

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

FEB 05 1993

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lawrence County Courthouse

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

North side of Broad Street between Jefferson
street & number and Washington Streets N/A not for publication

city or town Monticello N/A vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Lawrence code 77 zip code 39654

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P'Pool FEB. 1, 1993
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Delores Byrum

**Entered in the
National Register**

Date of Action

3/4/93

Lawrence County Courthouse
Name of Property

Lawrence County, Mississippi
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Government/courthouse

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Government/courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
walls brick

roof ceramic tile
other limestone (trim)

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1913

1924

Significant Dates

1913

1924

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hunt, Reuben Harrison of Chattanooga, TN
Little, Clecker Construction Company
of Anniston, AL
McCormick, Eugene (architect of 1924 remodeling)

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.80 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 5	7 7 4 8 5 0	3 4 9 4 4 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Todd Sanders, Architectural Historian
organization Mississippi Department of Archives and History date November 17, 1992
street & number P. O. Box 571 telephone (601) 359-6940
city or town Jackson state MS zip code 39205

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lawrence County Courthouse, Monticello, Lawrence County, Mississippi

Section number 7 Page 1

The Lawrence County Courthouse at Monticello stands on one of the oldest continually occupied Court Squares in the State of Mississippi. Hiram Runnels, founder of Monticello, deeded to Lawrence County the square of land where the Courthouse is located on March 1, 1815, while Mississippi was still a territory. The present Lawrence County Courthouse, the fourth to stand on this site, is a monumental Classical Revival building constructed in 1913. Built of red-colored brick with limestone trim, the building is three stories with a partial basement. The plan is rectangular with two intersecting corridors that cross in the center of the building. The roof is hipped and covered with red barrel tiles.

The main facade, which faces south toward Broad Street, is articulated by two sets of twelve brick pilasters, one set located on the first and second floor and the other set on the third floor. These pilasters are separated by an entablature just above the second story windows. The architrave of the entablature in effect forms the lintel for the second story windows. Above the third story windows is a denticulated cornice made of bricks set with projecting headers. Centered on the main facade is a tetrastyle portico composed of limestone Tuscan columns. These columns are topped by an entablature with a modillioned and denticulated frieze. The roof of the portico is crowned by a stone balustrade. The main entrance, as well as the two entrances on the eastern and western ends, consist of panelled, double-leaf doors added during renovations of the 1960s and 1970s. All of the windows on the main building are one-over-one, double-hung wood frame windows.

Also located on the nominated property is the county jail building, a one story brick gable roofed structure. This building is located behind the courthouse and is nonhistoric and noncontributing.

The first floor of the building is arranged with a cross hall plan, with the main entrance opening into a short axial hallway through the center. This hallway is intersected at its midpoint by a longer transverse east-west hallway. These cross halls retain their original marble floors and baseboards. At both ends of the longer hallway, original staircases lead up to the third floor. These stairways have marble treads, metal side railings, and wooden hand rails. The four corners of the first floor contain offices which were remodeled in the 1960s and 1970s and have dropped celotex ceilings and vinyl tile floors.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lawrence County Courthouse, Monticello, Lawrence County, Mississippi

Section number 7 Page 2

The second floor contains the courtroom and additional offices. This floor was extensively remodeled during the 1960s and 1970s. These renovations included reducing the size of the courtroom by a third and reorienting it from an east-west to a north-south axis. The space taken from the original courtroom was used to expand office space on the eastern end of the building. The courtroom is a full two stories in height. Many elements appear to have been saved from the original courtroom including the public seating, jury seats, railing, and possibly the judge's bench.

The eastern half of the third floor was extensively remodeled like the eastern half of the second floor in the renovations of the 1960s and 1970s. This space is used for offices. The western half of the third floor, separated from the eastern half by the two story height of the courtroom, is apparently the most intact interior area of the building. This area, which is apparently used for storage, consists of four small rooms and retains original doors and woodwork.

