead up to the central entrance landing. The entrance is part of a two-story projecting bay. The double entrance doors and the light fixtures are same as those on the north elevation. Located above the doors is the first floor

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window unit which has canted corners on the top. The window unit is made up of a central hopper window framed by fixed panes. A limestone panel with the inscription, "LAUDERDALE COUNTY COURTHOUSE" is located above the window. The second story window unit, the decorative banding at the top of the recessed bay, and the upper part of the center bay section are the same as the center bay section on the north side. Located on top of the center bay section, in between the two loud speakers of circa 1950, is a metal lightning rod with a spherical finial.

The two sets of flanking bays in the center block on the east elevation are on the same vertical plane, creating a horizontal roof line on the parapet on either side of the center bay. Each recessed bay and upper section of the flanking bays are treated in the same manner as the bay sections on the north facade.

The third and ninth bays, the ones flanking the center block, are approximately three feet shorter than the center block and extend out from the rest of the wing facade one brick depth. The recessed bay and upper section of these two bays are nearly the same as the bay sections on the north facade and the four outer bay sections on the center block. There are two exceptions. A small rectangular cut-out area framed in limestone on each bay section is located directly below the limestone band at the top of the parapet. A women's rest room door painted medium-brown with a small glass transom above is situated in the basement level window location. This was an original outside segregated rest-room for African-Americans.

The two sets of outer bays in the wing areas on the east elevation are on the same vertical and horizontal roof plane. The bay sections themselves are the same as those described on the north elevation with the exception of the basement area in the outermost wing on the southern corner of the elevation. It contains a men's rest room door painted medium-brown with a small glass transom above it. This was a second original segregated rest-room for African-Americans. Typically there is a window unit in the basement levels.

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The rest room doors in the basement of the southern wing of the east elevation are accessed by a concrete walk that runs off of the main east elevation entrance walk. Framing the walk is a low retaining wall constructed of buff-colored brick with a concrete top course. On top of the retaining wall is black-painted metal tube railings.

The south elevation is the same as the north elevation.

The west elevation is the same as the east elevation except that there are no rest room entrance doors on the southern side of the west elevation. The typical basement window arrangement is located on the west elevation.

The interior of the Lauderdale County Courthouse has had no major structural and only minimal decorative changes since its erection in 1936. Located on the north and south ends of the building are dog-legged stairs. Both extend from the basement to the second floor. The first and second floors have a landing between each flight. The basement stairs can be accessed to the side of the main stairs down a small flight to the landing at the side entrance doors. This landing is directly above the second floor landing. The stairs themselves have been finished with terrazzo, while the railing is metal painted mint-green. A curved wood handrail rests upon a series of square post balusters with "X"-shaped rails in between. Each "X" has vertical rails on its sides and a horizontal rail at the top and bottom. Separating each "X" section is a square baluster. Located at the end of each stair rail is a metal square-shaped newel post with a spherical finial.

The basement level floor plan contains a long central corridor that bisects the building. Offices open onto the corridor: these include the Lauderdale County Highway Department, maintenance room, conference room, sheriff's department, and election commission. The election office contains some partition walls and carpeting. Flooring in the basement is multi-colored tan terrazzo laid in a diagonal three foot grid pattern with a one foot wide green-colored terrazzo border. The walls have a five foot mint-green colored tile wainscoting with plaster above. The decorative ceiling trim contains a series of upside down

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triangles, and in between each recessed triangle is a circle in relief. Along the ceiling around the wall line are two flat linear bands. This decoration is painted peach. The ceiling finish is plaster painted white with fluorescent light fixtures.

The first floor is based upon a cruciform plan. It contains a long central corridor that bisects the building and two small central side corridors. The first floor flooring, wall, and ceiling treatment is the same as the basement. The entrances in the east and west corridors open up to a landing that leads up to an interior flight of stairs to the first floor level. At the top of the stairs is an intricate stepped archway. Located on the north and south walls of the east and west side corridor landings are large copper heating grates. Decorated in a linear design, these grates conceal the original gas radiators. On the northern wall of the east entrance landing are the bronze PWA and Lauderdale County Building Committee plaques.

