

1874

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration FormNATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Covington County Courthouse
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Dogwood Ave. N/A ☐ not for publication
city, town Collins N/A ☐ vicinity
state Mississippi code MS county Covington code 31 zip code 39428

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Kenneth H. P. Pool
Signature of certifying officialNov. 6, 1991
DateDeputy State Historic Preservation OfficerState or Federal agency and bureauIn my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:) _____Patrick Andrews12/31/91fw Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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 asphalt shingles

other limestone (trim)

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Occupying a city block just southwest of the business district of the town of Collins, facing northeast toward Dogwood Avenue, the Covington County Courthouse is a monumental Classical Revival building built in 1907. Built of orange-colored brick with limestone and pressed metal trim, the building is two-and-a-half stories over a rusticated brick foundation with a partial basement. The plan consists of a central drum (containing the courtroom on the second story) set between symmetrically composed rectangular front and rear blocks, forming somewhat of an H shape but with a round center instead of a crossbar. The roof is hipped throughout and is surfaced with asphalt shingles.

The front (northeast) façade is arranged as a five-part composition consisting of a three-bay porticoed center block flanked by one-bay recessed walls and two-bay end blocks. A three-bay arcaded loggia projects from the first story of the central block, and is surmounted by a balustraded tetrastyle portico of the Roman Ionic order on the upper story. Within the loggia is the main entrance, in which a double-leaf door of aluminum-framed plate glass has been installed in recent years. It is flanked by rectangular double-hung windows. (All windows on the main stories are one-over-one double-hung with wooden framing, except for those on the courtroom walls.) On the second story the portico shelters a narrow central door flanked by rectangular windows with metal caps. Above these openings are three bulls-eye windows that illuminate the attic story. The shallow recessed bays to either side of the center block have on the lower story a round-arched window capped by an exaggerated stone arch, and on the upper story a rectangular window capped by a stepped stone lintel. The end blocks each have on the lower story two round-arched windows capped by unusual stone arches whose voussoirs form a rectangle at the outer edge, set within recessed panels with cornices; and on the upper story two rectangular windows set within recessed panels that have cornices and exaggerated sills. The corners of the end blocks are articulated by brick pilasters with Roman Ionic capitals, which carry a full entablature consisting of a metal architrave, a bare brick frieze, and a denticulated modillion cornice of metal. The entablature breaks at the central porticoed block, above which it continues at a level several feet higher. The entire composition rests upon a rusticated brick base, divided from the upper walls by a stone water-table that forms the sill for the first-story windows.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1907

Significant Dates

1907

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

architect: Hull, W.S., of Jackson, MS

builder: J. B. Carr & Company

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Covington County Courthouse, built in 1907, 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 the town of Collins and is the principal architectural landmark of Covington 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 Covington County Courthouse. Between 1920 and 1930, Mississippi county courthouse design became much more eclectic, but tended to retain a classical vocabulary. By the 1930s, 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 Covington County Courthouse is an excellent example of the Classical Revival civic architecture of Mississippi during the first decade of the twentieth century and retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

The building was designed by W.S. Hull of Jackson, Mississippi, who designed at least ten other courthouses in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama. His earlier courthouses, such as the Tallahatchie County Courthouse (1902) at Sumner, Mississippi, were designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, but those built after 1903 had Classical Revival designs. A characteristic feature of his Classical courthouses was an arched entrance loggia surmounted by a colonnaded portico. Other surviving Classical Revival courthouses by Hull include:

Perry County Courthouse (1904), New Augusta, Mississippi
Old Jefferson Parish Courthouse (1905-06), Gretna, Louisiana
Choctaw County Courthouse (1906), Butler, Alabama
Jefferson Davis County Courthouse (1907), Prentiss, Mississippi.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property approx. 1.33 acres

UTM References

A

1	6	2	5	7	5	5	0	3	5	0	3	5	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

All of Block 10 of the Original Survey of the Town of Collins

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This block is the historic courthouse square

