NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Marion County Courthouse and Jail

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Courthouse Square N/A not for publication

city or town Columbia N/A vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Marion code 91 zip code 39429

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. O'Rourke January 20, 1995
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 commenting 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:)

for Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action 3/3/95

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	
2	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
	2	objects
2	3	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government/Courthouse
Government/Correctional Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government/Courthouse
Government/Correctional Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival
International Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone;Concrete
walls Stone veneer
Concrete
roof Ceramic tile;Concrete
other

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

Situated on a public square at the southern terminus of Main Street and facing north through the heart of downtown Columbia, the Marion County Courthouse has served as the county's judicial center since its construction in 1905. This elegant building was designed by Patrick Henry Weathers of Jackson, Mississippi and constructed by G.T. Hallas & Company.

The Marion County Courthouse is a two story stone-veneered brick building with stone columns and a green tile roof. The building is essentially square in shape, but slightly projecting corner pavilions give the building an octagonal appearance. One of the most distinctive features of the Marion County Courthouse is its elegant Baroque-style dome. It is supported by an octagonal drum with a pair of unfluted Corinthian columns at each corner and is surmounted by an open-sided lantern. The north, south, east and west sides of the dome all have clock faces.

The building is particularly distinguished by its bilaterally symmetrical composition featuring a pedimented distyle-in-antis portico in each of its four facades; each of which faces a point of the compass. Three of these porticoes (north, east, and west) have unfluted Corinthian columns. The fourth portico (south) has been infilled with later construction but still retains its pediment. The side walls (or antae) of each portico are treated as pilasters. Located toward each end of the frieze of each pediment is a medallion containing a likeness of a lion's head. The north portico, which shelters the main entrance, has the date "1905" in the tympanum of the pediment and the word "MARION" in the frieze. The cornice of each pediment is decorated with a course of dentil molding with a course of egg-and-dart molding above and below it.

The pediment of each portico is raised above the eaves of the building so that the architrave of each portico is even with the top of the building's entablature. This entablature is composed of a cornice consisting of two courses of egg-and-dart molding separated by a simple band of plain stone; a frieze of plain stone; and an architrave of thin courses of stone, which, from top to bottom, retreat toward the slightly recessed wall surface. Framing these recessed wall surfaces are pseudo-pilasters reminiscent of those of the porticos. Windows are double-hung, one-over-one wooden sash with the first floor units being topped by stone hoods. A stringcourse of stone forms the sills of the

second floor windows. The sill of the lower windows equates to the watertable of the base, which is banded to suggest rustication.

The interior of building retains a relatively high degree of integrity with its original doors and trim, marble wainscot and double staircase composed of marble treads, cast iron balustrade and wooden hand rail. The interior is arranged with a centrally located rotunda from which a short corridor leads to each of the four porticos. This plan has been altered somewhat by the closing in of the eastern corridor for office space and by the extension of the southern corridor with the one story, flat roofed, stone-veneered wing of 1945-46. A second beige brick, flat roofed, one story addition was made to the west of the 1945-46 wing sometime in the 1960s or 70s.

The western corridor contains the double stair that leads to the second floor where the courtroom is located. The courtroom is entered from the stair landing and is oriented on an east-west axis with the judges bench serving as the eastern terminus. This space and stair hall occupy the octagonal core of the building with offices and court related spaces in the projecting pavilions. The courtroom ceiling has been dropped and the balcony removed but the actual footprint of the room remains unchanged. Unfortunately, the room was remodeled several years ago and has lost most of its original furnishings and wall and floor finishes.

The nominated property also contains the International Style County Jail, designed by Howard Ryan and built with W.P.A. labor in 1938-39, and a nondescript one story, flat roofed, concrete 1970s county office building. The jail is considered to be eligible for the National Register while the office building is not. The jail, located behind the courthouse and facing east, is a simple two story concrete cube with "Marion County Jail" carved into the parapet and decorative incised banding linking the second floor windows. A beltcourse separates the two floors and the whole composition is anchored by a watertable. The centrally located entrance is sheltered by a simple cantilevered hood and flanked by original hopper style windows.

Also located on the northeast corner of the property is a war memorial dedicated to veterans of World War I, World War II,

Korea, and Vietnam. This monument consists of three vertical slabs of granite with the central slab being slightly higher than the one to each side. This monument is not dated but appears to be about ten years old. To the left of this monument is a law enforcement monument consisting of a small stone tablet. This monument is not dated but apparently is not over ten years old.

