

PH0010901

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: ALABAMA	
COUNTY: SUMTER	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAR 24 1972	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Sumter County Courthouse

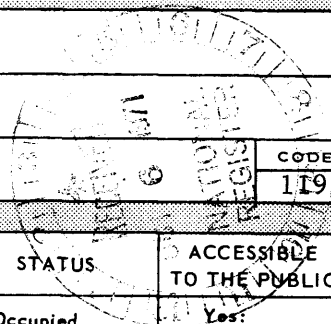
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Livingston

STATE Alabama	CODE 01	COUNTY: Sumter	CODE 1T9
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Sumter County Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
Sumter County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Livingston

STATE:
Alabama

CODE:
01

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Sumter County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Livingston

STATE:
Alabama

CODE:
01

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
COUNTY:	MAR 24 1972	
		FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sumter County Courthouse, built in 1902, is most influenced in its architectural character by Beaux-Arts Classicism, though certain elements in its makeup reflect the then popular Romanesque style. Features which reflect the Classic Revival include four sets of coupled Ionic engaged columns spaced symmetrically along the second-story facade of the central mass; the obvious delineation of the central mass from the two wings; the elaborate profusion of trim; and the overall symmetry.

As in most small-town county seats, the courthouse is located on a square which is the focal point of the town's design. A grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has permitted the City of Livingston to install the type of gas lamps which lighted the city at the turn of the century and to restore the iron fence surrounding the courthouse. Also on the courthouse square is a mineral well once widely acclaimed for its curative properties. A wooden pavilion with a pagoda-type roof stood over the well until 1924 when it was removed and a brick structure erected.

The courthouse itself is basically a two-story masonry and stone structure built directly on grade. The roof is divided into three sections each of which is hipped, the center section rising above the wings.

An eight-sided, but not octagonal, domed cupola rises from the roof of the main mass. Each of the four main facets, delineated by pilasters of a Roman order, is composed of a six-paned window with sidelights and an arched transom.

The cornice is heavily dentilled on all sides and projects over the engaged columns. A unique feature is the pediment, the center portion of which is indented to reveal an ornamental relief on the same plane as the main mass.

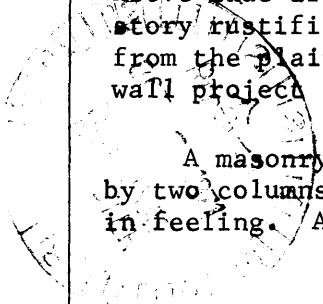
Balancing the pediment is a concrete balcony with cast-iron railing supported by consoles on either side.

Fenestration is symmetrical, lower windows being eight-paned and of lintel construction and upper windows, generally eight-paned and of brick-arch construction. However, upper windows in the main mass are rectangular eight-paned with two-paned brick-arched transoms.

Four courses of stone blocks form the lower portion of the first story. Above that are alternating layers of five courses of brick simulating lower story rustification. An elaborate scroll band separates the lower story from the plainer upper story. Bases of the same construction as the lower wall project to support the coupled columns of the upper story.

A masonry arch directly inside the recessed entrance-way is supported by two columns on brick bases. These features are distinctly Romanesque in feeling. A fanlight transom is over the door.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	ALABAMA
COUNTY	SUMTER
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(Number all entries)

7. Description--Sumter County Courthouse--Continued

The rear of the building is basically identical to the front, and the east wing entrance is unadorned. The west entrance, however, is similar to the front in its use of columns and other ornament although in a scaled-down manner. A one-story enclosed portico with Romanesque arches and columns on three sides projects from this entrance and also supports the columns above. The entrance arch is similar to that of the front.

Inside, the courthouse is intersected by two hallways running the length and width of the building. Thirteen offices are housed there, and the courtroom is upstairs. The interior woodwork is mahogany. The classical motif is carried out in the courtroom by means of engaged mahogany pilasters at the front of the room, two on either side of the bench connected by a mahogany architrave.

9. Bibliographical References--Sumter County Courthouse--Continued

Spratt, Robert Davie, "History of the Town of Livingston, Alabama," unpublished manuscript at Livingston University Library, 1928.

Sulzby, James F., Historic Alabama Hotels and Resorts, Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1960.

Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780, Cambridge: The M. I. T. Press, 1969.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

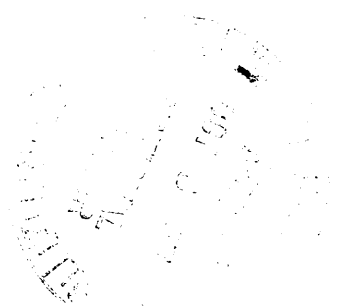
The present Sumter County Courthouse, built in 1902, is the fourth in the county's history. A log courthouse, built in 1833, served as the center of many early county activities including the organizing of several churches.

The next courthouse, built of brick in 1838, collapsed while all the personnel were out to lunch. It was replaced by a frame courthouse which burned in 1901. Fortunately, the probate office with county records was located next door and thus unharmed by the fire.

On July 9, 1902, the cornerstone containing several papers of interest was laid for the present courthouse. A public barbecue was held to celebrate, and Dr. Russell M. Cunningham, lieutenant governor of Alabama, and Major J. G. Harris, former state superintendent of education, were prominent in the dedication ceremonies. The local Masonic Lodge was in charge of laying the cornerstone, and large crowds of people attended the ceremonies. The building committee, appointed by the County Board of Commissioners, consisted of J. A. McConnell, John L. Horn, and W. A. C. Jones, all prominent Sumter Countians.

Architects were Ausfeld and Chapman, and the builder was C. H. Dabbs and Company.

Also located on the courthouse square was a well-known watering place, Choctaw Tavern. While drilling for water with which to supply the town, a saline current was reached, which, upon investigation and analysis, was found to contain curative properties. It was completed in April, 1867, and still stands.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Conversation with Marcus E. McConnell, July 22, 1971.

Letter from Marcus E. McConnell, August 2, 1971; filed with Alabama Historical Commission.

National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Alabama, ed., Early Courthouses of Alabama, Mobile: Jordan Printing Company, Mobile, 1966.

(continued)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		32° 34' 55"	88° 11' 18"	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approx. 2 square acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: September 3, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
305 South Lawrence

CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Nils B. Howard, Jr.

Title SLD

Date October 1, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connolly
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAR 24 1972

Date _____

ATTEST:
William J. Neustadt
Keeper of The National Register

Date JAN 18 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS