

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received NOV 3 1981

date entered DEC 17 1981

1. Name

historic Franklin County Courthouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Courthouse Square _____ not for publication

city, town Meadville _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Fourth

state Mississippi code 28 county Franklin code 37

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Franklin County Board of Supervisors

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Meadville _____ vicinity of _____ state Mississippi

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Franklin County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Meadville _____ state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

date _____ ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state _____

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

Situated in the center of an entire block on the south side of Main Street and facing north to the primary retail block in downtown Meadville, Mississippi, the Franklin County Courthouse is a large public building constructed in 1913 of red brick with classical motifs of stone. Set on a low basement story and capped by shallow, red-tiled, hipped roofs with broad overhanging eaves, the facade is symmetrically composed of a dominant central block which is broader and higher than the two flanking wings.

The three-bay central block is distinguished by an attic story, a deeply bracketed cornice, four giant-order Ionic pilasters of stone set in antis between brick pseudo-pilasters, windows framed as single units but lighting the upper two stories, a broad, stepped plinth across the width of the block, and a central entrance doorway with stone consoles, cornice, and acroteria.

On the two-story wings, brick pseudo-pilasters support a full entablature with plain brick frieze and deeply modillioned cornice. The pilasters divide the elevations into large recessed bays which are further subdivided into secondary bays by two-over-two sash windows with fixed transoms. The single primary bay of each wing facade is subdivided into three secondary bays and each of the three primary bays of the side elevations is subdivided into two secondary bays. In the center of each side elevation is a tripartite doorway at the first floor level.

The composition is unified by materials and decorative elements common to all three blocks. These elements include stone panels serving as caps to the brick pseudo-pilasters, stone caps and bases to the basement water table, diamond inserts of stone set in the brick panels which extend the width of each primary bay at the second-story level, and stone window sill corner blocks.

The interior integrity of the courthouse building is excellent. The hallway is elaborated by a series of pilasters which are linked by a molded cornice which is carried across the ceiling as a molding for exposed beams supported by the pilasters. The walls are further trimmed with molded bases having a single fascia and by a high, molded chair rail. The main stairway located in the eastern wing features a square metal newel with molded cap and decorative metal balusters. The stair makes two straight runs, in an easterly-westerly direction, with a half turn at an intermediate landing before terminating downstairs in the basement and upstairs in the second story. A secondary stair leading only to the second story is located in the western wing of the building and runs in a northerly-southerly direction with two runs and an intermediate landing.

A rear, two-part brick addition with flat roofs and metal louvered windows is attached at the southwest corner of the building. At the southeast corner of the courthouse city block is a detached, one-story brick building with hipped roof that houses the Franklin County Health Department.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1913–14

Builder/Architect Noah Webster Overstreet

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Franklin County Courthouse in Meadville, Mississippi, is an outstanding Mississippi example of an early twentieth-century classical public building. Designed by the Jackson firm of Overstreet, Spencer, and Paine (marble plaque, Franklin County Courthouse, Meadville, Mississippi), the courthouse is the most monumental and architecturally significant twentieth-century building in Franklin County. Noah Webster Overstreet, who received national and international recognition for his designs for institutional buildings (Biographical Index, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson), was a practicing architect in Jackson from 1912 until his retirement in 1969 (Jackson Daily News, October 13, 1973, p. 10). Not only is Overstreet regarded as Mississippi's most prolific designer, with over 650 projects to his credit (Jackson Daily News, October 13, 1973, p. 10), but he is also considered to have been the most outstanding architect in the state during the first half of the twentieth century. Among his outstanding award-winning buildings are Bailey Junior High School in Jackson and the Columbia Junior High School in Columbia, Mississippi. After graduating in 1910 with a degree in architectural engineering from the University of Illinois, Overstreet worked two years in Urbana, Illinois before returning, in 1912, to his native Mississippi to establish his own architectural firm in Jackson (The Clarion-Ledger, December 19, 1968, p. 11). The Franklin County Courthouse, designed in 1913 (Minutes, Board of Supervisors, Franklin County, Mississippi, Book 8:620), was probably one of the first large commissions landed by the Overstreet firm. The new Franklin County Courthouse, financed by a county bond issue, replaced an earlier courthouse building that had been constructed ca. 1858 (The Franklin Advocate, July 17, 1913, p. 1), but had been extensively remodeled after a fire almost totally destroyed the building in 1872 (The Franklin Advocate, March 20, 1913). The interior and exterior integrity of the courthouse building is excellent, and the only major alteration to the building occurs at the southwest corner where a two-story brick addition was added to the rear for additional courthouse space. The Franklin County Courthouse is the first building in Franklin County to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Bude, Mississippi

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

A

1	5
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7	0	0
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1	8	0
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3	4	8	3
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6	9	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property includes all of public square No. #1 in the town of Meadville, Mississippi. See attached xerox of survey of town of Meadville with nominated property outlined in red.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Warren Miller/research consultant

organization Historic Natchez Foundation

date December 8, 1980

street & number P. O. Box 1761

telephone (601) 442-2500

city or town Natchez

state Mississippi 39120

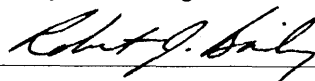
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date October 23, 1981

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register



Keeper of the National Register

date 12/17/81

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 3 1981
DATE ENTERED	DEC 17 1981

Franklin County Courthouse
Franklin County, Mississippi

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE

1

The Clarion-Ledger [Jackson], December 19, 1968.

The Franklin Advocate, March 20, 1913.

The Franklin Advocate, July 17, 1913.

Franklin County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Minutes, Board of Supervisors,
Book 8.

Jackson Daily News, October 13, 1973.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Biographical Index.

10

VERTH

100-1000

Shall not Stagnate in the

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FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE DEC 17 1981
Meadville, Franklin County, Mississippi

Looking southerly, the northerly facade of
the courthouse.

Mary W. Miller, November 1980, Historic
Natchez Foundation

Photo 1 of 3

NOV 3 1981



FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

DEC 17 1981

Meadville, Franklin County, Mississippi

Looking southeasterly, the northerly facade
and westerly elevation showing the additions
to the rear.

Mary W. Miller, November 1980, Historic
Natchez Foundation

NOV 3 1981

Photo 2 of 3



FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE DEC 17 1981
Meadville, Franklin County, Mississippi

Looking southwesterly, the first-story hallway showing the stairway, shouldered architrave surrounds, cornice, pilasters, and molded cross beams.

Mary W. Miller, November 1980, Historic Natchez Foundation

NOV 3 1981

Photo 3 of 3