

PH 0670961

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAR 25 1977

DATE ENTERED

AUG 16 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

**

HISTORIC Harrison County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Harrison County Museum

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Public Square

CITY, TOWN

Marshall

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Texas

VICINITY OF

CODE

048

COUNTY

Harrison

CODE

203

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☒ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

County of Harrison

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Marshall

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Harrison County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Marshall

STATE

Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark & Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1965 & 1972

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Texas Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Austin

STATE

Texas

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

While the Harrison County Courthouse has been converted into a museum, it still retains its architectural integrity. Built on the concept of a cruciform plan, it is an excellent example of Neo-Italian Renaissance style.

The designer of the Harrison County Courthouse, architect J. Riely Gordon, developed the cruciform plan type with offices in the arms of cross and entrances at the reentrant angles in the mid 1890s. Using variations of this plan he won, through competitions, the commissions for several Texas courthouses -- among them, the temples for Ellis County in Waxahachie (1884-1896) and Wise County in Decatur (1895-1897), both of which today continue to serve the functions of county government. Conforming to national trends in architectural style, these 1890s temples of justice were designed in Romanesque and Revival mode.

For the Harrison County Courthouse, Gordon again used the cruciform plan developed earlier, but in response to changes in taste, he employed Italian Renaissance details and incorporated larger spaces into the circulation areas. On the ground floor, entrances at the reentrant angles open into a large rotunda -- this concept of circulation was similar to that in his Romanesque courthouses, but the central space of the Harrison County temple is considerably more spacious than that in his earlier buildings.

Reminiscent of the rotunda of the Texas State Capitol (1882-1888), the central space in the Harrison County Courthouse forms a monumental point of arrival. Supported upon a drum, the dome has a coffered ceiling. The radial ribs of the coffering extend past the drum and are supported by pilasters with simple capitals which are incorporated into moldings encircling the rotunda. The lowest two rows of coffers (which are actually a part of the drum) contain stained-glass windows which transmit brilliant colors of light.

Introduced by massive newel posts, a stairway enhanced by decorative wrought iron work with Art Nouveau character and wooden railings provides communication to the second story balcony. Encircling the rotunda space, this balcony, along with the third floor balcony, is supported by decorative brackets cantilevering from the wall. Each bracket with its acanthus patterns is accented by an electric light. Dados were installed on the walls adjacent to these balconies which have floors surfaced with tiles. Windows and door transoms cased with stained and oiled wood open into the rotunda, providing for natural ventilation.

From the central circulation space were accesses to the county offices located on the ground level including tax collector, county clerk, and justice of the peace; the balcony of the second level provided access to the offices of the district judge, district clerk, and the district courtroom which was a two-story space. On the third level were additional offices for other county officials.

The structure of the courthouse consists of masonry bearing walls and iron beams. The dome also is supported by iron framing. Throughout the building the iron work is protected with lath and plaster.

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Harrison

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From the exterior, the courthouse is a monumental work with fine Classical details. The composition rises above a base of pink quarry-faced granite similar to that used in the State Capitol. At this level window openings are spanned with granite lintles. Above this granite base and its cut-stone watertable, the walls are of buff colored brick of local manufacture detailed to create the scale of the stone architecture of the Renaissance. At the window openings, which are spanned by Roman arches, recessed courses of bricks angle into the voussoirs creating shadow lines representing rusticated stone construction. On this level, at the reentrant angles, the entrances are emphasized by cream colored stone arcades on a quarter circular plan. Consistent with the treatment of the ground-story brick walls, this stone work is strongly rusticated.

The masses contained within the upper two stories are treated as the dominant compositional units of the courthouse. Divided from the lower level by a wide cut-stone stringcourse with graceful moldings, these walls are articulated by two-story pilasters with terra cotta capitals and bases in Ionic order. Deeply recessed into the walls, window openings are spanned with lintels.

The curved walls above the southeast and southwest entrances express the two-story district courtroom. Emphasizing the second-story windows into this space are wide architraves with dentils surmounted by scroll pediments with anthemions.