The north end of the long corridor contains offices (county assessor, county court clerk, county executive, registrar, and trustee) and the General Sessions courtroom. The registrar and trustee offices have new counters and wallpaper above original tile wainscoting. The wooden doors leading off the corridor are paneled and single pane glass with a transom above. The General Sessions courtroom has multi-colored tan terrazzo flooring laid in a three foot grid pattern with a one-foot wide green terrazzo border. The walls are painted with wallpaper on the south wall. The ceiling contains the original decorative trim work, banding, and plaster finish characteristic of the rest of the building. The south end of the room has a raised carpeted floor where the judge's desk is located. The remainder of the room contains seating for visitors and clerk desks. The south end of the long corridor contains offices with the same door treatment and the first floor rest rooms.

At the center of the cruciform on the first floor is a rotunda-like space. On the floor is a multi-colored terrazzo map of the county. Intricate stepped archways are

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positioned at each corridor opening. The walls have been treated in the same manner as the rest of the first floor and the basement. In between the four archways are canted walls with office entrances. The mint-green painted doors have a lower panel with a single glass pane above. Decorative trim work is located in the area above the doors. At the top is a plain horizontal band. Below it is a stylized leaf and bead molding and a series of large teeth-like motifs. The ceiling finish is plaster painted white. The ceiling in the center of the cruciform contains coffered panels surrounding a central round concave area. At the center of the concave area is a ceiling medallion with a brass chandelier mounted in the center. The recessed panels contain fluorescent light fixtures.

The second floor plan is broken up into three sections: a centrally located courtroom and two side halls. The north hall contains the stairwell, offices, and a judge's chamber. The south hall contains the other stairwell, offices (circuit court clerk, chancery court clerk, and attorney general), a judge's chamber, the jury room, and rest rooms. The floor, walls, and ceiling in both halls are treated in the same manner as the basement and the first floor, except the wainscoting is only four feet high. The chancery court clerk office walls have been panelled and covered with wallpaper, while a new counter has been added to the circuit court clerk office.

The courtroom is used for several different courts: Circuit, Chancery, Juvenile, and Probate. The floors are multi-colored tan terrazzo laid in a three foot grid pattern with a one-foot wide green terrazzo border. The ceiling has been lowered with acoustical tiles and fluorescent lighting. Entry into the courtroom from the north and south halls is centrally located through a set of paneled double doors painted mint green. The courtroom side of these doorways is recessed with a decorative archway. The outermost wall of the archway is very linear, with a single step on each side and a flat arch above. The recessed middle section is made up of two intricately stepped sides. The inner most wall of the recessed archway contains a series of large teeth-like

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motifs with a stylized leaf and bead trim on top of the double doors.

A wide center aisle connects the north and south entrance doors of the courtroom, dividing the room into a public and courtroom space. The room is also separated by a stepped wood paneled half-wall with swinging doors. It is located on the east side of the aisle. The walls in the courtroom area have four foot high wood wainscoting with white painted plaster above. The original wood judges' bench is centrally located with the State Seal on its front. The judges' chamber doors, located north and south of the bench, are painted mint green and have decorative trim above. This slightly recessed area contains a series of large teeth-like motifs with a stylized leaf and bead trim on top. Around a corner, next to each door, is a light well with a angular geometric bronze grille. The southern end of the courtroom area contains the jury box with its original wood chairs. Behind it is a mint green painted panel door leading to the jury room. Clerk benches are located on the northern end.

The public area of the courtroom contain two aisles of paired benches. These original benches are wooden with decorative ends. Each end has a raised center section that contains a panel with a flower in relief. Flanking each side of the center section of the bench is a group of vertical fluting with pointed ends. The walls have a four foot mint-green colored tile wainscoting with white painted plaster above.

The lawn around the courthouse contains five objects. Located on the northwest corner of the courthouse is a howitzer gun, added as a war memorial in about 1936 (C). East of the gun is a carved monument, built in 1950, marking the one-hundred year anniversary of the Illinois Central Railroad (NC, due to date). A circa 1970 stone marker honoring Lauderdale County eagle scouts that are deceased is located east of the north entrance walk (NC, due to date). Another circa 1920 contributing howitzer gun (C) is situated on the southeast corner of the courthouse. The fifth object is located the southwest corner of the courthouse. It is a circa 1980 stone marker honoring law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty (NC, due to date).

