

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

For NCRS use only

received FEB 29 1980

date entered SEP 18 1980

1. Name Georgia County Courthouse Thematic Resources

historic County Courthouses in Georgia

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number (see attached address list)

___ not for publication

city, town

___ vicinity of

congressional district

All 10 districts
are included.

state Georgia

code 013

county

see individual
code sheets: "CC"

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<u>X</u> occupied	___ agriculture
<u>X</u> building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	<u>X</u> commercial
___ structure	<u>X</u> both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	<u>X</u> government
Thematic	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
Group		___ no	___ military
			___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership [see individual forms under "mailing address"]

street & number

city, town

___ vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number County Courthouse

city, town in the particular county seat

state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title (see attached list)

has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

date

___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

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1. "Study of Architecture of Courthouses in Georgia," by Janice A. Hardy, under a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and Georgia College.

1976

X-Federal

Depository: Georgia College

Milledgeville

Georgia

2. The National Register of Historic Places

No property already listed on the National Register is included in this nomination although the Old Chattahoochee County Courthouse (now at Westville) was previously listed prior to its being moved.

County courthouses in Georgia already listed as individual structures:

<i>Yulston Co.</i>	Berrien County Courthouse, Nashville	<i>Town Sq.</i>
	Campbell County Courthouse, Fairburn	<i>E. Broad and Cole Sts.</i>
	Old DeKalb County Courthouse, Decatur	<i>Court Sq.</i>
	Haralson County Courthouse, Buchanan	<i>Courthouse Sq.</i>
	Old Lumpkin County Courthouse, Dahlonega	<i>W. S. 19</i>
	Meriwether County Courthouse, Greenville	<i>Court Sq.</i>
	Thomas County Courthouse, Thomasville	<i>N. Broad St.</i>
	Old White County Courthouse, Cleveland	<i>GA 115</i>

County courthouses in Georgia already listed within historic districts:

Baldwin County Courthouse, Milledgeville Historic District
Bibb County Courthouse, Macon Historic District
Chatham County Courthouse, Savannah Historic District
Clarke County Courthouse, Downtown Athens Historic District
Clayton County Courthouse, Jonesboro Historic District
Glynn County Courthouse, Old Town Brunswick Historic District
Hancock County Courthouse, Sparta Historic District
Morgan County Courthouse, Madison Historic District
Oglethorpe County Courthouse, Lexington Historic District
Putnam County Courthouse, Eatonton Historic District
Randolph County Courthouse, Cuthbert Historic District

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3. The Crawford County Courthouse was included within the Historic American Buildings Survey.

1936

X-Federal

Division of Prints and Photographs, the Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

4. Many of the county courthouses in Georgia are included within the Historic Structures Field Survey (for the particular county).

1970s

X-State

Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Atlanta, Georgia

5. The only county courthouse in Georgia that has been determined eligible is the Old Bartow County Courthouse. It is listed in the Federal Register as the Old Bartow County Courthouse, 4 East Church Street, Cartersville, Georgia (63.3).

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The county courthouse in Georgia, usually located in, or on the corner facing, a town square is most often a community's most significant architectural structure. Like the cathedral in European towns, the courthouse is usually visible from a distance. Another similarity to ecclesiastical structures is the frequent utilization of a cross plan. In this instance, the plan symbolizes man's respect for the law and the pride of the people who built the courthouse. When the early Georgia "temples of justice" were designed, they were the most modern building in town, had the most lavish spaces, richest detail, up-to-date lights, heating plants, water closets, and telephones. They may not be the most modern today, but they still have the richest detail, the greatest spaces. Nothing like them will be built again, for the county cannot afford it, nor are there craftsmen who can build in the same way.

CARPENTER STYLE

Many of the early structures were designed and constructed by carpenter-builders, who gave their work a simple but solid character. About eight examples exist today. Heart pine and handmade brick were favorite, inexpensive materials of the carpenter style. Only two wooden courthouses remain in Georgia. One is the Old Chattahoochee County Courthouse. Once located in Cusseta, it has now been moved to Westville, a model village of the 1850s. The other is the Old Marion County Courthouse. Both have hipped roofs and are two-story, square structures featuring pegged construction of heart pine. Other examples of the carpenter style in central and south Georgia assume more classic lines. Clay and Crawford counties are good examples of brick structures that have columns or pilasters and hipped roofs. Their plans have one hall similar to the early dog-trot cabins. Another direction is indicated in Columbia County, where the simple rectangular structure is adorned with Italianate eave brackets. The carpenter style in north Georgia differs and is exemplified by the Dawson County Courthouse. The 1857 rectangular brick structure sits on a tiny town square. It has a gabled roof; the entry is a stoop leading to plain wooden doors with a rectangular glass transom; the windows have brick lintels over wooden frames. Several early north Georgia courthouses resembled this building. In 1926, this same style was selected for the Dade County Courthouse in Trenton, an indication of the preference of north Georgians for it.

GREEK REVIVAL

Another early style was Greek Revival, used about mid-nineteenth century. Only three or four examples remain. Banks and Greene counties are notable. They feature rectangular designs of brick, regularly spaced rectangular windows, temple front porticos, low-pitched roofs. They lack the sophistication of Greek Revival in

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in the Northeast U. S., more closely resembling examples whose inspiration came from Virginia. The courtroom of Banks is more Spartan than Greene. It resembles the carpenter style while Greene is more sophisticated with classic elements like columns, pediments, and a cornice filled with five-pointed, gilded stars.

The maturing of the courthouse architectural form in Georgia occurred in the last half of the 19th and the first decade of the 20th century. The influence of styles in the Northeast and Mid-west of the U. S. were particularly obvious.

ROMANESQUE

The use of the Romanesque style continued into the 20th century. With its broad round-arched entrances, turrets, and capped clock towers, it created a vertical, irregular silhouette. Brick with stone foundation and trim were the most common materials. Stone bandings and panels or stringcourses of terra cotta and sometimes pressed metal were used. "T" plans, cross plans, "Y" plans were the ones employed most often. The interiors had beautiful millwork of oak or pine; double staircases lead to the courtroom. The judge's bench was elaborate as were the pressed metal courtroom ceilings. Some of the ceilings have been lowered and the interiors altered but basically, the exteriors remain unchanged. About a dozen examples remain. The Old Floyd County courthouse is a fine example of this style. The interior with its massive oak woodwork echoes the strength of the exterior.

Some elements of the Richardsonian Romanesque are found as in the Chatham County courthouse but generally Georgia courthouses are simpler, less pure. Often there is stylistic mixing. An example of this is the double arched Romanesque entry of the Brooks County courthouse. This part of the facade was added in 1892. At the same time, a Renaissance garland to decorate the frieze and delicately detailed pediments on Renaissance scrolled brackets over the paired second story windows were added. The details are Renaissance yet the entry is Richardsonian.