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard J. Cawthon, Chief Architectural Historian

organization Ms Department of Archives and History date July 1991

street & number P. O. Box 571 telephone (601) 359-6940

city or town Jackson state MS zip code 39205

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceCovington County Courthouse
Collins, Covington County
MississippiNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2

The northwest and southeast elevations are virtually identical. Each is a five-part composition consisting of a central semicircular drum of seven bays, on either side of which is a one-bay recess beyond which the large, square-plan end blocks project forward beyond the drum. The fenestration of the end blocks matches that of the end blocks of the front façade. On the drum, the lower story windows are rectangular with stepped stone lintels; the upper story has elongated, rectangular, vertically-aligned two-over-two windows with stepped lintels. The entablature above the end blocks continues at the lower level of the front façade, but on the drum and its flanking walls it is raised to the same height as on the front portico. Extending from one recessed bay of the southeast elevation is a metal-canopied wheelchair ramp.

The rear (southwest) façade is similar to the front, but is less ornate, and has no loggia or portico. Instead, a three bay central block, articulated by pilasters, projects forward slightly from the adjacent walls, with steps leading directly to a glass door at the center. There are no recessed bays. Fenestration largely matches the end blocks of the front façade. A metal canopy has been installed over the back door and adjacent sidewalk to provide covered access to restrooms (located in the basement but accessible only by steps from outside).

Internally, the first story plan consists of a central corridor extending the length of the building, with offices on either side. The corridor has marble wainscoting and a terrazzo floor, but the offices are unadorned and most have had alterations. Just inside the front door are twin staircases leading to the second story. The corner rooms of the second story are offices and meeting or jury rooms. The central drum is occupied by the courtroom. The courtroom has an upper seating gallery that forms a partial third story and is also reached from the main staircases. There is a small secondary stair located near the rear of the building affording access to the private offices and jury room behind the courtroom.

The courtroom is the main interior space of the building and retains a high degree of integrity. This room is a dramatic oval space, with semicircular side walls and a high, pressed-metal ceiling. A smaller oval is formed by the raised, balustraded dais that occupies the southwest half of the room, containing the jury box, chairs and tables for court participants, the witness stand, and the raised judge's bench. Much of the furniture and furnishings of the courtroom are original, but there have been some changes. The public seating is especially discordant, consisting of modern church pews of inappropriate style and finish. Other changes include the installation of new jury seats and the construction of low, awkwardly-designed enclosure walls around the jury box, witness stand, and judge's bench. The judge's bench itself, however, and its carved wooden reredos are original.

Overall, the Covington County Courthouse retains a high degree of architectural integrity and is an excellent example of the Classical Revival courthouses built in Mississippi in the first decade of the twentieth century.

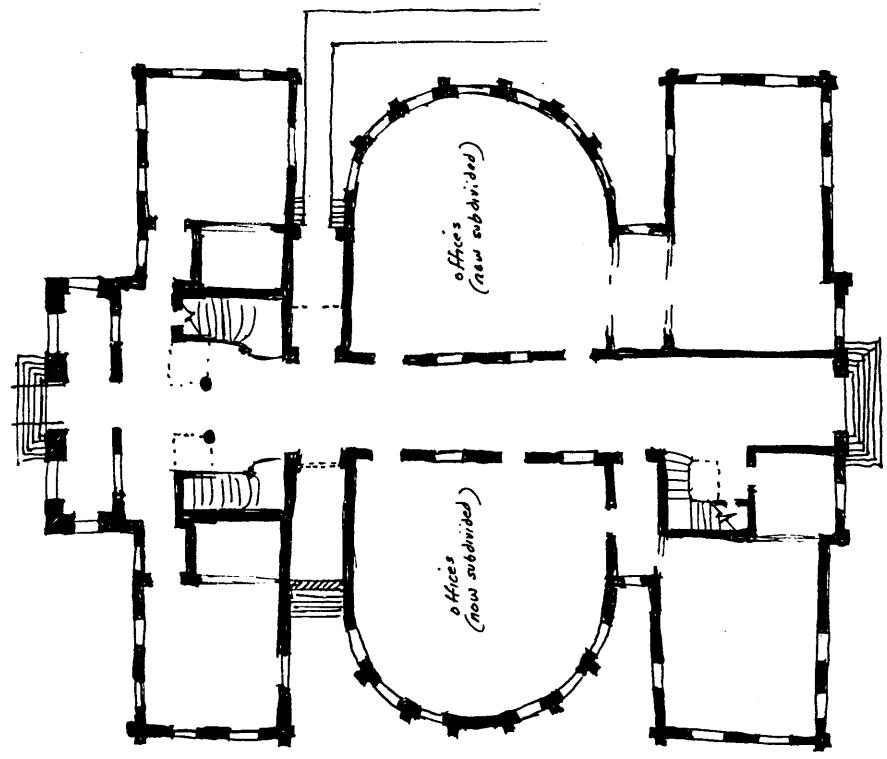
Covington County Courthouse
 Collins, Covington County, Mississippi