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VIII. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lauderdale County Courthouse in Ripley (population 6,188), Tennessee, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as a significant local example of the public relief projects of the Public Works Administration, one of the federal New Deal work relief programs of the Great Depression era. It is also significant for its association with local government during the Great Depression and World War II periods. The Lauderdale County Courthouse is also eligible under Criterion C as an excellent example of PWA Modern architecture. It is nominated under the registration requirements for Historic County Courthouses in Tennessee, 1865-1945.

Lauderdale County lies along the western border of the state of Tennessee. The Mississippi River flows along the western side of the county with the eastern side situated in the west Tennessee plateau. The chief industry of the county is agriculture because of its mostly rich river bottom land. Corn, cotton, and hay are the main crops, but there is also large acreage of peach orchards, strawberries, tomatoes, soybeans, and sweet potatoes.

Lauderdale County was established on November 24, 1835, from portions of Dyer, Haywood, and Tipton counties. Located about seven miles east of the center of the county, Ripley, the county seat, was founded in June 1836 out of sixty-two and one-half acres. Purchased by the county commissioners for fifty dollars, the land was sold into lots and the money used to build the necessary public buildings.

In September 1836, a temporary courthouse, costing \$200, was put up on North Main Street. Made of yellow poplar logs, the building was twenty-two by twenty-six feet, and stood seventeen feet high. Used from 1838 to 1844, this structure was replaced by a frame building that cost \$4,000. It was at this time that the county moved the location of the courthouse to the center of the public square. This courthouse burned in 1869, and was replaced in 1870 by a

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\$20,000 Italianate-styled brick building. This small courthouse became increasingly non-functional in the early twentieth century as the progressive movement in government and politics increased public services to Lauderdale County residents. Lacking money to expand the courthouse, nor having the money to build a new building, county government remained in cramped quarters until the local government decided to apply for and take advantage of the new public works projects of the federal government. In December 1935, the old courthouse was demolished to make way for the current building.

The Lauderdale County Courthouse was the first courthouse in Tennessee to be partially funded with Public Works Administration money in 1936. The 1870 courthouse had become spatially outdated by the mid-1930s because it had been designed to hold only six offices. Government services had expanded significantly in the early twentieth century and more space was needed for officials such as the county extension agent. In 1935 the county applied for federal assistance with the PWA to build a new courthouse. The PWA awarded the county a grant allotment of \$50,000, while the county issued bonds totalling approximately \$75,000. A building committee was formed to supervise the courthouse construction. The members were W. W. Craig, N. W. Barbour, Judge S. T. Kirkpatrick, Wardlaw Steele, B. C. Durham, Ira Dunnavant, and Tom Pollard.

The building committee hired the prominent Nashville architecture firm, Marr and Holman, to design the new building. Additionally, they selected R. M. Condra Company to be the project's contractors. New construction began in February 1936 with the excavation of the grounds, and in early March, the old courthouse cornerstone was opened. Completed in December 1936, the new courthouse more than tripled the space of the old and was by far the most expensive and elaborate courthouse to date in Lauderdale County.

The new courthouse stood out among the Victorian-era commercial buildings on the square. The PWA Modern style

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visually corresponded with the new progressive, reform-oriented government plan which Roosevelt's New Deal was implementing. The style, like many New Deal government programs, looked toward the present and the future, not the past, for its inspiration. Marr and Holman would prove to be particularly adept in designing this blending of Art Deco and more classically inspired courthouse design. For the Lauderdale County Courthouse, the firm used brick as the main exterior material; in their later PWA-funded courthouse projects, the firm used limestone and concrete.

One of only two modern-styled buildings in Ripley, the Lauderdale County Courthouse stands out as the best example of PWA Modern style. Designed on a cruciform plan, the two-story plus a basement fireproof structure was constructed of buff-colored glazed brick with entrances at each directional heading. Located at the center of the cruciform in the first floor rotunda, is a inlaid terrazzo map of the county. Zig-zag-influenced angular Art Deco decorative elements are used throughout the exterior and interior of the courthouse framing doors and doorways, windows and at the ceiling line. As stated by Rufus Campbell in the 1957 history of Lauderdale County,

Few prettier spots exist in the United States than the lawn about the courthouse, for here are a few of the ancient trees, many new pecans, maples, locusts, and shrubs which sit in a carpet of green grass with squirrels playing here, all of which is in keeping with the atmosphere of the 'town nearest heaven.'