HIGH VICTORIAN

The High Victorian style combines many design elements. Gothic elements are mixed with other design features. There are pinnacles, pyramidally capped bell

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towers, tracery, stepped gables, and even classic elements like columns, pilasters, Palladian windows, and interior friezes. The steeped pitched roof lines are complex as are window treatments that feature square, rectangular and segmentally arched examples in the same structure. Construction materials are brick, stone, wood, terra cotta, pressed metal, cast iron. The floor plans used are cross and assymmetrical ones. Half a dozen good examples can be found today.

The most fanciful High Victorian exterior in Georgia is the Terrell County courthouse that towers over the town of Dawson. Victorian interiors have pressed metal courtroom ceilings, spacious litigation areas, elaborate judge's benches. Often stained glass was used in the courtroom, although little remains today. One of the notable interiors is in Monroe County. It is particularly outstanding because of the tinted pressed metal ceiling (the design is delicate, reminiscent of Adam Brothers designs).

SECOND EMPIRE

Popular in this same period was the Second Empire Style. There are four or five remaining courthouses that utilized designs having high Mansard roofs on boldly modeled buildings with clock towers. Dormers of many shapes, bracketed cornices, arched or rectangular windows mark this style. Brick, wood, and stone were the most frequently used materials. Floor plans were usually "T" plans. Newton County courthouse is a fine example in Georgia.

QUEEN ANNE

Queen Anne, a popular English style, was revived in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. It featured many eclectic and picturesque effects; asymmetrical plans, deep porches, capped or domed corner towers, stepped gables. Many materials and textures were utilized - wood, stone, terra cotta panels, multi-colored brick. The interiors of courtrooms have beaded boards in checkerboard designs in wainscoting and ceiling. Pressed metal was sometimes used and window transoms often had tiny, colored glass panes. The Randolph County courthouse is an example of the variety achieved both on the exterior and interior. About half a dozen remain.

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BEAUX ARTS: CLASSICAL

The most important influence on Georgia courthouse design was the classical influence begun by the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. This style stressed symmetrical plans, use of classical orders, colossal columns, pedimented porticos - generally on a grand scale. In Georgia, brick, stone and concrete were the materials used; exterior and interior plans are spacious with classical detailing. The Ben Hill County courthouse is an example of this plan. There are only three or four courthouses that could be classified as Beaux Arts: Classical but the influence spread rapidly and was diluted.

BEAUX ARTS: RENAISSANCE REVIVAL

The Beaux Arts influence produced a Renaissance Revival style with monumental, horizontal, symmetrical plans, regular window patterns, one story entrances, some simple rustication, heavy cornices. Several Georgia examples of this style have been adopted and "streamlined". They seem Renaissance more in their massing and long horizontal lines than in specific details, such as window pediments and string-courses. The Walker County courthouse is one such example. Two or three others remain.

NEO-CLASSICAL

Other Greek and Roman styles were revived at the turn of the century, making the classical influence doubly strong. Between 1890-1910, fifty-six courthouses were constructed in Georgia. Three-fourths assumed Neo-Classical lines. They were the largest courthouses built in the state and featured several two-story projecting pedimented porticos utilizing colossal columns, corner pavilions, quoins, fan lighted doorways, round arched and rectangular windows, domed clock towers. Pressed metal in egg and dart and bead and reel designs was seen on the exterior and interior. The interiors had cross plans, art nouveau light fixtures, iron staircases, some hand graining of wood, and spacious courtrooms. Coweta County courthouse is an excellent example of a Neo-Classical design.

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NEO-CLASSICAL VARIATIONS

There were variations on this style. Two notable ones are the Decatur and Turner County courthouses which have classical facades and a corner campanile giving them an Italianate look. Two others - the Murray and Effingham County courthouses - are Palladian adaptations. The domes are low, broad and resemble the one at Jefferson's Monticello.

The Neo-classical revival continued into the twenties and thirties using some of the same types of plans, with only one entrance portico and a generally diminished scale. They were not as grand as the earlier ones. Two good examples of the late Neo-Classical period are Bacon and Bleckley County courthouses.

20th CENTURY GOTHIC REVIVAL

The Camden County courthouse represents a departure from the Neo-Classical emphasis of the 20th century. J. de Bruyn Kops designed this picturesque structure, using battlements, a parapet wall and label lintels over rectangular windows. All Gothic elements were used quite freely and adapted to suit the architect. It is the only such example in Georgia.

CLOCKS

An important aspect of many Georgia courthouses, regardless of style, is the clock. Located in a tower or dome, it can be seen easily throughout town and heard from some distance. Numerous clocks were installed from 1890 - 1910. One noted clock company, the E. Howard Watch and Clock Company that operated out of Boston, New York, and Chicago, began building tower clocks in 1842. The firm is no longer in business. Numerous E. Howard clocks have been pinpointed in Georgia courthouses: Henry, Turner, Stephens, and Decatur are examples. The Henry County clock has recently been valued by Baer's Clock Shop (Michael T. Lepper, II, President) as being worth in excess of \$200,000 when restored.

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NON-HISTORIC COURTHOUSES

During the 1930s, three general styles of county courthouses were built in Georgia. Most prevalent was the Art Deco style, strongly influenced by the Neoclassical tradition. Courthouses in Cherokee (1929), Hall (1936), Mitchell (1937), and Cook (1939) counties are examples. These courthouses are generally simple in massing and bold in form. They feature shallow, incised, almost relief decoration, but of classical inspiration rather than the zig-zags and chevrons of the true Art Deco. Surface material tends to be monolithic, like concrete or limestone slabs. Contrasting with these "modern" designs are the Colonial or Williamsburg Revival courthouses. Brantley (1930), Calhoun (1935), and Rockdale (1939) counties are examples. These courthouses are generally built of brick and feature arched entryways, architrave cornices, and hipped roofs with cupolas. Fewer in number are the Neoclassical courthouses, such as Taylor (1935), Fannin (1937), and Bryan (1938), which continue the tradition established at the turn of the century, usually with greater emphasis on Roman motifs. With few exceptions, none of these courthouses are included in this nomination because of the fifty-year cutoff date. With the passage of time, however, these courthouses may meet the criteria for listing on the National Register.

County-courthouse construction has continued during the past three decades. Generally, these recent courthouses are contemporary in their character and appearance. They range from the ultra-modern high-rises of Columbus/Muscogee County (1970) and DeKalb County through medium-rise structures like the brick, concrete and glass Cobb County Courthouse (1966) to the low-rise buildings of Haralson County. The Hart County Courthouse (1971) represents the modular approach to courthouse design, while the Forsyth County Courthouse (1975) makes use of prefabricated units. Some courthouses resemble elementary schools, like those in Echols (1954) and Douglas (1957); some resemble large ranch houses, like that in Chattahoochee County, while others reflect the European modernism of the 1930s, such as Crisp County (1950). Traditional design elements still appear, however, as in the pedimented portico attached to the front of the otherwise utilitarian Gordon County Courthouse (1959). Because of their very recent dates of construction, none of these modern courthouses have been included in this nomination.

