

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Sevier	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 713.47.0008	DATE 3/24/71

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Sevier County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Court Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Sevierville

STATE Tennessee	CODE 047	COUNTY: Sevier	CODE 155
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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 <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Sevier County

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Court Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Sevierville

STATE:  
Tennessee

CODE:  
047

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Sevier County Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Court House

CITY OR TOWN:  
Sevierville

STATE:  
Tennessee

CODE:  
047

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  
 State  
 County  
 Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

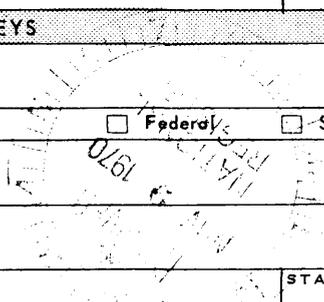
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Sevierville

STATE:  
Tennessee

CODE:  
047

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Sevier

ENTRY NUMBER: 713.47.0008

DATE: 3/24/71

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

Located in Court Avenue in Sevierville, at the forks of the Little Pigeon River, the Sevier County Courthouse commands an outstanding view of the surrounding valley. Due to the imposing height of its tower, it can be viewed from a great distance by the approaching visitor.

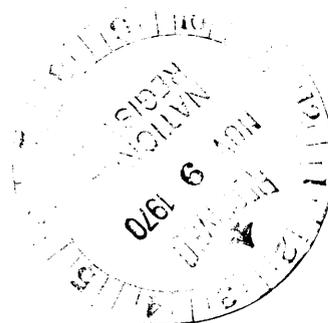
Begun in 1895 and completed a year later, the building is of the style of Beaux-Arts Classicism, a style used frequently in public and quasi-public buildings in the United States at that time. The New York Public Library and the New York Grand Central Terminal are examples of the Beaux-Arts Classicism style.

The architect for the Sevier County Courthouse utilized the typical feature of arches, with massive brick arches over the front entrance and the windows on either side of the entrance, as well as a system of arches over a second-floor balcony by the main courtroom. At each corner is a decorative mass with a central cupola surrounded by three smaller minaret-type structures. A system of arches and columns, combining the Greek and Roman influences, is repeated in the tower, which is the dominating feature. The tower, measuring seventy-five feet, rises to a height of one hundred and thirty feet from the ground, and is crowned by a metal-clad dome. Midway up the tower is a large clock. A rectangular building measuring eighty-five feet by seventy feet, the courthouse is built upon a limestone foundation with a thickness of twenty-four to thirty inches, similar to the basement walls. The exterior walls up to the main floor are of hand-shaped limestone. From the main floor up, the exterior walls are brick, with those on the first floor being rusticated. A slate roof covers the building.

The floor construction is of wood joists, and the roof construction is of wood trusses made of heart pine ten-inch by sixteen-inch members, some hand-hewn. The massive tower construction, a masterpiece of design, is of wood columns ten-inch by ten-inch rising from wood trusses.

The floor in the lobby is of native white marble, and has stood well the wear of many years. Other floors throughout the building are wood.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**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)

1895-96

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |  |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input 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   | <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

It is very significant that such an excellent example of Beaux-Arts Classicism architecture should be found in a rural county such as Sevier County. The only building in the town with distinctive design, its value to the town is inestimable. Since it is so impressive in its appearance, a void left by its destruction would be hard to fill. Realizing the uniqueness of the building in the area, the citizens of the county exhibit pride in it, and are determined that it be preserved.

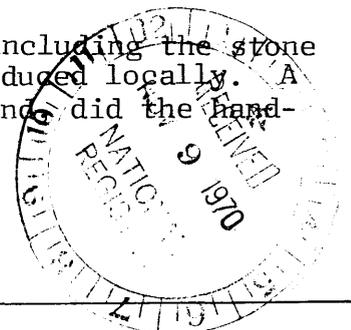
At the present time plans are being made to remodel the courthouse and build an addition to it. Plans call for the interior of the existing courthouse to be modernized, but the exterior will not be changed. Repairs to the tower will be made, retaining its distinctive appearance. The design of the addition will be compatible with the existing courthouse.

The courthouse is the fifth one in the history of Sevier County, but is the first to be built on the present site. It was built to replace an earlier one which had been destroyed by fire.