Included in the new courthouse were all county offices, two courtrooms, the public library, rest rooms, and a large community room with a kitchen and a dining room. These rooms reflected the public attitude of expanded government services associated with the progressive movement in general and with the New Deal in particular. Significant events in local government took place at the courthouse from 1936 to 1945. Programs such as the county agricultural extension service and the Works Progress Administration operated from

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the courthouse. Both programs significantly impacted the community over the next six years, with the extension service still playing an important role in the agricultural development of Lauderdale County. The WPA, from 1936 to 1942, built new roads, improved dikes and levies, and constructed other public buildings like the Ripley Post Office (NR 9/23/88). The presence of federally supported, and state administered, programs in the new courthouse documented a significant change in local government during those years as local officials and magistrates exchanged a significant degree of local autonomy and governmental independence in return for federal and state funding and expertise. During World War II, the local draft board met regularly at the courthouse and county officials used the courthouse and its surrounding grounds as the appointed gathering place for war bond drives and scrap drives. Currently, the courthouse is still the center for all local and county government. The building has retained good integrity with no structural changes and few material changes. Even today, the 1936 Lauderdale County Courthouse remains to the most impressive public building in Ripley.

ENDNOTE:

¹Kate Johnson Peters, Lauderdale County From Earliest Times (Ripley, Tennessee: Sugar Hill Lauderdale County Library, 1957), 125.

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Lauderdale County Courthouse, Ripley, Lauderdale Co., TN

IX. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Lauderdale County Courthouse, Ripley, Lauderdale Co., TN

X. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated boundaries for the Lauderdale County Courthouse occupy the city lot designated as 16 in the attached Lauderdale County Tax Map 95A-B.

Boundary Justification

The nominated boundaries include all of the historic property associated with the Lauderdale County Courthouse.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTOS Page 15

Lauderdale County Courthouse, Ripley, Lauderdale Co., TN

PHOTOGRAPHS

Lauderdale County Courthouse, Ripley, Lauderdale Co., TN

Photos by: Holly A. Rine and Trina Binkley

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Date: July 1994

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, TN

West facade, facing northeast
1 of 19

North elevation, facing south
2 of 19

South elevation, facing north
3 of 19

East elevation, facing west
4 of 19

Basement corridor, facing north
5 of 19

Center of cruciform, first floor, facing north
6 of 19

General Sessions courtroom, first floor, northwest corner
facing north
7 of 19

South hall landing, second floor, facing north
8 of 19

Courtroom side of north hall doors, second floor, facing
north
9 of 19

Courtroom public area, second floor, facing southwest
10 of 19

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number PHOTOS Page 16

Lauderdale County Courthouse, Ripley, Lauderdale Co., TN

Courtroom area, second floor, facing southeast
11 of 19

Detail of end of original courtroom bench, second floor
12 of 19

Howitzer gun, southeast corner, facing northwest
13 of 19

Madison County eagle scout marker, northeast corner facing
east
14 of 19

Illinois Central Railroad monument, northwest corner facing
west
15 of 19

Central lobby, first floor, facing west
16 of 19

County map, first floor lobby, facing west
17 of 19

First floor staircase, facing north
18 of 19

Heating plant, basement, facing east
19 of 19

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-------|-----|--------|-----|-----|-------|-----|--------|
| 6-P-C | | | | | | | | | |
| 92' | 23' | 21.7' | 22' | 20.75' | 23' | 20' | 62.5' | 22' | 22" F" |