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CHANGES TO EXISTING COURTHOUSE BUILDINGS

Many courthouses are presently deteriorating with little or no work having been done in years. For example, Henry County's courthouse has had no basic maintenance work in over ten years. Some, like the Union County courthouse, were condemned and new ones constructed in a new location. The Old Union County courthouse still sits, unoccupied, on the town square. Citizens of Blairsville are working toward an adaptive use for the building, perhaps as a community center. Other old courthouses that were not razed when new ones were constructed are being used adaptively today. The Lumpkin County courthouse is now a gold museum; White County's has been leased by the Historical Society; Old Clayton County's is used as a court office building. There is only one building in Georgia used as a courthouse that was adapted from an earlier building. The Old Hyatt Hotel in Ellijay was adapted in the 1930's into the Gilmer County courthouse.

ALTERATIONS

Many exteriors have been altered by the removal of unsteady spires, clock towers, turrets. The Dooly County courthouse is an example of one whose spire had to be removed for lack of structural soundness. Rotting wooden balconies, decorative urns, and finials have disappeared. Some windows have been enclosed; some have had to accommodate new air conditioning, ventilating systems or have had worn wooden sashes replaced by metal. This has often changed the character or proportion of a facade.

Storms have taken their toll on clock or bell towers, destroying those in Pike and Walton Counties. The tower replacements are often smaller than the originals and lack their fine details.

REMODELING

Some exteriors have been successfully remodeled. Colquitt County added a mezzanine floor in the mid-1950's. This changed the fenestration, but the work was done with good planning and sensitivity to design, thereby creating a blend of old and new elements. Not so successful was the new "tabby" exterior added to the McIntosh County* courthouse which totally changed the look of the building. Given the new exterior finish and total modernization of the interior, this has the appearance of a building constructed in the 1960's or early 1970's.

* not being nominated

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DESTROYED

The earliest courthouses in Georgia were often log structures, usually small in size. Even more complex buildings were constructed of wood. Therefore, from the early years of the state, fire has been a menace, easily destroying these wooden buildings along with valuable records. Even after brick became popular for the creation of more lasting structures, fire continued to be a problem. It has destroyed a number of magnificent old buildings in the past fifteen years. Sometimes there have been suggestions of arson; often carelessness was to blame. Notable examples of the courthouses in this category are Forsyth, Hart, Meriwether and Miller Counties. Two solutions to the problem of rebuilding can be seen in Meriwether and Miller Counties. Meriwether chose to restore the exterior after a 1976 fire.

The interior will have a mezzanine floor, making functional use of available space. No attempt will be made to "restore" the interior. Miller County opted for a completely new design. The one-story building stands on the town square. It has a central core that is the courtroom, rising higher than the offices that surround it, and numerous clerestory windows flood the courtroom with natural light. On the exterior, the design features round arches and has most pleasing proportions.

Other courthouses have been destroyed by the wrecking ball. In the 1960's when federal monies became available, many counties chose to build a new courthouse and raze the old structure. Rabun and Towns Counties in North Georgia are examples.

Often the new buildings are characterless, rectangles, with flat roof, steel, glass, and brick construction that resemble the new White and Union County buildings.

INTERIORS

Today the exteriors of most of the Georgia courthouses are in far better condition than the interiors, which often have been desecrated by the addition of cheap paneling over cracked plaster, partitions for additional office space, and lowered courtroom ceilings, with acoustical tile replacing the old wide planks or pressed metal. Lack of storage areas and office space are always a complaint.

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Hallways are often crowded with old chairs, benches, desks, boxes, and garbage cans packed with records. As a result of the shortage of space, changes have been made piece-meal, as need arises, without concern for the design of the whole building. Many balconies have been enclosed, and in one instance, an office was added on the landing of a stairway to the courtroom.

PRESERVATION

Most of the preservation of the older buildings has been due to the poverty of the counties. They lacked funds to alter, remodel or re-build. In the past five years, some counties have become actively interested in the preservation of their older courthouses.

The Coweta County Courthouse, built in 1904, is one of the best examples in Georgia of what can be done to preserve an existing courthouse. The interior of the building was not drastically altered but was completely refurbished in 1976. The result is clean and colorful, with the architectural details and the relationship of exterior and interior forms preserved.

Berrien County is another example of one that is currently involved in a preservation project.

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METHODOLOGY

In 1976, Janice A. Hardy, associate professor of art, received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and Georgia College to study the architecture of courthouses in Georgia. The scope of this study was limited to the preservation of courthouses by historical documentation and photographic records, dealing only with buildings constructed before 1910. This study became the basis for the information used in this thematic nomination. The methodology has remained somewhat the same, although the present study has been broadened to include courthouse construction up to the 1930s. This nomination was prepared under a matching historic preservation grant from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service of the Department of the Interior.

Preliminary preparation for the study of Georgia courthouses included a review of all available county histories and contact with various organizations which had information available about courthouse buildings. In 1965-66, the Colonial Dames of Georgia produced An [sic] historical survey of the 159 county courthouses in the state of Georgia. This document, along with a file of pictures belonging to the Colonial Dames, a five-volume facilities survey published by the Judicial Council of Georgia in 1976, and 35mm contact prints made for the Judicial Council study, gave background information for all Georgia counties, including date of construction of the courthouse. One of the investigators also had the opportunity of attending the 1976 Courthouse Conference in St. Louis sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Using the date of construction as determined in the 1966 and 1976 studies, on site visits over a period of three years were made to courthouses believed to be eligible for the National Register. These visits included a taped visual description by an art historian, photographic documentation, and interviews with county officials and any other people who had pertinent information about the history of the building. Investigation of county records such as Minutes of Inferior Court, Commissioner's Minutes and old newspapers (particularly legal ads where the county advertised for architects and builders) were made to obtain historical and technical data. One of the simplest and most effective tools used was the building cornerstone, which frequently listed date of construction, architect and contractor.

From September, 1978, through July, 1979, Janice A. Hardy and Anne Harman, working under a grant from the Department of the Interior, administered by the Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Section, reviewed and combined all sources and expanded their study to develop this

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thematic nomination of Georgia courthouses.

Some courthouses were added by the Historic Preservation Section to the original nomination. It was felt that although the architectural features may not be as significant as others, they still represent a structure significant in local history and politics. Those added were over fifty years old or older and had retained their integrity. Several that had not retained their integrity yet were over fifty years old were not included. Several were included that were not yet fifty years old. This was done because they were the only courthouses ever built in their respective counties, all of which had been created in this century.