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.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1905-1944

Significant Dates

1905
1938-1939

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect: Weathers, Patrick Henry
Builder: Hallas, G. T. and Company
Architect for Jail: Ryan, Howard

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 # _____

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 acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	230010	3460660
2			
3			
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 12-13-1994

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 Marion County Board of Supervisors

street & number Courthouse Square telephone (601) 736-1274

city or town Columbia state MS zip code 39429

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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

US GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1993 O - 350-416 QL 3

The Marion County Courthouse is significant both for its architecture (Criterion C) and for politics and government (Criterion A), and the Marion County Jail is significant for politics and government (Criterion A). Built in 1905, the Courthouse 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 1920. It is the only notable example of Classical Revival architecture in Columbia and is the county's principal architectural landmark. In addition to its architectural significance, the courthouse is significant in the area of politics and government for being the seat of justice for Marion County from the building's completion in 1905. The period of significance for the Marion County Courthouse extends from 1905, the year the building was completed, to 1944, which is fifty years previous to the preparation of this nomination. The Marion County Jail, constructed in 1938-39, is significant in the area of politics and government for being the primary correctional facility for Marion County from its completion in 1939 to 1944, fifty years previous to the preparation of this nomination.

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 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.

The Marion County Courthouse is a locally notable example of the Classical Revival civic architecture of Mississippi during the first decade of the twentieth century and retains a relatively high degree of integrity

The courthouse is one of four Mississippi county courthouses designed by Patrick Henry Weathers, a Jackson, Mississippi, architect. He apprenticed under Eugene T. Heiner, an architect from Houston, Texas, and later worked for his uncle, L. M.

Weathers, in construction (Statewide Survey File). A characteristic feature of Weather's courthouses is a pedimented portico with two monumental columns set in antis between massive piers. The other Mississippi courthouses designed by Weathers include:

Carroll County Courthouse at Vaiden (built 1905; demolished 1993)
Lamar County Courthouse at Purvis (built 1905; extensively remodeled after a fire in 1930)
Lee County Courthouse at Tupelo (built 1904)

9 - BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

Mississippi Landmark Files, Historic Preservation Division, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

Site visit, February 8, 1994, by Todd Sanders, Architectural Historian, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Columbia, Mississippi, for 1946.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

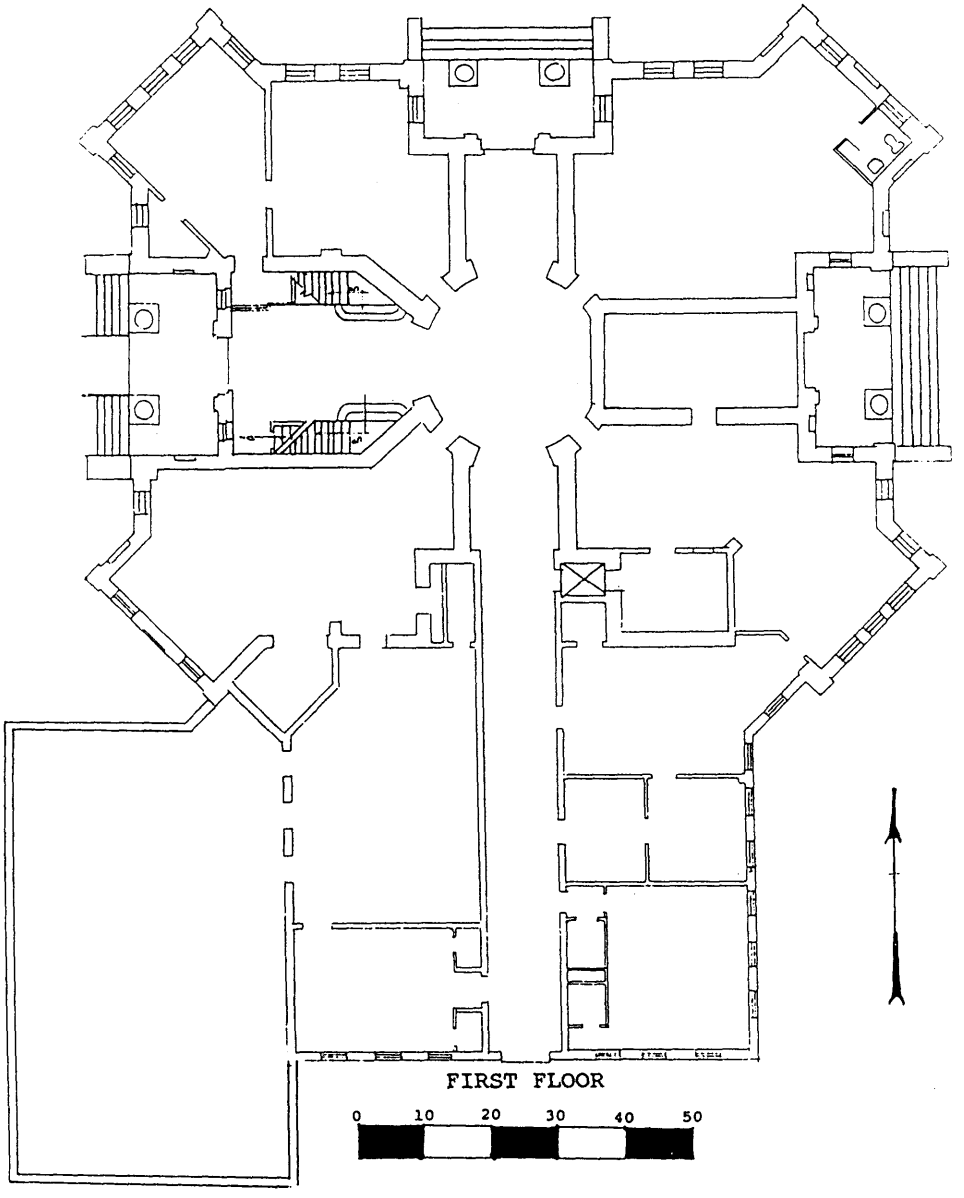
That property commonly known as the Marion County Courthouse, located in Columbia, Marion County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as: a parcel designated as Courthouse Square as per Jas. Phillips and Hicks and Rankins survey of the City of Columbia as recorded in the office of the Chancery Clerk Marion County, Mississippi.