In 1924, due to excessive problems with roof leaks, the Lawrence County Board of Supervisors hired local contractor Ed Pepper to replace the roof based on the designs of architect Eugene McCormick. McCormick's design altered the appearance of the courthouse. As designed by Hunt in 1913, the building was surmounted by a cupola with paired pilasters on the corner of each face. The entablature of the portico had a bare brick frieze and unadorned cornice exactly like that which wraps around the main body of the building. Hunt's design for the portico did not include a balustrade. McCormick's design removed the cupola thus eliminating the strong vertical element needed to balance the strong horizontality of the entablature. McCormick's more economical solution to this problem was to emphasize the portico as the building's focal point. McCormick added the balustrade and dressed up the entablature of the portico with dentils and modillions thus softening the severe masculinity of Hunt's bare brick frieze. McCormick also altered the caps of the pilasters on the facade between the second and third floors and added the brick denticulated cornice which also helps break up the building's horizontality. McCormick's work changed the courthouse from a severe monumental design to a more eclectic style of Classical Revival architecture.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lawrence County Courthouse, Monticello, Lawrence County, Mississippi

Section number 8 Page 1

The Lawrence County Courthouse, built in 1913 and remodeled in 1924, is a locally important work of early twentieth century Classical Revival architecture, and is a well-executed and well-maintained example of the Classical Revival county courthouses built in Mississippi between about 1901 and 1930. It is the only notable example of Classical Revival architecture in the town of Monticello and is the principal architectural landmark of Lawrence County.

The Classical Revival style, in several variations, was by far the dominant architectural fashion for public buildings in Mississippi during the first two decades of the twentieth century. Although some important public buildings were built in the Victorian Romanesque style as late as 1902, by the time the New State Capitol was built in 1903, the preference for classical public buildings had swept the state. Of 35 county courthouses built between 1903 and 1920, 30 were of Classical Revival design, with the remainder displaying a loosely classical eclecticism. About 20 Classical Revival courthouses of this period still stand and retain a relatively high degree of integrity, including the Lawrence County Courthouse. Between 1920 and 1930, the period in which the Lawrence County Courthouse was remodeled, Mississippi county courthouse design became much more eclectic, but tended to retain a classical vocabulary. By the 1930's, however, the designers of the state's major civic buildings had largely turned away from the Classical Revival and embraced the Art Deco style.

The Lawrence County Courthouse is a locally notable example of the Classical Revival civic architecture of Mississippi during the second and third decades of the twentieth century and retains a relatively high degree of architectural integrity, particularly on its exterior, from its 1924 remodeling.

This courthouse was designed by Reuben Harrison Hunt of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Headquartered in Chattanooga, Hunt's firm had established secondary offices in Jackson, Mississippi, by 1905 and Dallas, Texas, by 1919. In addition to many public, religious, and academic buildings in Chattanooga and throughout Tennessee, Hunt was responsible for buildings in several other Southern states, with many Mississippi designs to his credit. The most prolific non-native architect to practice in Mississippi in the first quarter of the twentieth century, Hunt designed public, commercial, church and school buildings all over the state. He was responsible for giving a great deal of the character to two of the state's largest public universities, Mississippi State University at Starkville and the

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lawrence County Courthouse, Monticello, Lawrence County, Mississippi

Section number 8 Page 2

University of Southern Mississippi at Hattiesburg. In fact, his earliest known commission in Mississippi was Montgomery Hall (1902-03) at Mississippi State University. Over the next several years he designed five other buildings at this campus, including Lee Hall (1909) and both the McCain (1905) and Carpenter (1910) Engineering buildings. At the University of Southern Mississippi, he developed a plan for one hundred years of growth that established the style and location of the buildings and the landscaping of the grounds. Hunt's designs here include College Hall (1910), Forrest County Hall (1912), and Southern Hall (1922). Government buildings in Mississippi R.H. Hunt is known to have designed include the following:

- Oktibbeha County Courthouse, Starkville (1901) (not extant)
- City Hall, Columbus (1903)
- Lowndes County Courthouse remodeling, Columbus (1903)
- Leflore County Courthouse, Greenwood (1903-05)
- City Hall, Yazoo City (1906)
- Chickasaw County Courthouse, Houston (1911)
- Lawrence County Courthouse, Monticello (1913)

In 1924 the Lawrence County Courthouse was remodeled according to the plans of Eugene McCormick, giving it a more eclectic, Mediterranean-influenced appearance. No information is available at this time about McCormick and his work.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lawrence County Courthouse, Monticello, Lawrence County, Mississippi

Section number 9, 10 Page 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic Resources Inventory Files. Historic Preservation Division,
Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.
Lawrence County. Monticello.

Lawrence County Board of Supervisors Minutes, Books G and I.
Lawrence County Courthouse. Monticello. Lawrence County.

On site visit, October 27, 1992, by Todd Sanders, Architectural
Historian, Mississippi Department of Archives and History,
Jackson, Mississippi.

10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lawrence County Courthouse, Public Square as shown on W. W. Brinson's
re-survey of the Old Town of Monticello, situated in the NW 1/4 of
Section 28, Township 7 North, Range 11 East, Lawrence County.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property consists of the block occupied by the Lawrence
County Courthouse and the county jail behind the Courthouse. The
entire block has been historically associated with the courthouse.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lawrence County Courthouse, Monticello, Lawrence County, Mississippi
Section number Photographs Page 1

The following information is the same for all photographs:

- (1) Lawrence County Courthouse
- (2) Monticello, Lawrence County, Mississippi
- (5) Mississippi Department of Archives and History

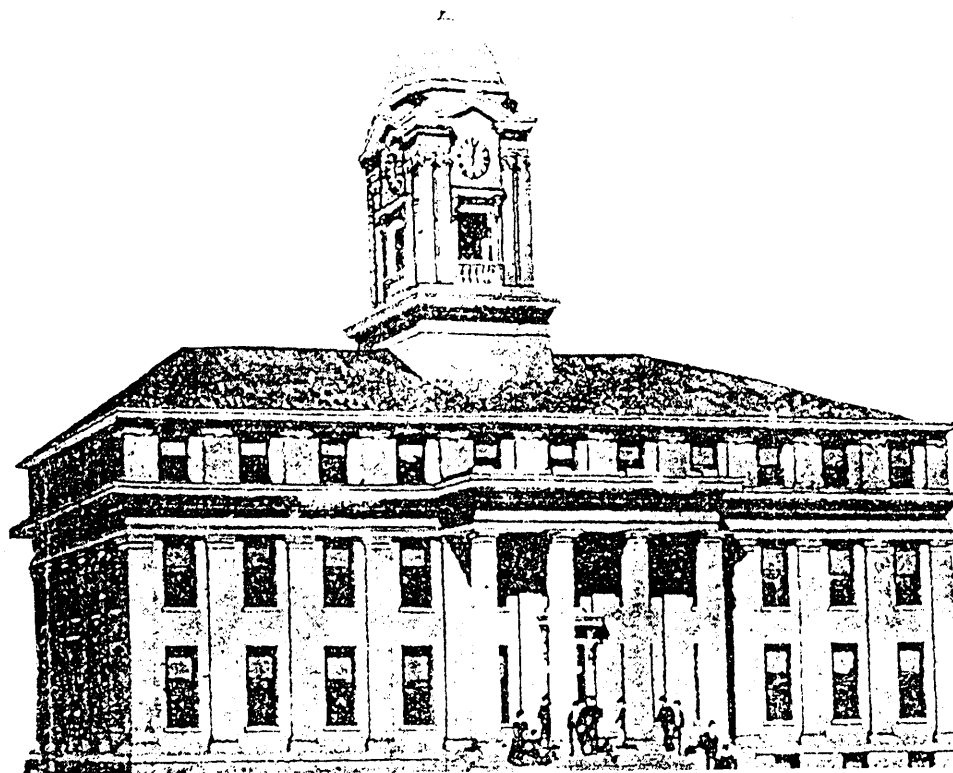
Photo 1--(3) Todd Sanders
(4) October 1992
(6) Front (south) facade, view to north