NOTE: Unless indicated on the Individual Forms, all photographs have the following citation:

Photographer: Anne Harman

Negatives filed at: Art History Department, Georgia College
Milledgeville, Georgia

Date: 1977-1979

Description: all are usually the front/main facade of the
courthouse unless otherwise described

Direction: added on the individual forms

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	<u>X</u> law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	___ agriculture	<u>X</u> economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	<u>X</u> architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	humanitarian
<u>X</u> 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
<u>X</u> 1900-	<u>X</u> communications	___ industry	<u>X</u> politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Georgia's courthouses are landmarks -- marks upon the land -- symbolizing the stability of the law on which this state and nation were founded, echoing the character of the townspeople, depicting the flavor of local politics and revealing community cultural traditions. Many Georgia courthouses use cross plans which have, besides an ecclesiastical connotation, an economic purpose. Because of the proximity to the courthouse, the land on all four sides became prime land and businesses prospered.

As a center of powerful local government, the county seats of Georgia served to disseminate legal and political information and insure the safety of vital statistics and official records. It was the center of social activity as well and became the common headquarters for a sizable geographic area. Within these communities, the courthouse buildings are reference points -- architectural focal points -- and in their architectural design lies considerable significance. The eclecticism of nineteenth-century architectural styles was adapted in provincial ways, always with a flair for the picturesque.

Because the courthouse is usually in the center of a town square, or on a corner facing a square, it dominates the town. Its relationship to the stores and shops around it make it seem like a "paperweight," as described in "A Courthouse Conservation Handbook," published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation: "Unlike many modern replacements the older courthouse cannot be mistaken for a supermarket, elementary school or drive-in bank. It is a symbol of community civic pride."

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

When Georgia became a Royal Province in 1752, eight parishes were established. Patterned after England, each parish used the church to keep records of birth, marriages, and deaths. During the Revolution, Georgia abolished this system and in 1777 established eight counties: Burke, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Richmond and Wilkes. As the counties flourished, public buildings became

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a necessity so the first courthouses were built. The impact of the county court system began early. The very roots of Georgia are buried in a courthouse-based structure.

The number of Georgia counties exploded between 1777 and 1924. The progress of the state was always westward with Indian cessions invariably bringing about the creation of new counties for the influx of settlers. In 1832, there were 89 counties, embracing the entire area of the state. Afterward, creation of new counties resulted from the division of older counties into smaller areas. This was partially due to the necessity of making the county seat accessible to a rural population, who at that time were limited by horse and buggy transportation. But leaders of the older, more settled counties along the coast were unenthusiastic over the organization of new counties on the frontier and too often their division was the result of political barter. They began to carve themselves into small units, not because of population increase or convenience in government, but to maintain that section's influence and majority in the legislature, which elected governors and U. S. Senators. By 1875, these divisions had resulted in 137 counties. By 1924, the number had swelled to 161. Two of these counties - Milton and Campbell - merged with Fulton in 1932, bringing the total number of counties to the current 159. Today each county seat is approximately 25 miles apart.

As a repository for records of marriages, wills, land transactions, and road construction, the county seat chronicles each county. In the courtrooms, portraits of past judges and copies of the U. S. Constitution adorn the walls. Sometimes there is a framed copy of the Ten Commandments; always lists of war dead from the county.

ARCHITECTURE

Because the courthouse is often the most significant architectural structure in each Georgia county, they are important in providing a valuable insight into the history of architecture. By studying these buildings, one can trace the flowering of various nineteenth century architectural styles dealt with in the description. Simple wooden and brick buildings of the Carpenter and Greek Revival Style were prevalent before the Civil War. Some courthouses like the one in Banks County, under construction when the war began, were completed fifteen years after they began. No building was done during the conflict and very little immediately afterward.

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Two excellent examples of 1870 courthouses remaining in Georgia are those in Gwinnett and Jackson Counties. Although each has had additions, they have both retained their carpenter appearance.

Because Atlanta had been burned, there was much rebuilding to do. Architects flocked to the city in the late 1870's and 1880's and received statewide architectural commissions.

In the 1880's and 1890's eclecticism reigned. Elements of the Romanesque, Second Empire, Queen Anne, and High Victorian Styles were used from Augusta to Buchanan and from Atlanta to Quitman. Middle Georgia in particular had numerous examples; Hancock, Walton, Newton, Oglethorpe, Monroe and Butts counties each constructed buildings to create pride in their citizenry.

By the turn of the century, Neo-Classical designs became the most popular and were adapted freely. The buildings grew in size. Bartow, Coweta, Meriwether, Putnam and Worth had huge columned porticos, balconies, and elaborate domes. Inside were grand staircases, elaborate woodwork, pressed metal ceilings and impressive judges' benches.

After 1910, the economy prevented such lavish displays of wealth and more modest structures were erected. This became particularly true after World War I. The designs were still classical ones, on a smaller scale. Candler and Lee Counties are good examples.

The evolution of architecture as a profession in Georgia is also evidenced by such a study. Many of the early courthouses were designed and constructed by carpenter-builders influenced by what they remembered seeing before arriving in the state or by what they found in architectural pattern books. Their use of classical detail reflected the influence of such artists as Asher Benjamin, Minard LeFever and Thomas Jefferson. Thus we find, in the mountains of North Georgia, buildings strongly reminiscent of early Virginia courthouses, and in Southwest Georgia, one which strongly resembles a moss draped plantation house.

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After the Civil War, architects were more sophisticated. Many who had been trained in the East or Mid-west had large architectural vocabularies. The structures they built from 1880 to 1916 to house the seat of government had cross, "T", and "Y" plans, patterned after state capitals. The "county capitals" tried to outdo each other in size, design and elegance. Most were of brick masonry with stone, terra cotta and pressed metal trim.

Some well-to-do counties commissioned out-of-state architects: William Preston of Boston, who designed the Chatham County courthouse and Frank P. Milburn of Washington D. C. and South Carolina, who designed the Wilkes, Wilcox, Upson and Lowndes County courthouses are examples.

Within the state, Macon's Alexander Blair and Augusta's L. F. Goodrich were architects who obtained commissions. But Atlanta had the largest number of architects whose designs were chosen throughout the state. The best known were William H. Parkins, Alexander C. Bruce, Thomas Henry Morgan, L. B. Wheeler and J. W. Golucke. All of the former except Golucke worked together at one time or the other.