Boundary Justification

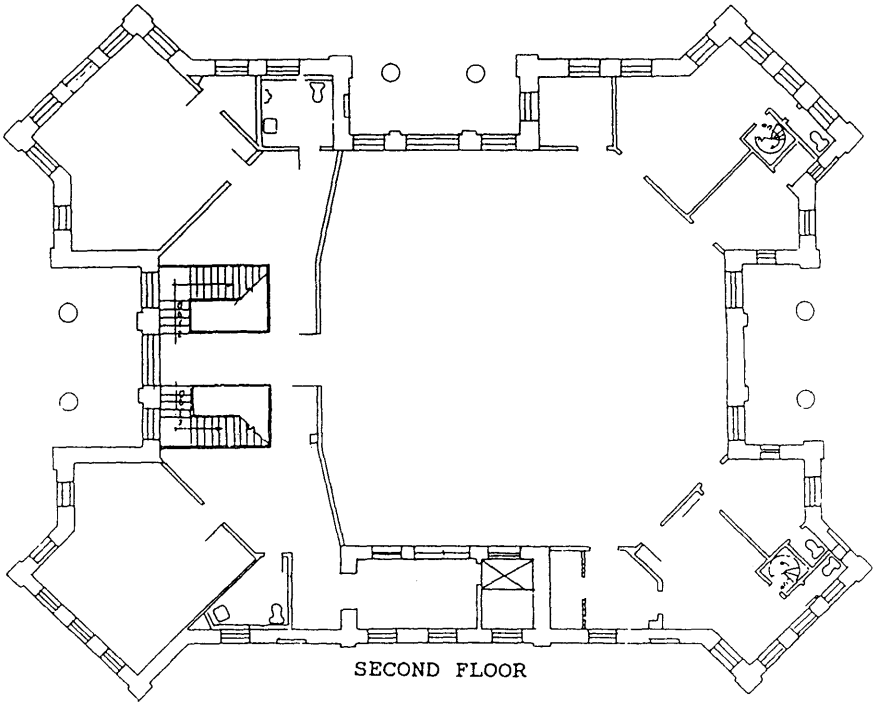
The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Marion County Courthouse.

MARION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

MARION COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

1905
MARION

Marion County Courthouse
Marion County, Mississippi
Curtis Kynerd
June, 1988 (Field checked February 1994)
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
North west elevation, view to Southeast
Photo #1 of 4

CHANCERY CLERK

Marion County Courthouse
Marion County, Mississippi
Todd Sanders
February 1994
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Rotunda, view to Southwest
Photo # 2 of 4

EXIT

Marion County Courthouse
Marion County, Mississippi
Todd Sanders
February, 1994
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Staircase, view to southwest
Photo #3 of 4

MARION COUNTY JAIL

Marion County Jail
Marion County, Mississippi
Todd Sanders
February 1994
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
East elevation, view to Southwest
Photo #4 of 4