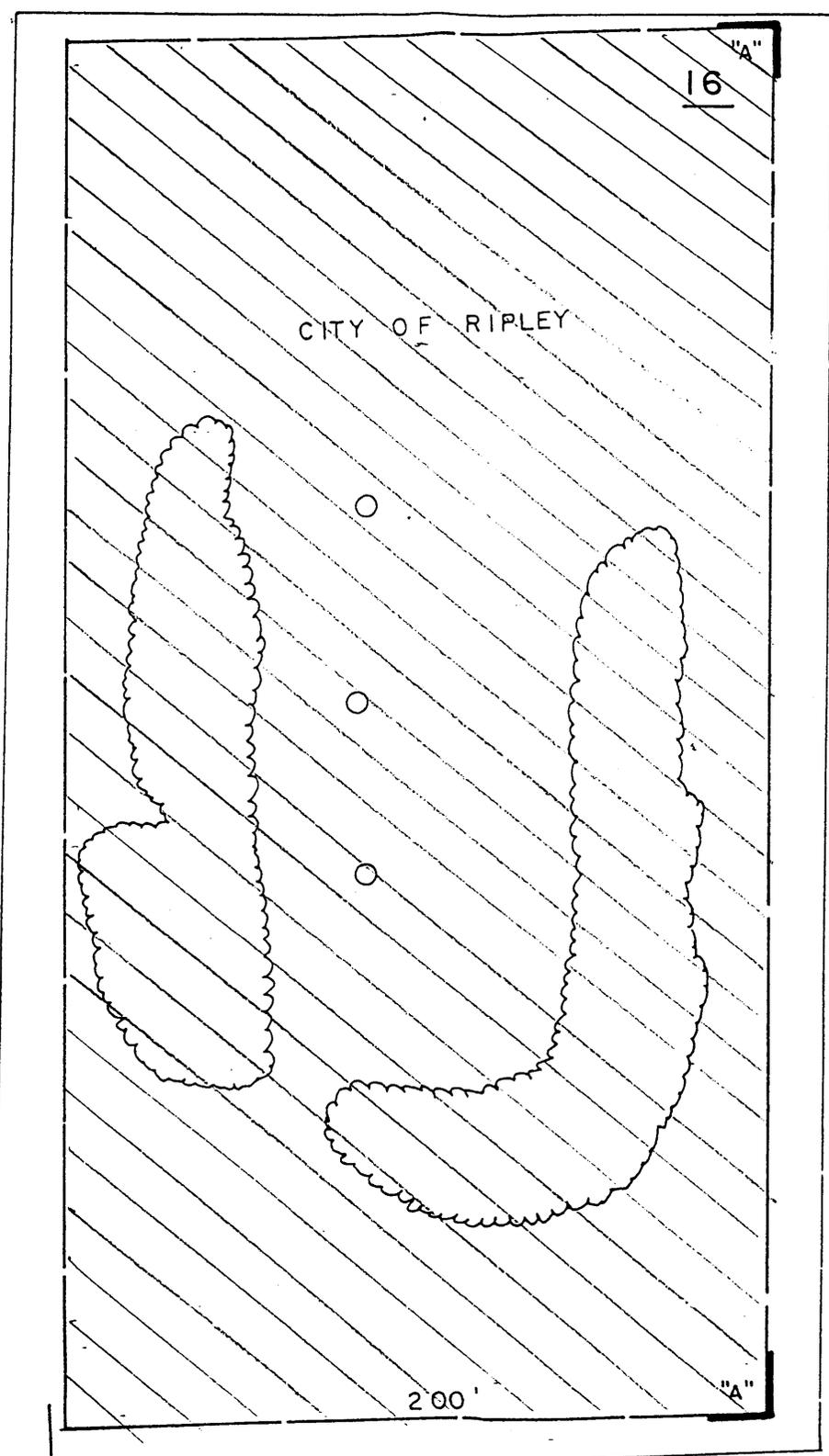
"E"-76-P-C
"F" 99'

LAUDERDALE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
LAUDERDALE COUNTY TN
1" = 50'



| | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 49.5' | 49.5' | 24.5' | 26.1' | 49.5' | 25' | 39' | 35' | 100' |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|------|

STREET



STREET

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| "D" 100' | | | | | | | | | |
| 24.75' | 24.75' | 24.75' | 27.60' | 24.75' | 24.75' | 24.75' | 24.75' | 48.5' | 24.75' |
| 24.75' | 24.75' | 24.75' | 24.75' | 24.75' | 24.75' | 24.75' | 24.75' | 28' | 95.47' |
| 100' | | | | | | | | | |

U. S. ROUTE 51