photo 1
↓

front

photo 2
↗



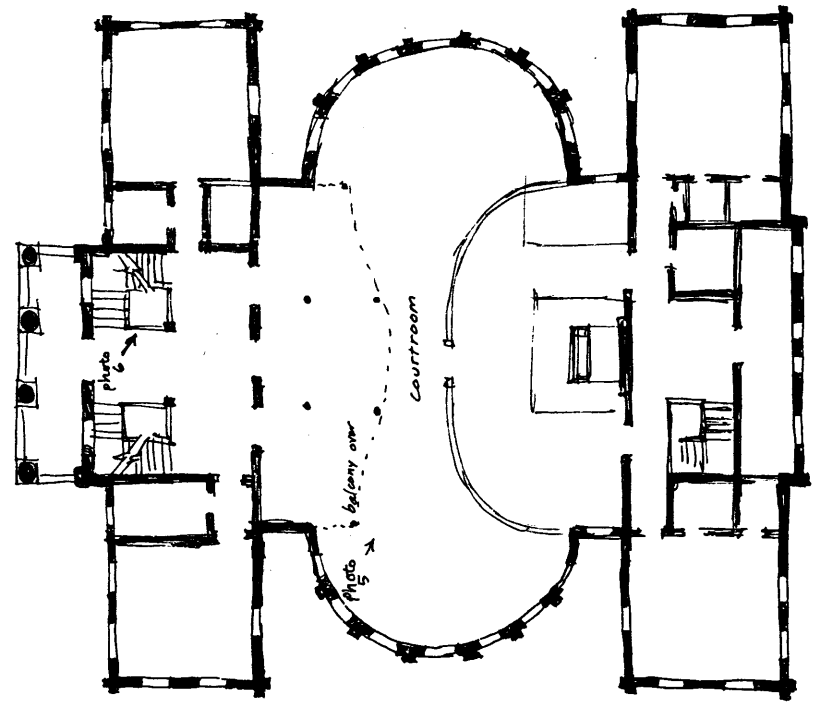
First story

photo 4
↑

front

photo 2
↗

photo 3
←



Second story

Richard J. Gault
 1991



Covington County Courthouse
Collins, Covington County, Mississippi

photo by Richard Cawthon
June 1991

Negative: Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

front (northeast) facade
photo 1 of 6



Covington County Courthouse
Collins, Covington County, Mississippi
Photo by Richard Cawthon, June 1991
negative: Miss Dept. of Archives & Hist.
Central portico on front (northeast) facade,
viewed from north



Covington County Courthouse
Collins, Covington County, Miss.
Photo by Richard Cawthon, June 1991
negative: Miss. Dept. of Archives & Hist.
Southeast side view
photo 3 of 6



Covington County Courthouse

Collins, Covington County, Miss.

photo by Richard Cawthon, June 1991

negative : Miss Dept. of Archives & History
rear (southwest) elevation

photo 4 of 6



Covington County Courthouse
Collins, Covington County, Miss.

photo by Richard Cawthon, June 1991

negative: Miss. Dept. of Archives and History

Courtroom interior

photo 5 of 6



Covington County Courthouse

Collins, Covington County, Miss.

photo by Richard Cawthon, June 1991

negative: Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

detail of main staircase

photo 6 of 6