Photo 2--(3) Todd Sanders
(4) October 1992
(6) East elevation, view to west

Photo 3--(3) Mrs. Joe Sharp
(4) June 1988 (field checked October 1992)
(6) East stairway, view to east

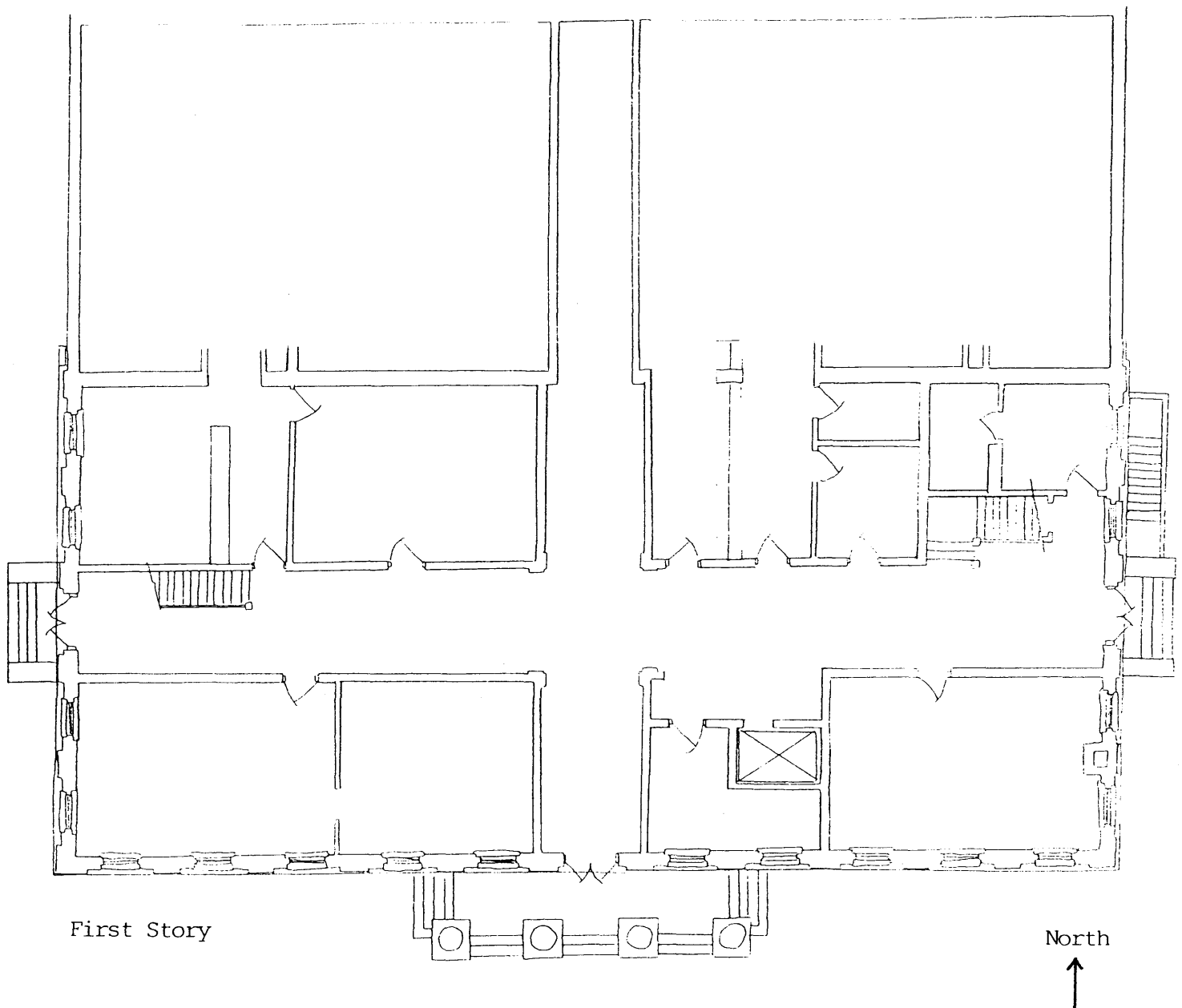
Photo 4--(3) Mrs. Joe Sharp
(4) June 1988 (field checked October 1992).
(6) Courtroom, view to south