Below is a list of the better preserved courthouses designed by Parkins, Bruce, Morgan, Wheeler, architects:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>TOWN</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>ARCHITECT</u>
1880	Dooly	Vienna	Romanesque	Parkins
1881-83	Hancock	Sparta	Second Empire	Parkins & Bruce
1883-84	Walton	Monroe	Second Empire	Bruce & Morgan
1884	Newton	Covington	Second Empire	Bruce & Morgan
1885-86	Randolph	Cuthbert	Queen Anne	Kimball, Wheeler & Parkins
1887	Oglethorpe	Lexington	Romanesque	Wheeler & Parkins
1891-92	Haralson	Buchanan	Queen Anne	Bruce and Morgan
1892	Floyd	Rome	Romanesque	Bruce & Morgan
1892	Talbot	Talbotton	Queen Anne	Bruce & Morgan
1892	Terrell	Dawson	High Victorian	Parkins
1892	Paulding	Dallas	Queen Anne	Bruce & Morgan
1896	Monroe	Forsyth	High Victorian	Bruce & Morgan
1898	Butts	Jackson	High Victorian	Bruce & Morgan

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The other Atlanta based architect, J. W. Golucke, designed twenty documented courthouses, seventeen that are still used as courthouses today. These buildings illustrate the evolution of stylistic influences in the late 19th and early 20th century in Georgia. Golucke used brick with stone trim almost exclusively. In the 1890's, he designed many courthouses with a man named Stewart (first name unknown).

Their earliest buildings - Pike and Johnson - have Romanesque designs with spacious entries and "Y" plans. The buildings after 1895 have a Romanesque-inspired cross plan with a tall capped clock tower over the entrance. Medieval turrets are used decoratively on the tower and pavilions. Baker, Henry, Schley and Union are good examples. He would often vary this design making the cross plan more Latin than Greek as in Twiggs county.

After 1900, Golucke's designs changed to Neo-classical with domes, pediments, balconies, pilasters, and columns. Coweta, Putnam and Worth counties are good examples. In these, there is a informality although he used design elements sophisticatedly. There is repetition of the arch motif, decorative keystones in the lintels, quoins and generally a massiveness not found in the earlier designs.

The courthouses known to be designed by Golucke are:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>TOWN</u>	<u>STYLE</u>
1895	Pike	Zebulon	Romanesque
	Johnson	Wrightsville	Romanesque
1897	Henry	McDonough	Romanesque
1898	Clayton	Jonesboro	Romanesque
	Old DeKalb	Decatur	Romanesque
		(burned 1916 - now greatly remodeled)	
1899	Union	Blairsville	Romanesque
	Schley	Ellaville	Romanesque
1900	Baker	Newton	Romanesque

(continued)

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1901	Hart	Hartwell	Neo-Classical (burned 1967)
	Madison	Danielsville	Neo-Classical
1902	Bartow	Cartersville	Neo-Classical
	Meriwether	Greenville	Neo-Classical (burned 1976)
	Pierce	Blackshear	Neo-Classical
	Tattnall	Reidsville	Romanesque
	Twiggs	Jeffersonville	Romanesque
1904	Coweta	Newnan	Neo-Classical
1905	Morgan	Madison	Neo-Classical
	Putnam	Eatonton	Neo-Classical
	Worth	Sylvester	Neo-Classical
1906	Jones	Gray	Romanesque

Some contractors who worked extensively with these late 19th and early 20th century architects are listed below.

Atlanta Fire Proofing Co., Atlanta, Georgia
The Algernon Blair Co., (Still active.) Montgomery, Alabama
R. D. Cole Manufacturing Co., Newnan, Georgia
Falls City Construction Company, Louisville, Kentucky
J. H. McKenzie & Sons, Augusta, Georgia
James Smith, Sparta, Georgia
Tethrow and Co., Birmingham, Alabama
Fred Wagner, Atlanta, Georgia

Most firms were based in the state, but Alabama and Kentucky companies often got commissions.

After World War I, courthouse buildings diminished in size. James J. Baldwin of Anderson, South Carolina was one architect who designed a number of courthouses during this period. Courthouses in Barrow, Candler, Evans, Lee and Treutlen counties are his work. These are of a similar Neo-Classical Style. The plan is two stories, rectangular, with a colossal four columned portico. The one story main doorway uses a bracketed entablature or broken pediment as decoration. There is a modest, domed clock tower. Inside plaster walls and terrazzo floors are used.

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The courtroom, entered from the side, featured fine woodwork behind the judges' bench; a balcony and often a skylight that allowed light from the clock tower into the courtroom. He varied this plan in Atkinson County where a hexastyle facade was used. The columns are in antis, the roof flat and the clock tower on an exceedingly small scale for the whole building. In Bacon County, a "Y" plan was used and the building opened on a corner. It, too, had Neo-Classical detailing.

ECONOMIC

Because it meant increased business and heightened land values, towns fought to become the county seat, for it was frequently the only significant community in the county. Becoming a county seat created a new industry - local government. Businesses were and are situated on all sides of the courthouse square.

The square was the center of bustling activity when crops, especially cotton, were brought to market, or when court week was held. The latter was as important an economic occasion as it was a legal and political one. Men would bargain for goods and livestock, sell land and lay political plans. The square bulged with horses, carriages, wagons, court witnesses and the curious.

COMMUNICATION

Georgia was settled by a yeomanry population. It was this people that came together at the courthouse squares and yearned for fine courthouse buildings that symbolized their pride in land and law for, with the exception of the churches, the county courthouse was the only central meeting place in a community.

The courthouses were designed for multiple uses and as a forum for many community activities. Most had handsome clocks which regulated the life of the community and had bells that rang in case of the death of a prominent citizen, a fire, or other disaster. Since communications were limited and clocks fewer in number than in the present, "courthouse time" was depended upon and was considered the official time of the people. During court week, people gathered around the courthouse grounds making it a social occasion, with men meeting to determine

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the destiny of the county and women visiting and "catching up on the news". Even when the courthouse was built, the laying of the cornerstone was a day-long ceremony that included numerous speakers, hymn singing and dinner-on-the-ground. From this past to the present, the courthouse steps and grounds have been the scene of diverse activities such as political speeches, band concerts, street preachers, may-pole dancing, flea markets, barbeques for worthy causes and, of course, checker games under the trees. In 1976, courthouse squares were the settings for numerous Bi-centennial Celebrations in conjunction with annual July 4th festivities.

The formal activities occurring in the courthouse center around the courts and ancillary facilities. There are hearing rooms, a law library, conference rooms for attorneys, witnesses and juries, detention cells for defendants awaiting trials, and the courtroom - the most spacious elaborate room in the building.

Traditionally, many offices of county government are also located in the courthouse: tax commissioner, tax assessor, ordinary (now probate judge), clerk of court, county commissioners, and sheriff. Other agencies such as the county school superintendent, county agent, health department, office of veterans' affairs, probation units and department of children and family services also are sometimes housed in the county court building

LAW

In the courtrooms, well known lawyers pleaded cases which sometimes had inspiring, sometimes tragic endings. Lawyers the stature of William H. Crawford, Alexander Stephens, Robert Toombs had a deep and lasting influence on Georgia law.

