

VLR-5/13/69 NRHP-11/12/69

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Madison	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Madison County Court House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Madison County Court House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
U. S. 29

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY: Madison	CODE 113
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>		

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Madison County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Madison	STATE: Virginia	CODE 45
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Madison County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
U. S. 29

CITY OR TOWN: Madison	STATE: Virginia	CODE 45
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2 acres**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1941** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE 08
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Madison
ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>		Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>		Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Madison County Court House is a brick, two-story, temple-form structure. Its walls are finely laid in even colored Flemish bond. On the facade the ground floor becomes an open arcade four-bays wide and one-bay deep with the courtroom behind; the floor of the arcade is paved in a herring-bone brick pattern. The tops of the arches are marked with white keystones and the soffits are stuccoed. Each of the windows in the building is surrounded by a plain architrave and each has the original dark green shutters. Several windows on the sides are false with the shutters permanently closed. The whole of the building is surrounded by an academically correct Tuscan entablature with Tuscan pediments at either end. The center of the front pediment features a large semi-circular fan window; over the pediment is a tall octagonal domed cupola which may be original. Later chimneys have been constructed on the side and rear of the building.

Except for the lowering of the ceiling several feet, and the raising of the floor several inches, the interior of the courthouse survives almost entirely intact. It is not certain if the courtroom ever had a cornice or entablature but there would be room for one if the ceiling were raised to its original height. The rear gallery as well as the three rooms over the arcade are reached by two straight staircases at either side of the courtroom. The stairs are interesting in that they have the turned eighteenth-century-type of balusters rather than the more contemporary square supports. The same type of baluster appears in the railing which separates the court from the public seats. The gallery is supported on Tuscan columns. The building has never been restored but has survived in good condition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

RECORD OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1828**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Aboriginal | Education <input type="checkbox"/> | Political <input type="checkbox"/> | Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> | Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Phi- | Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic <input type="checkbox"/> | Industry <input type="checkbox"/> | osophy <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Architecture</u> |
| Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> | Invention <input type="checkbox"/> | Science <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> | Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Human- | _____ |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/> | itarian <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> | Military <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | Music <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

A virtually untouched example of Jeffersonian architecture, the Madison County Court House was built in 1828 by Malcolm F. Crawford, the principal builder, with two others, Phillips and Boneval, assisting. The unusually fine workmanship found in the structure is a tribute to the ability of these three men, all of whom had worked a few years earlier on the University of Virginia. The Commissioners of Madison County also had a hand in the design as they had specified in the contract that the roof was "to have a pediment pitch with a Tuscan cornice drawn in proportion to the height of the building." The building, with its pediment, temple form, and brick arcade, is reminiscent of Jefferson's designs for the University of Virginia, and demonstrates the strong influence that his work had on the architecture of central Virginia. Some of the furniture in the courthouse is original, and virtually all of the court records are intact. It was in the Madison County Court House that William Wirt began his illustrious legal career.

The building, set in the middle of an unspoiled village with the Blue Ridge Mountains as a backdrop, serves as the focal point for an especially beautiful environment.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

O'Neal, William B., Architecture in Virginia, New York: Walker and Company, Inc., 1968.

Street, Elwood, "Wellspring of Democracy, Madison County Court House", Richmond Times Dispatch, March 22, 1942.

Yowell, Claude Lindsay, A History of Madison County, Strasburg, Virginia: 1926.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 22' 36"	78° 15' 38"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: June 2, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____
 Title Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
Virginia Historic Landmarks Comm.
 Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Madison	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1958 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D. C. Code: 08

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #256-2
1968 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
Richmond, Virginia 23219 Code: ~~460~~ 45



Madison County
Tennessee

(Contourville 1:25,000)

38° 25'

MAP SHOWS MILLS LOCATED U.S. 78, 7.5 MI.
RANGE 7.5 MI.