The building committee appointed by the County Court selected the firm of McDonald Brothers of Louisville, Kentucky, to be the architects for the new building. A contract was awarded to C. W. Brown for construction of the courthouse. With changes that were made during construction, the total contract price came to just over Twenty-one Thousand Dollars. It was reported that Brown lost so much money on the project that he was forced into bankruptcy. The huge clock in the tower was not included in Brown's contract, but was bought from Seth Thomas Clock Company for Thirteen Hundred Ninety-six Dollars, a sizeable sum in comparison to the cost of the building.

Much of the material for the building, including the stone for the foundation, bricks, and lumber was produced locally. A stone-cutter from Italy, said to have been blind, did the hand-cutting of the stone.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Hammer, J. M., "History of Sevier County," unpublished manuscript (1877).  
 Justus, C.C., "Sidelights, Sevier County," unpublished manuscript (1922).  
 Matthews, Fred, History of Sevier County (Sevierville, 1950).  
 Minutes of Sevier County Court, 1895. County Court Clerk's Office, Sevierville.  
 Sharp, Joe A., "Sevier County's Courthouse," unpublished manuscript (n.d.).

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

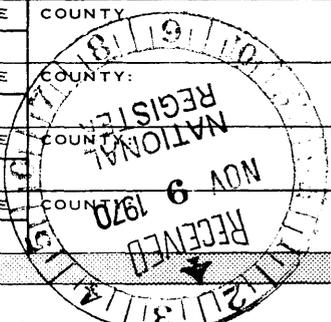
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	35°	52'	03"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	83°	33'	58"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

UTM  
 17/268310  
 3972120  
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 10.

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Herbert L. Harper, Director of Field Services

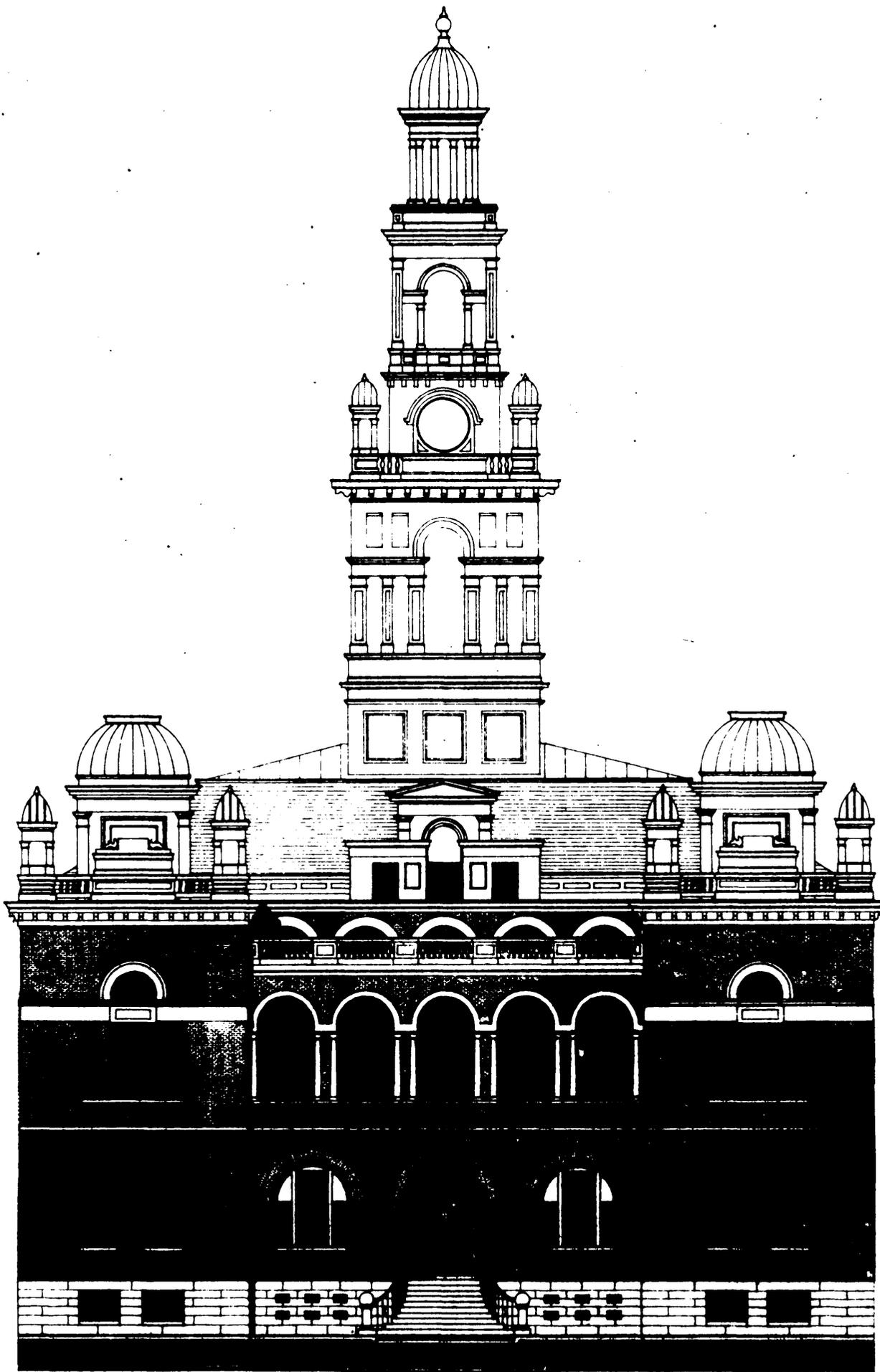
ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission DATE: 9-25-70