PRESERVATION

In the past seven years, there has been an increased interest in the preservation of courthouses.

One of the most ambitious courthouse projects creating broad national interest was the 1978 publication of the book, Courthouse, a photographic documentation of courthouses throughout the United States. This was a bicentennial project of the Joseph E. Seagrams and Sons Inc. A traveling exhibition of the Seagram's photographs is now being shown in the U. S. and abroad under the auspices of the American Federation of Arts and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Both of the latter organizations have been active in encouraging courthouse preservation.

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In Georgia, the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources jointly published a pamphlet Georgia County Courthouses by Janice A. Hardy and Anne Harman in 1979. Other groups such as the Area Planning and Development Commissions, women's service clubs like the Colonial Dames of America, Daughters of the American Revolution, men's service clubs such as Rotary, Lions and Kiwanis, and area historical societies have worked to develop interest. Through national, state and community programs, exhibitions, books, magazine and newspaper articles, citizens are being informed about the economic and symbolic value of these old buildings. The phenomenal costs of building, heating and cooling new structures have caused many counties to take a second look at their present structures. There is an evolving recognition that courthouses are a vital link with the past - in Georgia a past more rural than urban. Today, when there is a desperate search for roots, continuity and meaning to life, these buildings give us that link and help humanize our surroundings, which are fast becoming laden with poorly designed box-like structures and concrete parking lots.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached Bibliography.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

See Inventory Forms.

Acreage of nominated property _____

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Inventory Forms,

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 Historic Preservation Section contact: Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., historian, 404/656-284
Janice A. Hardy, assoc. prof. of art; Anne Harman, project assistant

organization Art Department

date January 11, 1980

street & number Georgia College

telephone 912/453-4572

city or town Milledgeville

state Georgia 31061

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

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

date 2/26/80

For HCERS use only

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

W. Ray Lucas
Keeper of the National Register

date 9/18/80

Attest: *W. D. Dubie*
Chief of Registration

date 9/12/80

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SUPPLEMENT

COUNTY COURTHOUSES IN GEORGIA

The following supplemental information is supplied in response to questions received on April 11, 1980, from the National Register review staff. The supplemental data is arranged in alphabetical order by county for the fifty-two county courthouses in question.

Appling: There are two non-contributing buildings on the courthouse square northwest of the courthouse. The courthouse annex was built in 1955 and is a two story brick building. The jail was built at the same time and is of similar size and workmanship.

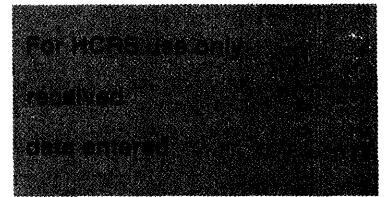
Baker: The non-contributing building located on the southwest corner of the courthouse square was built in 1972. The small, one story brick structure with a flat roof is used as the police station. It has little impact due to its size, although it is not in keeping with the style of the courthouse.

Barrow: The historic jail was the first building completed within the newly created county's courthouse complex. The jail, located west of the courthouse, was built in 1916. The two story brick Gothic structure has been the county's only jail since its construction. The non-contributing movable trailer is used as a Justice of the Peace headquarters and is not connected to the courthouse.

Bartow: The additions to the courthouse are on the northwest and south sides adjacent to parking lots on the "rear" of the building. The additions were built during the past 30 years for access, fire stairs, and space for utilities. The additions are not visible from the public or street facade of the courthouse.

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Brooks: In 1968 the north wing of this antebellum courthouse was extended approximately 20 feet. Features from the original north wing were used on the extended part of the new construction. The extended wing matches its parallel counterpart on the south wing of the original building and provides more office space. The extension is not readily noticeable to the naked eye. The construction of the extension was carefully monitored by the county historical society. Aluminum and glass exit doors were added due to fire codes and the ceilings were lowered.

Bulloch: The 1970 changes consisted of the addition of aluminum and glass doors required by fire codes and a modern interior. On two of the four porticos the original exterior doors were closed, but no physical additions to the exterior were made. The courtrooms were also modernized.

Burke: The original courthouse dates from 1856 and has never had any structural changes. The only room now in use is the courtroom. The non-contributing addition behind (northeast) of the courthouse was built in 1939. The two story brick addition contains most of the courthouse functions. It is connected to the original 1856 courthouse by a breezeway. Also on the nominated property is a non-contributing building on the alley (north) side built around 1940. This one story brick structure is used by the county labor department. It is not connected to the courthouse or its addition.

Camden: The historic jail east of the courthouse was built in 1928 as part of the courthouse complex. The two story structure had a tabby exterior added three years ago.

Carroll: The non-contributing building to the west of the courthouse was constructed in 1974-5. The two story poured concrete building in the Brutalistic style is used as the City Hall. It is physically connected to the courthouse.

Charlton: The 1978 addition is a one story brick building at the rear (east side) of the courthouse; no attempt was made to match architectural styles or details. It is connected to the original building in such a way as to cause minimal intrusion. The historic jail northeast of the courthouse was built in 1916-17. The three story building pre-dates the courthouse and is still in use as the county jail. The non-contributing building directly behind (east) of the courthouse was built in 1962. The small, one story brick building is occupied by the county Department of Family

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and Children Services. The non-contributing building southeast of the courthouse was built in 1953. The one story stucco building is occupied by the county health department. All three of these auxillary buildings cannot be seen when viewing the courthouse from the front and are separated from it by parking facilities.

Chattooga: The non-contributing jail directly behind (northwest) the courthouse was built in 1959. The one story brick jail closely resembles a house. The non-contributing jailer's residence near the jail was also built in 1959. The one story brick building is similar in style to the jail.

Old Chattahoochee (located at Westville, Stewart County): The review of this property can be made in light of its prior listing on the National Register at its original location in Cusseta, Georgia. It is believed that its relocation saved it from demolition. It has been placed in the center of Westville, a recreated town which illustrates much more of the atmosphere of the building's original setting than what remains in Cusseta. Westville has attempted to create a town by moving structures in. This is the only place in Georgia where the dialogue of an antebellum courthouse and an antebellum town can be interpreted. *carpenter style. wood*

Clay: The historic jail located directly behind (east) the courthouse was built c. 1871-3. The two story brick structure is three bays wide built on a T-plan, with the bar of the T parallel to the rear facade of the courthouse. The northwest portion of the T-bar was added ten years after the rest and was the jailer's residence. *Brick, Carpenter style*

Clinch: The site map contained in the original nomination shows all buildings in the courthouse complex. The jail identified on the map (but actually outside of the courthouse boundaries) is not included in this nomination but is registered separately as the Clinch County Jail. The jail included within this courthouse nomination is the large "extension" on the south side of the courthouse. It was built by the Works Progress Administration when the courthouse was being remodeled in 1936. It is of similar style to the courthouse and is connected to it.