Lawrence County Press Monticello, Mississippi Thurs., October 7, 1971

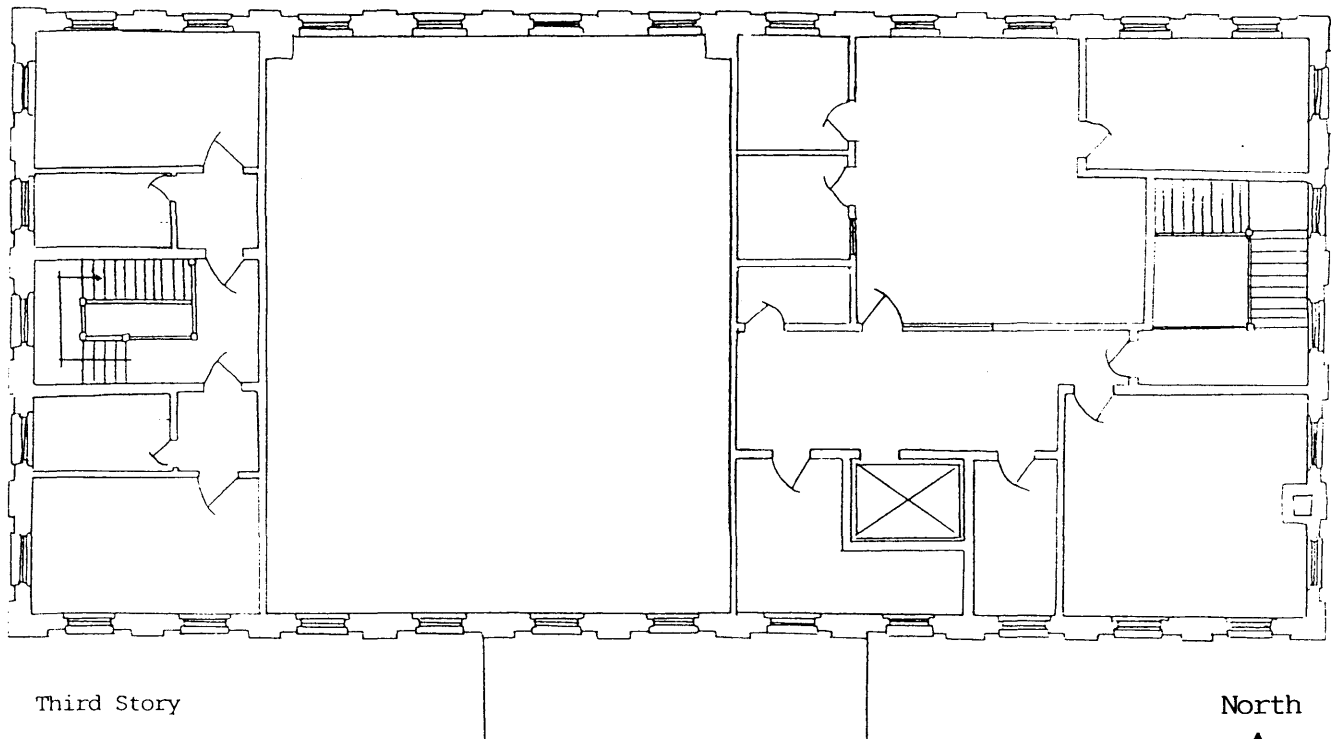
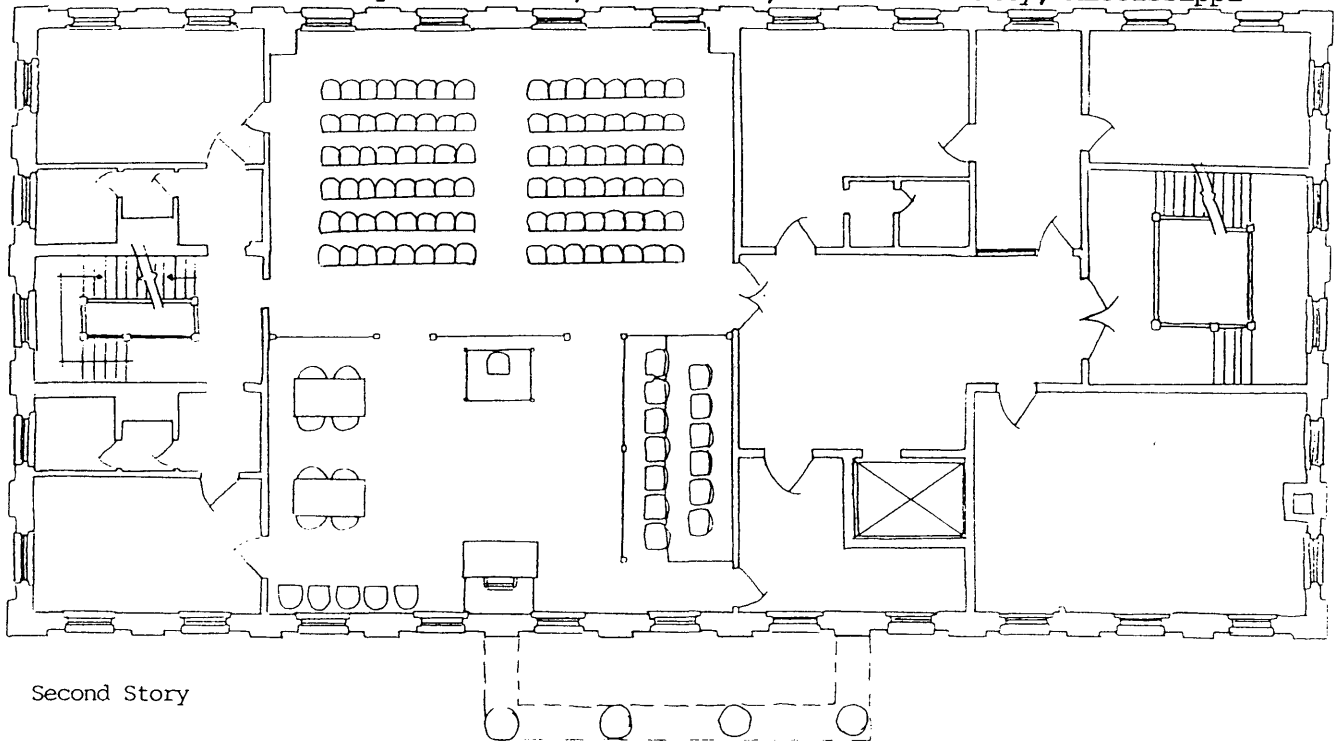


(Photograph made before the alterations of 1924)

Lawrence County Courthouse, Monticello, Lawrence county, Mississippi



Lawrence County Courthouse, Monticello, Lawrence county, Mississippi



North





Lawrence County Courthouse

Monticello, Lawrence County, Mississippi

Photo 1 of 4



Lawrence County Courthouse

Monticello, Lawrence County, Mississippi

Photo 2 of 4



Laurence County Courthouse

Monticello, Laurence County, Mississippi

Photos 3 & 4



Lawrence County Courthouse
Monticello, Lawrence County, Mississippi
Photo 4 of 4