Above the northeast and northwest entrances are balconies with roofs supported by coupled columns. A balustrade appropriately terminates these features.

Three tetrastyle porticos with column shafts of polished gray granite, and bases and capitals in Ionic Order project from the east, west and north ends of the courthouse; on the south a triangular roof pediment is supported only by pilasters. Interestingly, these porticos do not form entrance spaces as was common in Renaissance architecture -- they serve as porches which were accessible only from the second story interiors. Access is through three doors with rectangular transoms surmounted by architraves and pediments similar to those above the second-story windows. From the center third-story windows under the porticos are small cantilevered balconies supported on decorative bracketts projecting from the openings between the scrolls of the center door pediments.

The courthouse walls are terminated at the roof by an entablature and balustrade fabricated from painted galvanized iron -- typical of much turn-of-the-century work; the pediments are also of this material. Then likenesses of eagles crown the apexes of the roof pediments.

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Rising gracefully above all this is the dome with its supporting drum in octagonal form, which contrasts with the interior circular shape. Covered with bronze plate the dome is accented by four clocks each of which is flanked by pilasters supporting an entablature and a scroll pediment. At the apex of the dome supported on a lantern is a statue of the goddess of justice with scales in hand.

The drum displays details that are consistent with the other parts of the building. Supporting lintels spanning the openings in the drum on each of the eight sides are three polished granite columns with Ionic capitals and bases of terra cotta. At the salient angles of the drum are brick piers with bases and capitals. A sheet metal entablature with balustrade rises above the columns and piers and at each of the corners are posed eagles -- favorite features borrowed from Roman architecture of antiquity. Lattice windows provide natural light into the rotunda.

Changes in the exterior of the building have been made skillfully to preserve original details. In 1924 and 1927 respectively, additions were made to the east and west wings. At that time the porticos were moved out and the needed additional space was enclosed behind them. Other modifications include the enclosure of the entrances and the balconies with windows on both the northeast and northwest. The original window sashes have also been replaced with metal units. Nonetheless, the Harrison County Courthouse survives as one of the outstanding turn-of-the-century governmental buildings in Texas.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J. Riely Gordon and C.G. Lancaster

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Harrison County Courthouse possesses both architectural and historical significance. It is a fine Neo-Italian Renaissance Revival structure containing a beautiful rotunda within. The site of the building has been the center of community activity for well over a century and this building served county government for over a half century.

Located adjacent to the East Texas state line, Harrison County was organized in 1839 and named for Jonas Harrison, a prominent East Texas attorney. The first permanent settlers were primarily cotton planters. Marshall became the county seat in 1842 and has continuously remained as the seat of government to the present day.

Established in 1839 and named for Chief Justice John Marshall, the town of Marshall was laid out on land originally owned by Peter Whetstone, who donated the land for the public square. The square was a two-block area centered on the two axes of streets leading to it. Thus a setting was provided wherein the courthouse terminated the vistas from the streets as the square was approached.

As a result of successful cotton farming, Marshall became a thriving community prior to the Civil War. The arrival of the railroad in 1851 contributed impetus to the development of commercial and manufacturing activities. During the Civil War, following the fall of Vicksburg, Marshall became the Confederate Capital for that section of the South lying west of the Mississippi River. The city was evidently fortified on a small scale and a powder mill was established nearby.

During the antebellum period, after Marshall had been designated the county seat, commissioners authorized the construction of log cabin for use as a courthouse. This was replaced in 1848-1849 by a cubical brick temple with hipped roof and cupola in Greek Revival style -- one of the finest antebellum courthouses to be built in Texas. Each of the four identical walls of this temple was articulated by five pilasters with capitals and bases supporting a heavy entablature. Known as the "Little Virginia Courthouse" -- after the source of the inspiration for its design -- this building was much admired, although before it was completed the local newspaper observed the need of a clock to enable Marshall society "...to give system and regularity to its movements."

In 1887, after it was concluded that the Greek Revival temple was no longer safe, county commissioners determined to build a new courthouse. The following year, bids were received on plans developed by the architectural firm of McQuick and Tozer of Dallas. After considering bids ranging from \$42,500 to \$73,450, commissioners

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awarded the contract to James Higgins of Marshall for \$47,000 -- Higgins also bought the old courthouse for \$375. This new temple was built from St. Louis pressed brick with sandstone trim, and featured Italianate details and a tower rising 175 feet. After serving the county for nearly 11 years, it was destroyed by a fire started when a spark from a tinner's firepot ignited birds' nests under the courthouse eaves. The Salamander Fire Department attempted to save the structure but adversity struck: a hose cart upset on the driver, there was no coal for the engine pumper, the courthouse cistern had little water in it. However, fireproof vaults protected county records.

Later that year the issuance of bonds was authorized and within a short time architects J. Riely Gordon of San Antonio and Dallas, and C. G. Lancaster of Marshall were commissioned to design a new courthouse -- Gordon provided the design while Lancaster did the contracting supervision. The contractor for the new structure was Sonnefield and Emmins, prominent Texas builders. Completion of the courthouse in 1900 was celebrated with a banquet and festive ceremonies. The local newspaper reported, "Our new courthouse is a thing of beauty and will be a joy forever."

Additions changed the form of the courthouse but not the character. In 1924 and 1927 additions were made to the east and west according to the designs of C. G. Lancaster.

In 1964 a new brick courthouse was completed across the street from the southwest corner of the public square. The 1900 courthouse is preserved to house offices of governmental agencies and the county museum. Its merit certainly warrants continued preservation.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Robinson, Willard B. and Todd Webb, Texas Public Buildings of the Nineteenth Century.
Austin: University of Texas Press, 1974.
Fort Worth Daily Gazette, June 12, 1888, p. 2; October 7, 1888, p. 2.
Houston Daily Post, April 6, 1888, p. 4.
Marshall News Messenger, August 17, 1900.
Texas Republican (Marshall), July 20, 1849, p. 2.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. one

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 37 16 35 36 10 14 65
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is bounded by Wellington St. on the west, Bolivar St. on the east and Sam Houston St. on the north and south. This two-block rectangle is known as the Peter Whetstone Square.

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

Willard B. Robinson, Professor of Architecture

2/15/76

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Division of Architecture-Texas Tech University

806/742-2464

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P.O. Box 4499

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Lubbock

Texas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Truett Latimer, State Historic Preserv. Ofcr.

DATE

03/08/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

8/16/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8.15.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

77601450

Property Harrison County Courthouse

Harrison

State Texas Working Number 3.25.77.476

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 4
Maps 1

OK pl
3.29.77

HISTORIAN

Accept
Franklin
5.17.77

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

true Texas style - a county courthouse
which is more impressive than some
state capitals

Accept
Labovich
5.13.77

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
James for Cole
6/9/77

BRANCH CHIEF

Herring
8.15.77

KEEPER

Wm
8/16/77

National Register Write-up

Send-back _____

Entered AUG 16 1977

Federal Register Entry

9.6.77

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



Harrison County Courthouse
Marshall, Texas

HARRISON COUNTY

Mike Yancey, Nov., 1976

Texas Historical Commission

East elevation

Photo #1 of 4

MAR 25 1977

AUG 16 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Harrison County Courthouse
Marshall, Texas

Harrison County

Mike Yancey, Nov. 1976

Texas Historical Commission

Southeast oblique

Photo #2 of 4

MAR 25 1977

AUG 16 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Harrison County Courthouse
Marshall, Texas

Harrison County

Mike Yancey, Nov. 1976

Texas Historical Commission

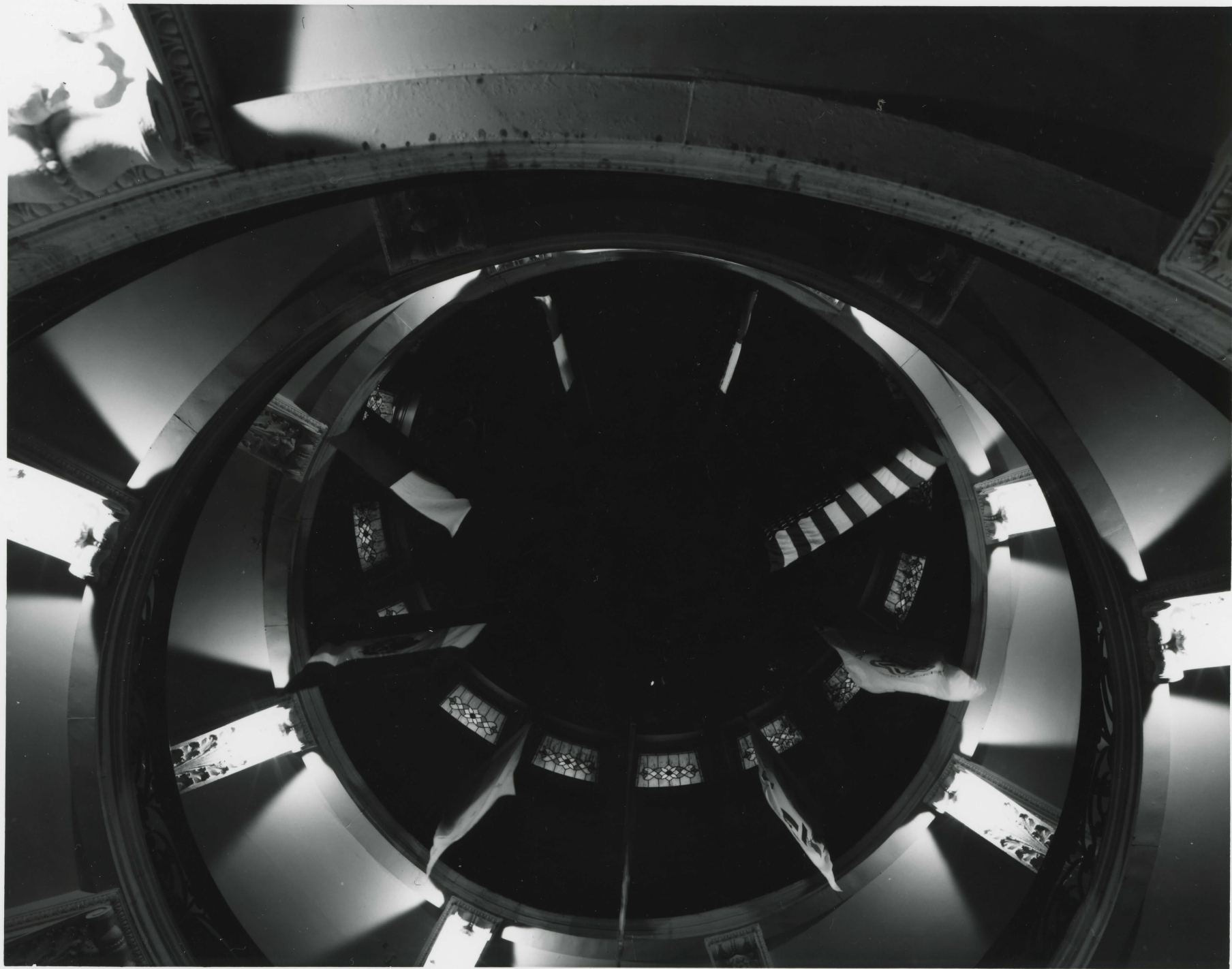
North elevation

Photo #3 of 4

MAR 25 1977

AUG 16 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Harrison County Courthouse
Marshall, Texas

Harrison County

Mike Yancey, Nov. 1976

Texas Historical Commission

Detail of dome interior

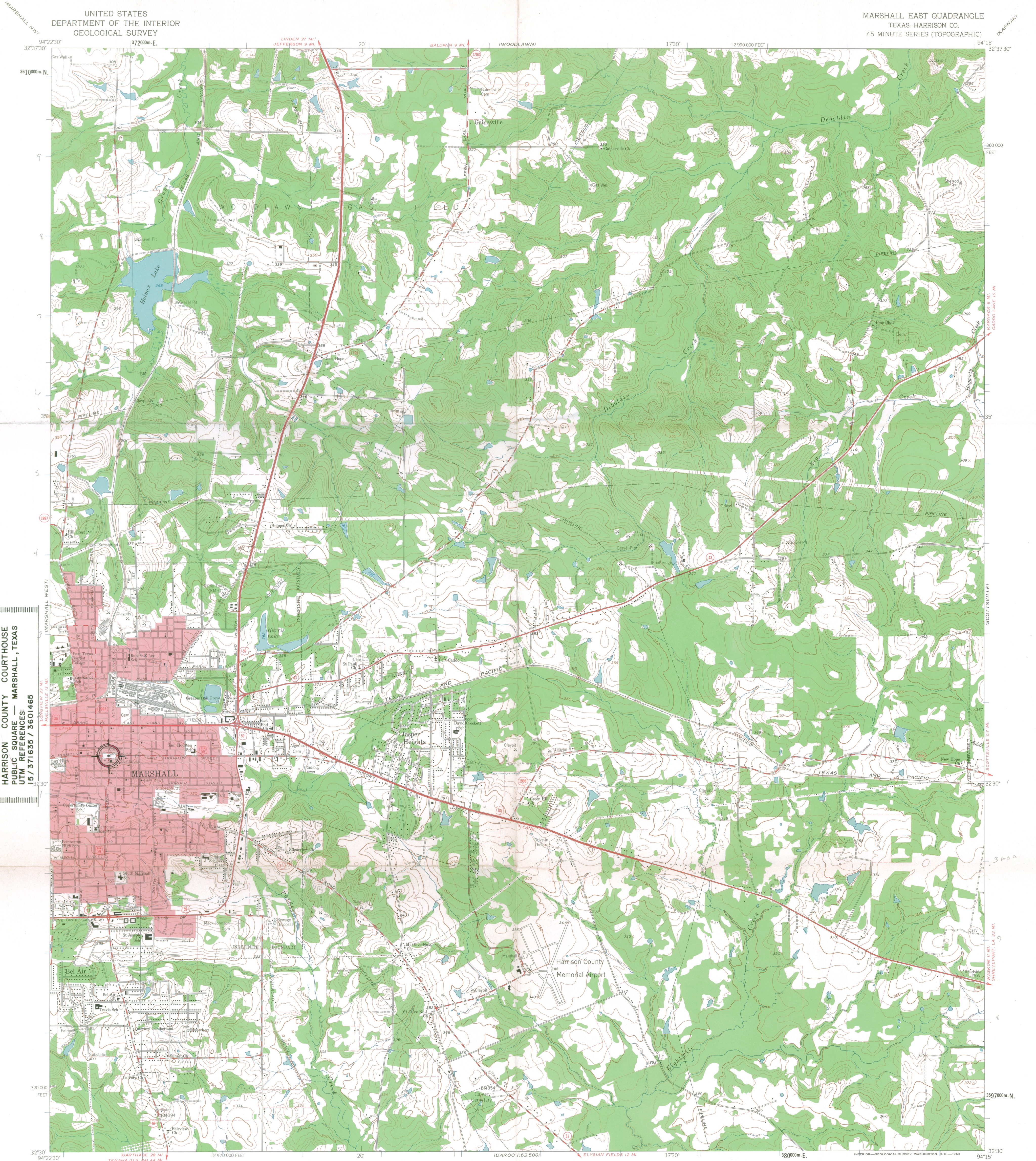
Photo #4 of 4

MAR 25 1977

AUG 16 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

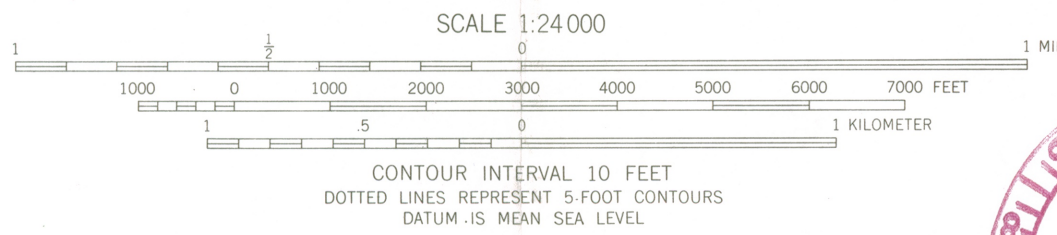
RECEIVED NATIONAL REGISTER



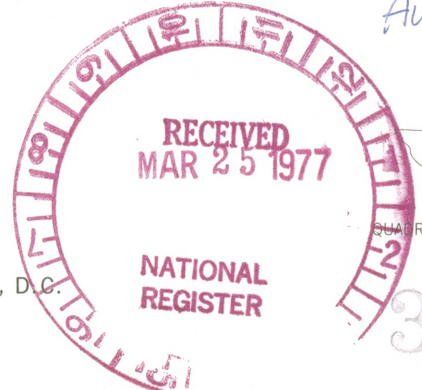
HARRISON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
PUBLIC SQUARE — MARSHALL, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCES:
57 571635 / 3601465

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1957. Field checked 1962
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum.
10,000 foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, north central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines

TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH
APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1962



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 25, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D.C.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



Aug. 16, 1977
Doe

3294-421

ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route

MARSHALL EAST, TEX.
N3230-W9415/7.5
1962

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered AUG 16 1977

Name

Location

Harrison County Courthouse

Marshall
Harrison County

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower
Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen
Hon. Sam B. Hall, Jr.

Regional Director, Southwest
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 5.13.77
Reviewer INITIALS:

NR DOE AUG 16 1977

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Harrison County Courthouse

OTHER NAMES: Harrison County Museum

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER Public Square

CITY, TOWN Marshall

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1st

STATE Texas 48

VICINITY OF

COUNTY code

Harrison - 203

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR

- ☒ Substantially intact-1
- ☐ unknown - 4