Columbia: The courthouse is in good condition and is in daily use for county functions. For several years, the county government has been planning to restore the structure. *Carpenter style. Syrk, (Italianate)*

(Continued)

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Dooly: The non-contributing jail/sheriff's office located northwest of the courthouse on the far edge of the L-shaped parcel was built in 1960. The small, one story brick structure is separated from the courthouse by a landscaped park. On the north side of the courthouse is a parking lot. A small, one story brick addition on the west of the courthouse was apparently added a few years after the courthouse itself was built. The architectural elements of the addition are less detailed.

Effingham: The condition of this building is good. It is in continuous daily use as the county courthouse.

Elbert: The historic jail, located on Parcel 6 south of the courthouse, was built at the same time as the courthouse. The two story brick structure with an original rear wing and few distinguishing features is still used as the county jail.

Evans: There has been no exterior addition to this building, only interior modernization during 1979-1980.

Floyd: The condition of the building is good. It is in continuous daily use as the county courthouse.

Franklin: The courthouse is in good condition. The interior was remodeled in 1958. The historic structure on the east side of the courthouse square was built c. 1895-96 predating the present courthouse. The two story brick structure is used by the Farm Bureau Insurance Company.

Fulton: Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary is the original 1914 building ending at its four original walls. The other inter-connecting governmental buildings date from recent years, are non-contributing, and are situated beyond the exterior four walls of the original courthouse. The courthouse was intended to sit alone on the block without any auxilliary structures. The rest of the present block upon which it sits was in private hands until the 1950's. The site has been used for the courthouse since 1881. The same UTM applies. This is a revised verbal boundary description.

(Continued)

The nominated area is the block on which the courthouse complex is located. The 1914 historic building is located in the north-west corner of this block; connecting to it are the following: NON-contributing marble-faced structures, built since 1950: NE-additional offices in a six story structure; SE-two story police station; SW-4 story county courthouse.

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Gilmer: Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary shall be only the portion of the block upon which the courthouse rests with the southwestern boundary being a line running parallel to Broad Street and ten feet southwest of the courthouse's southwest wall, and the other boundaries being the street on the other three sides. The courthouse was originally the Hyatt Hotel and was adapted for use as a courthouse in 1934. It is significant that the building was reused rather than the county's building a new structure. It is the only Georgia county courthouse that is an adapted structure. The building is T-shaped and the stem of the T also appears to be part of the original hotel structure, rather than an addition. The same UTM applies. This is a revised verbal boundary description.

Glascock: The 1942 addition to the courthouse is so compatible with the original courthouse that it is not noticeable to the uninformed. The same details and roofing were carried out.

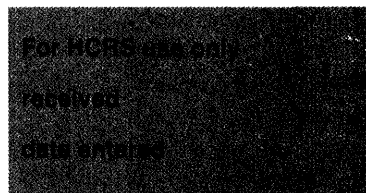
Grady: Attached are additional photographs of the building made since the recent fire.

- The fire on February 18, 1980, completely gutted the interior second story which caused the roof and the cupola to collapse, as well as the walls in the center portion of the building. Exterior walls on both ends remain and are believed to be structurally sound.
- The first story was saved by a concrete floor on the second level. Insurance adjusters have determined the first floor to be structurally sound and easily salvageable.
- The Grady County Board of Commissioners is looking into various alternatives. The general feeling is to reconstruct and restore the courthouse to its original design, while rehabilitating its interior to meet the needs of the current county offices. In pursuing this avenue, the Board has applied to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for a Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service Grant-In-Aid for feasibility and planning purposes.

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Greene: The courthouse additions consist of two one story brick wings added in 1955 on the north and south sides. They are unornamented but match the original brick. They do not detract from the courthouse. There are two historic jails on the courthouse block. The older, located on the north side facing East Greene Street, was built around 1806. The two story stone building with Gothic features is presently not in use. The later jail, located behind the courthouse on the east end of the block facing East Street, was built in 1894. The building has a two story brick central portion with Victorian details and a central tower. The jailer originally lived in this portion. On the rear (west side) is a one story portion originally built to be the new jail. In the past five years, a one story brick portecochere was added on the north side of the central portion and is used for police cars. On the south side of the central portion was added a one story brick building which currently serves as the county jail. The two jails are significant in the history of justice in Georgia as examples of two different types of jail structures used over long periods of time as well as due to their proximity to the courthouse.

Gwinnett: The four historic buildings located on the four corners of the courthouse square serve various purposes. The one on the northeast corner is a one story stucco auxillary building that matches the courthouse in workmanship. The one on the northwest corner is a two story brick store built around 1900 that is now abandoned. The southwest corner is occupied by the Ezzard Building, a one story brick structure built in 1952. The southeast corner holds the two story brick Brand Bank, opened in 1905. They all rest on foundations of earlier courthouse auxillary buildings. They are significant as vestiges of the earlier concept of courthouse complexes in Georgia which included several auxillary buildings for courthouse functions and lawyers. Larger courthouses built in the late nineteenth century contained room for all necessary functions with the squares being used as parks.

Henry: The historic jail, located northeast of the courthouse, was built during the same decade as the courthouse. The one story, brick building with tin roof is still the county jail. The non-contributing police station, located north of the jail, was built c. 1965. It is a one story asbestos sided structure.

Irwin: The Irwin County Courthouse is in daily use as the county government center and is in good condition.

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Jasper: The non-contributing jail, located northeast of the courthouse, was built in 1939 under the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works. The architect was Henry H. Jordan, a native of the county. The two story brick building still serves as the county jail. It is directly behind the courthouse and does not adversely impact the building, as it is part of the government complex found in most counties.

Jeff Davis: The entire parking area was nominated because it is the original courthouse square and is considered the courthouse parcel. ~~Additions to the courthouse are contemplated that will, by necessity, be in this area. Any boundaries established immediately around the building itself would be difficult to differentiate once the contemplated additions are made to the courthouse. The non-contributing one story, brick building, built in 1965, may or may not survive any contemplated additions to the courthouse.~~ *Boundary reduced, 8/22/80, to courthouse + yard, to edge of existing parking lot.*

Jenkins: This courthouse is in continuous daily use as the county courthouse and is in good condition.

Johnson: The non-contributing jail and sheriff's office, located northeast of the courthouse, was built in 1964. The one story brick building is still the county jail. It has very little impact due to its small size. It is a vital part of the governmental complex found in this and most other Georgia counties.

Jones: All of the elements labeled A through H on the site map are parts of the existing county governmental complex.