STREET AND NUMBER: 403 7th Avenue, North

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 047

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Stephen S. Lawrence</u>                  Stephen S. Lawrence <i>SS</i></p> <p>Title <u>Executive Director</u>                  Tennessee Historical Commission</p> <p>Date <u>11/5/70</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Wm. J. Smiley</u>                  Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p><b>MAR 24 1971</b></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>William J. Smiley</u>                  Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <b>FEB 22 1971</b></p>
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**FRONT ELEVATION**  
SCALE 1/8"=1'-0"

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE <b>TENNESSEE</b>	
COUNTY <b>SEVIER</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
<b>71.3.47.0008</b>	<b>3/24/71</b>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: **SEVIER COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

**COURT AVE.**

CITY OR TOWN:

**SEVIERVILLE**

STATE:

**TENNESSEE**

CODE

**047**

COUNTY:

**SEVIER**

CODE

**155**

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: **DRAWING BY JAMES COYKENDALL, III-COMMUNITY TECTONICS, INC.**

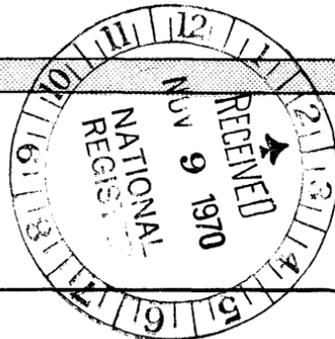
DATE OF PHOTO: **SEPT., 1970**

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

**DRAWING SHOWING THE ENTIRE COURTHOUSE.**



6/7/93

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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Sevier County Courthouse      Sevier County, TENNESSEE

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL  
71000832

*Robert Byers 7/15/93*

71000831. Buckingham House, Sevier County. NR3/18/71. The correct significant date should be 1796 only.

71000832. Sevier County Courthouse, Sevier County. NR3/24/71. Romanesque Revival should be added as another style.

73001822. Collier-Crichlow House, Rutherford County. NR7/16/73. Delete the term Chateausque as a style.

77001264. Riverwood, Davidson County. NR7/20/77. Delete the terms Adamesque and Colonial as styles.

82003982. Louisville and Nashville Passenger Station, Knox County. NR3/25/82. Delete the term Chateausque as a style.

83003024. U.S. Post Office, Elizabethton, Carter County. NR8/9/83. There is no style mentioned in the data base. The nomination mentions Beaux Arts as a style, but Classical Revival is probably more correct.

83003026. Gladstone Apartments, Davidson County. NR6/16/83. Delete the term Elizabethan Revival and add Classical Revival as the style.

83004256. Knoxville YMCA, Knox County. NR11/17/83. Add the term Renaissance Revival as a style.