- ☐ not applicable - 7

EXTERIOR

- ☒ Substantially intact-2
- ☐ unknown - 5
- ☐ not applicable - 8

ENVIRONS

- ☐ Substantially intact-3
- ☐ unknown - 6
- ☐ Not applicable-9

☐ Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - ☒ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED
☐ Unexcavated

☒ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED
☐ Reconstructed
☐ Excavated

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED
☐ Unknown

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- courthouse

now- government offices and museum

SIGNIFICANCE:

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC

☐ AGRICULTURE

☒ ARCHITECTURE

☐ ART

☐ COMMERCE

☐ COMMUNICATIONS

☐ CONSERVATION

☐ ECONOMICS

☐ EDUCATION

☐ ENGINEERING

☐ EXPLORATION

☐ INDUSTRY

☐ INVENTION

☒ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

☒ LAW/Gov't/politics

☐ LITERATURE

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSIC

☐ PHILOSOPHY

☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION

☐ SCIENCE

☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

☐ entertainment

☐ health

☐ recreation

☐ settlement

☐ socio/cultural

☐ urban & commun

☐ planning

Claims

"first" YES NO

"oldest" YES NO

"only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: *Classical Revival*

architect/m.builder: J. Riely Gordon and
C. G. Lancaster

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor: Sonnefield and Emmins

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role

&

appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1900

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1924; 1927 - *additions*

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

C, one acre

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

*Brick, iron, 3 story, cruciform, dome, each facade
has colonade, curved section in reentrant angle,
cornice, Ionic pilasters, balustrade*

Rotunda

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

*Architecturally ambitious, classical revival.
county courthouse*