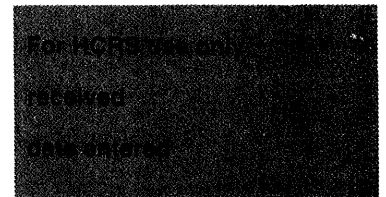
- A - The historic courthouse
- B - The non-contributing 1975 annex joins the jail building at the same spot the old annex once did. It is a two story sheriff's office and jail made of brick and concrete with a flat roof.
- C - The old non-contributing annex was moved to this location in 1960. It dates from the 1930's and once occupied position B.
- D&E - Non-contributing properties
- F - A non-contributing garage used for equipment.
- G - A historic World War I monument
- H - A historic Dixie Highway marker

*correction
from earlier
material*

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Jones (continued): A and B are connected by a one story enclosed hallway. The entire nominated property is important in showing in detail all current existing auxiliary buildings surrounding the county courthouse. It is important as part of the evolution of the courthouse square. In this county, it is evident that the visual, centrally located landscaped courthouse square never existed.

Lee: The courthouse addition on the rear (east side) of the courthouse was built in 1975. The one story brick unornamented addition has a flat roof and is obviously new, although attempts were made to match the courthouse brick. It is not visible from the front of the courthouse. The non-contributing jail, located east of the courthouse, dates from 1953. The one story brick building trimmed in white concrete has a flat roof. It is not attached to the courthouse and is not visible from the front of the courthouse. *Bldg. beyond jail - bus garage - excluded through boundary revision, 8/22/80.*

Liberty: The 1965 additions to the courthouse consist of lateral wings that continue the original design of the courthouse. They appear to the untrained eye to be part of the original plan. They are significant in that they show the county's desire to continue the design and detailing with a little expense, rather than to build the obviously easier and cheaper annexes and additions that are found in most counties.

Lowndes: The 1962 addition to the courthouse was placed on the north side of the courthouse. It is a two story brick addition. Yellow brick was used in an attempt to match the original courthouse brick. It is connected to the courthouse by a glass "cat walk" and is the same width, keeping the impact at a minimum. No exterior work was done to the courthouse at that time. Interior courthouse renovation took place in 1970.

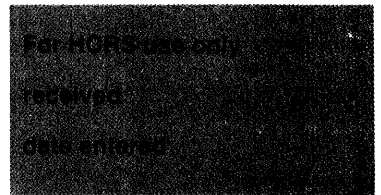
Montgomery: The courthouse is still in daily use as the county courthouse and is in good condition.

Murray: The historic jail located southwest of the courthouse was constructed in 1916 at the same time as the courthouse. The two story brick structure is still used as the county jail. It is significant for being built as part of the county government complex and for being in continuous use as the county jail since then.

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Paulding: The courthouse is still in continuous daily use as the county courthouse in one of the growing metro-Atlanta counties and is in good condition.

Peach: The 1970 addition was built after a fire in 1969. It replaces part of the original building that burned. The size, material and design of the new addition are compatible to the original building and, thus, make them indistinguishable.

Pierce: The rear addition to the courthouse was built in 1975 and is in keeping with the character of the building and is the same scale. The historic jail is a separate two story brick building built in 1926. The non-contributing health department was built around 1950 and is a very modern, modest one story structure. Both of these other buildings changed the original courthouse square plan. They were added due to the necessities of county government as was done in many other counties.

Seminole: The non-contributing county offices annex building was constructed in 1952-54. It is a two story brick structure of irregular design with a flat roof. It is not attached to the courthouse and houses agricultural offices. It is not visible from the front of the courthouse.

Stephens: This is the only courthouse ever built in this county and still serves the day-to-day functions of a county seat. It is in good condition.

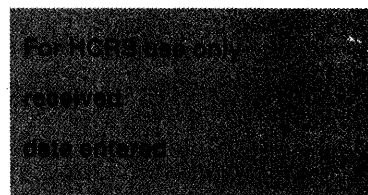
Taliaferro: This courthouse is still being used for county government and is in good condition. The old jail that was built at the same time as the courthouse was demolished several years ago.

Terrell: The non-contributing jail, located south of the courthouse, was constructed in 1939. It is a two story brick building with a gable roof and many classical details. It includes living quarters for the jailer and a one story rear attachment with a flat roof that includes the jail. It faces the rear of the courthouse from the south end of the parcel. However, it is certainly one of the better jails built in the 1930's.

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Twiggs: There are four additional structures on the courthouse parcel, as well as an addition to the courthouse. The addition is a one story brick and cinder block structure built in 1970. It houses rest rooms and the sheriff's office. To the northeast of the courthouse and just a few feet from the addition is a non-contributing one story gabled clapboard structure. It was built in 1950 and is used for storage. Slightly east of the courthouse is a non-contributing Farmer's Home Administration office built in 1940. It is a one story frame weatherboard structure with a gabled roof. Slightly east of the Farmer's Home Administration building is the historic county jail built in 1902, at the same time as the courthouse. It is a two story brick structure designed and built by J. W. Golucke, the well-known courthouse architect, and includes jail works made by Pauly Jail Works of St. Louis, Missouri, and installed by their agent Will L. Landrum and Son of Atlanta. It is still used as the county jail. The last building on the courthouse parcel is east of the jail between it and Ash Street. It is the Twiggs County Health Center built in 1960. The non-contributing building is a one story brick structure with a flat roof. It was designed by W. P. Thompson, Jr., Architect, and constructed by John H. Smalling, Jr.

Old Union: The courthouse has been abandoned for full daily use as a courthouse but still houses some county and city functions. A newspaper article is enclosed to show plans for the building. The following quote is from a civil engineer with the Tennessee Valley Authority: "The building has deteriorated more from an appearance standpoint than structural. While structural deficiencies do exist, they are repairable, and, depending on its future use, the repair costs need not be excessive. Properly repaired and cared for, this building is capable of useful function for years to come." The owners have applied for a Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service Grant-In-Aid.

Walton: The non-contributing police station in front of the courthouse was built in 1965. It is a one story wooden structure approximately five feet square. Due to its small size it has very little impact on the courthouse. The non-contributing health building on the north side of the courthouse was built c. 1960. It is a one story brick building that has no detailing. It impacts the courthouse only from the north side. A graduate architectural student is writing his masters thesis on this courthouse using it as a model for revitalization of other courthouses and their grounds.

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Washington: The historic bandstand is within the nominated property. It was built c. 1890 and has been converted to the local Chamber of Commerce. The building is a one story, one room office. This is the only courthouse and square with a surviving bandstand, although it is adaptively reused.

Wilcox: The condition of the courthouse is good. It is in day-to-day use as a county courthouse. Restoration efforts are afoot as evidenced by the enclosed newspaper clipping.

Wilkes: A photograph of the courthouse before the fire has been sent directly to the National Register by the University of Georgia Photoservices. There is a great deal of local support for its being listed on the National Register and to one day rebuild the lost portion of the building.

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7/17/80
Date